

6 WORLD  
8 REGION



- Netanyahu looks to boost US support in speech to Congress
- Ukraine's foreign min seeking 'common ground' with China
- District Road Safety Committee holds meeting in Tezpur
- Record allocation in railway budget to transform northeast: Ashwini



Government of Assam

Striving relentlessly towards providing



Recruitment Figures

As of 15 July 2024 Total recruitment: **97505**  
26 July 2024 Additional recruits: **465**  
Total employment **97,970**

Appointment letter distribution programme for



of Power, Education and Information, Public Relations, P & S Department

Appointment letters to be distributed by  
**Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
Chief Minister, Assam

Department	Position	Number of candidates	Total
Power Department	Junior Manager	Assam Power Distribution Company Limited: 220	Total 306
		Assam Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited: 86	
Directorate of Technical Education	Assistant Professor (Technical)	59	Total 149
Directorate of Higher Education	Assistant Professor	58	
Directorate of Elementary Education	Teacher	9	
	Lower Division Clerk	3	
	Grade IV employee	11	
Department of School Education	Assam Education Service Officer	9	Total 10
Information, Public Relations, P&S Department	Senior Information & Public Relations Officer	4	
	Junior Information & Public Relations Officer	6	



6 WORLD: Netanyahu looks to boost US support in speech to Congress; Ukraine's foreign min seeking 'common ground' with China; 8 REGION: District Road Safety Committee holds meeting in Tezpur; Record allocation in railway budget to transform northeast: Ashwini

HT BRIEFS Officials arrested

GUWAHATI: The forest department on Wednesday arrested two officials of the NRL in connection with the recent death and burial of a wild elephant on the premises of the PSU without informing the authorities concerned in Assam's Golaghat district, an official said.

Heroin seized

MORIGAON: Two persons were arrested in Assam's Morigaon district on Wednesday after heroin worth over ₹1.57 crore was seized from their possession, police said.

6 B'deshi arrested

AGARTALA: A total of six Bangladesh nationals, who crossed over to India without valid documents, were arrested from two places in Tripura, police said on Wednesday.

Himanta calls on Sitharaman, hails Union budget • Oppn protests budgetary allocations

INDIA Bloc stages walkout in LS

NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI, July 24: INDIA Bloc MPs on Wednesday staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha protesting the alleged discrimination against opposition-run states in the Union Budget.



written to him over the difficulty faced by them. As they were disallowed to raise their issue, Opposition members staged a walkout.

the chief minister posted on X. Sharma said that he also had fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues and "Hon'ble Finance Minister has reassured that all support as announced in the Union Budget, will be extended to Assam to help build a flood resilient economy".

Plane crashes after takeoff at Nepal's Kathmandu; 18 killed

KATHMANDU, July 24: A Nepalese private plane crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from the Tribhuvan International Airport here on Wednesday, killing 18 people aboard, including a child, and seriously injuring the pilot - the only survivor.

Gaurav seeks urgent repair of NH37



NEW DELHI, July 24: Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday sought the intervention of Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in urgently repairing the National Highway 37 in Assam, saying the road is "causing significant inconvenience" to people due to its deteriorating condition.

In his letter, the MP from Jorhat said the current condition of NH 37, a lifeline for the people of Assam, has reached a critical point, causing significant inconvenience to residents and commuters alike.

Search ops continues for Ramen Barua

GUWAHATI, July 24: A massive search was underway in the Brahmaputra river on Wednesday for noted Assamese music composer Ramen Barua who went missing, police said.



Ramen Barua daughter arrived at Lataisi Police Station in Guwahati on Wednesday. UB Photos

Chinese scientists find traces of water in lunar soil



BEIJING, July 24: Chinese scientists studying the soil samples of the moon brought by Chang'e-5 mission found water molecules in lunar soil, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Assam police search Cong MLA's home in MP over cheating case

TIKAMGARH (MP), July 24: A police team from Assam on Wednesday searched the residence of a Congress MLA in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh city over a cheating case registered against his son, an official said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Kashwani said a case of cheating has been registered against the lawmaker's son, Shashwat Singh, in Assam.

hours under the protection of local police. The SP said he was not authorised to disclose more about the matter. The MLA has yet to react to the search.

3 die of Japanese encephalitis in Morigaon

MORIGAON, July 24: Three persons from Assam's Morigaon district have died due to Japanese encephalitis, an official said on Wednesday.

days in GMCH battling for his life. But the youth faced untimely death. Medhi secured 1st class in Bsc physics," a local said.

Advertisement for 'Fuchal Bima Kabaok' insurance scheme. It features a family image and text in Assamese: 'ফচল বীমা কৰাওক সুৰক্ষা কৰাওক', '৪ বছৰৰ মুখ্য সাকল্যসমূহ', '৬২ কোটিৰো বেছি কৃষকৰ আৱেদন নলৈ আৱেদন গ্ৰহণ কৰা হ'ল', '১৯.৬৭ কোটিৰো বেছি কৃষকৰ আৱেদনলৈ ফচলৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণৰ বন বিভাগ', '₹১.৬০ লাখ কোটিৰো বেছি বীমা দাবীৰ বন পৰিশোধ'.









### Excise raid in Margherita



**HT Correspondent**  
**MARGHERITA, July 24:** An excise raid, search, and patrolling duty was conducted by Margherita Excise staff on Tuesday evening at Margherita Tea Estate, 4 No Line, under Margherita Police Station in Tinsukia. A total of two cases were detected during the operation. The excise team seized and destroyed the following articles: 25 litres of ID liquor, 20 kilograms of pachwai, and 1.98 bulk litres (BL) of IMFL (intoxicating liquor) intended for sale in Assam only.

### Dr Lila Gogoi remembered on 30<sup>th</sup> death anniversary in Sivasagar

**HT Correspondent**  
**SIVASAGAR, July 24:** On Tuesday, Rangpur Prachin Kirity Sinha Sangrakhyan Samiti (RPKSSS) observed the 30th death anniversary of Dr Lila Gogoi at the Sivasagar Press Club. Recalling their close association with the former president of Asom Sahitya Sabha and a versatile writer, Dr Lila Gogoi, Bhadravati Gogoi, retired professor of HCDG College, Nitaipukhuri, and senior journalist Manirul Islam Bora said that Dr Lila Gogoi was an inspiration for all, having achieved great heights in his literary and educational career from a humble origin in Cherekapar Hatimuria Gaon. Writer-poet Samsul Barik, Prof Pabin Sarmah, assistant professor of Sibsagar Girls College, Dr Bipul Gogoi, former professor of Demow College, Naren Baruah, secretary of RPKSSS, Bipul Gogoi, assistant professor of Gargaon College, Dr Lila Gogoi's cousin Jharna Gogoi, Priyanka Gogoi, a student, and Hemanta Changmai, chief adviser of Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad, spoke on different aspects of Dr Lila Gogoi's historical writings, children's literature, novels, and research works. Earlier, Umesh Gogoi, president of RPKSSS, lit the ceremonial lamp. Phulbar Dihinia, vice president of RPKSSS, delivered the welcome address, and joint secretary Dr Zakirul Alam spoke on the objectives of the meeting. Dr Alam said a commemorative volume on Dr Lila Gogoi will be published. Rajlakshmi Dihinia recited a poem.

### Meeting addresses truck stand development, e-rickshaw regulation & stricter traffic enforcement

## District Road Safety Committee holds meeting in Tezpur

**HT Correspondent**  
**TEZPUR, July 24:** The District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting for July 2024 was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of district commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office, Sonitpur, Tezpur. The district commissioner opened the meeting by welcoming all stakeholders and requested a brief on the 'Action Taken Report' concerning decisions made at the last DRSC meeting. The meeting covered various topics, including the progress on developing a truck stand/bus bay at the Dolabari Point area, steps to control the untoward movement of e-rickshaws, and the organisation of a meeting involving the district administration, Municipal Board, and e-rickshaw Santha to address related issues. Emphasis was placed on taking stringent action against traffic rule violations, including drunken driving and speeding.



Superintendent of police, Sonitpur, Barun Purkayastha, additional district commissioner (Magistracy) Pranjit Deb, circle officers, executive officers of Municipal Boards under Sonitpur district, joint director of Health Services, superintendent engineer of PWRD, Sonitpur and Biswanath Road Circle, Tezpur Ajit Kumar Medhi, and other DRSC members and stakeholders were present at the meeting.

### Record allocation in railway budget to transform northeast: Ashwini Vaishnaw



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, July 24:** Ashwini Vaishnaw, minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, on Wednesday, held an interaction with media persons of north-east virtually from New Delhi in connection with the allocation for the Railway Ministry in the General Budget 2024-25. While addressing the media persons, the minister of Railways informed that a record allocation for capital investment of ₹ 2.62 lakh crores has been provided for the railways. A large part of it, i.e. ₹ 1.08 lakh crores, will be utilised on safety-related activities such as replacement of old tracks with new ones, improving signalling systems, installation of Kavach system, construction of road under bridges/road over bridges by replacing existing level crossing gates. He further said that this budget focuses on introduction of new rolling stocks like Amrit Bharat Trains, Vande Metro, and Vande Bharat Sleeper. Railways' direction on safety first, comfort of passengers, capacity augmentation and improving the infrastructure of railways are

prioritised. An advanced version of 'Kavach 4.0' has got recent approval, which will be installed at a rapid pace. 'Kavach 4.0' is a combination of hardware, software, optical fibre, telecom tower, on-track system, stations and data centre administration. The minister of Railways informed that due to the rising demand for general coaches, railways had decided to manufacture 2,500 general coaches in this current fiscal year. Further, it has been decided to manufacture an additional 10,000 general coaches to cater to the rising demand. The minister of Railways said that the gross budget allocation for NF Railway for the FY 2024-25 is ₹ 14,183.69 crores. The allocation for north-eastern states is ₹ 10,376 crores, which is about 5 times higher than the average allocation of ₹ 2,122 crores made during 2009-14. During the interaction, GM informed that adequate funds have been allotted for all infrastructure & safety related works as compared to previous years. The general manager announced that electrification of 921 RKM was done during 2023-24. 1,573 RKM of tracks are targeted to be electrified during 2024-25. This will complete the electrification of all the NE states. ₹ 694.69 crores have been allocated for electrification works over NF Railway. This year work allocation shows unprecedented growth in several segments for NF Railway. Around ₹ 8,378.53 crores have been allocated for new line and doubling projects. Keeping safety and operations as top priorities, ₹ 1,305.07 crores have been allocated for track renewal works and bridge works and ₹ 170 crores for signalling & telecom works. ₹ 537 crores have been allocated to improve passenger amenities in station premises. A total of 18 railway infrastructure projects of 1,368 km length with a total investment of ₹ 74,972 crores are going on in the entire north-eastern region. It is to be mentioned here that 60 stations of NF Railway will be redeveloped with world-class facilities under the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme. Out of these, 50 in Assam, 4 in Tripura and 1 each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Sikkim will be upgraded. A record number of 470 road over bridges/road under bridges have been constructed since 2014 over NF Railway by replacing existing level crossing gates to enhance safety for road and rail users. The budget emphasises changing the overall infrastructure scenario of railways in addition to providing safety. The north-east connectivity will boost further with the record allocations as never before, which will also further augment the contribution of Indian Railways towards transforming north-eastern states.

### SANKALP, DHEW conducts awareness & enrollment campaign at Raha

**HT Correspondent**  
**NAGAON, July 24:** As part of the 100-day special awareness cum enrollment drive for Mission Shakti, SANKALP, DHEW under the District Social Welfare Department, Nagaon organised a special event at Raha Girls High School on Wednesday. The prime objective of the event was to raise awareness about women-centric legislation related to issues like domestic violence, prohibition of child marriage, sexual harassment in the workplace, and others. Besides, during the event, it aimed to inform all about the government-sponsored schemes being implemented for the welfare of women in the district, such as Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna, One Stop Centre, 181 Women Helpline, and PMMVV, etc. Rafika Laila from the District Legal Service Authority, Nagaon attended the event as the chief resource person. Rashmi Rekha Borkakoti, CDPO, Raha, Anima Das, vice chairman of Raha municipality, and Janapriya Kalita, gender specialist, were present at the event as special guests. Over a hundred participants, including CDPO, ward members, AWWs, ASHA workers, adolescent girls, local women, and teaching staff of Raha Girls High School attended the event. The programme was mentored by Queen Borah, district programme coordinator cum district mission coordinator, SANKALP DHEW, and was guided by ADC Kaku Moni Saikia and district social welfare officer, Nagaon Bholanath Pegu. Rashmi Rekha Borkakoti, CDPO, Raha, shared the objectives of the event and also delivered the vote of thanks, asserted in a press note here.

### Doctors from Indian Academy of Pediatrics conduct CPR training in Guwahati



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, July 24:** A team of esteemed doctors from the Guwahati city branch of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) has taken a commendable initiative to educate the public about Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Dr Ranjit Agarwal, Dr Rashna Dass Hazarika, Dr Devajit Sharma, Dr Bhobesh Doley, and Dr Sailendra Das have been conducting training sessions at various locations in Guwahati, including shopping malls and other public places. On Tuesday, they conducted a training session at the City Centre Mall in Guwahati. The sessions aimed to equip individuals with the vital skills needed to perform CPR, a life-saving technique crucial in emergency situations such as heart attacks or near-drowning incidents. By spreading awareness and providing hands-on training, these doctors hope to empower the community to act swiftly and effectively in critical moments, thereby increasing the chances of survival for victims. Secretary of the Guwahati unit, Dr Ranjit Agarwal, emphasised the importance of immediate response, stating, "Every second counts during a cardiac arrest. Knowing how to perform CPR can make the difference between life and death." Dr Rashna Dass Hazarika added, "Our goal is to make CPR knowledge as widespread as possible. By conducting these trainings in accessible locations like shopping malls, we reach a diverse audience and foster a safer community." The initiative has received positive feedback from participants, many of whom expressed newfound confidence in their ability to respond to emergencies.

### LGBRIMH signs MoU for addiction treatment centre with govt



**HT Correspondent**  
**TEZPUR, July 24:** The Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health in Tezpur, a prominent mental health institute in the North East, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of an Addiction Eradication Treatment Center at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, on Monday. The meeting exclusively discussed various aspects of eradication and treatment of drug addiction witnessed throughout the nation and the government of India's emphasis on adopting a plan to establish addiction eradication centres across the country, with special focus on the North Eastern region, through the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, which would be implemented through government hospitals. The event was attended by Dr Shailendra Kumar Deuri, director, LGBRIMH; Dr Hemanta Dutta, head, Department of Addiction Eradication; and Dr Jyoti Hazarika, director-secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, government of India, among other officials.

### 50 students attend summer camp on conservation and education

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, July 24:** Fifty students attended a 20-day-long nature camp organised during the current summer vacation by the biodiversity conservation non-profit organisation Aaranyak and Orang National Park authority at Sengelimora Luit Jatiya Bidalaya, Orang in Darrang district. The summer nature camp was organised in collaboration with local NGOs Wild Wings and Fatasimolu Eco Development Committee with support from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF). Besides facilitating academic classes and extracurricular activities, the summer camp, which was held from July 5 to 25, also promoted environmental awareness and education. The camp included 18 days of academic instruction from school staff and guest teachers, and two days of environmental awareness training from experts in the field of environment, wildlife, and conservation.



Arif Hussain, manager of the Rhino Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak, attended the camp as a resource person on the inaugural day and conducted sessions on wildlife and nature conservation. Sabrina Begum, a research scholar from Tezpur University and a member of Aaranyak, also conducted a session on environmental conservation and awareness. Baharul Islam, president of the Fatasimolu Eco Development Committee, and Babul Islam, headmaster of the school, were also present and interacted with the students. Aaranyak, which aspires to create a large pool of environmentally and wildlife conservation-conscious citizens to enhance community participation in nature conservation, organises such summer camps for students every year with sustained support from DSWF and local collaborators.

No.DPRD/BTC(15<sup>th</sup> FC)UT(VI)UdI-06/2024/08 Dated Kokrajhar the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024  
**PRESS NOTICE**  
**(e-Procurement)**  
The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar invites bids for implementation of work "Const. of road with E/F and S/G from Goradak NELC Church to Dhanibasti including 2 Nos. HPC" for an amount not exceeding of Rs. 28,00,000.00 (Rupees twenty eight lakhs) only under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission to BTC for the year 2023-24 during 2024-25 under Untied Grant from the registered contractors of Class-I & Class-II (A, B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads) / (Building), BTC.  
Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the Office of the undersigned during office hours.  
Sd/- Director,  
Panchayat & Rural Development,  
BTC, Kokrajhar  
IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/177

No.DPRD/BTC(15<sup>th</sup> FC)UT(VI)UdI-07/2024/08 Dated Kokrajhar the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024  
**PRESS NOTICE**  
**(e-Procurement)**  
The Director, P&RD, BTC, Kokrajhar invites bids for implementation of work "Const. of road with E/F and S/G from Surjya Basti to Nipen Chowk including 1 Nos. Slab culvert" for an amount not exceeding of Rs. 23,00,000.00 (Rupees twenty three lakhs) only under 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission to BTC for the year 2023-24 during 2024-25 under Untied Grant from the registered contractors of Class-I & Class-II (A, B & C) category of Assam PWD (Roads) / (Building), BTC.  
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Sd/- Director,  
Panchayat & Rural Development,  
BTC, Kokrajhar  
IPR(BTC)/C/2024-25/176



# India-UK FTA negotiations floor not ceiling of our ambitions: British Foreign Secretary David Lammy

India is emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world

NEW DELHI, July 24: British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Wednesday began a two-day visit to India to galvanise negotiations for an ambitious Free Trade Agreement and reset the overall bilateral partnership in crucial areas such as clean energy, new technologies and security.

As he embarked on the high-profile trip, Lammy described the negotiations for the trade deal as the floor and not the ceiling of the ambitions to unlock shared potential and deliver growth.

The British foreign secretary's visit to New Delhi is the first high-level engagement between India and the UK after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government came to power on July 5.

"India is the emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world," Lammy said.

"Our Free Trade Agreement negotiations is the floor not the ceiling of our ambitions to unlock our shared potential and deliver growth, from Bengaluru to Birmingham," he said.

A British government readout said, Lammy will push for a "reset" of the UK-India partnership, including through reinforcing London's commitment to securing a free trade agreement that will benefit both economies.

He said the foreign secretary will also galvanise support for accelerated action on the climate crisis with India as an "indispensable partner", driving forward the clean energy transition and creating opportunities for British and Indian businesses. He will discuss partnering on Indian-led global initiatives to build clean power access, climate resilience in the global south and small island states, it said.

"We have shared interests on the green transition, new technologies, economic security and global security," Lammy was quoted as saying in the readout.

"I am travelling to India in my first month as Foreign Secretary because resetting our relationship with the Global South is a key part of how this government will reconnect Britain for our security and prosperity at home," he said.

In a post on 'X', External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Lammy's visit will strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Lammy and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold wide-ranging talks this evening that is expected to focus on the FTA and New Delhi's concerns over activities of pro-Khalistan elements in Britain, people familiar with the

matter said.

The British foreign secretary is also scheduled to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal during which both sides are likely to reaffirm their commitment to the proposed free trade pact, he said.

It is learnt both sides have already agreed on almost 90 per cent of the trade pact but the remaining 10 per cent comprised several sticky issues such as import duties on automobiles and scotch whisky and visas for business people. The British readout said Lammy will highlight the importance of a new partnership with India that focuses on economic, domestic and global security.

Economic, domestic and global security will be at the heart of the foreign secretary's first visit to India as he travels to New Delhi to unlock the full potential of the UK-India partnership.

He will tell his Indian counterpart that he wants to drive forward greater growth for both countries, it said.

The foreign secretary will underscore the importance of the "living bridge" between the UK and India. It represents the 1.7 million people with Indian heritage that have made their home in the UK and make an exceptional contribution to British life, the readout released by the UK high commission in New Delhi said.

"In a visit to India's third largest technology company, the Foreign Secretary will meet business leaders to highlight how the UK and India are working together on shared ambitions such as cutting-edge science to encourage innovation, boost trade, and improve the livelihoods of working people in both countries," it said.

The foreign secretary will also hold high-level talks with members from the Indian government, including Jaishankar, it said.

Lammy will reiterate the extraordinary contribution of British Indians, saying that they enrich the UK's social and economic landscape and are the epitome of modern Britain, it added.

In their talks, Jaishankar and Lammy are also expected to review the implementation of the India-UK roadmap that seeks to broaden ties in a range of areas.

In 2021, India and the UK adopted the 10-year roadmap to expand ties in key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections among others.

Jaishankar and Lammy are also likely to deliberate on pressing global challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in the Middle-East. (PTI)

## Jharkhand: 27 'stranded' labourers return to Ranchi from Cameroon



RANCHI, July 24: A total of 27 labourers from Jharkhand, who were reportedly stranded in Central Africa's Cameroon, returned to the state on Wednesday, officials said.

The labourers had sought help from the state government, through a recent video message, claiming they were not receiving their salaries from the employer and also facing trouble in arranging for daily meals.

Subsequently, Jharkhand Chief

Minister Hemant Soren wrote a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs, urging the safe return of the migrant workers, according to an official release.

"We received information about the problems of 27 people of Jharkhand stranded in Cameroon, Africa. Thereafter, the Jharkhand government took the initiative and got the outstanding amount of about ₹ 30 lakh paid to them, and brought them back to the state," Soren said on X.

He said financial assistance of ₹ 25,000 was also provided to each labourer upon their return.

Earlier in the day, the workers arrived at the Parasnath Railway Station in Giridih. Of the 27 labourers, 18 belong to Bokaro district, five are from Hazaribag and four from Giridih, the release said.

One of the labourers said an agency took them to the African nation on March 29.

"We worked there under a contractor for four months, but received no payment. We also started facing food-related problems," he told reporters. Jharkhand Labour Secretary Mukesh Kumar said his department has 10 lakh registered labourers. (PTI)

No.DLSA/CHD/2024/302

### ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from the intending eligible advocates for engagement of the following full time Legal Aid Defense Counsels in the Legal Aid Defense Counsel Office in Charaideo:-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Number of post	Honorarium
1	Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel	2 (two)	Rs. 40,000/- & above
2	Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel	6 (six)	Rs. 20,000/- & above

#### Qualifications:-

##### 1. Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel

- Practice in Criminal law for at least 7 years
- Excellent understanding of criminal law
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Skill in legal research
- Thorough understanding of ethical duties of defense counsel. Ability to work effectively and efficiently with others. Must have handled at least 20 criminal trials in Sessions Courts. May be relaxed in exceptional circumstances by Hon'ble executive Chairman ASLSA
- IT knowledge with proficiency in work

##### 2. Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel

- Practice in Criminal law from 0 to 3 years.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Thorough understanding of ethical duties of defense counsel.
- Ability to work effectively and efficiently with others.
- Excellent writing and research skills
- IT knowledge with high proficiency in work.

#### Work Profile:-

##### 1. Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel

- Conducting trials/ appeals remand work/bail applications/visits to prisons etc., as assigned by Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel.
- Filing and arguing appeals and bail applications in Courts.
- Maintaining complete case files.
- Doing legal research in legal aided cases and guiding assistant legal Aid Defense Counsel in legal research.
- Proper client interviews at various stages for quality research work and representation at remand, trial and appellate stage.
- All or any of the work of the Chief Defense Counsel as per assignment.
- Any work/duty assigned by Legal Services Authority.

##### 2. Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel

- Filing of cases, conducting trials in Magistrate trial cases.
- Remand/bail and other miscellaneous work.
- Legal research in legal aided cases.
- Visits to Prison and Legal aid Clinics as per directions.
- Providing assistance at pre-arrest stage to suspects.
- Assisting Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel(s) in conduct of legal aid cases.
- Assisting in developing a defense strategy after sifting through all of the evidence collected by the prosecution and after hearing the accused's version of what happened during the alleged crime in question.
- Visiting location/area of alleged crime, having discussions with family members etc, for effective and meaningful input of defense strategy.
- Handling queries of legal aid seekers,
- Updating legal aid seekers about the progress of their cases.
- Assisting in maintaining complete files of legal aided cases.
- Handling legal queries relating to criminal matters on telephone.
- Any other work related to legal aid assigned by Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel.
- Any work/duty assigned by Legal Services Authority.

#### Code of Ethics:

Personnel engaged in the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall observe the following code of ethics:

- No personnel shall act in any matter in which he/she has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest.
- No personnel shall willfully disclose or use, whether or not for the purpose of pecuniary gain, any information that he/she obtained, received or acquired during the fulfillment of his/her official duties and which is not available to members of the general public.
- No personnel within the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall make use of his/her office or employment for the purpose of promoting or advertising any outside activity.
- No personnel within the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall engage in any outside activity or act as an independent practitioner.
- No personnel within the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall solicit, agree to accept or accept, whether directly or indirectly, any gift, favour, service, or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such gift, service, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him/her in, or rewarding him/her for, the discharge of his/her official duties.
- Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall devote his/her full time to his/her duties for the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel and shall not engage in private practice of law during the term of employment.
- Every Personnel of the office of Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall strive to preserve the public's confidence in the office's fair and impartial execution of its duties and responsibilities.
- Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall also follow the code of ethics prescribed by Bar Council of India for lawyers.

#### Terms and conditions:-

- Candidate must be a citizen of India.
- The appointments shall be purely temporary and on contract basis and does not entitle the person to be regularized.
- The Legal Aid Defense Counsels shall be engaged on contract basis initially for a period of 2 (two) years with stipulation of extension of yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance. The Service may be extended subject to the approval of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati.
- Duly filed application forms along with self attested photocopies of all the relevant testimonials including certificate of length of practice etc. and 02 (Two) copies of recent passport size Photographs, should be addressed to the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Charaideo. The Name of the post applied for should clearly be mentioned overleaf the envelope. Providing of Contact number with email ID is compulsory
- Applications may be dropped in the drop box installed at the Office of the District Legal Services Authority, Charaideo, or may be sent by post. The last date of receiving the applications is till 31/07/2024 during Office Hours. The office of the District Legal Services Authority, Charaideo shall not be responsible for any postal delay.
- Applications received after due date shall summarily be rejected. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected without assigning any reason.
- The scope of work, selection procedure, qualification, work profile, termination of service, code of ethics, entitlement of leave etc. of the Legal Aid Defense Counsels will be as per the guideline of NALSA/ASLSA.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the Advertisement and to alter/modify the terms and conditions mentioned in this advertisement.
- List of shortlisted eligible candidates will be notified in the Official Notice Board as well as uploaded in the Official website of Charaideo District Judiciary, i.e.

https://charaideo.dcourts.gov.in for interview.

- Canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify the candidate.
- No TA/DA will be provided for appearing in the interview.

Sd/-

**District & Sessions Judge -cum- Chairman  
District Legal Services Authority, Charaideo**

#### APPLICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT AS FULL TIME LEGAL AID LAWYER IN LEGAL AID DEFENSE COUNSEL SYSTEM

STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Office use)

Photo

#### APPLICATION FOR CHIEF/DEPUTY/ASSISTANT LEGAL AID DEFENSE COUNSEL

- Applicant's Name
- Father/Husband's Name
- Date of Birth
- Age (as on 01-08-2022)
- Gender
- Residential Address
- Office Address
- Chamber Address (if any)
- Telephone no. (O)
- Telephone No. (R)
- Mobile No.
- Fax No.
- E-mail ID
- PAN No.
- AADHAR No.
- Educational Qualification (Please enclose self-attested copies of documents):

Course	Name of Board/ University	Year of Passing	Obtained Percentage (aggregate)
Graduation			
Professional Degree LLB			
LLM			
Any other (if any)			

- Date of Enrollment as Lawyer:
- Enrollment No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach self-attested copy of enrollment certificate issued by Bar Council)
- Experience in Bar \_\_\_\_\_  
(Duration of actual practice)  
(Attach an experience certificate issued by the Bar Association/Council)  
(a) Total no. of cases handled:  
(b) Nature of cases handled \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach extra sheet, if required)  
(c) Specialization, if any \_\_\_\_\_  
(The details of a few important cases, the Applicants have dealt with/handled and reported judgement if any.)
- Whether empanelled as Central/State Government or Government undertaking counsel/pleader \_\_\_\_\_  
(Indicate period: attach documents)
- The Courts where the Applicant is regularly practising \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enclose Bar Association Membership Certificate)
- Specify whether earlier remained on the panel of HCLSC/DLSA or TLSC \_\_\_\_\_  
(Indicate period, number of legal aid cases handled & result) (attach documents)
- Whether any disciplinary case/Complaint is/was against the Applicant with any Bar Council : YES NO  
(If yes, specify details of both disposed & pending with documents)
- List of the documents to be attached.
  - Self-Attested copy of Certificates in support of educational qualifications.
  - Self-Attested copy of Certificate in Enrollment issued by the Bar Council under the Advocates Act, 1961.
  - Self-Attested copy of Photo Identity Card, Address Proof.
  - Self-Attested copy of ITR for last 3 years (if available).
  - Photo copies of judgments in 5 Sessions cases, represented as Defense lawyer, (for the post of Chief/Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel).
  - Photocopies of at least 5 cross examinations in Sessions cases (for Chief/Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel).

(Signature)

#### DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found false/incorrect at any stage, my candidature is liable to be cancelled. I have read and understood the instructions and terms of the engagement and agrees to abide by those. I declare that I fulfil the eligibility conditions for the category to which I am seeking engagement. I declare that I have never been penalised by any Bar Council in any Disciplinary Proceedings. I also undertake to maintain absolute integrity and discipline as required thereunder. I agree with the remuneration structure and all the terms and conditions notified by SLSA/DLSA concerned.

(Signature)

Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Janasanyog /D/2940/24/25-Jul-24

**ELECTRICAL WORKS**  
E-Tender No. RE-NJP-TENDER-ENGG-WT-298; Dated: 22-07-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Insertion of 400 nos. In-Situ Glued Joints (mostly 52 Kg) required at different station yard with all other ancillary works between (i) Furkating Jn. - BBNG-Mariani Jn. (ii) Tinsukia-Makum Jn.-Dangari & (iii) MJNTRIP single line section in Tinsukia Division in connection with the Railway Electrification work of N.F. Railway. (Gr.-310). Advertisment value: ₹ 1,23,99,700.18; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,12,000.00; E-tenders will be closed 12:00 hrs. on 14-08-2024. The complete information and tender document of e-tender will be available at www.ireps.gov.in

**CEE-II/CON/Maliaganj  
Northeast Frontier Railway  
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"Serving Customers with a smile"

# I WISH I ENJOYED IT MORE: Matthew Macfadyen on playing 'Mr Darcy' on 'Pride and Prejudice'

LOS ANGELES, July 24: Actor Matthew Macfadyen says he did not enjoy playing Mr Darcy on Joe Wright's 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" as he was worried he was not "dishy enough" to play one of literature's favourite romantic heroes. "I didn't really. I feel bad saying that. There were moments I had a good time, but I wish I enjoyed it more. I wish I was less worried about it."

"I felt a bit miscast, like, 'I'm not dishy enough'. But it worked out," the actor said on CBS Mornings.

Macfadyen, who played the popular character of Tom Wambsgans on "Succession" and stars in "Deadpool & Wolverine", is, however, happy with the way things turned out finally. "The most flattering thing that happens to me now is people say, 'Were you Mr. Darcy?' It's a good 20 years later. So I think, 'I can't be aging that badly,'" the actor said about the movie, which also featured late Donald Sutherland, Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Tom Hollander, Judi Dench, Carey Mulligan, Talulah Riley and Rupert Friend.

Macfadyen's portrayal of Mr Darcy opposite Keira Knightley's Elizabeth Bennet in the movie has many admirers with a special internet segment devoted to the scene where Mr Darcy flexes his hands just after he has helped Elizabeth Bennet's character into a carriage.

But Colin Firth's take on the character in 1995 series remains a favourite on the screen with his wet shirt scene often being recreated and referenced by filmmakers.

It was most recently done in "Bridgerton" season 2 when Jonathan Bailey's Anthony Bridgerton emerges from a lake after accidentally falling into it in an obvious hat tip to Firth's portrayal of Mr Darcy. (PTI)



## Aparshakti Khurana's 'Berlin' to premiere at Indian Int'l Film Festival of Melbourne

MUMBAI, July 24: Actor Aparshakti Khurana's film "Berlin" is set to premiere at the Indian International Film Festival of Melbourne. Khurana, 36, shared the announcement on his Instagram handle on Tuesday. "The thrilling journey of #Berlin continues! The film is set for its Australian premiere at the 15th edition of the prestigious @iffmelbourne #IndianFilmFestivalOfMelbourne," the actor shared in a post.

Directed by Atul Sabharwal, the film also features Ishwak Singh, Rahul Bose, and Kabir Bedi in pivotal roles. "Berlin" has previously screened at the Red Lorry Film Festival. In addition to "Berlin," Khurana will star in the upcoming horror-comedy "Stree 2" alongside Shradha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao. Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film is produced under Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films and is scheduled for release on August 15 this year. Furthermore, Khurana is currently filming "Badtameez Gill" with co-stars Paresh Rawal and Vaani Kapoor. He will also appear in the documentary titled "Finding Ram" produced by Applause Entertainment. The Indian International Film Festival of Melbourne runs from August 15 to August 25 in Melbourne, Australia. (AGENCIES)



which came as a major confidence boost for Bhat, who had previously made films such as "Brij Mohan Amar Rahe" and "Hurdang" and now shows "The Gone Game" and "Rasbhari".

The maximum action in those projects, he explained, would probably include a slap but "Kill" was a challenge as it revolved around a man who transforms into a killing machine during things go south.

Having Sikhya and Dharna as backers helped find the right people to execute his vision for the movie.

"It was my first action film and I was trying to ensure that when the audiences see it, they feel like they are on the train as passengers and going through the tragedy. It was an important challenge and everything hinged on that because if I manage that, I will involve them in the story and its emotions," he said.

The action in the movie had to be designed in a way that it captured the "contained pressure cooker" like situation inside the confined space of a train compartment. "You cannot change the setting or location so the only thing you can change is the way each killing is depicted. During the writing phase, I would wake up and imagine myself as the protagonist and his adversaries and ghost fight in those scenes before writing them. I wrote each and every kill so that when my action choreographers come, they, at least, have a blue print to build upon," he said.

The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival's Midnight Madness section to positive reviews last year. Asked about the violence in the movie, Bhat said while the film is "gory and full of action", the portrayal makes it different from a regular revenge drama.

"I have actually shown the consequences of violence and how it brings pain and agony no matter which side you are on. We become so dehumanised with violence sometimes and feel the need to glorify it but I have tried to go the other way and not glorify it at all. It is very important to look at it not with bravado or swagger," he said.

Praising the relative newcomers at the heart of the story -- Lakshya in his debut film as Amrit, host-comedian Raghav Juyal as the antagonist Fani and actor Tanya Maniktala as Tulika -- Bhat said the three actors held his hand throughout the difficult process of directing the movie.

Lakshya was the first to come on board as the filmmaker was impressed by the way he responded to the story that he didn't even want to meet other actors who were supposed to audition for the role. (PTI)

# It's a phase, we should focus on films that did well: Rohit Shetty on Bollywood performance in 2024

MUMBAI, July 24: Bollywood movies not doing well at the box office this year is just a phase and one should focus on films that have been successful, says filmmaker Rohit Shetty as he hopes his much-awaited "Singham Again" makes viewers happy.

Other than small and mid-budget movies like Kiran Rao-directed "Laapataa Ladies", Dinesh Vijan's home production, "Munjiya", Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu-starrer "Crew", Ajay Devgn's "Shaistaan", and Rajkumar Rao's "Srikanth", the first half of the year has been dismal for the Hindi film industry with the failure of "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan", "Maidaan" and "Yodha".

But Shetty, known for making big budget, star-studded blockbusters, is not worried.

"It's a phase which comes every five to six years, where a year or two goes bad business-wise. Like, we have had 'Pathaan', 'Jawan', 'Gadar 2', and 'Oh My God 2', so it's like missing time syndrome. So, we focus on that, we don't look at films that did well," the filmmaker told PTI in an interview.

"For instance, 'Gadar 2', it's not like they did business of Rs 100 or Rs 200 crore, it did Rs 500-600 crore plus business. We need to focus on the good part. It happens, you've phases. It's a cycle."

Following the commercial success of films like "Pathaan", "Jawan", and "Gadar 2" last year, many thought action genre was going to be the flavour of the season but Shetty said such assumptions are wrong.

"We come to a conclusion very soon that only action will work or comedy will not work. Films have to be taken individually, irrespective of the genre. We don't know which film will work, which won't and that's a fact of life," he said.

The 50-year-old director is optimistic about "Singham Again", his next directorial venture with frequent collaborator Ajay Devgn, which opens in theatres on November 1 on the occasion of Diwali.

"It is a big responsibility. I hope when it comes, it will make everyone happy like how 'Sooryavanshi' opened in theatres after COVID-19. I hope this one also makes everyone happy. If that is done, then my job is

done," Shetty added.

The upcoming action film is the third film in the "Singham" series, which started with 2011's "Singham" and was followed by "Singham Returns" in 2014. These movies are tied with the storylines of "Sooryavanshi", led by Akshay Kumar and "Simmba", starring Ranveer Singh.

Shetty, however, is wary of comparisons between his cop universe and Avengers movies.

"I can't compare 'Singham Again' with 'Avengers'. They are too big. Ours is a cop universe, we've Ajay, Akshay, Ranveer, and Kareena, and then there are new characters this time. We are trying to work in our world and the way it is shaping up, I think people will get what they want from 'Singham Again'."

The idea, he said, is to create content that appeals to a wide segment of audience.

"You need to up your game every time because there's a lot of exposure that the audience has, so you need to be on that level. We've to be on that level," he said.

In "Singham Again", Devgn will

reprise his fan-favourite cop character of Bajirao Singham, and Arjun Kapoor will be seen as the antagonist. Kareena Kapoor Khan, who played Devgn's love interest in the second part will be seen in the third part.

"Singham Again" is the fifth part in Shetty's cinematic cop universe, which includes Ranveer Singh's "Simmba" (2018) and Akshay Kumar's "Sooryavanshi" (2021).

The upcoming film also boasts star-studded appearances including Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Deepika Padukone.

Shetty, who recently wrapped the shooting of "Singham Again", said CGI in stunts is increasingly becoming an industry standard.

"It depends on what kind of action it is, if it's hand-to-hand combat then CGI is not for me, I try to keep it real. Other than that, all the stunts that we do...CGI is very important because it's safe, easier and it's costlier also. But that's the new thing and you can't be left behind."

Shetty is returning as the host of "Khatron Ke Khiladi" season 14 on Colors TV from July 27. (PTI)



# Lankans should take advantage of Indian retirements: Jayasuriya



**PALLEKELE, July 24:** Sri Lanka's interim head coach Sanath Jayasuriya on Wednesday revealed that IPL side Rajasthan Royals' high performance director Zubin Bharucha has helped his batters prepare for the upcoming T20 series against India where he expects them to take advantage of the recent retirements by stars like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Rohit, Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja retired from the

T20 Internationals after India's World Cup triumph last month. The T20 series against Sri Lanka will get underway here on July 27.

Jayasuriya revealed despite some of the Sri Lankan players' involvement in the Lanka Premier League, they have held a six-day camp with Bharucha.

"We just started the sessions just after the LPL. Most of the players are playing the LPL, so they were busy with cricket and what we wanted (for them) was

to play cricket as much as possible," he said.

"We got Zubin from Rajasthan Royals and we had about six days of work and also with the other cricketers who finished with the LPL. I hope the players have learnt what you (management) wanted to do in terms of practice and their technique. The preparation was good, and we have two more days in Kandy before the T20 starts," he added.

Jayasuriya said the sessions

with Bharucha were intense and the players have been able to learn a lot from him.

"It is important to learn as international cricketers new techniques, new approaches and shot making to be effective," he said. India also have a new captain in Suryakumar Yadav for T20Is and Jayasuriya, while acknowledging the struggles of his side, urged them to make the most of the opportunity.

"Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are best players in the

world. Looking at their talent and the kind of cricket they have played we all know where they belong, along with Jadeja," Jayasuriya was quoted as saying by Associated Press during a press meet.

"Their absence will be loss to the Indian team and we have to take maximum advantage out of that," he said.

Heads rolled in the top management of Sri Lanka team after the debacle in the T20 World Cup in the Americas.

After Sri Lanka made a preliminary round exit, upon return the team captain Wanindu Hasaranga, head coach Chris Silverwood and high performance consultant Mahela Jayawardena all resigned.

When asked about Sri Lanka's current state, Jayasuriya hoped the players are able to develop themselves.

"It is up to the players, we have been doing all the work in terms of practice, we have given training, we have got best coaches. I think Sri Lanka Cricket has provided most of the things and now it is up to the players," he said.

"For the present cricketers to come to that level, we have been doing all the necessary work and I hope in next two years there will be a lot of development in these boys," the batting great added.

"We need to give a little bit of time. I know, for the cricket-loving public it is frustrating sometimes but be patient, give us time, we are working on it. It is really hard work on it with the players and they will do well." (PTI)

## For TT great Sharath Kamal, running into Roger Federer tops favourite Olympic memories

**PARIS, July 24:** From lurching alongside tennis icon Roger Federer to taking a set off Chinese legend Ma Long, India's flag-bearer for Paris Olympics, Achanta Sharath Kamal, on Wednesday recalled the most memorable moments from his five appearances at the Games so far. The 42-year-old table tennis legend helped the Indian men's team qualify for the first time in history and is believed to be set for his final appearance at the Games.

The multiple-time Commonwealth Games gold-medallist believes that qualifying as a team could become the catalyst of growth for table tennis in India.

For someone who has a huge bank of memories from the Olympics having made his first appearance in 2004, Sharath recalled running into Federer at a dining hall in his debut Games.

"One day I was just out for lunch and as I was entering from this side, there was another person coming from the other side with a tennis bag and hair let loose. I feel like I have seen him somewhere. I couldn't recognise who he was with his hair let loose," he said in a release from Ultimate Table Tennis.

"We pass each other -- we actually cross paths -- (and) he goes to give his bag at the baggage keeping area. I walk in, take my plate looking at what to eat and it suddenly strikes me. Man, it's Roger Federer!"

Sharath said he was rather shy at that time but nonetheless searched for the Swiss ace.

"He was sitting at one of the tables all by himself. I went as close as possible. I didn't want to get in his place but still got close and I was eating (on the same table)," he continued.

"Suddenly, a guy comes in with a reverse hat and shorts and they are clapping hands. I look at him and it's Andy Roddick," Sharath recalled.

With the Tokyo Olympics postponed by one year during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sharath recalled facing difficulties in training and yet he was able to make a dent in Long's march to the gold medal.

"Out of the five times I have played with him, I have won just one set against him and that was in Tokyo. And I am very proud of what happened there, especially coming in after COVID," he added.

India had a very tough situation especially after the second wave. People in the rest of the world started their training back and mid-way in the lockdown in India, we were still confined to home workouts. I was playing on my terrace. It was very tough.

"I was training all the time in India with the limited resources we had. From that difficult mindset to getting to the Olympics and doing my best, I really feel I did well," Sharath continued. (PTI)

## Mind Games: The psychological challenge of being an Olympian

**MUMBAI, July 24:** Human excellence is often closely linked to human fortitude and Olympics is the prime example of it.

The Paris Games, starting on Friday, will be a gathering of 10,500 athletes, 117 of them from India, competing for a mere 329 medals.

Needless to say, talent alone won't decide who finishes on the podium. It will also boil down to the mind and how one can discipline it to cope with the grandeur and pressure of the big moments.

Visualisation, blocking out the noise and being focussed are among the techniques that are often talked about but are they as easy to implement in a highly competitive environment?

"There is a lot of pressure (already) in sports and when you compete at the Olympics, you have to be someone who has gone through a lot of highs and lows as well," explains Dr Divya Jain, a sports psychologist with Fortis Healthcare.

"In sports, you're confronted with winning and losing on a day-to-day basis, so it's not about

winning every time; it's about how you recover, how quickly you bounce back from a mistake," she said while explaining the difference between Olympians and other athletes.

"There is public scrutiny, staying away from family, the noise of the Games... All of these aspects that athletes have to cope with at a psychological level," she added.

For the next few weeks athletes will try to be at the peak of their form. To do that, they have trained physically and mentally but the medal winners will be those who are a tad more tenacious and focussed than the rest.

"Not only do they have their own high expectations, but they also carry the hopes of their entire country and scrutiny of a global audience," says Keerthana Swaminathan, a sports psychologist and president of the Indian Sport Psychologists Association.

"Being away from families, friends and home is a part of sportspersons' lives but in Olympics, with all eyes on them, it could lead to further stress and anxiety. (PTI)

# IOC approves French Alps bid to host the 2030 Winter Olympics

**PARIS, July 24:** The French Alps was named as the 2030 Winter Games host by the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday, though with conditions attached and signoff required from whoever is the next Prime Minister of France.

French President Emmanuel Macron helped present the bid to IOC members and gave assurances that the national government being formed in office after the 2024 Summer Games in Paris will underwrite all the organizational guarantees that must still be signed.

IOC members accepted his guarantees and gave their approval in an 84-4 vote with seven abstaining.

"We would like to thank you for your confidence and trust," Macron said in a brief acceptance speech. "We will be there and we will respect our commitments."

National governments in Olympic host countries need to formally underwrite financial and security promises that are essential to organize and run the games.

A deadline of Oct. 1 was set by



the IOC for the next French Prime Minister to sign a document guarantee key promises for the 2030 project. The national assembly elected this month must ratify that document by March 1, IOC president Thomas Bach said.

Those guarantees sought by the IOC have not been possible in France in recent weeks because of the snap parliamentary elections called by Macron that concluded July 7. It failed to pro-

duce a majority government yet stalled the momentum built by far-right parties.

The French bid was the only candidate — preferred by the IOC with exclusive negotiating rights since November — and is a project centered on ski resorts in the French Alps and ice sports venues in the coastal city Nice.

Barely 5 1/2 years ahead of the scheduled opening ceremony, the 2030 Winter Games has the shortest lead-in time to prepare

for any modern Olympics.

Macron and bid officials acknowledged the challenges of climate change for snow sports and Winter Games hosting.

"We have now to invent a new model, a sustainable one, for people living in the mountains," Macron acknowledged in a speech in English. "We do believe in the future of Winter Games. We do believe in the future of our mountains."

The leader of the regional government in the French Alps acknowledged the difficult future.

"We are not skiing today as we used to ski in the past," Renaud Muselier, president of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, said. "Climate change is a reality with an impact on the mountains."

"We want to be optimistic but realistic," Muselier said in translated comments, promising the greenest-ever Winter Games "on a human scale."

France previously hosted the Winter Games three times: the inaugural 1924 edition in Chamonix, 1968 in Grenoble and 1992 in Albertville. (AP)

## Pierre de Coubertin - the greatest forgotten hero

**PARIS, July 24:** Pierre de Coubertin, the visionary behind the modern Olympic Games, is buried in the pages of history.

Inspired by historian and educator Thomas Arnold, who had introduced sports in British schools, Coubertin initially used sports as a tool to bring about educational reforms in France.

Eventually, the dream took a better shape and in 1894, he founded the modern Olympics, which gradually grew into the greatest sporting show on the planet. Convinced that sports can play a key role in character building, Coubertin, born into a French aristocratic family, conceived an international sports competition. He was a co-founder of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athens hosted the first ever Olympic Games in 1896. When France became host for the second time in 1924, that was the last instance when Coubertin, who held the title of Baron, was actively involved in the organization of the spectacle.

Unfortunately, the man who created the show, died in obscurity in Geneva in 1937.

A century later when France is ready to conduct the Games in the grandest fashion, is Pierre de Coubertin just a memory? Do the people of France remember him?

"This is a hard question to answer," his great-great-grandniece Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"In France, there are more than 600 places that have his name, sports stadium, streets, and schools, so he is definitely known and remembered, but since he lived over 100 years ago, people do not remember exactly what he did," she admitted. Alexandra is a part of the fourth generation of Coubertin's descendants.

In 2016, they decided to form the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association as a representative of the 30 descendants that exist today. "All the descendants of Pierre de Coubertin come from his sister Marie de Coubertin who he was very close to. After Marie's husband died, he took care of her and her children. He was therefore a second father to my direct family. "Since his death in 1937, there has always been a nephew of his at the IOC to represent his spirit. This role has been passed on from generation to generation." (PTI)

# Women's boxing fights its way to parity with the men's game, just 12 years after its Olympic debut

**COLORADO (USA), July 24:** Charley Davison's husband and their three young children were already in bed back home on the east coast of England before she pulled on her headgear and stepped into the World Boxing ring in southern Colorado earlier this year.

The 30-year-old Davison was able to pursue her Olympic dreams half a world away from her family only because of the spectacular growth of women's boxing. In just over a decade, the sport has proliferated from its Olympic debut with only 36 fighters in three weight classes in London to become an equal part of the tournament in Paris, where half of the 248-fighter field will be women competing in a record six weight classes. The addition of a 54-kilogram bantamweight division at the Paris Olympics changed the game for fighters like Davison.

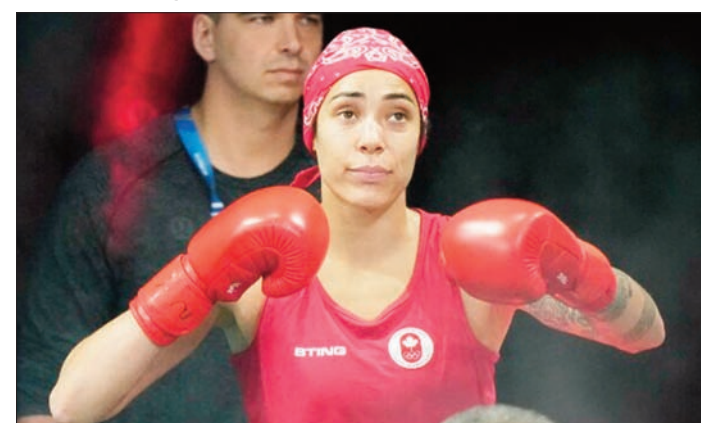
"After the Tokyo Olympics, if there wasn't going to be a 54 (division), I would have hung my gloves up," said Davison, a former youth champion who left

boxing for seven years before returning to get in shape after having kids.

"Because 51 (kilos) was getting too hard, and 57, I'm not quite big enough for that one, I feel," she added. "So 54 was a blessing. As soon as I heard that weight, I knew it was for me. Every kilo makes a difference. I know I'm not the only one who's grateful. I think it's ideal for a lot of women to have this many weight classes. It makes such a difference for the sport."

Davison fought for Britain in Tokyo, but lost early. Three years later, she has the opportunity to try again only because of the IOC's commitment to the sport's growth. Boxing essentially has reached gender parity along with the rest of the Olympic program, and dozens more women are getting a shot.

"Since I've started, especially on the international level, the level (of women's boxing) has raised incredibly," said Canada's Tammara Thibeault, the middleweight world champion and an Olympic quarterfinalist in



Tokyo headed to her second Games. "That makes us all better, because we elevate each other. That's how a sport grows, and we're really growing right now." Women's boxing entranced athletes like Australia's Tiana Echegaray, who had never boxed just five years ago. She was 25 and working at a boring office job in the music business in Sydney when she threw herself into training — and now she's an Olympian.

"I think maybe the creative

side of me saw boxing as an art," said Echegaray, who studied music. "It's really pretty, you know? When you see really skilled boxers compete, it's the prettiest thing I've ever seen. It's so cool to watch."

"It's not just the sport itself, but the community around the sport," she added. "It's the people. Boxing teaches you so much about life. I'm so grateful that I found it now. I think I would have loved to have found it younger, but I don't think I

would have had the emotional maturity to get punched in the face and be all right with it."

Britain's Chantelle Reid was a teenage pugilism prodigy who returned this year after a lengthy break. She was bowled over by the sport's growth in her absence. "The level in women's boxing has increased massively in the six years" since her return, Reid said. "There's so much talent out there now. It just makes me push a little bit harder to be on top. It's exciting."

... Sport science has come into the sport a lot, and everyone is just much more strong. They've all got that grit, whereas before it was more point-fighting boxing. No one really had that grit, but I'm seeing that a lot now."

Reid is among the many fighters in the Paris field who got hooked when they watched the inaugural women's boxing competition in London as girls. (Gold medalist) Nicola Adams and Katie Taylor, they've set a high standard now," Reid said. "They've set an amazing example for women's

boxing. We're just trying to reach that level now, and hopefully the next generation is that much better."

Indeed, women's boxing has changed dramatically in the 12 years since its Olympic debut in London — and not just on the amateur level.

The women's sport spent decades as a professional sideshow, with its fighters being paid a fraction of the men's purses and given a fraction of the respect. Although it hasn't reached the worldwide prominence of the men's sport, pro boxing is now a viable career path for hundreds of women in a way it never was before the Olympic tournaments sparked fan interest and tantalized top promoters.

On the first Saturday of the Olympics, two-time gold medalist Claressa Shields' WBC heavyweight title fight will headline a card in Detroit. On the second Saturday, Britain's Caroline Dubois and Uruguay's Maira Moneo will headline a show in England. (AP)

# Archers aim to break medal jinx, aim for first Games medal in Paris

**PARIS, July 24:** A different year and another Olympics, but for Indian archers, the target will be the same -- fetching their first ever medal at the Games.

More or less regular at the Olympics since debuting back in 1988, the archers will kick off the nation's Paris campaign here on Thursday with the qualification rounds at the Les Invalides gardens here.

For the first time after London 2012, India will have a full six-member squad after both the men's and women's teams qualified on the basis of rankings. This means they will compete in all the five events.

Veterans Tarundeep Rai and Deepika Kumari, appearing in their fourth Olympics, will lead their young teammates, hoping to securing at least a top-10 finish in the qualification round to ensure a favourable draw.

Each archer will shoot 72 arrows and the scores in the qualification round of 128 athletes from 53 countries will decide the seeds for the main knockout competition beginning with the women's team finals on Sunday.

The qualifying round will be crucial for the Indians, who have often slipped in the seedings and ended up losing to heavyweights Korea, tipped to top the qualifications.

At the Tokyo Olympics, all the male archers finished outside the top-30 and got the ninth seeding as a team. Deepika, the sole woman archer there, also got a ninth place in rankings. Both ended up losing to top-seed Koreans in their respective quarters.

On form front, India will have high hopes from the men's team, which won a historic World Cup this year in Shanghai, upsetting Korea for the first time in a final.

They will have the experience in Rai and Tokyo Olympian Pravin Jadhav, while debutant Dhiraj Bommadevara will be on a high after beating Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist Mauro Nespoli of Italy en route a bronze at the World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya just a month back.

Individually, debutant Dhiraj is seen as a



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bright prospect as he has tasted success by perfect 10s at ease. But at the same time, she suffers from inconsistency and makes silly mistakes at crunch times. If she overcomes her mental blockade, there is no stopping her." India's high performance director Sanjeeva Singh said.

Dhiraj and Deepika, if they manage to top their ranking rounds, would be an exciting prospect for the recurve mixed team.

Dhiraj's composure and Deepika's skills would complement each other well at the highest level.

The women's team, on the other hand, will be low on experience barring Deepika.

Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur, who have been Indian regulars in this Olympic cycle and won a World Cup Stage-4 bronze here in 2023, are slated for their respective Games debut.

They have together won the Asian Games bronze last year and will look to draw inspi-

ration from that.

Twenty-six-year-old Ankita, who hails from Bengal but represents Tata Academy, is relatively more experienced having won a clutch of World Cup team medals including a gold and silver, both in Paris in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

The archers Olympic build-up was marred by their foreign coach Baek Woong Ki's return to India after not getting accreditation to enter the Games.

The South Korean, who was contracted by the Archery Association of India for the Olympics at an approximate annual contract of ₹ one crore, had accompanied the team to their 10-day preparatory camp in Jaux.

But he had to return after AAI failed to procure an accreditation for him as the sports body was engaged in a blame game with national federation (IOA).

While there would be no Baek, India will have men's and women's team coaches in Sonam Singh Bhutia (Army) and Purnima Mahato (Tata) whose archers have made the side.

In absence of Baek, it remains to be seen how the Indians will cope with crunch moments especially while taking on arch-nemesis Korea in the knockouts.

Indian archers have never been able to go past the quarterfinal hurdle.

The script has been the same all these years, barring in Sydney 2000 where India could not qualify for the Games.

In terms of cumulative performance, the best ever show was at the last Olympics in Tokyo where the India men's team, mixed team and Deepika individually, all fell by the wayside in the quarters.

India were awarded the team quotas after topping the men's and women's rankings among non-qualified nations in the Olympic cycle.

The men's team finals will be on Monday, while the individual eliminations will get underway on Tuesday.

The mixed team finals are slated for next Friday, followed by women and individual finals over the same weekend. (PTI)

## It's a now-or-never situation for me: Tarundeep Rai



**PARIS, July 24:** It's a "now-or-never situation for me", says veteran Indian archer Tarundeep Rai as he seeks to win a maiden Olympic medal in his fourth appearance at the Games while also serving as the team's unofficial mentor in Paris.

The 40-year-old Rai has won medals in every championships at the global and continental level but not the Olympics.

He has two silver at the World Championships (2005, 2019), nine World Cup medals, including three gold, a silver and a bronze in Asian Games, two silver and a bronze in Asian Championships.

"It's emotional every day. It's the fourth time. It's a now-or-never situation for me, and that's what I tell my teammates too. Maybe someone playing his first or second Olympics should think like it's now or never. You have to put in an effort as if it's going to be your last," Rai told PTI in an interview.

The veteran archer from Sikkim was part of the Indian teams at the 2004 Athens, 2012 London and 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

He exited in the first round in the individual event in Athens, and in the second round in both 2012 and 2021 editions.

In Tokyo, the men's team, which had Tarundeep Rai in it its ranks, reached the quarterfinals.

"Olympics is a dream for everyone, and I'm no different. You need an extreme level of preparation for this, and you have to put in a lot of hard work to qualify and win a medal. The colour of your sweat sometimes turns red," Rai said ahead of the Paris Games.

"This Olympics, I'm playing with a three-year gap. Positive sign. Many changes. Tokyo,

whatever I lacked, the objective is to rectify. Will do my best," said Rai who hails from Namchi in Sikkim.

More or less regular at the Olympics since debuting back in 1988, the Indian archers will be aiming to fetch their maiden medal as they began the country's campaign here on Thursday with the qualification rounds.

"There are always expectations. We had the potential to win, but for small margins, we have returned empty-handed," Rai rued.

"We have kept that in control (this time). Coaches, management, players' mentality, we have kept that in check. Everyone is in their best form."

For the first time since London 2012, India will have a full six-member squad after both the men's and women's teams qualified on the basis of rankings. This means they will compete in all the five events. Rai failed to make it to the Hangzhou Asian Games last year and said it was a wake-up call for him.

"Yes, the Asian Games was a realization period and gave me a lot of positive vibes. If that did not happen, maybe I would not have made it to my fourth Olympics and reached here.

"That shock made me aware of my weaknesses and what I needed to work on. I took that positively and worked on it."

Rai said he has set up an academy in Sikkim to pass on his knowledge to the future generation.

"Coaching or not, you have to give something back to the sport. This is one thing we have lacked. Transfer of technique, transfer of experience. Senior archers leaving should come back. This gap we have to fill up. (PTI)

## Ollie Pope reckons England can make 600 Test runs in a day's play



**LONDON, July 24:** Ollie Pope reckons England can breach the 600-run mark inside a day's play in Test cricket while ruling out any let up to their ultra aggressive 'Bazball' approach with the bat.

England hold the record for the most runs scored in a day when they piled up 588 for 6 on the second day of the Manchester Test against India in 1936, and Pope believes the current side under Ben Stokes can eclipse that.

"Sometimes we might score 280 to 300 in a day but that's OK and probably because we're reading situations. There might also be a day where we go and get 500 to 600 at some point in the future as well. And that's a cool thing to have," Pope was quoting as saying by 'BBC Sport'.

In December 2022, England smashed 506 runs on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.

England are currently 2-0 up in the three-match Test series against the West Indies after they followed up a victory by an innings at Lord's with a comprehensive 241-run win at Trent Bridge, Nottingham last week.

The third and final Test starts on Friday at Edgbaston.

The win in Nottingham was the first time England scored 400-plus in both innings of a Test match with totals of 416 and 425. Pope (121 in first innings) was one of three England centurions in the second Test alongside Joe Root and Harry Brook.

Pope said there might be times England batters will have to "manage the game a little bit more" but that their attacking Bazball style under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Stokes has now become second nature.

"I got asked on day one at Trent Bridge 'do you get told to play like that?'. No, we don't. It's just our natural games and the way we go about it," Pope said. (PTI)

## Indian women team's mantra has been to take one game at a time: Deepti Sharma

**DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA), July 24:** Senior player Deepti Sharma said India's mantra in the Women's T20 Asia Cup has been to take one game at a time as conditions haven't really changed from the last time the team played here.

India marched into the semifinals with a thumping 82-run win over Nepal on Tuesday after fireworks with the bat from Shafali Verma (81 off 48 balls) and Deepti's impressive 3/13 with the ball. India amassed 178 for 3 after batting first and then restricted Nepal to a paltry 98 for 9 in their 20 overs.

"From the first game we are pretty confident about each (match) and every situation and the condition as well. We are looking forward to semi-final as well," Deepti told the media after the match. She said not much has changed in terms of the nature of the pitches and conditions in



Sri Lanka from the team's previous 2022 tour to the island nation in June. "Nothing (has) changed, just

keep it very simple and just focus for another match. I played (here) last time also and yeah, nothing changed," she said.

"We (are) only backing ourselves and you know, conditions are really (the) same."

The right-arm off-spinner is topping the bowling charts with eight wickets in three matches and she credited her success to her readiness to bowl in all situations.

"I (am) always ready to bowl in any kind of situation. I like to take the challenges from the front. (It's) nothing, just (that) I'm enjoying each and every match, plan accordingly and what we discussed in the meeting. I just apply myself," she said.

"If we win the toss, it's (a) positive (approach) from the upfront. As a batting unit also, we are doing really well from the game one and we finished also well," she added. (PTI)

## Neeraj's advice boosting his confidence, high jumper Kushare aims final round in Paris

**NEW DELHI, July 24:** "Just focus on training and don't get scared by the fame of the opponents' is the mantra Paris Games-bound high jumper Sarvesh Kushare learnt from none other than Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

Kushare said Chopra's advice has boosted his confidence as at one point in time this year, he was not even sure of making the Paris Games cut. He made it to the Olympics through world ranking quota.

The Paris Games automatic qualification mark was 2.33m.

From doing practice on fodder-made makeshift mat to becoming the first Indian high jumper to qualify for the Olympics, Kushare has come a long way.

"I have not met Neeraj bhai for a long time, but when we met last time, he told me to focus on training and not be afraid of the fame of the opponents. He always keeps giving important tips," Kushare told PTI Bhasha in an interview from Poland where he is training along with other Paris-bound Indian athletes.

"He (Chopra) is my idol and he gave us confidence by winning the first ever Olympic medal in athletics. We also want to be like him and bring pride to the country," said the high jumper, who hails from Deogaon village, a few kilometres from Nashik in Maharashtra.

With a personal best of 2.27m and season's best of 2.25m, making it to the final round in the Paris Games can be a realistic target. The 29-year-old, who is making his Olympic debut, though, claimed that he has been jumping over 2.30m mark frequently during practice.

"It is only my height that is small but I



am also very strong from within. There is no fear of seeing my opponent's personality. It is important to be in top form at the right time and have faith in your preparation," Kushare, who stands at 5 feet 9 inches, said.

"Right now the focus is on the qualification round which will be held on August 7 at 10 am. The first goal is to make it to the finals. I will plan for the rest later."

Kushare, who is currently training at Spala, Poland, along with other Olympic-

bound Indian athletes, started the sport on a makeshift mat made of waste from corn which was used as fodder for cows.

"There was no high jump mat in our village, so the corn fodder collected for the cow was used as a mat with a foam cover on it. It was used as a landing area and we used to do practice on it," he recollected.

"I started playing under the guidance of my school's PT teacher R W Jadhav sir. Then I went to the Army Sports Institute

and also got support from Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ) which sent me to America for training." He became a father nine months ago but he will be able to see his newborn daughter only after the Olympics.

"I have a nine-month-old daughter but I have not met her since November. Initially, I stayed with her for just five days and now I will meet her only after the Olympics," he said.

It will, however, be a tough task for Kushare to be in the medal bracket in Paris.

## IOC awards 2034 Winter Games to Salt Lake City; Utah last hosted the Olympics 32 years ago

**PARIS, July 24:** Salt Lake City will be an Olympics host again after the IOC formally awarded the 2034 Winter Games to the United States bid on Wednesday. The capital city of Utah was the only candidate since the International Olympic Committee gave Salt Lake City exclusive negotiating rights last year in the process that was fast-tracked for 2034 and led to U.S. being awarded the games.

The campaign team presenting the bid on stage to IOC members included the Governor of Utah Spencer Cox, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and Alpine ski great Lindsey Vonn. Back home, a 3 a.m. public watch party gathered to see a broadcast from Paris.

Salt Lake City's final approval in a vote by those members will bring back the Winter Games 32 years after first hosting in 2002. (AP)

At least nine athletes have jumped 2.33m or above in the last one year.

Qatar's Mutaz Barshim and Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy shared the gold medal in Tokyo with an identical jump of 2.37m. Tamberi is the leading the chart this season with 2.37m while Barshim has been struggling a bit with a season best of 2.31m.

At one point in time, Kushare, who won gold with a jump of 2.25m in the National Inter-State Championship in Panchkula in June, was uncertain whether he would qualify for the Paris Olympics or not.

"Before June, my ranking had gone down to 36 because I could not play in May when competitions were going on all over the world. I was afraid whether I would be able to play in the Olympics or not. I was under a lot of pressure but then I qualified by performing consistently well in Malaysia, Kazakhstan and Panchkula," he said.

"I had a lot of problems due to an ankle injury but now my confidence has increased by practising well consistently.

Talking about his daily training routine at Spala, he said, "Practice includes gym, speed work, strength training. The recovery sessions here are very good. We just rest in our free time because it is very important to give rest to the body." He said when asked about his routine.

"I talk to a sports psychologist regularly for mental preparation. He tells me how to deal with pressure and how to keep myself mentally fresh. I do yoga and meditation every morning."

The Indian athletics team has been training at Spala from July 8 and will leave for Paris on July 29. (PTI)