

Raymond announces demerger of its real estate business into its subsidiary Raymond Realty

New Delhi: Raymond on Thursday announced the demerger of the real estate business into its subsidiary Raymond Realty Ltd (RRL). Shareholders of Raymond will receive one share of RRL for every share held and the new entity will seek automatic listing on the stock exchanges.

The Gautam Singhanian-led firm said in a regulatory announcement post market hours that after the completion of the divestment, Raymond Ltd and RRL will operate as separate listed entities and that RRL will be a pure play listed firm.

Last month, Raymond had received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the de-



merger of its lifestyle business into Raymond Lifestyle (RLL) and the amalgamation of its consumer trading entity — Ray Global Consumer Trading — into RLL.

Due to the latest demerger (after receipt of all approv-

als), there will be three listed firms from the group. While RRL will be a listed lifestyle company with presence in branded textiles, branded apparel, garment, high value cotton shirting, there will be RRL (post approvals) and the

existing listed firm Raymond Ltd which will include engineering business and a denim joint venture.

Raymond said the decision to demerger the real estate business has been done as it has achieved scale, reporting revenue of ₹1,593 crore (43 per cent growth over the previous year) and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation & amortisation) of ₹370 crore in 2023-24, therefore positioning it well to chart its own growth path as a separate entity.

Raymond Realty has 100 acres of land at Thane in Maharashtra with 11.4 million sq ft RERA approved carpet area of which about 40 acres is currently under development.

Shares of ITD Cementation crash 15 per cent, promoter mulls potential stake sale

New Delhi: Shares of ITD Cementation India crashed over 15 per cent on the bourses on Thursday after the company said its promoter is mulling a potential stake sale.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, the company said it had been informed by "Italian Thai Development Public Company, the promoter shareholder, that they are exploring a potential possible divestment of their investments in the company".

"The company has also been informed that the process is currently at a preliminary stage and no definitive decision in this regard has been taken as yet," it added.

For the quarter ended March 31, the promoter entity held 46.64 per cent of ITD Cementation. Based on Wednesday's closing price, this stake was valued at ₹4,490 crore.

While the ITD Cementation



share has had a stellar run on the bourses, having rallied over 250 per cent in the past one year, the announcement led to it ending with deep losses.

On the BSE, the scrip settled at ₹487.30, a fall of 15.07 per cent, or ₹86.50, over the last close. Similarly, on the NSE, it cracked 13.75 per cent to end at ₹495.

While the promoter entity is listed in Thailand, reports claim that it is facing a cash crunch. A Bloomberg report in March had said that the company is in talks with banks for new loans to overcome the liquidity crunch that led to delayed payments to some workers and contractors.

MSMEs embrace digital future: Vi Business Study

Mumbai: Vi Business announces groundbreaking insights from its 'ReadyForNext MSME Growth Insights Study Vol 2.0, 2024'. Released on World MSME Day, the study surveyed 1.6 lakh MSMEs across 16 sectors, revealing that nearly 60% of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India plan to digitize their operations by 2025.

The study highlights the increasing digital maturity among MSMEs, with sectors like IT-ITES, Financial Services, and Transportation leading the charge. Despite challenges such as knowledge gaps and financial constraints, MSMEs are leveraging technologies like cloud computing and IoT to enhance productivity and market reach. Notably, 40% of IT & ITES, Retail, and Construction sectors have adopted IoT solutions. In the northeastern market, such as in Shillong, businesses are also gearing up for digital transformation. The study emphasizes the pivotal role played by senior leadership in driving digital initiatives, correlating higher digitalization rates with increased turnover.

Furthermore, Vi Business has launched an enhanced Digital Assessment Tool in English and Hindi to assist MSMEs in assessing their digital readiness. This tool, part of Vi's #ReadyForNext initiative, evaluates businesses on digital customer engagement, workspace efficiency, and overall digital strategy. Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer at Vodafone Idea, commented on Vi Business's commitment to supporting India's digital economy and helping MSMEs unlock their growth potential.

India launches UPI payments at world-renowned Galeries Lafayette in Paris



Mumbai: India has launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at Paris' historic department store Galeries Lafayette after a successful launch at the iconic Eiffel Tower.

This significant step is towards realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalising UPI, which is an Indian instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.

"Delighted to launch @UPI_NPCI in the world-famous @Galeries_Laf in Paris. After the launch in the Eiffel Tower in Jan 2024, expanding UPI across France. A journey that PM @narendramodi began in 2018 with UPI in Singapore taking another step forward," Ashraf said in a post on X.

In February, India formally

launched UPI at the iconic Eiffel Tower here, terming it as taking Prime Minister Modi's "vision of taking UPI global." Recalling the success of the UPI launch at the Eiffel Tower in January 2024 and the meeting hosted for potential merchants with NPCI International in February 2024, the Ambassador welcomed the quick conclusion of the agreement and arrangement between Lyra and NPCI for the launch of UPI at the world-famous Galeries Lafayette ahead of the Paris Olympics starting July 26, 2024, which is expected to draw a large number of Indian visitors, the release said.

The ambassador recalled the first international launch of UPI in Singapore in 2018 by Modi and expressed satisfaction with the international journey of UPI.

He hoped that in addition to quick, safe and efficient means of cross-border digital payments, UPI would grow as a medium of cross-border remittances and eventually become the digital payment system in countries across the world.

UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood, according to NPCI.

Ather Energy sets three-year deadline to build electric motorcycle amid Rizta launch



New Delhi: Ather Energy is planning to launch an electric motorcycle in three years. The Bengaluru-based start-up is working on developing a new platform for its electric motorcycle. This will be Ather's second platform.

The company, which is launching its family scooter Rizta in regional markets, will start deliveries in Calcutta and the eastern market later this month, said Ravneet Singh Phokela, chief business officer at Ather Energy, who was in the city for the occasion. "With the Rizta, we will be addressing 85 per cent of the market. Previously we were addressing only the performance segment that comprises 15 per cent of the market," said Phokela.

The Ather Rizta S with a 2.9 kWh battery is priced at ₹1,11,469 (ex-showroom Calcutta). The Ather Rizta Z with 2.9 kWh and 3.7 kWh batteries are available at ₹1,26,469 and ₹1,46,469 (ex-showroom Calcutta), respectively.

Speaking to reporters, Phokela set a three-year time frame for the electric motorcycle. The company is also venturing into international markets having entered Nepal this year.

"We are looking to export to South East Asia, Europe, Latin America. We hope to start exports in the coming one year. We started exports to Nepal in November last year," said Phokela. The number of units exported to Nepal is small as it is a small market, he added.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Leads Afforestation Push with 'Green Wave Initiative'

Shillong: Towards its commitment to environmental sustainability, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) further accelerates the 'Green Wave Project' commemorating this year's environment month. Aimed at enhancing its nature conservation activity in the community, TKM distributed saplings to its employees, under its sixth challenge namely 'Establishing a Future Society in Harmony with Nature', contributing towards the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050. Thiseco campaign continues to drive active community involvement to promote greenery, through

employee engagement.

The company has distributed over 7,000 saplings to its employees, achieving its 8,000-sapling target. TKM employees are encouraged to plant and nurture the saplings in their neighborhoods, submitting periodic reports on growth. They are also actively involving their local communities in afforestation activities, promoting a greener environment. Mr. B. Padmanabha, Executive Vice President & Director of Manufacturing - Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, we recognize that environmental and social sus-

tainability are just as crucial as economic progression. Guided by Toyota's Global Environmental Challenge 2050 (six challenges announced in 2015), our sustainability efforts are far reaching that go beyond product zero emissions."

TKM's commitment to sustainability and ecological restoration has yielded significant results, with a study revealing that the Miyawaki method excels in carbon sequestration, capturing an impressive 30.86 tons of carbon per acre, demonstrating its effectiveness in achieving ecological restoration.

NSDC Joins Hands with ILO, World Bank, UNESCO for SIDH Webinar

Guwahati: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank and UNESCO is organising a webinar on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) to prepare the workforce for the Future of Work on July 4. Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), MSDE will address the webinar where ap-

proximately 120 countries are participating and around 3,000 people have already registered.

The webinar, AI-powered Skill India Digital Hub, will explore the role of digital infrastructure, work-based learning models, and industry-academia collaboration in enhancing the Skills and Lifelong Learning ecosystem. Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE and ShriVed Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International will discuss the impact of digital platforms in creating

scalable and sustainable skill enhancement models.

The webinar will explore the use of technology in skills development, focusing on leveraging Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to improve learner engagement and bridge skill gaps. It will promote digital solutions, enabling youth to navigate skill centers, unlock employability opportunities, and provide dynamic, relevant skilling courses in local settings.

Durex The Birds and Bees Talk Launches Rainbow Classrooms Initiative



Itanagar: Reckitt announces the launch of the Rainbow Classrooms initiative under its Durex The Birds and Bees Talk (TBBT) program, in partnership with Plan India. This initiative aims to transform schools into inclusive, supportive environments by promoting gender inclusivity and fluidity. Through vibrant, rainbow-colored doors and comprehensive gender identity education for teachers, the program seeks to create safe spaces where every student feels valued and respected.

The Rainbow Classrooms initiative is a program that paints classroom doors in rainbow colors to recognize and reward schools and teachers who are advocates for diversity and inclusion. These schools and teachers are seen as key players in

supporting students and creating supportive educational environments. Gaurav Jain, Executive Vice President, Reckitt-SouthAsia, emphasized the significance of this initiative: "The Rainbow Classrooms initiative is a crucial step in our mission to create inclusive and safe educational environments."

Reckitt has developed India's first gender diversity course for teachers, under its Durex TBBT program. The course, supported by the Government of India and the National Curriculum Framework, equips teachers with the knowledge and tools to support and guide students on gender diversity and related issues, addressing the oversimplified and misunderstood nature of gender identity issues in India.

Axis Mutual Fund Study Highlights 2.4x Growth in AUM of Women Investors in Guwahati

Guwahati: Axis Mutual Fund, one of the fastest growing fund houses in India, analysed data from over 1 crore existing Axis MF customers and conducted a nationwide survey, to unveil an interesting study titled "Women Investment Behaviour Report 2024". In the last five years (31st Mar 2019 to 31st Dec 2023), women investors have grown 3.0x in Guwahati. In the same time period, the AUM of women investors has grown 2.4x in Guwahati. The state of Assam has witnessed a 2.4x growth in AUM of women investors in the same time frame.

The study reveals that 72% of women investors now make independent investment decisions, demonstrating their proactive approach to financial autonomy and growth, highlighting their commitment to long-term investing. The report reveals a strategic approach, with women investors investing 25% more and accumulating 37% more corpus than men. Women exhibit 22% higher persistency in mutual fund investments over a five-year period, promoting long-term wealth building, fostering financial security and stability for individual households and the broader economy. Survey respondents prioritized past performance as a crucial factor influencing their mutual fund investment decisions. Addressing the significance of the study, B Gopkumar, MD&CEO, Axis AMC asserted, "The mutual fund industry is undergoing a dynamic shift as more people, particularly women, embrace investing in mutual funds as part of their financial strategy."

Sony LIV unveils the teaser of Tanaav 2!

Mumbai: The thriller web series 'Tanaav' is back with Season 2. Kabir and the Special Task Group (STG) return to action when Fared Mir aka Al-Damishq, a young man seeking vengeance, emerges as a formidable threat. What happens next and what is at stake for everyone involved? 'Tanaav' Season 2 is an action-packed web series encompassing stories of bravery, deception, greed, love, and revenge. Directed by the award-winning Sudhir Mishra and E. Niwas. Link: https://www.instagram.com/reel/C87TTv4so_e/?igsh=M-W9wMnB5aW5sNzN1cw==

Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Meets Myanmar's Deputy PM, Discusses Border Violence



Guwahati: Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held discussions on Wednesday with Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister U Than Shwe. During the meeting, he expressed deep concern over the violence near the Indian border in Myanmar and urged cooperation to facilitate the safe return of stranded Indians in the town of Myawadi.

Dr. S. Jaishankar emphasized India's readiness to provide security assurances for Myanmar's ongoing projects and urged a swift return to democratic transition, stating India's readiness to assist in any capacity.

Following the meeting, Jaishankar posted on social media platform 'X', stating, "We discussed our deep concerns at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on our border. India is open to engaging all stakeholders to address this situation. Illicit drugs, arms smuggling, and human trafficking were highlighted as priority challenges."

Myanmar's military seizes power following a coup in February 2021, leading to ongoing protests for democracy restoration. Conflicts between armed ethnic groups and the military in Rakhine State have escalated, causing tensions in areas bordering India and Myanmar.

Next Bharat Ventures Unveils Rs 340 Crore Initiative to Propel Indian Entrepreneurship

Itanagar: Next Bharat Ventures IFSC Private limited— a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation announced the launch of an Rs 340 Crore fund that aims to act as a growth catalyst for the social impact startup ecosystem in India. Next Bharat is a social impact investment fund dedicated to fostering impact entrepreneurs who are creating value for Tier II and below geographies. "Next Bharat" aims to empower India's next billion by supporting these Impact Entrepreneurs. The primary mission is to cultivate and nurture a deep rooted community of Impact enablers in the country, who are solving social problems with sustainable business.

The 'Next Bharat Residency program' is a 4-month immersive residency for early stage

entrepreneurs, offering an inclusive, easy application process. Toshihiro Suzuki, President and CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation said, "Our goal is to connect with the "Next Billion" people of India, extending beyond mobility and becoming a part of India's future story."

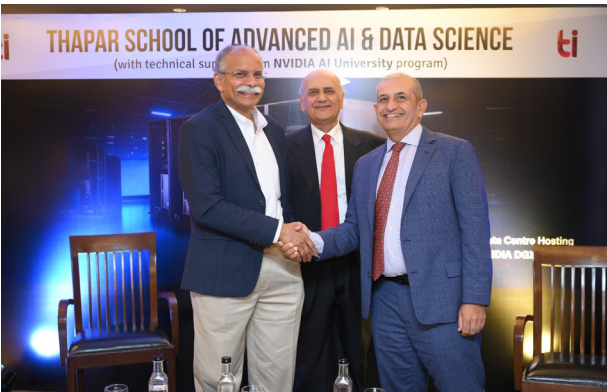
The program, which will commence on 14th October 2024, is designed to focus on impact-first entrepreneurs with a clear problem-solving approach and a commitment to contributing to the rural community or the Informal sector of India. The application deadline is July 31, 2024, and the program is open to all passionate impact entrepreneurs. Next Bharat will nurture social impact startups in the domains of agriculture, financial inclusion, rural supply chain, and rural mobility.

Nexon.ev receives 5-stars by Bharat-NCAP

Guwahati: Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. (TPEM) has started FY 25 on a high as the company announced its SUVs – the Punch.ev and the Nexon.ev – achieved the coveted 5-star safety rating by Bharat-NCAP. Notably, the Punch.ev earned the highest rating by any Indian vehicle tested. With this result, all Tata.ev SUVs are 5-star certified by Bharat-NCAP. Punch.ev is the newest offering in the Tata.ev portfolio. Based on Tata.ev's Pure EV architecture – acti.ev – it's a versatile and multi-talented EV, elegantly packaged in a stunning, classical

SUV design. The Punch.ev seamlessly brings together features like Arcade.ev, air purifier, end to end LED DRLs with welcome and goodbye function, frunk, sunroof, all digital instrument cluster and infotainment among others. It also features 6 airbags, electronic stability program, ISOFIX, hill hold assist, roll over mitigation, iTPMS as standard features. While 360 degree camera, blind spot view monitoring, SOS calling, electronic parking brake with auto hold, all 4 disc brakes, and hill decent control are offered in select variants.

TIET collaborates with NVIDIA to establish the Thapar School of Advanced AI & Data Science



Guwahati: Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology (TIET) has signed an MOU with NVIDIA to establish the Thapar School of Advanced AI & Data Science (TSAAI), with technical support from the NVIDIA AI University program.

AI continues to revolutionize industries worldwide, driving innovation, reshaping the future of education, and changing lives. Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between TIET and NVIDIA, TSAAI will be established at TIET's campus, Patiala. The initiative aims to provide a wide array of academic programs, research opportunities, and innovation projects to equip students and faculty with crucial AI skills. India is grappling with

a significant AI expertise gap, highlighting the urgent need for skilled professionals in this field, as AI is increasingly integrated into daily life.

TIET is establishing a cutting-edge AI infrastructure using NVIDIA DGX systems, NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs, and NVIDIA AI Enterprise software platform for generative AI development. The dedicated data center will offer 227 petaflops of AI performance and 8 terabytes of GPU memory. Vishal Dhupar, Managing Director of Asia South at NVIDIA said, "As a key player in the global AI education initiative, Thapar Institute will integrate cutting-edge NVIDIA technologies to cultivate a new generation of AI experts across India".

Samsung Unveils 'Bespoke AI Days' Offers

Guwahati: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced exciting promotions on its range of Bespoke AI-powered digital appliances. With these offers, Samsung aims to democratize AI and make its digital appliances more accessible for consumers. Samsung's new range of Bespoke appliances enable smart living by seamlessly integrating AI to streamline tasks, allowing users to reclaim time for more meaningful pursuits in life, perfectly aligning with the ethos of "Do Less, Live More."

These Bespoke AI-powered appliances empower users to personalize settings, offer user-friendly controls for all ages, and deliver prompt diagnostics for optimal functionality. Samsung's 'Bespoke AI Days' offer customers cashback up to INR 20000 and zero down payment on AI-powered digital appliances. EcoBub-



ble washing machines receive INR 9000 cashback, while the Bespoke AI Microwave Oven offers INR 12,000 cashback. Saurabh Baishakhia, Senior Director, Digital Appliances, Samsung India said, "With Bespoke AI, Samsung has made premium global technology accessible to Indian consumers".

Samsung is offering 'Bespoke AI Days' from July 5-14, 2024, on its range of Bespoke AI-powered digital appliances, allowing Indian households to create smart homes and ensuring convenience for consumers nationwide through Samsung.com, leading retail stores, and online platforms.

Nissan Motor India achieved an export milestone of 1.1 million units

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India announced crossing an export milestone of 1.1 million units since the start of its export operations. This is a crucial accomplishment for the company and a true reflection of Nissan's 'Make in India, Make for the World' philosophy. On 29 June 2024, the company successfully exported 1.1 million units, with Nissan Magnite being the milestone unit exported at Ennore Kamarajar Port, Tamil Nadu.

In June 2024, the company reported a cumulative wholesale of 10,284 units, with a YoY growth of 76.3% and a MoM growth of 65.7%. Export wholesale ac-

counted for 8177 units in June 2024, with YoY growth of 149% and MoM growth of 104% and domestic wholesale accounted for 2107 units in June 2024. Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "We congratulate and thank the entire team for achieving this glorious & significant milestone".

Nissan has achieved a significant milestone in export business, driven by the Magnite and Sunny models. This reflects the unmatched demand for Nissan cars in India and key markets. Nissan's export strategy and capabilities reflect their focus on meeting customer needs globally.



Shri Jayant Chaudhary Hails SIDH as a Game-Changer in Digital Skill Development

Guwahati: Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), emphasized the pivotal role of digital infrastructure and collaborative learning models during his address at the SKILLS Bridge Masterclass Series. It focuses on Promoting Lifelong Learning (LLL) for the Future of Work and the webinar's topic was— AI-Powered Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for a Future Ready Workforce. It was jointly organized by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank and UNESCO. The webinar, attended by over 120 delegates and 3000 participants, discussed the use of digital infrastructure, work-based learning models, and industry-academia partnerships to enhance skills

and lifelong learning.

The webinar featured prominent dignitaries such as Dr. Haja Ramatulai Wurie, Hon'ble Minister of Technical and Higher Education in Sierra Leone; Ruben Sargsyan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in Armenia; and Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. During his address, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said, "At the heart of this transformation lies the SkillIndiaDigital Hub (SIDH), which is a leading example of how digital public infrastructure can revolutionize learning and skill development. SIDH is more than just a platform; it is a trusted and transparent ecosystem that converges diverse elements of our vast skilling landscape."

Lisa Takes Center Stage with 'Rockstar' - New Single and Video Out Now!

Aizawl: LISA (Lalisa Manobal) releases her new single, "Rockstar," via LLOUD Co./RCA Records. "Rockstar" showcases LISA's ability to effortlessly flow between dexterous raps and high-energy pop vocals as she sings, "Gold teeth sitting on the dash she a rockstar. Make your favorite singer wanna rap baby lala." The new single was produced by Ryan Tedder and Sam Homaee. Listen to "Rockstar" HERE.

LISA has released the official video for "Rockstar," directed by Henry Schofield and

choreographed by Sean Bankhead. "Rockstar" is LISA's first solo single. The video, shot in Bangkok, showcases Lisa's authentic Thai culture and street life, showcasing her true rockstar spirit with captivating choreography.

LISA teased her new single on social media, setting a Guinness World Record by gaining 1 million followers in 2 hours and 18 minutes. The single was announced last week to fanfare and excitement from Rolling Stone, Billboard, and other publications.

Kotak Mahindra Bank anticipates to see significant growth in SMEs in Kolkata

Kotak Mahindra Bank is set to significantly expand its SME business in Kolkata, recognizing the East region as a growing opportunity. Shekhar Bhandari, President-SME, emphasized that Kolkata, as a trade and commerce hub in northeast India, is pivotal for the bank's strategic growth plans in the East. The city boasts of diverse sectors such as iron and steel, biotechnology, coal, leather, jute products, tea, IT, and gems and jewelry, positioning it as a critical focal point for Kotak Mahindra Bank's expansion. Kotak Mahindra Bank is focusing on expanding its presence in the East region, investing in local talent, and opening new branches to cater to the

growing needs of businesses and entrepreneurs in the region. Kotak Mahindra Bank has identified key locations in the East, including Ranchi, Kolkata, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack, leveraging local insights and opportunities for growth. The opening of new branches in these areas underscores the bank's commitment to bolstering the SME sector and driving regional economic development. Shekhar Bhandari, President-SME, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "SMEs are essential to achieving India's goal of a \$5 trillion economy, and Kotak Mahindra Bank is committed to fostering their development and growing together with them."

PPS Motors Sets Record with 40,000 Volkswagen Cars Sold Across India

Guwahati: PPS Motors - one of the countries largest spread automobile conglomerates, has announced that it has reached a milestone of selling 40,000 Volkswagen vehicles and therefore becoming India's first multi-state dealer to record this feat. PPS Motors has the largest network of touchpoints for Volkswagen in India with 33 touchpoints spread across in five states viz; Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal & Assam.

PPS Motors, despite a post-pandemic auto industry slowdown, has become Volkswagen's largest network partner in India, with every 10th vehicle sold through their services, demonstrating market leadership and customer satisfaction. The high Google Rating of 4.8 for PPS Motors-Volkswagen touchpoints showcases the exceptional service quality and customer satisfaction. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Rajiv Sanghvi, Managing Director of PPS Motors, said "We are delighted to partner with Volkswagen in our journey of over one and half decades which has been very fruitful."

The 40,000th Volkswagen car, a Reflex Silver-coloured Virtus Comfortline, was handed over at a special ceremony at PPS Motors' Kukatpally City showroom in Hyderabad. On this achievement, Mr. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director of Volkswagen Passenger Cars India also commented, "We are confident PPS Motors will continue raising the bar by providing exceptional customer satisfaction to our expanded Volkswagen family."

Neeraj Chopra poised for another Olympic medal, says strength coach

Vijaynagar: Neeraj Chopra, India's javelin throw star, is in peak physical shape to secure another Olympic medal at the upcoming Paris Games, according to Spencer Mackay, head of strength and conditioning at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS). Chopra, who clinched the Olympic gold in Tokyo 2021, has been managing a minor adductor issue recently, leading him to skip the Paris Diamond League to focus on the Olympics, "Neeraj is in top form physically. Despite past injuries and recent minor setbacks, he is fully prepared," Mackay told PTI. He emphasized that any concerns about Chopra's fitness are "an afterthought" as the Olympics approach.

Since his gold medal win in Tokyo, Chopra has remained a formidable force in javelin,



with a consistent performance record that includes a first-place finish at the Paavo Nurmi Games and a second-place at the Doha Diamond League earlier this year. According to Mackay, the strategy for Chopra has been clear: "Maintain fitness, strength, and balance to excel at the Olympics."

The Inspire Institute of Sports, where Mackay works, has become a crucial rehabilitation and training center for

many Indian athletes. Mackay highlighted the importance of sports science in modern athletic training, which includes enhancing performance, preventing injuries, and ensuring effective recovery, "India has immense potential to improve its athletes' performances significantly by the next Olympic games," he added, suggesting that with advanced training and better sports science integration, India could increase its Olympic medal tally.

T20 World Champions India Finally Depart Barbados After Hurricane Delay

Bridgetown: After an enforced threeday stay due to a category 4 hurricane, the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team has finally departed for Delhi. The team left aboard a special Air India charter flight, AIC24WC -- Air India Champions 24 World Cup -- which took off from Grantley Adams International Airport at approximately 4:50 AM local time. The flight is expected to arrive in the Indian capital on Thursday at around 6:20 AM IST.

India's captain, Rohit Sharma, shared a post on Instagram captioned "Coming home," featuring him with the trophy on the aircraft. The flight carries not only the players but also their families, support staff, board officials, and members of the media, all arranged by the

BCCI after the dramatic seven-run victory over South Africa in the final last Saturday. The Boeing 777, originating from New Jersey, USA, made a notable arrival at Barbados around 2 AM local time, marking a rare event for Grantley Adams International Airport which had only just resumed operations. "This aircraft landing here was a significant event given its size; our airport hasn't seen a larger plane," mentioned an airport staff member.

Sources indicated that the charter was organized in close coordination with BCCI officials to ensure the team's prompt return. "Air India rearranged its schedule, managing to allocate another aircraft for passengers originally slated to fly from Newark to Delhi, allowing our champions to return home without further



delay," a source explained.

Upon their return, the players are scheduled to be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a road show is planned in Mumbai to celebrate the victorious team, ending India's 11-year trophy drought. The original flight was delayed due to the late arrival of the plane in Barbados, compounded by the disruptions caused by Hurricane Beryl, now moving towards Jamaica.

Brazil's tribute to 'King Pele'



Brazil will celebrate a national "King Pele Day" on November 19 every year, marking the date the football great scored what he considered to be the 1,000th goal of his career in 1969.

The Brazilian government's official publication said on Tuesday that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva had passed a law sanctioning the national tribute to the three-time World Cup winner. The Brazilian soccer great died on December 29, 2022, at the age of 82.

The date picked for the festivities is a reference to the day Pele scored Santos' winner from the penalty spot in a 2-1 win against Vasco da Gama at the Maracana in 1969 — although some football historians question whether that actually was the 1,000th goal of his career.

"This is an acknowledgement that's more than deserved for one of the most important and influential people not only in Brazilian football but world sports as well," said Jorge Kajuru, a former sports journalist and one of the sponsors of the bill in Congress.

Pele used the celebrations for that goal to make a rare somewhat political speech, in which he had said that Brazil should take better care of its children.

Ronaldo Vows to Give His Best Despite Emotional Penalty Miss at Euro 2024

Frankfurt: Portugal progressed to the quarterfinals of Euro 2024 after a grueling Round of 16 match against Slovenia ended in a dramatic shootout. Diogo Costa emerged as the hero for Portugal, saving three penalties after the match ended goalless in regulation and extra time.

Cristiano Ronaldo, the tournament's all-time top scorer, missed a crucial penalty in the 105th minute that would have given Portugal the lead. Speaking at the post-game press conference, Ronaldo reflected on the miss and his emotional response: "This will be my last Euro, of course. But I'm not moved by this, I'm moved by enthusiasm. I was sorry for the fans. I'll always give my best for this shirt, whether I miss it or not. And I'll do this my whole life. You have to take responsibility," he stated.

The penalty miss was a poignant moment, with Ronaldo visibly upset. However, he managed to score during the shootout, turning his initial disappointment into a moment of redemption. "I could have given the national team the advantage, but Oblak saved. It's a feeling of sadness and joy at the same time, but the most important thing is the progress, the



team deserved it," Ronaldo added. Portugal's victory sets up a thrilling quarterfinal against France, continuing their journey in a challenging bracket that could see them facing either Spain or Germany next, should they prevail against the French.

Ronaldo also praised the Slovenian team's defensive efforts and acknowledged the emotional rollercoaster of the match: "Slovenia spent almost the entire time defending, the team deserves congratulations, especially our goalkeeper who made three good saves. Even the strongest people have their days, I was down and I was sad because the team needed me," he concluded.

Tennis Legends and Rising Stars Set to Compete in Paris Olympics

London: The Paris Olympics tennis entry list, unveiled by the International Tennis Federation, features a stellar lineup including tennis veterans Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, and top female players Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff.

Djokovic, from Serbia, a holder of 24 Grand Slam titles, aims for his first Olympic gold. Murray, the British star with two consecutive Olympic singles golds, plans to retire post-Paris. Nadal, the Spanish icon with two Olympic golds, skipped Wimbledon to focus on the Olympics.

The tennis events, scheduled from July 27 to August 4, will be held on the clay courts of Ro-

land Garros, enhancing the challenge for the athletes. The tennis events, scheduled from July 27 to August 4, will be held on the clay courts of Roland Garros, enhancing the challenge for the athletes.

The list also features Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner, Alexander Zverev, Stan Wawrinka, Naomi Osaka, Bianca Andreescu, and Caroline Wozniacki, each bringing unique talents to the highly anticipated games. Osaka, notably, had the honor of lighting the cauldron at the Tokyo Olympics. This year's Olympics will also see Lebanon making its debut in the tennis category, represented by Benjamin Hassan in the singles and doubles events.

Calcutta Sports Journalists Club Launches Football School for Underprivileged Girls

Kolkata: On World Sports Journalists Day, Calcutta was alive with activities orchestrated by the Calcutta Sports Journalists Club (CSJC). A significant highlight was the inauguration of a health camp at the CSJC grounds where journalists underwent various health screenings, including blood pressure, blood sugar, and ECG tests. The camp, supported by Charnock Hospital, provided free health checkups for the journalists and their family members, engaging around 70 participants.

The day also marked the commencement of the "Banyan Tree Automobile-CSJC Football Coaching School" for girls under 13. This initiative, a first for any sports journalists club in the country, aims to empower girls from marginalized backgrounds by providing them access to sports training. The initiative saw the selection of 25 young footballers who will receive full training and support,

funded by the Calcutta Sports Journalists Club.

The football school was inaugurated by the State Fire Services Minister Sujit Bose and Prabir Raychoudhuri of the Banyan Tree Group. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including former footballer Dipendu Biswas, IFA Secretary Anirban Dutta, and Secretary of Mohammedan Sporting Club Istiaq Ahmed, among others.

Minister Sujit Bose expressed his ongoing support for such commendable initiatives, stating, "I have always been, and will continue to be, supportive of good causes. IFA Secretary Anirban Dutta also saluted the CSJC for their initiative, believing it to open new horizons for the football school.

CSJC President Subhen Raha emphasized the dual role of journalists not only in reporting but also in fulfilling a social responsibility, from which the vision for this football coaching school was conceived.

Praggnanandhaa draws, Alireza shines in Superbet Classic chess

Bucharest: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic tournament, a part of the grand chess tour here. Iranian-French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja shined with his moves against Wesley So of the United States. With the World Championship on his mind, India's D Gukesh seemed to keep in reserve his real weapons and signed for peace with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France. Praggnanandhaa tried his hand against the ever-solid Nimzo Indian defense. But it was an off day for the Indian who was confidently breached by the Romanian.