

## Number of Third Gender Voters is Maximum in Ranaghat (SC) PC in Phase 4 of General Election in West Bengal



Kolkata, May 2, 2024 : The International Press :

As we witnessed the first and second phase of the General Election 2024, the number of third gender electors have gone up considerably in comparison to the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. In the fourth phase of General Election which will be conducted on May 13, 2024, eight Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) will be going for polls in this phase of election. In West Bengal, voting will be done for eight PCs on that date. Total 14,53,00,17 electors will exercise their franchises in these eight constituencies in West Bengal on May 13, 2024. However, the number of male electors is maximum in Ranaghat (SC) Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number of male voters is 9,59,308. So far as the number of female electors is considered, it is maximum in Birbhum Parliamentary Constituency. Here, the number is 9,22,989. There are a total of 1,55,07 Polling stations in these eight Constituencies. The polling stations are maximum in Bardhaman-Durgapur Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number is 2039.

Krishnanagar (26), Bardhaman-Durgapur (25), Bolpur (23) and Birbhum (19) respectively. Ten States and Union Territories including West Bengal will be undergoing the fourth phase of General Election on May 13, 2024. Total 96 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) will be going for polls in this phase of election. In West Bengal, voting will be done for eight PCs on that date. Total 14,53,00,17 electors will exercise their franchises in these eight constituencies in West Bengal on May 13, 2024. However, the number of male electors is maximum in Ranaghat (SC) Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number of male voters is 9,59,308. So far as the number of female electors is considered, it is maximum in Birbhum Parliamentary Constituency. Here, the number is 9,22,989. There are a total of 1,55,07 Polling stations in these eight Constituencies. The polling stations are maximum in Bardhaman-Durgapur Parliamentary Constituency. Here the number is 2039.



## As student protests shake US campuses, Biden mum

**The International Press :** What does Joe Biden have to say about the rowdy student protests against Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza that have rocked American college campuses in recent weeks? Almost nothing. The US president has so far avoided the contentious subject as it is likely to complicate his reelection campaign.

The 81-year-old Democrat, who will almost certainly face Republican Donald Trump in November's presidential election, has publicly addressed the demonstrations only once and briefly, even as students have clashed with police and several hundred people have been arrested at universities across the country. "I condemn the anti-Semitic protests. That's why I have set up a program to deal with that," Biden said last week in response to a journalist's question. "I also condemn those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians." Biden's reluctance to weigh in on the biggest and most prolonged unrest to rock US campuses since the Vietnam war protests of the 1960s and 70s has not gone unnoticed by Trump. "There's a big fever in our country, and he's not talking," the 77-year-old tycoon said Wednesday during a campaign rally. Trump urged college presidents to "remove the encampments immediately, vanquish

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the radicals and take back our campuses." As for the demonstrators at Columbia University, he called them "raging lunatics and Hamas sympathizers." **Balancing act** White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre on Wednesday condemned "a small percentage of students" who have been disruptive after a night of clashes and arrests on several campuses. "Students have the right to feel safe. They have the right to learn... to do this without disruption. And they have a right to feel safe on campus," Jean-Pierre told reporters, adding: "We are going to be really forceful here and continue to underscore how anti-Semitism is hateful speech." She also acknowledged the war in Gaza was "painful" and assured that Biden supported the right to peaceful protest. The balancing act is not easy for Biden. "The protests put Biden in a difficult spot because for his coalition of voters from 2020 he relied heavily on young people in addition to Muslims and Arab Americans," said Alex Keena, who teaches political science at Virginia Commonwealth University. James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, said the White House is "apparently convinced that they'll weather this storm and still defeat Donald Trump in November." He added: "This is a dangerous miscalculation." Since the start of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by the unprecedented attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, Biden has

faced criticism for his unconditional support for Israel. When Biden travels, he is often met by demonstrators chanting "Genocidal Joe" and demanding a ceasefire. A Harvard University poll published last month showed Biden was more popular with Americans under 30 than his rival, with 45 percent of respondents intending to vote for Biden and 37 percent for Trump. But the eight-point difference is much smaller compared to a similar poll four years ago, when Biden led by 23 points. **1968** Biden could still win back the hearts of some young voters, if a ceasefire agreement coupled with the release of hostages held in Gaza is reached between Hamas and Israel. "If there is a ceasefire, that would be huge," said Keena. "That would go a long way in maybe ending some of these protests or getting some stability back." Washington has been pushing for a ceasefire deal for weeks. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was in Israel Wednesday on his seventh Middle East crisis tour since the war broke out, said "Hamas needs to say 'yes' and needs to get this done." If the agreement falls through and campus unrest continues, that would cloud the Democratic National Convention in August in Chicago, where Biden will be officially nominated for president. In 1968, police clashes with demonstrators protesting against the Vietnam war marred the Democratic National Convention in Chicago after President Lyndon Johnson decided not to run for re-election. At the time, Biden, a law student and centrist, stayed away from the protests. In a book published in 2007, he describes seeing students occupying a building at his university and thinking "Look at these assholes."

## India and New Zealand to have deeper collaboration in Pharma, Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, among others



**The International Press :** A delegation led by the Commerce Secretary, Shri Sunil Barthal held a number of constructive and outcome-oriented meetings in New Zealand from 26-27 April 2024 to work on ways to deepen the existing bilateral relations. These meetings were held with the Minister for Trade of New Zealand Hon. Todd McClay, Acting Chief Executive and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Mr. Brook Barrington, the India-New Zealand Business Council (INZBC) and the 11th India - New Zealand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting. Both sides acknowledged the existing huge potential in both economies and mutual trade complementarities, there is a substantial potential to increase the trade and people to people contacts. These meetings had focused discussions on several key areas aimed at promoting bilateral trade and cooperation, marking a pivotal moment in strengthening economic ties and fostering collaboration between the two nations, building upon the existing close ties through people to people and business contacts. The meetings reviewed progress on market access issues, economic cooperation projects and explored opportunities for new initiatives. Both sides discussed the establishment of robust bilateral economic dialogue architecture and the creation of working groups on sectors like Agriculture; Food Processing, Storage & Transportation; Forestry and Pharmaceuticals to facilitate ongoing collaboration on key trade and economic issues. Notably, discussions also included the cooperation in horticulture sector, including cooperation in kiwi fruit sector (quality & productivity, proper storage in pack houses and their suitable transportation) as well as the dairy sector. Once working groups are established, India and New Zealand will review the progress made by those working groups and the recommendations thereof at regular intervals. The meetings addressed bilateral trade matters of mutual interest, including issues related to market access, non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures on products like grapes, okra and mangoes, Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in Organic products, simplified homologation including through mutual recognition of comparable domestic standards for vehicles, etc. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to resolve these issues through constructive dialogue and cooperation under the existing mechanism of JTC. Services sector and enhancing its scale for bilateral trade was given special focus during the discussions held at various levels which revealed great interest from both sides for increasing business to business as well as people to people contacts and to work on the skill gaps and how the same can be strengthened through capacity building and improving the ease of mobility. It touched upon areas such as hospitality sector including adventure tourism, nursing, tele-

medicine, education, air connectivity, Joint R&D (wherever feasible), startups, etc. Collaboration in area of pharmaceuticals and medical devices sector was discussed at length, including the adoption of fast tracking of regulatory process and quality assessment of manufacturing facilities using, as appropriate, the inspection reports of comparable overseas regulators. Greater sourcing of medicines from India and cooperation in medical device sector was also discussed. Both parties briefly explored opportunities for collaboration in digital trade, meeting Nationally Determined Contributions, cross border payment systems, among others. Discussions also encompassed co-operative engagement within platforms such as G20, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), and other plurilateral and multi-lateral associations and how to address imperative economic challenges and opportunities. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to uphold a rules-based international trading system. Overall, it was a common understanding that the existing co-operation can be taken forward with continuous dialogue. Hence, both the sides committed to hold regular meetings at all levels to sort out issues and work on collaborative and co-operative activities in existing as well as areas which remain unexplored.

## Modi urges BJP nominees to get more voters to polls following lower turnout



**The International Press :** A week before voting in the third phase of India's long-drawn parliamentary elections on May 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written letters to BJP candidates asking them to encourage more people to vote as he seeks a rare third tenure. As per the Election Commission's final voting figures released yesterday, the turnout in the first phase, covering 102 seats and the largest among all the seven phases, was 66.14 percent, and 66.71 percent in the second phase, in which 88 seats were at stake. Both figures are lower than the corresponding phases in the previous elections in 2019. The Election Commission and political parties are concerned that unseasonably "hot weather and weddings" in parts of the country has affected the turnout of voters in the first two phases of voting. Political observers say there is no single issue strong enough to hold sway among voters this time and the committed Hindu nationalist base of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may not be stepping out in bigger numbers due to complacency or overconfidence, resulting in lower turnouts. Apparently concerned over decreased voter turnout in the first two phases, Modi in his personalised letters to BJP nominees who are contesting in the third phase said this was not a "usual" election and that it was important for the future of the country and to rid people of the "pains" inflicted by decades of Congress rule. In the letter, Modi said he was aware of the problems caused by heat, but since this election was important for the future of the country, he urged voters to vote early in the morning before the temperature rises. The letter called for booth-level mobilisation of BJP workers because "to win a parliamentary seat, it is necessary that we should win every booth". The election campaign has shifted track and become more heated since the first phase of voting on April 19 as Modi and the main opposition Congress party have squared off on divisive issues with the Indian PM accusing Congress of favouring minority Muslims, aiming to dilute affirmative action and planning to impose an inheritance tax. Congress has denied the charges and said Modi fears losing and was using divisive language to distract voters from real issues such as unemployment, rising prices and rural distress.

## A lecture titled "Health and Sanitation: Both are linked together" held at the National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NISCP) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)



**The International Press :** Prof. Shridhar Dwivedi, Senior Consultant Cardiologist & Head of Academics at National Heart Institute delivered a lecture titled "Health and Sanitation: Both are linked together" at the National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NISCP) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi today during the Swachhata Pakhwada. The lecture was held on the second day of the 15 days programme of

Swachhata Pakhwada organized by CSIR-NISCP at the institute's Vivekananda Hall and drew attention to the intrinsic connection between cleanliness and overall well-being. In his address, Prof. Shridhar Dwivedi emphasized the importance of not only physical health but also mental and spiritual well-being. He pointed out that all religions encourage cleanliness and urged the audience to continue the healthy habits adopted during the COVID-19

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**Exhibition Showcasing Lithographs of Karl Erich Muller held at IGNCA**

The Conservation and Archives Division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) hosted an exhibition titled 'People and Places of India - A Retrospect' in celebration of International Labour Day. The exhibit will feature



**Hilsa (Tenulosailisha) Attains 689 g (43.6 cm) in Pond in 3 years - a Better Growth than in River**

Hilsa, the coveted fish of Southeast Asia has always attracted the attention of researchers for a long time which led to a recent sincere attempt to bring the fish into aquaculture through support from various research projects sponsored by two multi-



**Hilsa (Tenulosailisha) Attains 689 g (43.6 cm) in Pond in 3 years - a Better Growth than in River**



**The International Press :** Hilsa, the coveted fish of Southeast Asia has always attracted the attention of researchers for a long time which led to a recent sincere attempt to bring the fish into aquaculture through support from various research projects sponsored by two multi-Institutional projects under ICAR-NASF. Under the ICAR-NASF project phase II, Hilsa broodstock development was a major objective. In this direction, juveniles of Hilsa were reared in ponds at various locations like freshwater zone at Rahara (ICAR-CIFA), brackishwater zone at Kakdwip (ICAR-CIBA) and intermediate zone at Jamitya village in Kolaghat, Midnapur East, West Bengal (ICAR-CIFRI). The broodstock ponds are fed with water from River Rupnarayan, a tributary of river Ganga at Kolaghat. Good growth and survival was recorded at all the two pond culture facilities there. During recent monitoring, a fish of 689 g (43.6 cm) was recorded at Kolaghat, which is gained during rearing for three years. This attainment of size is the highest reported from any such attempt in India. The growth of pond reared Hilsa is better to that of the open water, revealing that there is a possibility of aquaculture of Hilsa. Fishes were fed with their preferred food of live zooplankton in addition to the specially designed feed. Water quality is almost freshwater with salinity of about 0.4-0.5 ppt and conductivity of about 800-1000 µS/cm. Water is alkaline (pH 7.4-7.5) with sufficient dissolved oxygen (7.4-7.5 mg/l). The success story highlights the prospects of successful captive Hilsa culture if ponds are properly managed.

**Editorial**

**Defence Secretary & Secretary General of MoD, Indonesia to co-chair 7th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in New Delhi**

The seventh Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Indonesia will be held in New Delhi on May 03, 2024. The meeting will be co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Indonesia Air Marshal (Retd.) Donny Ermawan Taufanto, MDS. Both sides will exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest. The India-Indonesia friendship, which was elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018, has widened the scope of bilateral relations to allow for new collaboration in the realm of defence industry, science and technology etc. The defence relations form a significant pillar to this growing partnership. Defence engagements between the two nations have diversified to include wide-ranging contacts between the services.

military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes, cooperation in UN Peace Keeping, ship visits and bilateral exercises. The defence cooperation agreement signed in 2001 between India and Indonesia stipulated the establishment of the JDCC to explore and identify potential areas of cooperation, matters of common interest, initiate, coordinate, monitor and control the approved cooperative activities. The Secretary General, who is on a visit to India from May 02-04, 2024, will also undertake discussions with Indian Defence Industries in New Delhi and Pune.



**Exhibition Showcasing Lithographs of Karl Erich Muller held at IGNCA**

**The International Press :** The Conservation and Archives Division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) hosted an exhibition titled 'People and Places of India - A Retrospect' in celebration of International Labour Day. The exhibit will feature Lithographs by Karl Erich Muller from the IGNCA Archives. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of IGNCA, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while Shri Dattatraya Apte, a distinguished lithography and printmaking artist, was the Guest of Honour. The inauguration of the exhibition was done by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi and Shri Dattatraya Apte, accompanied by the launch of a catalogue showcasing the works of Karl Erich Muller. In his address, Shri Dattatraya Apte expressed a profound sense of connection with Erich Muller through his artistic

creations. He elaborated on how Muller's lithographs serve as a reflection of his keen observations of people and their daily lives, offering a poignant glimpse into the society of his era. His work, serving as a mirror to the society of his times, holds archival value, encapsulating the essence of his era and offering a vivid representation of the spirits through his art. Influenced by socialism, Muller keenly witnessed and endured the challenges of his time, which he expertly depicted through his art. Shri Dattatraya Apte emphasized the artist's ability to translate personal experiences into powerful artistic expressions. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, in his address, expressed the uniqueness, rarity, and surreal essence of lithographs, emphasizing how they encapsulate the essence of ordinary lives. He reiterated that not all expressions

require abundant resources, showcasing how Karl Erich Muller communicates this profound teaching through his lithographs. Dr. Joshi accentuated the significance of IGNCA as a repository of cultural artefacts, emphasizing the importance of curating it with the meticulousness evident in this exhibition. He commended the Conservation and Archives team for their efforts in curating such a relevant exhibition and encouraged everyone to spread awareness about it through social media. Dr. Joshi concluded by stressing the need for further endeavours in this realm, fostering a culture of inspiration for people of all ages, especially the youth. Among the notable attendees were Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Dean (Administration) and Head of the Kalandi Division, Varun Jain, Trustee of the Sanskriti Foundation, and Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha,

Archivist at IGNCA. Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur extended warm greetings on the occasion of International Labour Day, commending the team of the Conservation and Archives Division for organizing such an insightful exhibition. He highlighted the immense value of IGNCA's cultural archives, boasting over 45 collections dedicated to art and culture. Prof. Gaur emphasized that exhibitions like this serve as a remarkable effort to make IGNCA's archives accessible to the public. Speaking about Karl Erich Muller's works, he asserted their role as a historical narrative of his era, presenting an unaltered portrayal of reality that contrasts with potentially biased historical accounts. Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha introduced the exhibition, marking the International Labour Day with the Conservation and Archives Division. He informed the display of 20 original lithographs by Karl Erich Muller are categorized into themes such as tourist perspectives, temples and heritage, portraiture, and village festivals. He further said that Karl Erich Müller, a prominent German artist associated with the Halle School and known for his 'Socialist Realism' style globally, had a profound connection with India, influenced by the Bengal school and Santiniketan. He also noted Erich Muller's interactions with Indian artists such as K. K. Hebbar and Lalita Lajmi, collaborating with them to create portraits. Subsequently, his book 'Mein Indien' showcased thirty-one lithographs. Müller's works depict various aspects of everyday life in the 1970s, including laborers, transport workers, factory workers, and fishermen in their natural environments. These works are housed in IGNCA, NGMA, and Bharat Kala Bhawan. He is other key agendas of the mela. The visitors will also be entertained by musical programmes by Radio Mirchi daily 6.00 P.M onwards. Further, a lucky draw for all the visitors and buyers has been arranged with a chance of winning exciting prizes. We hope that the mela will lead to onboarding of FPO/OFFPO products on the ONDC network.

**News Continue**

Contd. from P/1  
A lecture titled "Health and Sanitation: Both are linked together" held at the National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) pandemic. Prof. Dwivedi's message resonated with the attendees, highlighting the need for a holistic approach to health that includes proper sanitation practices and a balanced lifestyle. The Director of CSIR-NIScPR, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal reiterated the institute's commitment to making cleanliness a mission, aiming to rectify and enhance India's image as a clean nation. The Swachhata Pakhwada initiative is a testament to this commitment, fostering awareness and action towards a healthier and cleaner India. The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) is a constituent laboratory under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. It is dedicated to science communication, evidence-based science technology and innovation policy research, and the promotion of scientific awareness among the public.

**ESPLANADE METRO SUBWAY ADDS A NEW BLUE LINE TO GREEN LINE ENTRY GATE**



**Kolkata, April 2, 2024 : The International Press :** Metro Railway has started commercial services on Howrah Maidan to Esplanade Green Line-2 Corridor from March 15, 2024. From the very first day, this corridor has become one of the most sought after corridors of Kolkata Metro as it has been

enabling commuters coming from distant places like Howrah, Hooghly, Midnapore to avail Metro services at Howrah station. At Esplanade, passengers can easily switch from Green Line Corridor to Blue Line Corridor and travel up to either Dakshineswar or Kavi Subhash using the integrated tickets.

For the benefit of the commuters, who switch from Blue Line to Green Line, Metro Railway authorities have opened a new entry gate for Green Line from Blue Line in the underground subway connecting these two corridors. This new entry gate opened in this subway is 12 feet wide which will streamline commuters' movement especially in peak hours. The existing 9-foot wide passage which used to be bifurcated with queue managers so far for switching of inward and outward passengers of both the corridors, is now being used only for

inward movement of passengers from Green Line to Blue Line. Esplanade Metro station which is the meeting point of Blue Line and Green Line has seen a sharp increase in passenger count after opening of the Green Line-2. For ensuring free and smooth movements of commuters, the Metro authorities have put up stickers, banners and posters indicating the way commuters should follow to reach their destinations or platforms. Metro staff have also been helping them so that they can reach their destinations without any trouble.

**NADA India organizes #PlayTrue Campaign to create awareness about clean sports**

**The International Press :** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), India concluded #PlayTrue Campaign, with turnout of more than 12,133 participants. The campaign commemorated WADA's Play True Day and aimed at fostering awareness about the importance of clean sport and anti-doping practices in India, received overwhelming participation and support from athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts nationwide. The #PlayTrue Campaign highlights NADA India's commitment to equipping athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community with a thorough understanding of anti-doping regulations, empowering them to champion clean play in India. The campaign was held from 15th to 30th April, 2024. Aligned with the vision of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the #PlayTrue Campaign strives to instill integrity in sports by advocating for fair play, rejecting doping, and promoting the spirit of fair competition. Through its interactive activities including the #PlayTrue Quiz, I'm a #PlayTrue Ambassador, #PlayTrue Pledge, and Mascot Drawing Competition,

NADA India engaged participants thereby fostering a culture of clean and ethical competition. The campaign featured insightful awareness sessions covering all aspects of anti-doping regulations. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the consequences of doping in sports, understand supplements, and the role of law enforcement in anti-doping. In an endeavor to reach every segment of India's sports community, the sessions were tailored for athlete support personnel, medical practitioners, educators, legal persons and nutritional supplement manufacturers, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the sports ecosystem. The campaign served as a crucial event for athletes and stakeholders to collaborate, exchange insights, and strategies towards establishing a resilient anti-doping framework in anticipation of the Paris 2024 Olympics. India's unwavering commitment to advocating for fair play, integrity, and upholding the principles of clean sports on the global stage was prominently showcased throughout the event.

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**ঠাকুর শ্রীসমীরেশ্বরের আরাধ্যা দেবী বিশ্বমাতা দক্ষিণা কালীর বিশ্বমাতা মন্দির তৈরি হচ্ছে**

**ঠাকুর শ্রীশ্রী সমীর ব্রহ্মচারী বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ**

১৯৯ বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ রোড, তালপুকুর, ১৮ নং ওয়ার্ড নিউ ব্যারাকপুর, কলকাতা-৭০০ ১৩১১

মেঘত হলে ট্রেনে বিশ্বমাতা, বাসে মাইকেননগর নামুন।

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**যোগাযোগ নম্বর : ৯৫৬৪৩৮২০৩১**

**Above 7000 Yoga enthusiasts practised Common Yoga Protocol in unison at Police Parade Ground, Surat, Gujarat**



**The International Press** : Surat was infused with the bliss of Yoga during the 'Yoga Mahotsav,' a grand celebration leading up to the International Day of Yoga-2024. Held at the Police Parade Ground in Athwalines, this event, drew a massive crowd. Above seven thousands of eager participants came together for this gala affair, immersing themselves in the practice of the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) from 7.00 AM on May 02, 2024. Their overwhelming enthusiasm and active engagement highlighted the increasing significance of Yoga in fostering both personal and societal well-being. The event was graced by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush along with Shri Satyajit Paul, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Ayush; Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey, Director of the Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi and Inter-University Centre for Yogic Sciences, Bengaluru; and Vaidya Dr. Kashinath Samagandi, Director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), began the event with a warm welcome address, extending his gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions to the program's success. He underscored the role of Yoga Mahotsav as a crucial stepping stone towards the International Day of Yoga 2024 (IDY-2024), emphasizing its significance in promoting the universal practice of Yoga. The 10th edition of the International Day of Yoga celebrations represents a significant milestone in the journey of this global movement promoting health and well-being. A live demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol unfolded, showcasing the expertise of the practitioners from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, led by the Director of the institute. Over 7000 Yoga enthusiasts actively participated in the demonstration, collectively engaging in the prescribed Yoga practices outlined in the Common Yoga Protocol. The event was enriched by the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Ayush, Gujarat Yog Board, representatives from the state government, and numerous other distinguished dignitaries and experts. Additionally, the gathering was enhanced by messages from revered Yoga masters and gurus, further illuminating the significance of the occasion. Their collective involvement and guidance added depth to the event, emphasizing the importance of Yoga in promoting personal and societal well-being. The Ministry of Ayush, in conjunction with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, is orchestrating a series of Mass Yoga Demonstrations and sessions as part of the '100 Days, 100 Cities, and 100 Organizations' campaign- an event to commemorate to IDY-2024. This initiative operates in collaboration with a wide array of stakeholders including schools, universities, institutes, colleges, corporate bodies, as well as all states and union territories.

societies. Since its inception, International Yoga Day has been celebrated worldwide with various events, seminars, workshops, and demonstrations aimed at highlighting the profound impact of Yoga on individuals and communities. He also stated that Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of yoga in our country by producing thousands of skilled yoga masters. Dr. Kashinath Samagandi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), began the event with a warm welcome address, extending his gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions to the program's success. He underscored the role of Yoga Mahotsav as a crucial stepping stone towards the International Day of Yoga 2024 (IDY-2024), emphasizing its significance in promoting the universal practice of Yoga. The 10th edition of the International Day of Yoga celebrations represents a significant milestone in the journey of this global movement promoting health and well-being. A live demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol unfolded, showcasing the expertise of the practitioners from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, led by the Director of the institute. Over 7000 Yoga enthusiasts actively participated in the demonstration, collectively engaging in the prescribed Yoga practices outlined in the Common Yoga Protocol. The event was enriched by the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Ayush, Gujarat Yog Board, representatives from the state government, and numerous other distinguished dignitaries and experts. Additionally, the gathering was enhanced by messages from revered Yoga masters and gurus, further illuminating the significance of the occasion. Their collective involvement and guidance added depth to the event, emphasizing the importance of Yoga in promoting personal and societal well-being. The Ministry of Ayush, in conjunction with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, is orchestrating a series of Mass Yoga Demonstrations and sessions as part of the '100 Days, 100 Cities, and 100 Organizations' campaign- an event to commemorate to IDY-2024. This initiative operates in collaboration with a wide array of stakeholders including schools, universities, institutes, colleges, corporate bodies, as well as all states and union territories.

**Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions to Participate in CPD57 Side Event "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" on 3rd May 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York**



**The International Press** : The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is organizing the side event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" on 3rd May 2024 during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57), taking place from the 29th of April until the 3rd of May 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Smt. Supriya Das Datta, Sabhadhipati, Sepahijala Zilla Parishad, Tripura, Smt. Kunuku Hema Kumari, Sarpanch, Peku Gram Panchayat, Andhra Pradesh and Smt. Neeru Yadav, Sarpanch, Lambi Aheer Gram Panchayat, Rajasthan are attending the event to represent the Elected Women Representatives from the rural local self-government in India and the delegation is led by Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI. Scheduled for 3rd May 2024, the side event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" will shed light on the key role of Indian women in grassroots political leadership, emphasizing their significant contributions to sustainable development at the grassroots level. This momentous occasion will be livestreamed from the United Nations Headquarters on the social media pages of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI, commencing at 10.45 PM (IST) on 3rd May, 2024 (Friday), facilitating a global audience to witness this inspiring display of women's leadership in local governance. The event will feature a panel discussion with three distinguished Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), who will share their invaluable experiences, insights, and perspectives on local self-governance as well as their impactful journey. Smt. Supriya Das Datta, Sabhadhipati, Sepahijala Zilla Parishad, Tripura will share insights on the women's leadership role in the Panchayats in enabling inclusive development. Smt. Kunuku Hema Kumari, Sarpanch, Peku Gram Panchayat, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh will highlight the Panchayats' role in driving key social sector programmes. Smt. Neeru Yadav, Sarpanch, Lambi Aheer Gram Panchayat, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan will share her experience in promoting women and girl-friendly Panchayats. The CPD57 side-event will also see the presence of Mr. Pio Smith, the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Director, Ms. Andrea M. Wignar, the UNFPA India Representative and Shri Alka Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, MoPR, who will share their insightful remarks and recognize these leading EWRs for their game-changing efforts and instrumental role as torchbearers in driving forward the Sustainable Development Goals. Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) have been instrumental in driving positive change at the grassroots level in India. India stands at the forefront globally, with 1.4 million women serving as elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions / Rural Local Bodies, constituting 46% of the total elected representatives of PRIs. The CPD57 side event on 3rd May, 2024 aims to highlight India's trailblazing model of empowering EWRs in Panchayati Raj Institutions to spearhead the localization of the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). It showcases how EWRs play catalytic roles in championing gender equality, poverty alleviation, and inclusive development at the grassroots. India's remarkable success stories, where EWRs have driven positive and impactful change through community leadership and engagement, advancing SDG localization, will be highlighted. The event illustrates the scalability and replicability of India's transformative approach in empowering EWRs as agents of change to steer local development aligned with the SDGs. Moreover, it advocates for greater global recognition and support for India's pioneering model as a best practice in promoting women's meaningful participation and leadership towards achieving the SDGs at the grassroots level. This groundbreaking event emphasizes India's commitment to empowering women in local governance as torchbearers of sustainable development. During its G20 Presidency, India reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality and women-led development by establishing the Working Group on Women's Empowerment. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken a proactive leadership role in localizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in rural India, with women spearheading local self-governance initiatives. Embracing a thematic approach, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has endeavored to localize the SDGs through Panchayati Raj Institutions, consolidating the 17 SDGs into nine overarching themes. Notably, Theme 9: Women-Friendly Panchayat underlines the pivotal objective of safeguarding and promoting the interests of women, while ensuring their survival, protection, development, and participation rights at the grassroots level. In order to empower women to assume leadership roles effectively, various initiatives have been launched, including providing quality training. Beginning this year, an innovative and first-of-its-kind initiative - Leadership and Management Development Programme - has been undertaken to conduct training programs for elected representatives and functionaries of PRIs in premier management institutes such as IIM Ahmedabad. The CPD57 side event showcases how EWRs like Smt. Supriya Das Datta, who received training in the first batch of MoPR's Leadership and Management Development Programme at IIM Ahmedabad, play catalytic roles in championing gender equality, poverty alleviation, and inclusive

development at the grassroots. Brief Profile of Three EWRs attending CPD57 side-event at the UN Headquarters Smt. Supriya Das Datta, Sabhadhipati, Sepahijala Zilla Parishad, Tripura has promoted women's involvement in public decision-making processes. She initiated discussion platforms for women in the District to voice concerns and views on village development issues before District Panchayat officials. She has been active in promoting child-care facilities to create a conducive work environment for women. She firmly believes in addressing deep-rooted social norms to achieve gender equality and has actively worked towards this goal in her public role. Smt. Supriya Das Datta holds a Diploma in Pharmacy. Smt. Kunuku Hema Kumari, Sarpanch, Peku Gram Panchayat, Block: Iravaram, District: West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh has dedicated herself to raising awareness about government schemes and programs within the community. She has focused on ensuring the effective delivery of public services to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Smt. K. Hema Kumari has organized regular medical camps in her village, ensuring that medical services reached even the most remote areas. She has successfully established linkages between frontline health workers and women and girls in need of health services through her public outreach efforts. She holds a Master's Degree in Technology and previously served as a faculty member for Electronics and e-Communication in an Engineering College. Smt. Neeru Yadav, Sarpanch, Lambi Aheer Gram Panchayat, Tehsil: Butana, District: Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan has led initiatives to combat gender stereotypes and empower women. She prioritized girls' education, leading community efforts to reduce school dropout rates among girls. She has been acknowledged by the Government of Rajasthan for outstanding contributions to education. She initiated girls' engagement in sports, particularly hockey, and challenging regressive gender norms and earning the title "Hockey Wali Sarpanch". Smt. Neeru Yadav spearheaded campaigns to reduce plastic usage and organized large-scale plantation drives for environmental preservation. She launched an innovative initiative to promote environmental conservation by presenting trees as part of Kanyadaan during marriages and initiated the campaign "My Tree-My Friend". She holds a Master's Degree in Mathematics and Education and is currently pursuing her Ph.D.

**CINEMA**

**Vidya Balan Was Addicted To Cigarettes? Actress REVEALS She Used To Finish 2-3 Smokes Per Day - Read To Know BELOW**

**The International Press** : Vidya Balan, an enigma in the realm of Bollywood, captures hearts effortlessly with her mesmerizing presence. Renowned for her unparalleled acting prowess, she continually raises the bar with each cinematic endeavor. But her allure extends beyond her talent; it's in the effortless grace of her appearance and her impeccable fashion choices that make her fans skip a heartbeat. In a candid conversation on the YouTube talk show, Unfiltered with Samdish, Vidya reminisced about her experience filming "The Dirty Picture." She confessed to having dabbled in smoking before, but never as a habit. However, to embody her character authentically, she had

to embrace the habit temporarily. Despite her initial hesitation, she delved into the role, recognizing the societal perceptions surrounding female smokers. It was a role that pushed her boundaries, both as an artist and as an individual. Yet, Vidya's relationship with smoking transcends mere performance. She confessed to enjoying it, albeit with awareness of its harmful effects. Reflecting on her college days, she revealed a penchant for the scent of smoke, a detail that adds layers to her complex persona. However, it was during the filming of "The Dirty Picture" that she found herself ensnared by its allure, succumbing to the habit of consuming 2-3 cigarettes daily.

Beyond her cinematic exploits, Vidya confronts the industry's narrow beauty standards head-on. She bemoans the pressure to conform to a certain body type, recounting instances where directors urged her to shed weight for roles. Given her history of health struggles, such demands were not only impractical but also irresponsible. Vidya challenges the notion of sacrificing one's well-being for the sake of a film, denouncing it as absurd. In essence, Vidya Balan emerges not only as a formidable talent but also as a voice of reason in an industry plagued by superficiality. Her journey embodies resilience, authenticity, and an unwavering commitment to her craft.



**Pooja Bhatt Calls Deepak Tijori's Directorial Comeback 'Tippsy' 'Ironic', Says 'He Is A Man Who Has Never Touched Alcohol'**

**The International Press** : Actor Deepak Tijori is gearing up for his directorial comeback with the much-anticipated film "Tippsy," a narrative revolving around the transformative journey of five girls during a bachelorette escapade in Goa. The trailer unveiling event in Mumbai witnessed the presence of Tijori's close confidants, Pooja Bhatt and Mahesh Bhatt, who expressed their optimism about the film's success. Mahesh Bhatt hailed the film's contemporary relevance, emphasizing its alignment with the pulse of the current generation. He commended Tijori's storytelling prowess and anticipated the audience's appreciation for his distinct narrative style. In a rapidly evolving landscape, characterized by fleeting attention spans, Mahesh underscored the importance of capturing viewers' interest from the outset, a feat he believed "Tippsy" achieved effortlessly. Pooja Bhatt, while acknowledging the irony of Tijori helming a film centered on inebriated characters despite his abstinence from alcohol, lauded his commitment to authenticity. Reflecting on their enduring friendship spanning three decades, she celebrated Tijori's unwavering support during her own tumultuous phases, emphasizing the rarity of genuine connections in an era dominated by superficiality. Tijori, in turn, expressed gratitude towards his lead actresses for their dedication in portraying characters

divergent from their real personas. He credited their transformative performances for bolstering his confidence in the project, despite initial apprehensions. Moreover, he credited Mahesh Bhatt for his mentorship, recalling a poignant moment where he resonated deeply with him, reaffirming his artistic journey. At 62, Tijori emphasized the

importance of age-appropriate roles, drawing parallels with industry stalwarts like Robert De Niro and Al Pacino. He advocated for a shift towards roles that resonate with an actor's age and life experiences, eschewing outdated tropes perpetuated by mainstream cinema. In conclusion, Tijori extended an

invitation to audiences to experience the riveting narrative of "Tippsy" firsthand, assuring them of a cinematic experience brimming with suspense and intrigue. With a cast and crew driven by passion and authenticity, the film promises to resonate with audiences seeking immersive storytelling and compelling performances.

**Manisha admits she rejected film with Madhuri Dixit because of 'insecurity'**



**The International Press** : Manisha Koirala is geared up for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's period drama series Heeramandi. The actor plays the protagonist in the series set in the 1940s pre-Independence India. Manisha, in an interview with India Today, opened up on one of her biggest regrets when she rejected a Yash Chopra's film. The Heeramandi actor, during her interaction with the portal, admitted that she turned down the legendary filmmaker as the film he offered her also featured Madhuri Dixit. Manisha said, "One of the regrets that I have in my career is that I didn't do Yash Chopra's film. I was pitted against Madhuri ji (Dixit), and I got scared. I backed out of that project." However, years later, Manisha worked with Madhuri in Raj Kumar Santoshi's Lajja. She pointed out, "Madhuri ji is such a good person and actress. There

was no need for me to be insecure. I think when you have a strong actor in front of you, you only perform better. They encourage you to perform better. That comes from age and experience. I loved working with Madhuri ji in that (movie). I loved working with Rekha ji as well." For the unversed, Yash Chopra's Dil To Pagal Hai was offered to many Bollywood actors of the 90s. However, Karishma Kapoor ended up portraying the character of Nisha. Her musical face-off with Madhuri titled The Dance of Envy became popular among fans. Before Karishma, Urmila Matondkar, Kajol, Raveena Tandon and Juhi Chawla also backed out of the project. Manisha portrays the role of a courtesan Mallikajaan based in the red-light district of Heera Mandi in Lahore. The series depicting the 1940s showcases pre-partition India. The upcoming magnum opus narrates the relationship of courtesans with the Nawabs (governors during the Mughal empire) and the British officers. Heeramandi also features Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh and Sharmin Segal.

**Manisha admits she rejected film with Madhuri Dixit because of 'insecurity'**

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**স্বল্প খরচে বেড়াতে যাওয়ার বিস্তৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান**

**খাকা খাওয়ার সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে**

**স্বল্প খরচে ছোট ছোট টুরের জন্য যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন**

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## Nadal gives a tennis masterclass to teen Blanch

Rafael Nadal thrashed 16-year-old wild card Darwin Blanch 6-1 6-0 in the first round of the Madrid Open on Thursday and will face Australian 10th seed Alex de Minaur next. The 22-time Grand Slam champion broke



## Waqar Younis names his Pakistan's T20 World Cup squad

Waqar Younis named his Pakistan's squad for the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup which will be played in the West Indies and the United States from June 1. Younis, who represented the Green Shirts in 349



## T20 World Cup 2024: No Hardik, Sanju In - Harbhajan Singh picks India Squad for World Cup

**The International Press :** Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh has picked his 15-man India squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in West Indies and USA. With the BCCI squad announcement nearing, the tension and permutations are building up and former India players have started to put forward their predicted squad for the World Cup. T20 World Cup 2024 India Probable Squad India will eye to clinch their 2nd T20 World Cup title, especially after their World Cup 2023 heartbreak. Rohit Sharma is set to lead the Indian team and the selectors and the team management will have to find the perfect balance in the squad. Harbhajan has decided to axe MI captain Hardik Pandya and RCB pacer Mohammed Siraj from his team. The off-spinner has



T20 World Cup 2024: Harbhajan Singh's India Squad

chosen Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav as the frontline spinners along with Ravindra Jadeja. In the pace department, he has opted for Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and LSG sensation Mayank Yadav. Along with them, MI star Jasprit Bumrah is set to spearhead the pace attack. Harbhajan has picked both Rishabh

Pant and Sanju Samson in the India squad as KL Rahul misses out, while Shivam Dube is also included. In terms of Rohit's opening partner, Yashasvi Jaiswal has got the nod ahead of Shubman Gill. Although Suryakumar Yadav hasn't been in the best of forms, the former India player tips SKY to be in the squad. Rinku Singh

also makes to Harbhajan's squad and will be hoping to play as a finisher for India. India was eliminated from the semifinal of the T20 World Cup last time and will be desperate to win it this time around. India is slotted in Group A along with arch-rivals Pakistan, Ireland, USA and Canada. T20 World Cup

2024: Harbhajan Singh's India Probable Squad Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Jasprit Bumrah, Mayank Yadav

## Nadal gives a tennis masterclass to teen Blanch



**The International Press :** Rafael Nadal thrashed 16-year-old wild card Darwin Blanch 6-1 6-0 in the first round of the Madrid Open on Thursday and will face Australian 10th seed Alex de Minaur next. The 22-time Grand Slam champion broke the American at the first opportunity in the second game before grabbing the first set in just 28 minutes. Nadal, who last claimed the title on Madrid's clay in 2017, broke again to take the lead in the second set and kept up the pace, giving a tennis masterclass to Blanch who is still seeking his first tour win. The age gap between the pair was 21 years and 117 days, the biggest between two opponents at ATP Masters 1000 level. The American teen committed 27 unforced errors in what was his second ATP tour match after he had made his debut last month in Miami.

"I think today I played against someone with a great future in front of him," Nadal said. "(But) Today he was making mistakes. "I tried to be there and be solid all the time without taking a lot of risks. I'm happy to be through and I wish him all the very best. "For me after how things developed the last few years, every time I have a chance to be on court on this amazing stadium with unconditional support means a lot to me. Trying to enjoy every moment." The win was Nadal's record-extending 57th victory in Madrid, a tournament that he has won five times. He will play world number 11 De Minaur in the second round on Saturday. The Australian defeated Nadal 7-5 6-1 in the second round of the Barcelona Open last week when the Spaniard was playing his first tournament since January.

## Waqar Younis names his Pakistan's T20 World Cup squad



**The International Press :** Waqar Younis named his Pakistan's squad for the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup which will be played in the West Indies and the United States from June 1. Younis, who represented the Green Shirts in 349 international matches, weighed in on who Pakistan should take to the mega event as they would be playing to claim their T20 World Cup. Currently doing commentary in the five-match T20I series between Pakistan and New Zealand, Younis was asked which players he would choose for the World Cup. "This is what I feel, if they are all fit, I think this is my squad with Babar Azam, Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman, three openers. Then you got [Mohammad] Rizwan, Usman Khan, I think he needs to go to the World Cup," he said. "And then, of course, you have Azam Khan, if you're going to have two wicketkeepers then he should be in the side as he is another match-winner. Iftikhar [Ahmed]. "Shadab [Khan] definitely comes in the side automatically, Imad Wasim and Abrar [Ahmed], I feel that you'd be needing a mystery spinner, that is why I have gone with him, then Usama Mir, I think Pakistan might need another spinner there in the West Indies and United States. And then the four spinners, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir and Haris Rauf, if he is fit," he concluded. Waqar Younis' Pakistan's squad for World Cup Babar Azam (c), Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Usman Khan, Azam Khan (wk), Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Imad Wasim, Abrar Ahmed, Usama Mir, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir, Haris Rauf. Remember, Pakistan is in Group A with arch-rivals India and the two sides will take on one another in one of the most anticipated matches of the World Cup on June 9 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York. Groups for T20 World Cup 2024 Group A: India, Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, United States Group B: England, Australia, Namibia, Scotland, Oman Group C: New Zealand, West Indies, Afghanistan, Uganda, Papua New Guinea Group D: South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Nepal

## Indonesia one step from Olympics after beating S. Korea



**The International Press :** Indonesians celebrated Friday after their spirited men's team beat South Korea in the Under-23 Asian Cup quarter-finals in a dramatic penalty shootout, leaving them one step from qualifying for the Olympics for only the second time in history. They defeated their Asian rivals 11-10 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Doha on Thursday night. The top three teams will qualify for this summer's Olympic Games in Paris while the fourth place side will face an Asian-African playoff with Guinea in May. "Praise God, semifinal! An incredible win against South Korea, the Asian Giant," wrote Indonesian football association president Erick Thohir on Instagram. "Playing with bravery, discipline in defence,

and effectiveness in the frontline made the Red and White's hope for the Olympics wide open. Proud!" Rafael Struick, winger for Dutch club ADO Den Haag, scored twice for Indonesia who were pegged back twice by a Komang Teguh own goal and a Jeong Sang-bin strike. South Korea, one of the favourites to win the tournament, went down to 10 men in the 70th minute but held on for penalties. Indonesia's Pratama Arhan scored the decisive penalty after Lee Kang-hee's spot-kick was saved. South Korea's loss leaves them without an Olympic spot for the first time since the 1980s. Remarkably a South Korean coach, Shin Tae-yong, led Indonesia to victory to prevent his home country from qualifying. His name

was trending on social media site X early Friday. Now Indonesians can get excited by their overwhelming chances to reach the global showcase of athletics after being knocked out by the Soviet Union at the 1956 Games in Australia. "(It was) more than my expectation. I lost my words," Indonesian football commentator Mohamad Kusnaeni told AFP. "But, as we already know before, anything can happen. Our team had only small experience at this level. But they fought so hard, gave their best." Japan beat Qatar in extra-time 4-2 on Thursday night to end the host's chances, while reigning champions Saudi Arabia play Uzbekistan and Iraq face Vietnam on Friday in the other quarter-finals.

## Iconic shared Olympic gold moment will not be repeated, says Barshim



**The International Press :** Two athletes sharing Olympic gold in a near-empty stadium in Tokyo caught the imagination of an expectant audience across the world, which was at the time ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mutaz Ezza Barshim embraced his old friend Gianmarco Tamberi at the end of the men's high jump as the judges confirmed the double gold for the Qatari and the Italian who have known each other for years dating back to competing as youths. "To be honest, it will never happen again," Barshim told AFP in an interview. "That moment, we'll never share that again. It was a one-time thing. Coming back from injuries and a dark place, I wanted to do something different, something with a different meaning. "I'm glad it touched so many people's hearts, but we are sportspeople, we are professionals, we always want to be the best, we have that fire. I want to beat you, you want to beat

me." Barshim said he felt "lucky" to have shared the gold with Tamberi. "We've been competing since 2010 and came to pro level together," he explained. "As professional athletes we deal with a lot. There's one thing which is the biggest thing and that is injury. In 2018, I injured my left Achilles, broke both my ligaments and it was a very dark time for me, mentally and physically. "One second you are the best and a few moments later you're on a wheelchair and they're dragging you out of the surgery room. "Gianmarco, my friend, had a similar injury in 2016 just before the Rio Olympics which prevented him from being there. "When the bar was 2.37 metres in Tokyo and me and him cleared at the first attempt, we looked back and there was no one left, it was emotional. So it was a tie. "I asked 'can we share?'. The reply was 'yeah it's

possible' and that was it! We didn't even discuss things. I looked at Gianmarco's eyes, he looked at me, we jumped, we hugged and the rest is history, that's one of the moments that will stick forever." Barshim joked that World Athletics plans to award every event winner prize money of \$50,000 (46,000 euros) would also guarantee no further shared gold. "It's not happening, 50 or 500, no sharing!" said the 32-year-old, who also has three world outdoor titles to his name. "Anything offered in terms of a prize is good for the athletes, it's motivation. These athletes work really hard and sacrifice and this sort of prize is very important. "Prize money in athletics doesn't compare to football or basketball, for example. "It's a good start, you have to start somewhere." Barshim kicked off his outdoor season with second place at the Xiamen Diamond League

meeting last week and will stay in China for the Suzhou of the elite one-day circuit on Saturday before returning home to Doha for the next instalment there on May 10. "After I'll take some time off and hopefully peak at the Olympic Games," Barshim said, adding that he was looking forward to the return of fans to the quadrennial showpiece of sports after the Covid-blighted Tokyo Games. "In terms of having the Olympics with fans back again, it's amazing. I love adrenaline, when the crowd is back, the sound of clapping or shouting, it's like a battle feeling," he said. "We didn't have that in Tokyo because of Covid but somehow we felt so ready because it was already postponed for one year. There was a lot of circling, but when it finally happened we were like kids going to Disneyland. We didn't need fans to feel the hype."