

Companies with multi-state presence will have to register as ISD with GST authorities by April 1, 2025

Mumbai: Companies having presence in multiple states and distributing common input tax credit with branch offices will have to register as Input Service Distributor (ISD) with GST authorities by April 1, 2025.

Through the Finance Bill, 2024, in February, the government had amended Goods and Services Tax (GST) law to say that businesses having multi-state GST registration will have to have themselves mandatorily registered as ISD to distribute among its branches any input tax credit (ITC) for services availed.

The mechanism for sharing of ITC is prescribed in GST rules and broadly the common ITC is apportioned in the ratio of turnover of different branches having same PAN. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has now notified April 1, 2025, as the cut-off date for all companies with multi-state branches to register as ISD.

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said the move represents an effort to enhance operational transparency and will help taxpayers to accurately distribute tax credit on common invoices across states in an appropriate manner.



“GST exempt sectors like alcohol, petroleum, education, real estate and health will need to align their business processes to ensure effective management and distribution of tax credits,” Mohan added.

KPMG in India Partner and Head Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the government has given a reasonable period of implementation of ISD provisions allowing companies sufficient time to prepare thoroughly”.

“Now businesses should begin to strategically gear up to ensure timely compliance readiness including enhancing IT capabilities to conduct thorough testing before the go-live date,” Jain added.

Markets rebound after 3-day slump: Sensex jumps 874 points to settle at 79,468; Nifty up 304 points to 24,297

Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back sharply on Wednesday after three straight days of massive decline following a rally in global peers and value-buying at lower levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 874.94 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 79,468.01. During the day, it jumped 1,046.13 points or 1.33 per cent to 79,639.20. IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the laggards.

Asian markets settled in the positive territory, where Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended significantly higher. European markets also rallied. The US markets ended higher on Tuesday.

“Global markets experienced a notable rebound after the BoJ’s Deputy Governor reassured that the central bank would not raise interest rates during a period of financial instability. The Indian market also witnessed broad-based buying across sectors, with the realty sector seeing a relief rally due to the reinstatement of indexation benefits,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,531.24 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. DIIs bought equities worth Rs 3,357.45 crore on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.12 per cent to USD 77.34 a barrel.

Falling for the third straight day on Tuesday, the BSE benchmark settled at 78,593.07, down 166.33 points or 0.21 per cent. Similarly, the Nifty declined 63.05 points or 0.26 per cent to settle below the 24,000 level at 23,992.55.

Ola Electric hits top circuit on IPO debut, boasts market valuation of Rs 40,217.95 crore

Mumbai: The shares of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd, the pure play EV maker, zoomed 20 per cent to hit the upper circuit on its debut.

The Bhavish Aggarwal-led entity made a slow start at ₹75.99 on the BSE compared with the issue price of ₹76.

But buying interest soon picked up and the counter closed at ₹91.18, the upper circuit limit, a gain of ₹15.19 or 19.99 per cent.

On the NSE, the auto firm opened at the issue price of ₹76 and settled at ₹91.20, up 20 per cent. Close to 4.76 crore shares were transacted on the BSE whereas more than 52.51 crore shares changed hands on the NSE. At the finish, Ola Electric commanded a market valuation of ₹40,217.95 crore on the BSE.

Speaking at the listing ceremony, Aggarwal, chairman and managing director, Ola Electric Mobility Ltd said: “While entrepreneurs often receive the spotlight, it is the dedicated team and their supportive families who truly deserve the credit.”

“Despite receiving demand well below street expectation, Ola listing well above street expectations can be attributed to market mood,” Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The ₹6,145-crore initial public offer of Ola Electric had received 4.27 times subscription on the final day of bidding. The issue was open for subscription from August 2-6.

The float had a price band of ₹72-76 per share. It comprised fresh issue of up to ₹5,500 crore and an offer-for-sale of up to 8,49,41,997 equity shares.

Ola Electric plans to utilise ₹1,227.6 crore out of the proceeds of the issue on capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant to 6.4 GWh from 5 GWh. The company is also looking to use ₹1,600 crore from the fresh fund on research and product development.

Majority Indian online shoppers worried about data security, exposure of personal info: Report

Mumbai: A significant number of Indian consumers shopping online are worried about the possibility of data breaches, according to a report on Tuesday.

In the report by EY Future Consumer Index (FCI), based on responses from 1,000 Indian participants within a worldwide poll, 77 per cent of Indian consumers express profound concern about the possibility of data breaches when shopping online. About 73 per cent said they worry about their private information being disclosed.

A whopping 62 per cent of Indian consumers reported making online purchases influenced by AI recommendations as compared to just 30 per cent globally.

The report also revealed that 78 per cent of consumers prefer to shop on online platforms that provide human customer service support.

RBI may not change repo rate owing to food inflation

Chennai: The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will continue to remain cautious on the inflationary trends and may not change the repo rate, experts said on Tuesday.

Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to the banks. However, there is a variance in their views with regard to the RBI’s stance. Credit rating agency CARE Ratings said the MPC is expected to maintain the status quo on the policy repo rate on Thursday.

“The stance is anticipated to remain at ‘withdrawal of accommodation’, with the policy repo rate held at 6.5 per cent,” CARE Ratings said in a report. This decision is primarily driven by risks to the inflationary outlook. Although the overall growth rate is expected to remain healthy, the MPC is likely to stay cautious and monitor any emerging risks to inflation.

According to CARE Ratings, despite an above-normal monsoon so far (6.4 per cent above the Long Period Average as of August 4), the overall risk of food inflation remains high due to highly uneven rainfall in the first half of the monsoon season. Even though the Southern states have received good rainfall, key agrarian regions, particularly in North



and East India, such as Punjab, Haryana, and the Eastern Gangetic Plains, continue to face double-digit deficits in rainfall, CARE Ratings said.

While Kharif sowing of food grains is 5.7 per cent higher than last year (as of August 2), it is marginally lower than the comparable period in 2022. Area sown under all major food categories -- cereals (4.5 per cent), pulses (10.9 per cent), and oilseeds (3 per cent) -- remains higher compared to the last year, CARE Ratings said.

Apart from food inflation risks, the recent hikes in telecom tariffs by major mobile service providers, ranging from 10-25 per cent, will put upside pressures on core inflation.

Telecommunication services account for about 2.1 per cent of the overall

Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket and 4.4 per cent of core inflation. The recent sales tax increases on fuel prices in a few states will also marginally impact inflation prints. Moreover, the upward revision of prices for aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and commercial cooking gas by major state-owned retailers can have second-order effects on the CPI. The credit rating agency also expects the RBI to retain its growth projection of 7.2 per cent for FY25. However, Parijat Agrawal, Head of Fixed Income at Union Mutual Fund, has a different take on RBI’s stance.

“The inflationary pressures have cooled off and monsoon worries have subsided. The fiscal consolidation seems to have given the required comfort as it follows the glide path. We expect the policy to have a dovish tilt taking cognisance of the recent weakness in the global economy and volatility in financial markets. We expect the policy rates to remain unchanged; the Monetary Policy Committee may change the stance to neutral,” Agrawal said. According to Bank of Baroda Economist Aditi Gupta, the MPC will hold the repo rate steady as well as its stance, ‘withdrawal of accommodation’.

Essilor® unveils new campaign with Virat Kohli

Guwahati: Essilor®, the leading brand in prescription lenses worldwide, has launched their new campaign featuring the India brand face, Virat Kohli. The campaign aims to strengthen the brand's positioning and connect the audience with Essilor's superior product offerings that provide solutions for vision correction needs. The first phase of the campaign spotlights Eyezen®, the single vision lenses from Essilor®, for people who have prolonged exposure to digital devices. The campaign film depicts multiple scenarios of people using digital devices for long hours and facing eye strain and weariness. Kohli, an Eyezen® wearer himself, is seen explaining the benefits of Eyezen® lenses, how they are designed to reduce visual fatigue from digital screens and filter blue-violet light, a unique combination providing relaxation and protection to the eyes.

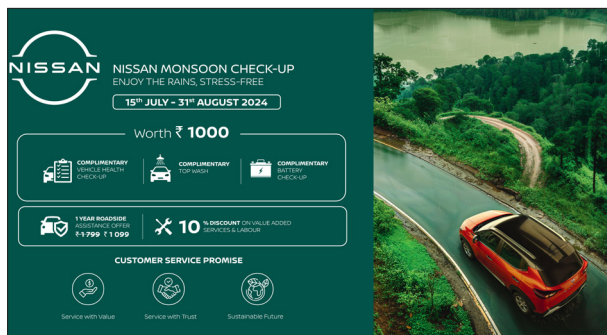
Network Advertising Pvt Ltd. is the creative agency behind the new campaign with Virat Kohli. Shayondeep Pal, Chief Creative Officer at Network shared his insight behind the campaign, "It's not every day that you get to work with a celebrity who, in real life, uses a brand he endorses. And that made our lives tougher – to write a script that looked and felt 100% genuine. It was an absolute pleasure to work with a legend like Virat". The integrated marketing campaign will be released across TV, social and digital channels across the country.

Varilux® progressive lenses are designed for people aged 40+, offering sharp vision at every distance with seamless transitions from near-to-far. Invented in 1959 in France, Varilux® Progressive lens is the No 1 brand recommended by eye-care professionals globally.

Nissan rolls out free monsoon check-up camp across India

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. has launched a nationwide Monsoon Check-Up Camp, running from July 15th to August 31st, 2024, at all authorized Nissan workshops. This initiative aims to ensure that Nissan vehicle owners are well-prepared for the monsoon season with a comprehensive 30-point check-up at no cost. The inspection includes a free battery check, exterior and interior assessment, underbody inspection, and a road test.

In addition to the free check-up, Nissan is offering special discounts of up to 10% on Vehicle Accessory Services (VAS) such as underbody coating, rodent repellent, and AC disinfection. There is also a 10% discount on labor charges, including brake pad replacement. Customers can take advantage of a special



scheme price for a 1-year Roadside Assistance (RSA) plan at INR 1099, which includes a complimentary top wash. Appointments can be scheduled via the Nissan One app or the Nissan India website.

In Guwahati, the camp has been met with considerable interest, reflecting a growing demand for vehicle maintenance services in the region. Local Nissan workshops are

seeing a surge in bookings, as customers look to ensure their vehicles are in peak condition for the rainy season.

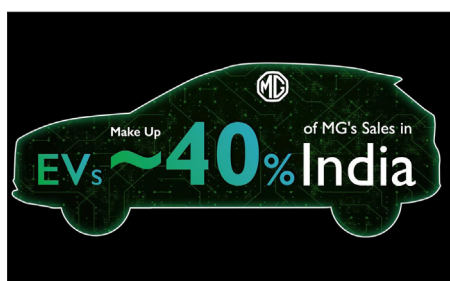
Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director of Nissan Motor India, emphasized the company's commitment to customer safety and satisfaction. "Our goal is to provide our customers with peace of mind and ensure their vehicles are ready to handle the monsoon's challenges," he said.

JSW MG Motor launches industry-first EV innovations at DriEV.Bharat

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India has introduced a suite of groundbreaking electric vehicle (EV) initiatives at the DriEV.Bharat event, marking a significant leap in EV technology and infrastructure. Hosted at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, the event showcased four pioneering projects aimed at transforming the EV landscape in India.

The highlight of the launch was eHUB by MG, a first-of-its-kind EV charging platform developed by an OEM. This comprehensive platform streamlines the charging process by integrating a vast network of providers, simplifying access and payment for users. Complementing this is Project REVIVE, a collaboration with TERI, Lohum, and BatX, which repurposes used EV batteries for renewable energy storage, promoting a circular economy and sustainable energy solutions.

In a move to enhance consumer knowledge, MG Motor unveiled EVPEDIA, India's first dedicated EV education platform. This resource offers detailed information on EV technology, ownership costs, and maintenance, aimed at boosting EV adoption through informed decision-making.



Further elevating the in-car experience, the MG-Jio Innovative Connectivity Platform (MG-Jio ICP) was announced. This technology stack, featuring the MG App Store for gaming and learning, superior voice capabilities in multiple languages, and Home-to-Car functionality, will be standard in all upcoming MG models.

Gaurav Gupta, Chief Growth Officer at JSW MG Motor India, emphasized the company's commitment to driving EV innovation and sustainability. "DriEV.Bharat reflects our dedication to enhancing EV technology and user experience, facilitating accelerated adoption with smarter, sustainable solutions," he stated.

MG Windsor to redefine luxury with India's first Aero-Lounge seats

Guwahati: MG Motors is set to make a grand entrance into the Indian automotive market with its innovative Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) – the MG Windsor. This groundbreaking model will feature the segment-first Aero-Lounge seats, offering a 135° recline designed to blend luxury with unparalleled comfort.

Inspired by the majestic Windsor Castle, the MG Windsor's spacious cabin emphasizes both ergonomics and aesthetics, promising an atmosphere



of opulence and relaxation. The Aero-Lounge seats, meticulously crafted to ensure maximum comfort, are set to transform both short city drives and

long journeys into indulgent experiences.

In Guwahati, the introduction of the MG Windsor is particularly significant. With its aerodynamic design and elevated ground clearance, this CUV is well-suited for the city's bustling roads and diverse driving conditions. The Windsor's adaptability and spacious interiors make it an attractive option for families navigating Guwahati's urban landscape, offering both practicality and luxury.

Flipkart announces #FlipTrends 2024: Technology and nostalgia top shopping lists

Guwahati: Flipkart has unveiled its H1 2024 edition of the #FlipTrends report, offering a comprehensive look at the shopping habits of over 500 million users. The report highlights intriguing trends across metropolitan and Tier 3+ regions, showcasing a mix of enduring classics and emerging preferences.

The report reveals a continued surge in demand for technology and beauty products. Smartwatches, TWS earphones, and smart bands are leading the wearable tech category, while technology enthusiasts across India remain engaged with cutting-edge innovations. Beauty trends are equally vibrant, with a notable increase in skincare and makeup products.

Consumers are gravitating towards nostalgic products, particularly classic pickles and chutneys, which have seen a dramatic 90% increase year-on-year. Fashion preferences reflect a blend of modern and nostalgic elements, with va-

cation wear and retro-inspired clothing topping the charts.

In Guwahati, there's been a significant uptick in demand for food and nutrition items, reflecting a growing interest in health and wellness. Additionally, the city mirrors broader trends seen in other Tier 2 cities where mobile protection products are gaining popularity.

Flipkart's findings also highlight seasonal trends with increased purchases in preparation for festivals and monsoon. Products like umbrellas, raincoats, and traditional wear saw notable spikes.

Ravi Vijayaraghavan, Senior Vice President - Analytics and Data Science at Flipkart, commented, "The #FlipTrends H1 2024 report reflects the evolving preferences of our diverse customer base. As we approach the festive season, our focus remains on providing value, convenience, and innovation to enhance the shopping experience."

Federal Bank announces 8th skill academy in Guwahati, enhances youth opportunities

Guwahati: Federal Bank has launched its eighth Federal Skill Academy, marking a significant milestone in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The new academy, situated within the Don Bosco Institute (DBI) in Joypur, Kharghuli, aims to equip economically disadvantaged youth with essential skills and vocational training.

The inauguration ceremony, held amidst high anticipation, was led by Shyam Srinivasan, MD & CEO of Federal Bank. The event was further distinguished by the presence of Venkatraman Venkateswaran, Group President & CFO, who delivered the Presidential Address, and a blessing from His Excellency Archbishop John Moolachira of the Archdiocese of Guwahati. The occasion was also graced by Rev. Fr. Cleetus Sebastian, Executive Director of DBI, and other prominent figures including Sabu R S, SVP & Zonal Head, Kolkata Zone, and Shaji K V, VP & Head of CSR.



This new academy represents a pivotal collaboration with DBI and is set to offer a range of industry-relevant courses, aiming to bridge skill gaps and enhance workforce employability across various sectors.

For the Guwahati market, the Federal Skill Academy's launch promises a significant boost in local employment and economic development. With a focus on skill development tailored to regional industry needs, the academy is expected to create new job opportunities and enhance the overall skill base of the local workforce. This initiative aligns with Guwahati's growing role as a hub for vocational training and economic advancement in the Northeast.

Ashok Leyland expands LCV network with new dealership in Tinsukia

Tinsukia: Ashok Leyland, a leader in the Indian commercial vehicle industry and the flagship company of the Hinduja Group, has inaugurated a new dealership for Light Commercial Vehicles (LCV) in Tinsukia, Assam. This marks the fourth LCV dealership in the state, enhancing the company's distribution network which now boasts over 750 touch points across India.

The new dealership, operated by Bharat Motors, features a 3S (Sales, Service, and Spares) facility at Loonporia Bypass, Panitola. Equipped with advanced tools and quick service bays, the facility aims to provide superior customer service and satisfaction. Ashok Leyland's range of LCV products, including BADA DOST, DOST,

PARTNER, and MiTR, will be available at this location.

Mr. Amandeep Singh, President – IO, LCV, Defence & PSB at Ashok Leyland, highlighted the success of the DOST range, attributing it to the robustness of the products and extensive network reach. "Our record of accomplishment in service retention is exemplary, with close to 70% of customers returning to our workshops even after the warranty period," Singh said. He emphasized the company's commitment to enhancing customer service through the new dealership.

The Tinsukia market stands to benefit significantly from this new dealership. Known for its bustling trade and transport activities,

the availability of Ashok Leyland's LCVs will provide local businesses with reliable and efficient transportation solutions. The dealership's strategic location ensures that logistics operations in and around Tinsukia can leverage superior mileage and performance of Ashok Leyland's vehicles, contributing to increased profitability and operational efficiency.

Ashok Leyland continues to meet the evolving needs of Indian LCV customers by offering state-of-the-art technology at competitive costs. The newly launched BADA DOST, built on a robust LCV platform, and the versatile DOST range are designed to cater to various market segments.

ITC Sunfeast announces 'Super Egg & Milk' biscuits to boost kids' nutrition

Guwahati: ITC Sunfeast has launched its latest innovation, the 'Super Egg & Milk' Biscuit, designed to enhance children's nutrition through a tasty and convenient option. This launch follows a unique conference featuring representatives of hens and cows, humorously addressing the challenge of making milk and eggs more appealing to kids. The event included a panel of experts, including Mr. Madan Mohan Maiti from NECC West Bengal, Dr. Dulal Chandra Sen from IDA East Zone, and celebrity mom Koneenica Banerjee.

The panel highlighted the importance

of eggs and milk in children's diets, noting their rich nutritional profile including proteins, vitamins, and iron. ITC Sunfeast's new biscuit aims to address a market gap by combining these essential nutrients into a single, accessible product. The biscuits are available in South and East India at Rs. 5, Rs. 10, and Rs. 30, reflecting ITC's commitment to offering affordable, nutritious options.

In Guwahati, the launch of the Sunfeast 'Super Egg & Milk' Biscuit is expected to resonate well with local parents looking for nutritious, easy-to-consume options for their children. The introduction of this



product aligns with the growing demand for healthier snacks in the region, providing a much-needed boost to the market for value-added food products.

NSDC launches Kaushal Mahotsav in Bijnor to boost youth employment in Uttar Pradesh

Guwahati: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has unveiled the 'Kaushal Mahotsav: Job Readiness Program' in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. This initiative, guided by Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary, aims to transform Bijnor into a hub for skilled workforce development.

The launch event, attended by dignitaries including MP Shri Chandan Singh Chauhan, District Magistrate Shri Ankit Kumar Aggarwal, and NSDC COO Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, highlighted the program's significance in aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vi-

sion of making India a global leader in skilled manpower.

"The Kaushal Mahotsav is a golden opportunity for our youth to showcase their skills and secure lifelong certifications," said MP Chandan Singh Chauhan. Shri Ved Mani Tiwari emphasized the global opportunities awaiting India's youth, noting that "every fourth dollar in the world will be generated by an Indian."

The program, scheduled to run until August 25, 2024, includes a 5-day employability training covering essential skills for various sectors. It aims to connect Bijnor's skilled workforce with employers across Uttar Pradesh and neighboring regions, driving local economic growth.

Tata Tea Premium launches limited-edition collection for Independence Day, supports children's meals

Guwahati: Tata Tea Premium is marking this Independence Day with a unique initiative under its #DeshKaGarv campaign, celebrating India's post-independence achievements through regional art. The brand has launched a limited-edition #DeshKaGarv collection in partnership with The Plated Project, featuring art inspired by significant historical events like Punjab's Green Revolution and Delhi's 1982 Asian Games.

This exclusive collection, available at www.indiakichai.com, showcases regional art forms such as Odisha's Pattachitra and Madhya Pradesh's Gond Art, capturing India's diverse cultural heritage. Each

set reflects pivotal moments in the country's journey since independence.

In alignment with Tata Tea Premium's commitment to social responsibility, 100% of the proceeds from the sale will be directed towards sponsoring meals for underprivileged children, in collaboration with The Plated Project.

Puneet Das, President - Packaged Beverages (India and South Asia) at Tata Consumer Products, emphasized the campaign's dual focus on celebrating national pride and making a tangible impact. Chitresh Sinha from The Plated Project praised the collaboration, highlighting its shared goal of creating meaningful change through art.

Nissan Launches 'Freedom Offer'

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India (NMIPL) has launched its 'Freedom Offer' special bonanza for all defence personnel and central / state police departments on its bestselling Big, Bold and Beautiful Nissan Magnite. The bonanza can be availed by booking the car via the CSD route which gives tax benefits to India's Defence Forces personnel and Nissan has extended the same bonanza to all Central Paramilitary & State Police forces personnel across India. The 'Freedom Offer' special bonanza pricing has been designed to replicate the introductory prices of the car when it was launched back in December 2020, specifically as a special bonanza for the India's Armed Forces and Central / State Security services.

All serving armed forces personnel can now book the Nissan Magnite through the CSD AFD Portal (www.afd.csdindia.gov.in) route. All Central Paramilitary & State Police Forces personnel can



visit any Nissan Authorized dealership across the country to avail the special offer. Bookings can be done till 31 August 2024 to avail the 'Freedom Offer' Special Bonanza on the Nissan Magnite. Nissan has setup an exclusive helpdesk for easy facilitation, fast tracking of bookings and deliveries across India.

Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "As we commemorate Independence Day, we are proud to present our Big, Bold, and Beautiful Nissan Magnite to our Armed Forces, Central Paramilitary Forces & State Police Forces personnel at a never-before special price. We deeply honour the real heroes of our nation—our defence and paramilitary personnel—whose sacrifices ensure our safety and freedom."

Global collaboration crucial to combat illicit trade, PMI executive urges



Silchar: At the Asia Security: Anti-counterfeiting, Trademark, and Brand Protection conference, Rodney Van Dooren, Head of Illicit Trade Prevention at Philip Morris International (PMI), underscored the necessity of international cooperation to tackle illicit trade. The conference, held on July 23-24 in Delhi, convened leaders from across industries to address the growing challenge of counterfeiting and smuggling.

Van Dooren highlighted that illicit cigarettes account for 12% of global consumption, resulting in \$40.5 billion in tax losses annually. In India, one in four cigarettes is illicit,

translating to nearly \$2 billion in lost revenue. He emphasized that stringent regulation and cross-border cooperation are vital to curbing this issue, which spans from production in source countries to distribution in destination markets.

The impact on local markets, such as Silchar, is significant. Smuggled and counterfeit goods undermine legitimate businesses and strain regulatory resources, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced enforcement and collaboration. Van Dooren's remarks call for leveraging trade agreements and harmonizing regulations to create a more unified approach to this global problem.

Symbiosis MBA admissions open via SNAP 2024

Mumbai: The registration for the Symbiosis MBA programmes through the Symbiosis National Aptitude Test (SNAP) 2024 has officially commenced. Aspiring candidates can now apply via the SNAP official website, with the application process having opened on August 5, 2024. The entrance test offers access to 27 programmes across 17 prestigious institutes under Symbiosis International (Deemed University).

The SNAP 2024 exam is scheduled on three dates: December 8, December 15, and December 21, 2024. Candidates may attempt the test up to three times, with the highest score considered for admission. Results will be announced on January 8, 2025.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman emphasized, "SNAP is a gateway to institutions where exceptional learning and rewarding careers in management are possible. We encourage aspiring students to embark on their journey of excellence with us." Eligibility requires a Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 50% marks (45% for SC/ST), and final-year students can also apply. The test will be conducted across 80 cities in India.

Symbiosis International (Deemed University) is renowned for its 50+ years of excellence, holding NAACA++ accreditation and high global rankings, making it a top choice for management education.

Indian Batters Under Pressure as Sri Lanka Eyes Historic Series Win

Colombo: The spotlight is firmly on India's batsmen, including the usually reliable Virat Kohli, as they face the challenge of overcoming Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack in the deciding third ODI on Wednesday. A loss would hand India its first series defeat against Sri Lanka in 27 years, a scenario newly appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir would be keen to avoid in his debut ODI series. The stakes are particularly high, given that India's last bilateral ODI series defeat against Sri Lanka was back in 1997, when the hosts swept Sachin Tendulkar's team 3-0. Since then, India has consistently bested Sri Lanka in 11 bilateral series encounters.

Currently, the series stands delicately poised after India's 32-run defeat in the second ODI, following a tied first match. The Indian batting lineup, particularly Kohli, has faced criticism for its inability to effectively handle Sri Lanka's spinners on a turning RPSC pitch. Kohli, who has a storied history of prolific scoring at this venue, has appeared unusually restrained, accumulating only 38 runs across two matches. The contrast in Rohit Sharma's dynamic starts has only highlighted Kohli's struggles and those of his teammates. India's middle-order batsmen, like Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul, have also faltered, failing to rotate the strike and counteract the Lankan spinners effectively. With the series on the line, adjustments in the batting lineup might be necessary. Shivam Dube, despite being a powerful hitter, has struggled against spin and could make way for Riyan Parag.



Global Chess League: Nihal Sarin, Sadhwani, Sindarov among Prodigy players for Season 2

Mumbai: India's top young players Nihal Sarin and Raunak Sadhwani will be among the Prodigy players to be included for Season 2 of the Global Chess League, scheduled to be held from October 3-12 at Friends House in London. The Global Chess League is a joint venture between FIDE, the sport's World governing body, and Tech Mahindra.

The first-of-its-kind franchise-based league features a total of six teams consisting of six players - one Icon player, two Superstar male players, two Superstar female players, and one prodigy in each team. In the tournament, each team will play a total of 10 matches in a double round-robin format, with the winner of each match being decided in a best-of-six board scoring system.

Raunak Sadhwani, who earned the Grandmaster title at the age of 13, will be



making his comeback in the second season. To further add to the excitement, World No. 54 and Grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov return to the fray along with Jonas Buhl Bjerre and Nihal Sarin. They will be joined by Daniel Dardha and Volodar Murzin for the highly anticipated second season.

On his return to the league, Sadhwani, said, "I am thrilled to be back for the second season of the Global Chess League. In the first season, I got an opportunity to be a part of exciting matchups and immerse myself in the ever-expanding chess ecosystem."

India's Men's Table Tennis Team Bows Out After Defeat to China at Paris Olympics

Paris: India's journey in the men's table tennis team event at the Paris Olympics came to a close with a 0-3 defeat against the formidable Chinese team in the prequarterfinals on Tuesday.

The Indian team, comprising Achantha Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, and Manav Thakkar, faced an uphill battle against the topseeded Chinese squad.

The opening doubles match saw Desai and Thakkar struggle against the Chinese pair of Ma Long and Chuqin Wang, losing in straight sets 2-11, 3-11, 7-11.

Veteran player Sharath Kamal provided a glimmer of hope in the first singles match against world number one Fan Zhendong. Sharath started strong, securing the first game 11-9. However, Zhen-

dong quickly regained control, taking the next three games 11-7, 11-7, 11-5, thus extending China's lead to 2-0 in the tie. The pressure was on 24-year-old Manav Thakkar in the second singles match, but he faced a tough opponent in Chuqin Wang. Despite a valiant effort, Thakkar was unable to overcome Wang, losing 9-11, 6-11, 9-11.



Paris Olympics: 'Saving the best for the final', says Neeraj Chopra after topping qualification round

Paris: Defending Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra said, he has saved his best for the final after topping the men's javelin throw qualification with a throw of 89.34m in the Paris Olympics here at the Stade de France on Tuesday.

Neeraj achieved the best throw of the qualification across both groups in his first attempt to start his title defence in style. He won the gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with a throw of 87.58m. He became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal in the track and field event.

"This is just the qualification round, the mindset and the situation in the final are different. I should focus on the preparations for the final after getting a good start," Neeraj told reporters after the end of the qualification round. The

26-year-old said all the throwers who have qualified with the automatic qualification mark of 84m will be tough competition in the final. However, he emphasised that he had saved his best for the medal event.

"I'm saving the best for the final and focussing on it. I'm ready for the final. I was not doing good here in the practice but when the qualification started, I had set the aim of qualifying in the first throw. My fitness is better now and I warmed up well before taking the first attempt," Neeraj said.

Other than Neeraj, eight athletes qualified for the final with the automatic qualification mark including Grenada's Anderson Peters (88.63m), Julian Weber (87.76m) of Germany, Arshad Nadeem (86.59m) of Pakistan and Julius Yego of Kenya (85.97m), who completed the top five.



Talking about his mindset, Neeraj said he tries to give his best in the first throw. "I try to do well from the first throw itself but it doesn't happen every time. If I fail to get the best out of first throw then I try to do my best in every throw," he said.

When asked about the adductor injury that he sustained earlier in the year, Neeraj said, "I'm (feeling) better and taking all the precautions with a proper warmup before the

throw. India's Kishore Kumar Jena, who was in Group A, failed to reach the final after notching the best effort of 80.73m which came in his first attempt. The second throw was a foul before he threw 80.21m in the third attempt.

Neeraj, the reigning world and Asian champion, will aim to become the first Indian athlete to clinch two individual gold medals in the Olympics on Thursday (August 8).

Cuban Boxing Faces Historic Downturn at Paris Olympics

Paris: The Paris Olympics have not been kind to the Cuban boxing team, historically a powerhouse in the sport, as they face their smallest medal haul in over half a century. Erislandy Álvarez, a 24-year-old lightweight, now carries the hopes of a nation long dominant in boxing as he heads into the 63.5-kilogram final against France's Sofiane Oumiha at Roland Garros.

Despite his efforts, which accounted for four of Cuba's seven total victories in Paris, Álvarez's potential silver or gold will mark only the second medal for Cuba, their lowest count since 1968. This stark decline comes amidst a broader backdrop of challenges, including slow adaptation to new gender equity norms and a generational gap in talent.

Historically, Cuba has been second only to the U.S. in



boxing dominance, with legends like Teófilo Stevenson and Félix Savón. However, this cycle has seen a dramatic downturn. Cuba brought only five boxers to Paris, a stark contrast to past participations, partly due to the Olympic committee's gender parity adjustments and a reduced overall number of competitors.

The reduction in the team's size and the absence of any Cuban female boxers—following a delayed acceptance of women's boxing—highlight the broader systemic

issues within Cuban boxing. With only one gold in boxing since 1968 not achieved in Beijing 2008, and a performance in Paris that may end similarly, the pressure and disappointment are palpable.

As Álvarez prepares for his final match, the weight of restoring national pride and continuing a legacy of excellence rests heavily on his shoulders. Cuba's storied history in Olympic boxing faces a critical test, one that could dictate the future trajectory of their boxing program.

Noah Lyles Faces Stiff Competition in 200m Despite Holding Title of Fastest Man Alive

Paris: Noah Lyles may have solidified his status as the Fastest Man Alive by narrowly winning the 100 meters at the 2024 Olympics, but his supremacy was challenged in the 200 meters semifinals, where he failed to finish first. His streak of victories in his favored 200 meters, spanning three years, was broken at the Stade de France by Botswana's Letšile Tebogo, who outpaced him with a time of 19.96 seconds, a clear 0.12 seconds ahead of Lyles.

This unexpected turn of events sets the stage for a highly anticipated final showdown on Thursday, where Lyles will face Tebogo once again. Achieving gold in both the 100 and 200 meters at a single Olympics is a rare feat, last accomplished by Usain Bolt in three consecutive Games from 2008 to 2016, and before him by Carl Lewis in 1984.

Lyles, known for his charismatic showmanship and love for the spotlight, exhibited unusual restraint by skipping the interview area post-race and heading straight to the medical tent, according to U.S. team officials.