

2 Bangladeshi ultras netted by Assam Police

Guwahati: Two Bangladeshi nationals, suspected to be cadres of Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), an affiliate association of banned terror outfit, Al Qaeda In Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), were apprehended at Guwahati railway station by an Assam Police team on Monday, official sources here informed. The duo have been identified as Bahar Mia (30) of Darkar village under Akhaura police station, Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh, and Rasel Mia (40) of Mongalsidha village under Athpara police station of Netrokona district in Bangladesh. "The cadres are Bangladesh nationals and were illegally staying in India without passports. They had obtained Indian documents in a bid to spread

terror in Assam. Incriminating documents, including Indian Aadhaar and PAN cards, suspected to be fake and fraudulently obtained, were recovered and seized from them," a police official said. The cadres had come to Guwahati with an aim to mobilise and radicalise gullible Muslim youths of Assam and India to join the terror outfit and indulge in terror acts. "The cadres were arrested in connection with SOU (Special Operations Unit) PS case number 1/2024 under Sections 120(B)/121/122/468/471 of IPC, read with Sections 10/13 of UA(P) Act; Section 12 of The Passport Entry To India Act, 1920 and Section 14 of Foreigners Act, 1946," the official said.

Meet 17-Year-Old German Teen Who Lives On A Train 24/7

Berlin: If living year-round on a train is a thing, then 17-year-old Lasse Stolley from Germany is a 'train-quatter' alright. Stolley shells out \$10,000 (Rs 8.3 lakh roughly) each year, traveling an estimated 600 miles of Germany and Europe daily. According to the report, he travels in first class, rests in overnight trains, enjoys breakfast in the dining car, washes clothes in sinks, and showers at community centers and public swimming pools throughout the journey. Here's how he does it. Lasse Stolley from Germany is only 17 years old. "Life on the train gives me the freedom to choose where I want to go at any time. Break-

fast by the Baltic Sea in the morning and enjoy the sunset in the Alps in the evening — the possibilities are endless!," he captioned a recent post on Instagram. He also travels as much as he can in Europe. He's seen historical landmarks, explored national parks, and witnessed the aurora borealis in Scandinavia. He left home, in Fockbek in northern Germany, in 2022 at only 16. "It took a lot of convincing," he told Insider when talking about his parent's decision to support his decision. Most days, Stolley can be found amidst fellow passengers, stationed at booths equipped with a table where he can comfortably work on his laptop. Eventu-



ally, he's often seen reclining across seats, using his neck pillow, travel blanket, and noise-canceling headphones to drift off to sleep. He spends his nights in overnight trains, enjoying breakfast in the dining car, washing his clothes in sinks, and using public swimming pools and community centers for showers. His current wardrobe includes just four T-shirts and two pairs of pants.

Fuel restrictions withdrawn

Agartala: The ongoing quandary over the fuel crisis has finally come to an end today. Restrictions on petrol and diesel imposed by the Food, Civil Supply & Consumers Affairs Department were lifted after the supply of oil reached normal levels on Wednesday. A press release issued by Director FCS&CA Nirmal Adhikary said that given the fuel supply has reached a satisfactory level in conformity with its demands, all the petrol pumps in the city have oil. Hence, there is no point to go with rationing of oil. The situation is normal now, he added. It is to be mentioned here that after a long spell of nearly 15 days followed by a landslide affecting the railway track between Jatinga-Haranga hilly areas in Assam, the supply of oil disrupted in the state from April 26th. The collective efforts worked. The Chief Minister intervened and the Railway Ministry worked hard to repair and restore goods train service. Two consecutive goods trains filled with oil wagon rakes reached Dharmanagar Oil Depot to alleviate the fuel crisis in the state.

Army continues awareness campaign

Agartala, May 16: In continuation with its initiative, the Spear Corps of the Indian Army conducted an awareness program 'Join the Indian Army' at Nagichara Ucha Vidyalaya in Agartala on Thursday. The program featured motivational talk and interactive sessions, highlighting diverse career paths in the Armed Forces. The Awareness Campaign commenced with a lecture on conduct of the online CEE exam wherein, associated topics, preparation strategy and pattern of examination were discussed. The lecture was followed by an interactive session to address individual queries and also provide an insight to the students about life in the Armed Forces. A medical team was also present during the session to clear doubts about medical requirements for enrolment. The event drew the participation of 61 students including 37 boys and 24 girls from the school. Primary objective of this awareness program was to inspire the youth of Tripura.

Mars Wrigley's launches BOOMER Jelly on Top Boomer

Guwahati: Mars Wrigley India's iconic fruity bubblegum brand, BOOMER® returns with its latest innovation, BOOMER® Jelly on Top. This exciting variant revolutionizes the gum experience by combining the joy of jelly with the classic gum taste, all in one irresistible combination. Keeping in line with the brand's tradition of finding innovative ways to deliver FUN to its consumers, BOOMER® introduces Jelly on Top with the beloved fruity flavor of strawberry, doubling the fun with every chew. Alongside this innovative launch, BOOMER® is set to unveil an entertaining TVC featuring none other than star Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, promising viewers a delightful showcase of fun and flavor and delivering on the brand promise of "Har Pal Fun Kar" enhancing every moment with its unique and enjoyable consumption experience. The primary packaging of BOOMER® Jelly on Top features a transparent design, showcasing the tantalizing combination of jelly and gum within, making it visually appealing and irresistible to consumers. This innovative product delivers on the brand promise of "Har Pal Fun Kar" enhancing every moment with its unique and enjoyable consumption experience. Viewers witness Indian cricket star Jasprit Bumrah turning a challenging situation into a moment of joy by leveraging the playful



nature of BOOMER® Jelly on Top. Nikhil Rao, Chief Marketing Officer at Mars Wrigley India, expressed his excitement about the new launch, stating, "Since its launch 30 years ago, BOOMER has become synonymous with Bubblegum and Fun. BOOMER Jelly on Top is testimony of the same. We are leveraging this distinctive innovation to widen the price pack architecture of the bubblegum market to Rs 2/-. The launch will be supported by a multimedia campaign featuring none other than Boom Boom (Jasprit) Bumrah." Iraj Fraz, Creative Head, DDB Tribal said, "Our favourite, Boomer is out in a Jelly Bubblegum avatar that's sure to make everyone say 'yes' to fun. In this edition of the brand's 'Har Pal Fun Kar' campaign, we find Boom-BoomBumrah, Boomer's endorser-in-chief on a gully cricket pitch, tricking the opponent just as he's known to outsmart the world's best batters." BOOMER® Jelly on Top is set to hit store shelves nationwide, offering consumers a deliciously fun way to enjoy their favorite gum. With its innovative combination of fla-

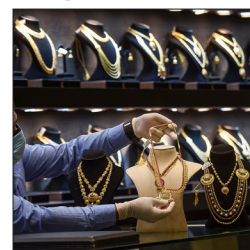
vors and textures, BOOMER® Jelly on Top is sure to become a staple in households across India, bringing smiles and moments of enjoyment to every chew. The films are available in 8 languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu & Assamese which will be aired on TV. The film will also be available on digital platforms. Mars, Incorporated is driven by the belief that the world we want tomorrow starts with how we do business today. As a global, family-owned business, Mars is transforming, innovating, and evolving to make a positive impact on the world. Across our diverse and expanding portfolio of quality snacking, food, and pet care products and services, we employ 140,000+ dedicated Associates. With more than \$47 billion in annual sales, we produce some of the world's best-loved brands including Ben's Original™, CESAR®, Co-coavia®, DOVE®, EXTRA®, KIND®, M&M's®, SNICKERS®, PEDIGREE®, ROYAL CANIN®, and WHISKAS®. We are creating A Better World for Pets through our global network of pet hospitals and diagnostic services – including AniCura, BANFIELD™, BLUEPEARL™, Linnaeus and VCA™ – using cutting edge technology to develop breakthrough programs in genetic health screening and DNA testing.

Gold falls Rs 100; silver slumps Rs 300 amid weak global cues

New Delhi: Gold prices fell Rs 100 to Rs 73,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid a decline in precious metal rates in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 73,250 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices were also slumped Rs 300 to Rs 85,200 per kg. In the previous close, it had settled at Rs 85,500 per kg.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 73,150 per 10 grams, down by Rs 100 against the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Co-mex was trading at USD 2,347 per ounce, down USD 13 from the previous close.

"Gold resumed trading on a weaker note as traders trimmed their positions ahead of the crucial US inflation report. "The US producer price index (PPI) is set to be released on Tuesday, followed by the consumer price index (CPI) on Wednesday, which will further pro-



vide more insights for the precious metal prices," Gandhi said. Silver was also marginally down at USD 28.10 per ounce. It had closed at USD 28.14 per ounce in the previous session. "Gold prices are seen trading slightly lower today amid profit-booking and weighed by a stronger US dollar, as focus turns on the US inflation data and Fed's Chair Jerome Powell comments later in the week. "Currently, markets are pricing in about a 65-67 per cent chance of a rate cut at the US Federal Reserve's September meeting. "Any signs of cooling inflation would push those bets higher, but a higher reading would push back interest rate cuts expectation to possibly in November meeting," Pranav Mer, Vice President of Research (Commodity & Currency) at BlinkX and JM Financial, said.

Bharat Pavilion at The 77th Cannes Film Festival inaugurated

In a year that spells magic for Bharat at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, with numerous official selections across sections, The Bharat Pavilion was inaugurated today at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. Hosted each year at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of India, Bharat's participation is spearheaded by the National Film Development Corporation as the nodal agency and FICCI as the industry partner. The pavilion marks India's continued commitment to showcasing its rich cinematic heritage and fostering international collaborations with the global film fraternity. The grand inauguration ceremony, was led by Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri. Sanjay Jaju along with Shri. Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France. The momentous inauguration was also witnessed by esteemed dignitaries, renowned filmmakers, and industry leaders coming together to celebrate the essence of Indian cinema. Guests present included Ms. Tholoana Rose Ncheke, Chairperson, National Film and Video Foundation, South Africa, Mr. Christian Jeune, Director of Films Department, Deputy General Delegate, Cannes Film Festival, and Filmmaker Richie Mehta among others. Speaking at the inauguration, Shri Sanjay Jaju said "Heartening to have more Indian projects in the Cannes official selection this year, one each in the competition and in uncertain regard and let me also confess that both these projects have been the beneficiaries of the support from the government in terms of the incentive as well as the official core productions." "The Bharat Pavilion here would serve as a hub for networking, collaboration, promotion of Indian Cinema on the global stage. We would like to foster a greater collaboration between the Indian audio visual industry and international counterparts, thereby enhancing the visibility and accessibility of Indian Cinema worldwide and serve the national goal of using the power of Cinema to enhance the country's soft touch." Added the Secretary. "India is gaining attention worldwide, both geopolitically and economically, due to its philosophical contributions, thoughts, and ideas. Its role in a multipolar world of great uncertainty is significant as we transition from the existing international order into a new one. All these aspects are inter-



connected, making it increasingly important for us to have a greater presence abroad, particularly in cinema" Said H.E. Jawed Ashraf. "It's such a momentous occasion of Indian cinema here. Personally for me, I wouldn't have a career if not for the film festival community. The festivals have helped me basically unlocking a career. And also one of my missions has been to, as a Canadian Indian, to export the best of Indian storytelling and I'm not talking about from a film standpoint, I'm talking about from the stories, from people on the ground, from the amazing culture that we have to show the world. It's a real honour to be a part of this inaugural." said Richie Mehta. Many states like Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra among others are present representing India at Cannes Film Market this year, to pitch their exquisite locales for international film shoots and to promote state incentives for filming to producers and production houses. Three films which have been shot in India through partnerships through India's Film Facilitation Office (FFO) of India have been shortlisted in various sections at this year's festival. Notably, this is the first time ever that the UT of J&K is participating in the Cannes Film Market and reaching out to global film production companies to shoot in what is popularly known as 'Heaven on Earth.' The film incentive policy of J&K is less than a year old and on the very first day the response received through business meetings with several stakeholders has been more than encouraging, the officials at the J&K booth said. The Bharat Pavilion serves as a dynamic platform, providing a gateway to the diverse landscape of Indian films, talent, and industry opportunities and is set to host a series of scintillating panel discussions and networking sessions during the course of the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

Janhvi Kapoor dances to Mr. & Mrs. Mahi song Dekhha Tenu

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor on Thursday won the internet with her fusion dance to the song Dekhha Tenu from her upcoming film Mr. & Mrs. Mahi co-starring Rajkumar Rao.

"Dekha tenu. Hits me right in the feels. #MrandMrsMahi in theatres on the 31st of May," the 27-year-old actress wrote on Instagram alongside the video that shows her dancing in a mauve anarkali. In the video, the Dhadak actress looks gorgeous in a backless anarkali embellished with floral motifs and featuring a scoop neck. Smokey eyes, dewy makeup and statement earrings completed her look. Janhvi's steps synced perfectly with the song.

Released on Wednesday, Dekhha Tenu is inspired by the Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham song Shava Shava, originally sung by Udit Narayan. The new version is sung by Mohammad Faiz and is composed by Jaani. In Mr. & Mrs. Mahi, Rajkumar Rao's failed cricketer Mahendra turns coach for his wife

Mahima, played by Janhvi, with an aim to make the latter represent Team India. But when Mahima, a doctor, realises that Mahendra is training her to realise his own worth, their relationship takes a rocky turn.

Mr. & Mrs. Mahi marks Rajkumar and Janhvi's second collaboration after the 2021 Hardik Mehta-directed horror comedy Rookhi. It is also the second time Janhvi will be teaming up with filmmaker Sharan Sharma, who made his directorial debut with the actress' 2020 film Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl.

The film is Rajkumar's second release this month after the May 10 release of the biopic Srikanth, based on the visually impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla. Janhvi, on the other hand, will be seen in the lead role in the upcoming spy thriller Ulajh and is set to make her Telugu debut in Devara: Part 1 alongside NTR Jr. Backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, Mr. & Mrs. Mahi is slated to release in theatres on May 31.

Rajinikanth wraps up filming for 'Vettaiyan' with Amitabh Bachchan

Mumbai: Rajinikanth, the iconic superstar of Indian cinema, has wrapped up shooting for his much-anticipated film 'Vettaiyan'. Directed by TJ Gnanavel, this movie marks Rajinikanth's 170th venture and has been a subject of much excitement among fans. Adding to the anticipation, the legendary actor is joined by none other than Bollywood's Shahenshah, Amitabh Bachchan, in this cinematic journey. The announcement of the completion of filming came via a social media post by the production house, Lyca Productions. Sharing a glimpse from the set, the post showcased Rajinikanth sporting his trademark smile alongside his team, signalling the end of his portion of the shoot. Fans were recently treated to a delightful moment as Amitabh Bachchan shared a heartwarming photo on his Instagram handle, capturing a candid hug between him and Rajinikanth. Expressing his reverence for the veteran actor, Amitabh highlighted Rajinikanth's enduring humility



despite his towering stature in the industry. The excitement surrounding 'Vettaiyan' escalated further with the earlier release of the title teaser on Rajinikanth's birthday. With a star-studded cast including Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier, and Dushara Vijayan, along with music by Anirudh Ravichander, the movie promises a cinematic spectacle. Rajinikanth's commitment to his craft was evident as he filmed across diverse locations, from Trivandrum to Tirunelveli and Tuticorin. This dedication reflects his passion for delivering

memorable performances to his audience. Meanwhile, Rajinikanth's previous appearance in his daughter Aishwarya's film 'Lal Salaam' showcased a different facet of his acting prowess. In this Tamil-language sports drama, he portrayed the character of Moideen Bhai in an extended cameo, tackling themes of caste oppression and religious discrimination. As fans eagerly await the release of 'Vettaiyan' slated for October, the completion of Rajinikanth's shooting schedule marks a significant milestone in the journey of this highly anticipated cinematic extravaganza.

Alia Bhatt stuns at Gucci Cruise Show with Demi Moore

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt dazzled at the Gucci Cruise Show in London, exuding elegance in a strapless dress that set fashion enthusiasts abuzz on social media. The event wasn't just about Alia's solo moments; she also shared the spotlight with international icons like Demi Moore, Debbie Harry, and Park Gyu-young. Pictures of their encounters quickly went viral, especially those featuring Demi sporting a chic grey and black ensemble under a sleek black coat. Social media platforms buzzed with comments expressing admiration and pride for the Bollywood sensation turned international star. Alia's journey to global recognition hasn't been sudden. As the first Indian Global brand ambassador for Gucci, she's been making waves since her appearance at Gucci's show in South Korea the previous year. Her career trajectory has soared to new heights, with recent milestones including her inaugural charity gala in London. Named the "Hope Gala," the event aimed to raise funds for underprivileged adolescents in India through the Salaam Bombay Foundation.

Katrina Kaif celebrates husband Vicky Kaushal's birthday with candid photos; see here



Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif on Friday shared a set of candid photos of her husband Vicky Kaushal a day after the latter turned 36.

Captioning her Instagram post with white heart and cake emojis, Katrina shared three pictures of the actor. In one of the pictures, Vicky is seen sitting by the window in his casual attire, while another shows the Sardar Udham actor enjoying his morning coffee by the same window. The last photo shows the actor at a restaurant with a plate with a piece of birthday cake on the table in front of him.

One of the most popular celebrity couples in Bollywood, Katrina and Vicky tied the knot on December 9, 2021.

Actor Sunny Kaushal, broth-

er of Vicky, also extended his birthday wishes to the actor on his special day. He shared two photos — one from Vicky's childhood and the other from the present day — with the caption, "36 salon mein zyada to kuch nahi badla (Not much has changed in these 36 years)... Happy Birthday cutie.

Other Bollywood celebrities like Tripti Dimri, Rashmika Mandanna, Kiara Advani, Ayushmann Khurrana and Siddharth Malhotra also posted birthday wishes for Vicky.

Vicky is currently gearing up for his upcoming film Bad Newz, where the actor will share screen space with Tripti Dimri and Ammy Virk. The release date of Anand Tiwari's directorial is slated for July 19.

Godrej Industries Group partners with Bhamla Foundation for #BhoomiNamaskar World Environment Day campaign



Guwahati: Godrej Industries Group has joined forces with the Bhamla Foundation to launch the #BhoomiNamaskar campaign in anticipation of World Environment Day 2024. The initiative, inaugurated with a tree plantation drive at Jannabai Narsee International School, aims to plant 10,000 trees across schools in Mumbai over the next six months.

Aligned with the United Nations' theme of "Generation Restoration," #BhoomiNamaskar underscores the imperative of collective action in nurturing the earth for a sustainable future. This initiative seeks to combat land degradation, desertification, and drought resilience, echoing the urgent need for environmental stewardship.

The launch event witnessed the presence of eminent personalities including Amruta Fadnavis, Jairaj Thacker, Karan Kundra, Esha Deol, and Jackie Shroff, whose participation amplified the campaign's message of environmental responsibility.

Supported by esteemed organizations such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Maharashtra Forest Department, and the United Nations Environment Programme, #BhoomiNamaskar underscores the global significance of addressing environmental challenges through collaborative efforts.

Burjis Godrej, Executive Director of Godrej Agrovet, expressed firm commitment towards environmental stewardship, emphasizing the importance of collective action in paving the way for a sustainable future.

Asif Bhamla, Chairman of Bhamla Foundation, highlighted the cultural significance of the campaign's theme, stressing the need for collective environmental action to rectify past damage.

Amruta Fadnavis, Founder of Divyaj Foundation, commended the initiative's focus on tree planting as a potent tool for environmental restoration.

India-France Joint Military Exercise Shakti commences in Meghalaya

Guwahati: The Shakti edition, featuring a brigade-level command post, air force, and naval observers, aims to improve interoperability and camaraderie between the armed forces of both nations. India and France have strong military ties, including maritime security, defence collaboration, counterterrorism, and information sharing. They regularly conduct naval and air force exercises, with the French Air Force participating in India's 'Tarang Shakti' air combat exercise in August.

French ambassador Thierry Mathou emphasized the strengthening of sovereignty and strategic autonomy of both nations, highlighting the unprecedented level of mutual trust between France and India since the establishment of official relations in 1947. 'India and France commenced the 7th edition of the Shakti Joint Military Exercise at Umroi in Meghalaya, aiming to bolster bilat-



eral defence cooperation and enhance peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region', said French ambassador Thierry Mathou.

The 14-day exercise, following Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan's recent visit to France, aims to enhance joint military capabilities for multi-domain operations in sub-conventional scenarios. The exercise involves contingents from the Rajput Regiment and the French 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade, focusing on tactical drills such as responses to terrorist capture, establishment of joint command and intelligence centers, heliborne operations, and drone use.

Bollywood star Jahnvi Kapoor shared a glimpse of her legendary family home in Chennai- Airbnb

Guwahati: Airbnb is introducing Icons, a new category of extraordinary experiences hosted by the world's greatest names in music, film, television, art, sports, and more. Icons take you inside worlds that only existed in your imagination—until now. Sleep in the Ferrari Museum. Stay in Prince's Purple Rain house. Spend a day at Bollywood Icon Jahnvi Kapoor's coastal abode. Airbnb has unveiled its first 11 icons, with new experiences being introduced globally throughout the year.

As part of the launch, Bollywood superstar Jahnvi Kapoor is opening the doors to her family's estate in Chennai for an experience unlike any other. Known for her charming



performances on screen, Jahnvi will welcome two sets of two guests each at her coastal abode as a part of this special promotional campaign.

Jahnvi Kapoor's beachside paradise, located on four acres of serene beachfront, offers a sanctuary of tranquility and warmth for select Airbnb guests. Jahnvi will personally welcome guests and

guide them through her home, which features a hand-crafted marble lotus sculpture, expansive interior spaces, and a minimalist living room, dining area, dressing room, and airy master bedroom. "I am thrilled to be a part of Airbnb's Icons category and look forward to welcoming Airbnb guests' home," shared Jahnvi Kapoor.

NielsenIQ Service Cost Survey Reports Name MG Hector as Best Value SUV vehicle in the SUV segment

Guwahati: The Hector, a flagship SUV of MG (Morris Garages), a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, which comes equipped with a host of attractive features while offering a comfortable ride is also the best value vehicle in the SUV segment. It has garnered top rankings for ownership costs among the popular hatchback cars and compact SUVs in the recent NielsenIQ Service Cost Survey. Additionally, Droom's recent analysis placed the Hector at the forefront for factors such as, resale value, fuel efficiency and customer satisfaction.

The MG Hector, a unique



SUV, offers a 35.56 cm HD infotainment system, 75+ connected car features, advanced safety, and a dual-pane panoramic sunroof. Available in 5, 6, and 7-seater configurations, it starts at ₹13.99 Lakhs (Ex-Showroom) and caters to tech-savvy buyers. The NielsenIQ Service Cost Survey analyzed SUVs and hatchbacks purchased be-

tween Jan '21-Aug '21 and completed 3-5 regular services. The MG Hector was ranked as the leading car in terms of affordable ownership cost among all vehicles surveyed, including major hatchbacks. The Hector also had the highest resale value of 74% for the diesel variant, while the petrol variant outperforms the competition with a resale value of 67%. Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, "Beyond its impressive features, the Hector stands out for its low Total Cost of Ownership, high resale value, and superior quality that sets a benchmark in the industry."

IndiaSkills Competition 2024 Begins

Guwahati: The IndiaSkills Competition 2024 – the country's biggest skill competition designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling commenced and will go on till 19th May 2024. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised an inauguration ceremony at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka which witnessed the participation of 900+ candidates from 30+ states and Union Territories and 400+ industry experts.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is organizing a national competition to showcase 61 skills, from traditional crafts to cutting-edge technologies. The event will be held on 47 on-site and 14 offsite in Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. Additionally, participants will participate

in 9 exhibition skills like drone-making, textile-weaving, leather-shoemaking, and prosthetics-makeup. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE said that the IndiaSkills 2024 is not just a competition; it is a celebration of skill, innovation, and determination. It is a testament to the boundless potential of our youth and their ability to shape the future of our nation.

The event, which will span three days, will feature competitions in various skills such as Construction, Building Technology, Creative Arts and Fashion, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, and Transportation and Logistics. The event will close on 19th May with a grand closing ceremony.

ExxonMobil commemorated 30 years of successful partnership with Mercedes-Benz India

Guwahati: ExxonMobil, a global leader in synthetic motor oils, recently commemorated 30 years of successful partnership with Mercedes-Benz India. The milestone event held at the Mercedes Benz India facility at Chakan, Pune, highlighted the enduring collaboration between the two pioneers, and their commitment to furthering innovation and mutual growth in the sector.

ExxonMobil has worked closely with Mercedes Benz in order to produce and deliver synthetic motor oils that satisfy the changing demands of Mercedes Benz's expanding luxury range in India, which includes SUVs like the GLE and GLS, as well as the A-Class limousine and Mercedes Maybach S 580 limousines. Mercedes Benz has

Flipkart announced an all-new simplified rate card policy

Guwahati: Flipkart, India's homegrown ecommerce marketplace, announced an all-new simplified rate card policy aimed at revolutionizing the seller experience on the platform and enabling greater settlement clarity.

The new rate card, effective May 18, 2024, features a simplified structure, competitive FBF rates, and an updated shipping policy, enhancing customer value and streamlining operations on a larger scale. This transformative change through a simplified rate card will foster equitable growth opportunities, reflecting Flipkart's commitment to empowering sellers. Through this initiative Flipkart is furthering its commitment of shaping a promising future for e-commerce in India. Speaking about the development, Rakesh Krishnan, Vice President and Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "With enhanced benefits, we are confident that this initiative will unlock new opportunities for sellers to thrive and transform the selling experience on our platform."

Flipkart has implemented an educational strategy to help sellers understand the benefits and implications of rate card revisions. The company will provide recorded explanations and step-by-step guidance on navigating these changes. Flipkart's dedicated seller support team will assist sellers with enhanced business decision-making. The goal is to help sellers make informed decisions and maximize their success on the platform.

partnered with ExxonMobil to meet the lubrication needs of its premium and luxury cars in India. The partnership includes testing, field trials, and supply of high-quality fully synthetic engine oils to both factory and service networks. This partnership has delivered trust and value to the evolving sophisticated, modern, and ambitious Indian consumer base, ensuring engine efficiency. Vipin Rana, CEO – ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt. Ltd., said: "Our long partnership with Mercedes-Benz India is testimony to the cutting-edge lubrication technology, trusted by global automobile majors, and our unwavering focus on ensuring supply chain security and reliability to the Mercedes-Benz dealers across India."

Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants Aim to Salvage Pride in Final IPL Fixture

Mumbai: The Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants, both out of the playoff race, are set to clash at Wankhede Stadium this Friday in a bid to end their disappointing IPL seasons on a high note. Mumbai Indians, a team with a record five IPL championships, were the first to be eliminated from playoff contention this season, marking a tough campaign under new captain Hardik Pandya.

Lucknow Super Giants, who reached the playoffs last year, saw their chances for this season dashed after three consecutive losses severely impacted their net run rate. A significant victory in their final game against Mumbai might still not be enough to salvage a playoff spot due to their poor NRR of -0.787, especially when compared to better-placed teams. Mumbai Indians have strug-



gled under Pandya's leadership, winning just four out of their 13 matches. Fans' displeasure with the leadership change, moving Rohit Sharma from captaincy, has overshadowed the season, affecting team morale and performance. Despite standout performances from Jasprit.

Bumrah, who took 20 wickets this season, the team has failed to find a consistent rhythm. On the individual front, the match will spotlight T20 World Cup-bound players like Pandya, Sharma, Bumrah, and Suryakumar Yadav. Sharma's form has been notably poor, with a best

score of 19 in his last six appearances. Suryakumar, on the other hand, has shown some resilience, hitting three fifties and a century this IPL season.

Lucknow Super Giants have also faced challenges, with a notable lack of firepower and missed opportunities defining their season. Captain KL Rahul has been a lone bright spot, amassing 465 runs, including three half-centuries, although his strike rate has sparked debate. Nicholas Pooran has provided some late momentum with 424 runs at a strike rate of 168.92, but overall, the team's bowling and batting have not clicked collectively. As both teams prepare for their final fixture, they will be looking to give their fans something to cheer about, drawing a close to seasons they would rather forget.

Virat Kohli Emphasizes Commitment to Cricket: "Once I'm Done, I'll Be Gone for a While"

Bengaluru: Indian cricket icon Virat Kohli, acknowledging the finite nature of a sporting career, expressed his determination to leave no stone unturned in his pursuit of cricketing excellence. With a standout performance this IPL season, Kohli has amassed a record eight centuries and leads with 661 runs in 13 games for the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

In a candid revelation shared via an RCB social media video, the 35-year-old batsman spoke about his drive to lead a life without regrets. "I'm very sure I won't have any regrets later. Once I'm done, I'll be gone; you won't see me for a while," Kohli said, underscoring his intent to step away from the spotlight post-retirement. Having been with RCB since his U-19 World Cup victory in 2008, Kohli's career has been marked by phenomenal consistency and dedication. "As sportsmen, we do have an end date to our careers,



so I'm just working backwards," he added, reflecting on his commitment to making every moment count on the field.

Kohli, who will be participating in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies, remains a pivotal figure in international cricket, holding the record for the most runs in T20 World Cup history with 1,141 runs.

With a career history with 1,141 runs. The discussion about leadership at RCB continues, with former India spinner Harbhajan Singh suggesting that Kohli should resume captain-

cy, citing his unique blend of intent, commitment, and aggression. Currently, the team is led by South African player Faf du Plessis.

Former Faf du Plessis. Kohli's career boasts impressive statistics, including participation in 113 Tests, 292 ODIs, and 117 T20Is, with over 26,000 international runs. His unwavering dedication not only shapes his legacy but also inspires his teammates and fans worldwide. As the World Cup approaches, Kohli is focused on contributing significantly to the team's success and ensuring his cricket journey is as fulfilling as possible.

T20 WC Broadcasters Launch Special Feeds for Hearing and Visually Impaired Fans

Mumbai: In a pioneering move to make cricket more accessible, Disney+ Hotstar and Star Sports Network have announced that the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas will feature special telecast feeds tailored for hearing and visually impaired fans. This initiative will include an Indian Sign Language feed and audio descriptive commentary for 10 crucial matches, encompassing all matches involving India, as well as the semi-finals and finals.

This groundbreaking approach marks the first time the T20 World Cup will be broadcast with such inclusive features. "This is to make cricket more immersive for its deaf, hard-of-hearing, and visually-impaired users," the broadcaster stated. Anurag Thakur, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports, lauded this development. "The Government of India is committed to creating an inclusive society and I strongly believe that this initiative will enhance the viewing experience for millions of differentlyabled sports enthusiasts," he commented in a press release. Disney+ Hotstar also sets a milestone by becoming the first OTT platform



to provide ISL for live cricket broadcasts. Sajith Sivanandan, Head of Disney+ Hotstar India, emphasized their commitment to inclusivity. "With these enhancements, we aim to ensure that the excitement of cricket knows no bounds," he stated. The innovation has been well received during the ongoing IPL season, according to Sanjog Gupta, Head of Disney Star (Sports). "Our mission of serving sports fans is powered by such pioneering initiatives which seek to remove barriers of access and engagement for fans from all walks of life," Gupta explained.

The ISL feed will feature a translator providing ball-by-ball updates directly on the live stream. The audio descriptive feed will utilize voice-over technology, capable of transforming text and images into speech outputs, thus enriching the viewing experience for visually impaired audiences.

European Games to be major 2028 Olympic qualifying event

Berlin: The 2027 European Games in Istanbul will serve as a major qualifying event for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, the head of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) said on Thursday. The Turkish city will host the fourth edition of the continental multi-sports event after Poland staged the 2023 event with 29 sports. The dates for the 2027 Games have not yet been fixed but they will take place around June. "I think Istanbul gives us an additional, new opportunity for innovation," EOC President Spyros Capralos said in an online press conference. "The European Games are happening one year before the

Olympic Games in Los Angeles. They will serve as a qualification for Olympic sports." Capralos said more federations, including gymnastics, were looking to send top athletes to the European Games. The event faces stiff competition from the European Championships, another multi-sport event featuring top athletes from sports including athletics, gymnastics, swimming and rowing. The addition of new sports to the 2027 European Games along with the offer of Olympic qualifying spots fits with the International Olympic Committee's strategy of boosting the visibility of qualifying events for the Games.

Germany name four goalkeepers in Euro 2024 squad

Berlin: Hosts Germany will have four goalkeepers at Euro 2024 but there were few other surprises in coach Julian Nagelsmann's preliminary squad unveiled. VfB Stuttgart keeper Alexander Nuebel was named along with Manuel Neuer, Oliver Baumann and Marc-Andre ter Stegen as Nagelsmann otherwise largely showed faith in the players he has used over the past seven months. "When you have this structure which is still growing but fragile after our performances in March, bringing in new elements could trigger an implosion of that structure and you would have to start from scratch," the coach said ahead of his first international tournament. Germany beat France and Netherlands in back-to-back friendlies in March, their best results for some time, and the three-times European champions have not won a major trophy since the 2014 World Cup. Nagelsmann said having four keepers was crucial for spreading the workload during the tournament. "We have nominated four goalkeepers and we will go with four to the tournament. Nuebel has deserved the nomination," Nagelsmann said. "Why four keepers? You can have goalkeepers in training as well and Manuel (Neuer) does not always have to do it. We can control training and spread the load. "That means 22 infield players.

I can live with that very well. We can still do proper training with at least 20 infield players if some are missing." In veterans Thomas Mueller, Toni Kroos and Neuer, there are three 2014 world champions in the 27-man squad which must be cut to 26 before the tournament. Aleksandar Pavlovic, 20, who missed the March friendlies through injury and is still waiting for his first cap, earned a place following his superb form for Bayern Munich. Robert Andrich, Florian Wirtz and Jonathan Tah are the Bayer Leverkusen players in the squad having helped the Bundesliga champions go through the season unbeaten across all competitions. The two most notable absences were Borussia Dortmund's Champions League finalist Mats Hummels and Bayern Munich's Leon Goretzka who narrowly missed the cut. Germany kick off their Group A campaign in the tournament opener against Scotland on June 14. They also play Hungary and Switzerland in the first stage.

Ganguly Confident in Pant's Future as Captain, Lauds His Comeback

New Delhi: Sourav Ganguly, the Director of Cricket for Delhi Capitals, has expressed confidence in Rishabh Pant's future as an instinctive leader, anticipating his growth as a captain with more experience. Returning to cricket after a severe car accident in December 2022 and a lengthy rehabilitation, Pant has resumed his role as captain for the Delhi Capitals.

"Pant is a young captain who will learn with time," Ganguly stated during an interview with JioCinema. He praised Pant's

recovery and performance this IPL season, especially given the uncertainties during his recovery period. "Indian players are crucial, especially since the TATA IPL expanded to 10 teams. I am very happy for him that he returned to play so well over a full season." Despite occasional lapses in decisionmaking, Pant's instinctive approach has been notable throughout the season. "With time, he'll become a better captain. Nobody is a great captain from day one, but he is an instinctual captain,

making decisions on the ground. With more time, he'll get better," added Ganguly.

While Delhi Capitals ended their league stage with a balanced record of seven wins and seven losses, their chance of advancing in the playoffs remains slim. Ganguly also took the opportunity to praise the performances of pacers Mukesh Kumar and Rasikh Dar Salam. "You've seen Rasikh's development over time. The more matches he played, the

better he got," he noted, emphasizing the challenges of bowling on the Delhi wicket.

Ganguly highlighted Mukesh as the season's standout bowler, tasked with delivering in crucial overs. "Mukesh has been our best bowler this season. He bowls all the difficult overs, whether at the start or at the death," Ganguly remarked, underscoring the bowler's consistent performance in critical moments of the game.