

## Vice-President condoles the demise of Dr. Kamla Beniwal



**The International Press :** The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, has expressed condolences on the passing of Dr. Kamla Beniwal, former Governor of Tripura, Gujarat, and Mizoram, and the former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan. In a post on X, the Vice President reflected on Dr. Kamla Beniwal's remarkable legacy as an astute

administrator and an epitome of women's empowerment. "Her simplicity coupled with firmness earned her many admirers," he noted. Recalling his long association with Dr. Kamla Beniwal spanning over five decades, VP described her passing as a personal loss and extended his heartfelt condolences to Dr. Kamla Beniwal's family, friends, and admirers.



## Modi denies adopting polarisation tactics to win polls

**The International Press :** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rejected the allegation that he has adopted a tactics of polarisation to win the ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024.

**Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rejected the allegation that he has adopted a tactics of polarisation to win the ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024.**

"The day I start talking about Hindu-Muslim [religion-based politics], that day I will lose my credibility to lead a public life," Modi said in an interview with CNN-News18 channel. Modi posted clips of the interview on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday on the day he filed his nomination papers, seeking a third consecutive Lok Sabha term from Varanasi, our New Delhi correspondent reports. Modi also clarified his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks made at a rally in Banswara, Rajasthan, on April 21 saying he did not only talk about Muslims but also spoke about every poor family. "I am shocked. Who told you that whenever one talks of people with more children, they are indicating Muslims? Why are you so

unjust towards Muslims? This is the situation in poor families too. Where there is poverty, there are more children, irrespective of other factors. I didn't mention either Hindu or Muslim. I have said that one should have as many children as you can take care of. Don't let a situation arise where the government has to take care of your children," Modi was quoted by the channel as saying. Opposition Congress has moved the Election Commission of India alleging Modi had made "deeply objectionable" comments about Muslims in the Banswara rally violating the model code of conduct. Modi's critics often accuse him and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that he leads of targeting Muslims, which he and the party deny. Hindus constitute nearly about 80 percent of India's 1.4 billion people, but it also has the world's third largest Muslim population of about 200 million.

## India Lok Sabha polls: Modi files nomination from Varanasi



**The International Press :** India's foreign minister has said his company will work to communicate the benefits of a strategic port project in Iran after the United States said Indian firms working on the project risked sanctions. Iran and India this week signed a contract to develop and equip the long-stalled Chabahar port in an agreement that would give New Delhi 10 years of access to the facility, at a time when its government is seeking to grow trade in west and central Asia. Washington has warm ties with India but a longstanding adversarial relationship with Iran, soured further by Tehran's support for Hamas in its war with Israel. "It's a question of communicating and convincing people to understand that this is actually for everybody's benefit," Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar said at a public event in the city of Kolkata on Tuesday evening. "If you look at the US's own attitude to Chabahar in the past, the US has been appreciative of the fact that Chabahar has a larger relevance," he added. The United States had begrudgingly accepted the port project while the US military was in Afghanistan, as it saw New Delhi as a valuable partner to back the Kabul government that fell in 2021. But the State Department on Monday warned that Indian companies working on the project risked US sanctions. "Any entity -- anyone - - concerned with business deals with Iran, they need to be aware of the potential risks that they're opening themselves

up to," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told a press briefing then. The deal signed this week will see India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) invest \$370 million into "providing strategic equipment" and "developing the transport infrastructure of the port" over the coming decade. India in 2016 agreed to finance the development of the Iranian port as a trading hub for central Asia. In 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, both countries agreed to speed up the project after a visit by Jaishankar to Tehran. Chabahar port is on the Indian Ocean about 100 kilometres (62 miles) west of the Pakistani border. Pakistan, India's historic rival, is developing its Gwadar port with the support of China.

## Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare organises 'Samadhan Campaign' at Bengdubi, Darjeeling



**The International Press :** The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare organised 'Samadhan Campaign', its outreach programme at Bengdubi Army Camp, in Darjeeling, West Bengal. Interacting with the veterans during the Campaign, Secretary (Ex-servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra reaffirmed the government's commitment to further strengthen the welfare measures for them. Seeking feedback and insights into the challenges veterans come across while availing various welfare schemes of the Department, Dr. Niten Chandra directed Rajya & Zila Sainik Boards, ECHS and other agencies under the department to set-up proactive communication and collaboration mechanism in finding solutions to the problems of ex-servicemen. He reiterated the government's unwavering support for the veteran community. The 'Samadhan Campaign' is an initiative by the Department to honor the sacrifices made by ex-servicemen and their families, by proactively engaging with them and addressing their grievances related to the department's various welfare schemes. Through proactive engagement and meaningful dialogue, the campaign seeks to create a conducive environment for ex-servicemen to thrive and contribute to society positively. During the campaign, DG Resettlement Maj Gen SBK Singh explained about various programmes available for the resettlement of ex-servicemen. He also called upon veterans to engage in the entrepreneurship avenues available for them. A large number of veterans from Darjeeling, and adjoining districts of West Bengal and Bihar came to attend the Samadhan Campaign and their grievances related to SPARSH pension, healthcare among others were addressed.

## Mines Ministry Organizes Workshop on Offshore Mining



**The International Press :** The Ministry of Mines held a workshop on Offshore Mining at New Delhi today. The occasion was graced by Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shri V.L. Kantha Rao; Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Ravichandran and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shri Sanjay Lohiya. Officials from other Central Government Ministries and Departments and from various State Governments, Government organizations, PSUs, mining companies, potential bidders and members of industry associations also attended the workshop. Secretary, Ministry of Mines Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, in his keynote address, emphasised on the importance of offshore mining in creating strategic advantage for the country by fuelling industrial growth, generating employment and providing energy security. He also assured the gathering that the future outlook of the

offshore mining is positive and that the Ministry of Mines is undertaking various strategic initiatives for development of this nascent sector. He also encouraged start-ups and private companies for developing technology for undertaking offshore mining activities in India and highlighted that the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Earth Sciences would facilitate funding for such initiatives. Further, he welcomed more suggestion and feedback from industry bodies on the draft rules to facilitate ease of doing business and for promoting development of offshore mining sector in India. He also urged the industry to start preparing and planning for participating in the upcoming auction and undertaking offshore mining activities. Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences in his address emphasised on sustainable and

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Union Home Secretary handed over citizenship certificates to some applicants in New Delhi today

The first set of citizenship certificates after notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 were issued today. Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over citizenship certificates to some applicants in New Delhi today. Home Secretary



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Editorial

NHAI Organises Workshop on Implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds in National Highway Contracts

NHAI organised a workshop in New Delhi on implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds (ISB) for NHAI contracts. The objective of this workshop was to review the progress made in implementation of Insurance Surety Bonds and encourage participation from the stakeholders for wider adoption of the instrument. The workshop was addressed by Shri Rajendra Kumar, Member (Finance) NHAI; Shri A. K. Singh, CGM (Finance) NHAI; Shri N. B. Sathe, Advisor, NHAI; and Smt. Mandakini Balodhi, Director, Department of Financial Services. The workshop was attended by representatives from various Central Government Ministries & Departments, Insurance Companies, Highway Operators Association of India (HOAI) and National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF). Ministry of Finance, Government of India has made Insurance Surety Bonds at par with Bank Guarantees for all Government procurements and NHAI has been urging insurance companies and contractors to use Insurance Surety Bonds as an additional mode of submitting Bid Security and /or Performance Security. NHAI has so far received 164

Insurance Surety Bonds consisting of 20 bonds for Performance Security and 144 Bonds for bid securities. As per the information shared at the workshop, around 700 Insurance Surety Bonds valued at around Rs. 3,000 crores have been issued by different insurance companies so far. Recognizing the potential of ISB, the panelists during the workshop advocated for a wider adoption of the financial instrument for awarding of NHAI contracts. The workshop also outlined various challenges and deliberated on possible measures that can be taken for faster adoption of the instrument. Insurance Surety Bonds is a financial instrument, where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provides the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligation as per the agreed terms. Wider adoption of such instruments will help to strengthen infrastructure development in the country.



Union Home Secretary handed over citizenship certificates to some applicants in New Delhi today

**The International Press :** The first set of citizenship certificates after notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 were issued today. Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over citizenship certificates to some applicants in New Delhi today. Home Secretary congratulated the applicants and highlighted salient features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. Secretary Posts, Director (IB), Registrar General of India and senior officers were

also present during the interactive session. The Government of India had notified Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 on 11th March 2024. The Rules envisage manner of application form, procedure for processing applications by District Level Committee (DLC) and scrutiny and grant of citizenship by State Level Empowered Committee (EC). In pursuance of these rules, applications have been received from persons belonging to Hindu,

Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have entered into India up to 31.12.2014 on account of persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution. The District Level Committees (DLCs) chaired by Senior Superintendents of Post/Superintendents of Post as designated officers, on successful verification of documents, have administered oath of allegiance to the applicants. After processing as per

rules, DLCs have forwarded the applications to State Level Empowered Committee headed by Director (Census operation). Processing of application is completely done through the online portal. The Empowered Committee, Delhi headed by Director (Census Operation), Delhi, after due scrutiny, have decided to grant citizenship to 14 applicants. Accordingly, Director (Census operation) granted certificates to these applicants.

Geospatial sector, machinery and mechanical appliances, vehicles, mineral fuels, electrical machinery identified as potential sectors to boost bilateral trade



**The International Press :** Third Session of India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi from 13.05.2024 to 14.05.2024 under the chairmanship of Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Ms. Priya P. Nair and Chief Director, Economic Cooperation, International Trade and Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Ms. Rudo. M. Faranisi. Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Zimbabwe, Mr. Peter Hobwani along with over 15 delegates from relevant Ministries accompanied the Zimbabwean delegation. The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. There was enthusiastic response towards greater cooperation, addressing pending issues, boosting trade and investment and greater people to people contacts. Both sides reviewed the bilateral trade and noted the vast potential that exists between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to make concerted efforts towards enhancing bilateral trade. Both sides agreed to explore signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) for regulatory cooperation in Digital transformation solutions, Tele-medicines, Rough diamonds, fast payments system and traditional medicine among others. Both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing bilateral cooperation in pharmaceuticals, Geospatial Sector, healthcare, machinery and mechanical appliances, vehicles, electrical machinery, mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of distillation, plastics and articles, iron and steel, agriculture and food processing, engineering sector, renewable energy, digital economy, textiles, capacity building etc. Both sides also agreed on closer collaboration between the Investment Promotion Agencies and Chambers of Commerce of both sides. The deliberations of the 3rd Session of India-Zimbabwe JTC were cordial and forward-looking, indicative of the amicable and special relations between the two countries.

MERIL's Next-Gen Myval THV Series Marks India's Triumph in Global Heart Valve Sector: Successful Primary Outcomes Unveiled at EuroPCR 2024, Garnering Late Breaking Trial Status and Prestigious Acceptance by The LANCET

Meril Life Sciences' LANDMARK trial, highlighting the safety and effectiveness of the MyvalTranscatheter Heart Valve Series, stands out as a key late-breaking trial at EuroPCR 2024. The trial involving 768 patients across 31 sites underscores Meril's dedication to research and patient well-being.

**Meril**  
More to Life  
Kolkata, 15 May, 2024 – **The International Press :** Exciting news from Meril Life Sciences! The LANDMARK trial's 30 days primary outcomes were presented on 15th May at EuroPCR 2024, Paris, France. LANDMARK was recognized by EuroPCR as one of the top three late breaking trials poised to transform revolutionise current practices in the field of Interventional Cardiology.

The LANDMARK study showed that the performance of Myval THV series in terms of safety and effectiveness was non-inferior to the contemporary THV series (24.7% vs. 27.0%, occurrence of primary composite endpoint which is composite of deaths, stroke, major bleeding, acute kidney injury, major vascular complications, moderate or severe valve regurgitation, and the need for new permanent pacemaker implantation as per the third Valve Academic Research Consortium consensus) with no difference in the itemized components of the primary composite endpoints. The

other secondary endpoints including technical success at exit from procedure room, device success at 30 days and early safety at 30 days were comparable in both the groups. Professor Serruys, Chairman & study director of the LANDMARK trial, said "Myval THV series are novel next-gen THV devices; non-inferior to the Sapien and Evolut THV series. Myval THV series have a unique size matrix incorporating conventional, intermediate and extra-large diameters with increasing diameter steps of 1.5mm that match and fit precisely the multi slice CT scan-defined aortic annulus area of each

individual patient, as a result, provides a superior effective orifice area on echocardiography, which may impact on durability and long-term clinical outcomes. Additionally, the MyvalOctacor, with its 2 rows of octagonal cells and a minimal foreshortening of 19% during expansion, has unique features not paired by any other contemporary design." Myval THV series has a versatile range of sizes offering not only traditional sizes (20 mm, 23 mm, 26 mm, 29 mm) but also intermediate (21.5 mm, 24.5 mm, 27.5 mm) and extra-large sizes (30.5 mm and 32 mm). This tailored sizing

matrix allows cardiologists to select the appropriate valve size, thus avoiding excessive over- or under-sizing. In the LANDMARK trial, 48.1% of the patients were implanted with the intermediate size of Myval THV series. The hemodynamic outcomes in terms of valve effective orifice area (EOA) was significantly better for the 23, 26 and 29 mm Myval THV series as compared to Sapien THV series, while there were no significant differences in the pre-procedural annular area. The long-term benefits of the intermediate sizes of THV will be further studied during the subsequent follow-up up to 10-year.

As per the Global Principal Investigator, Prof. Andreas Baumbach, "The Landmark trial showed that the Myval THV series performed as safe and effective as contemporary THV series. It is a valve made for everyday clinical practice and an all-comers population. The special feature of intermediate diameters allows for more accurate sizing, which has the potential to translate into improved long-term outcomes. Our patients will be followed up for 10 years and it will be interesting to see the long-term results in the three treatment arms." Mr. Sanjeev Bhatt, Sr. Vice President - Corporate

Strategy at Meril said, " In a successful development in structural heart interventions, the LANDMARK RCT has revealed compelling results for the novel Myvaltranscatheter heart valve (THV) series, confirming its non-inferiority to other contemporary THV devices. The results of LANDMARK trial are not just a win for us but for the entire medical community and, most importantly, for patients undergoing TAVI. This study not only reinforces the safety and efficacy of the Myval THV series but also highlights its adaptability to challenging anatomical structures."

News Continue

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Mines Ministry Organizes Workshop on Offshore Mining

environment friendly offshore mining development in India. He highlighted the importance of developing technology to harness the maritime potential of India and requested collaboration, knowledge sharing from industry stakeholders to make India a pioneer in offshore mining. Officials from Ministry of Mines gave an overview of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (OAMDR Act) and the draft rules which were placed in public domain for stakeholder consultation. The draft rules framed are available in the website of Ministry of Mines (mines.gov.in). The Ministry also informed that some identified offshore mineral blocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India for mining lime-mud, polymetallic nodules (containing critical minerals like cobalt and nickel) and construction sand will be put up for auction soon. During the workshop, sessions were conducted by experts from Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Directorate General of Hydrocarbon, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai. Domestic and international players also participated actively in the workshop and provided key insights into the technology available for offshore exploration and mining, industry expectations and suggestions. The workshop concluded with questions and answers session wherein Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines addressed queries raised by various stakeholders who attended the workshop physically and virtually.

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Ramayana: Ranbir Kapoor starrer lands in legal trouble; all hopes now pinned on Yash

Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi will be coming together for Ramayana. Everyone has been super excited about the film. After a big disappointment from Prabhas and Kriti Sanon starrer Adipurush, people expect something better



**Department of Consumer Affairs organizes stakeholder consultation on protection of consumers from online fake reviews**

The International Press : The Department of Consumer Affairs held a stakeholder consultation here today on protection of consumer interest from online fake reviews. Mrs. Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs chaired the meeting.

The number of consumer grievances relating to e-commerce registered on the NCH have increased significantly. From 95,270 in 2018 (22% of total grievances), the number of grievances have risen to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). Since e-commerce provides a virtual shopping experience where consumers cannot physically inspect the products, they depend significantly on reviews available on e-commerce platforms to gather insights and experiences from users who have already purchased the goods or services. Online reviews provide social proof to potential customers and give them confidence in purchasing a product or availing a service.

The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trustworthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to take wrong purchase decisions.

In November, 2022, the Department had launched the Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 'Online Consumer Reviews — Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication. The guiding principles of the standard are integrity, accuracy, privacy, security, transparency, accessibility and responsiveness.

The standard prescribes specific responsibilities for the review author and the review administrator. As per the standard, organizations are required to identify of the review author by specific prescribed modes, and develop a written code of practice, communicated and made available to all management and staff, which outlines how this document and the guiding principles will be met and maintained. The essential requirements

provided under the draft Quality Control Order (QCO) include that the processes for collecting, moderating and publishing online consumer reviews shall be done in a manner ensuring that the reviews that are genuine get published.

The prohibitions under the proposed QCO include – The organisation shall not publish consumer reviews online collected with a bias objective and prejudice. The organisation shall not edit reviews to alter their message.

The organisation shall not prevent or discourage people from submitting negative reviews. Organizations are required to implement an appropriate mechanism for collection, moderation and publication of online consumer reviews in compliance with the principles and requirements specified in Indian Standard IS 19000:2022.

The discussion on moving towards a Quality Control Order for IS 19000:2022 was welcomed by stakeholders and there was a general consensus among all stakeholders that the issue of fake reviews is important to protect consumer interest while shopping online, and requires to be closely monitored. The Draft Quality Control Order will be placed for public consultation for submitting comments within a prescribed time frame.

Representatives from major online platforms (such as Google, Meta, Amazon, Flipkart etc.), industry bodies, voluntary consumer associations including MGP and noted consumer activist Pushpa Girimji and law chairs and law firms were present during the meeting. A presentation by the Department of Consumer Affairs, emphasizing on growth in online shopping over the recent times and the rising number of consumer grievances registered in the e-commerce sector on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) was also made during the meeting.

**GSI Organises Workshop on Application of National Geochemical Mapping Data and Role of National Geo-science Data Repository Portal in Mineral Exploration**



The International Press : Kolkata, May 15, 2024 : A workshop on "The application of National Geochemical Mapping Data and the role of National Geo-science Data Repository portal in mineral exploration" was organised by the State Unit: West Bengal & Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Geological Survey of India, Eastern Region, Kolkata today under the leadership of Dr. Santanu Bhattacharya, Deputy Director General, SU-WBAN.

Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, GSI, presided over the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion included Smt Varsha Ashok Aglawe, Additional Director General & HOD, Eastern Region, Deputy Director Generals, Directors, senior officers of GSI, Kolkata.

The workshop showcased the

importance of National Geo-science Data Repository (NGDR) portal leveraging the National Geochemical Mapping Data to facilitate and expedite the exploration coverage of the country. The workshop was attended by many

government and private organisations such as Indian Bureau of Mines, Central Ground Water Board, Forest Survey of India, etc. and it highlighted the conversant efforts of GSI to disseminate geo-scientific data in the public domain.

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**CINEMA**

**Alia Bhatt's desi look shines at Met Gala, netizens call her 'best dressed'**

The International Press : Alia Bhatt's second appearance at this year's Met Gala was truly dreamlike. She embodied an Indian princess in her stunning floral Sabyasachi saree. The event unfolded at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where the "Highway" actress captivated attendees in a stunning Sabyasachi saree embellished with intricate embroidery and precious gemstones.

Aligned with this year's Met Gala theme, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion," Alia's outfit was meticulously chosen to resonate with the theme. The saree featured a 23-foot-long train intricately adorned with hand-embroidered florals crafted using silk floss, glass

beading, and semi-precious gemstones. Videos from Alia's red carpet appearance capture her gracefully posing for photographers amid a flurry of calls from photographers worldwide. She smiled and confidently displayed her 23-foot train while the paparazzi clamoured for her attention. Alia shared the look on her official social media, captioning it: "A journey to the Garden of Time—an homage to art and eternity. Timelessness knows no bounds, and we recognise that things crafted with patience and care can endure forever. As we explored an Indian interpretation of this universal theme, the outfit seemed to take on a life of its own." She also expressed her



**Sonakshi Sinha has had enough of 'Heeramandi' criticism: We never told you...**

The International Press : Sonakshi Sinha, who essayed the cunning Faredan Jahan in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus, Heeramandi, is hitting back at critics! The actress is now calling out everyone who said the eight episode Netflix web series was historically inaccurate. "We never told you we are going into the history of it," Sonakshi clarified. Sonakshi Sinha has had enough of 'Heeramandi' criticism: We never told you... Responding to the criticism, Sonakshi told an entertainment portal, "When did we promise people a history lesson? There are inspirations derived from places. Yes, Heeramandi is a place that exists in Lahore but we never told you we are going into the history of it. Sanjay Leela Bhansali has created a world for you." Sonakshi added, "These are the same people who will love Bridgerton also. But it's a very fictionalised version of what it was. So, I think they should treat Heeramandi like that too and take it for the entertainment value."

Sonakshi Sinha has had enough of 'Heeramandi' criticism: We never told you... Earlier, a viewer from Lahore criticised the show for its portrayal of events, locations, and costumes, arguing that it inaccurately represents 1940s Lahore. "Just watched Heeramandi. Found everything but heeramandi in it. I mean either you don't set your story in 1940's Lahore, or if you do- you don't set it in Agra's landscape, Delhi's Urdu, Lakhnavi dresses and 1840's vibe. My not-so-sorry Lahori self can't really let it go (sic)," the viewer, who goes by the username of Hamd Nawaz, wrote on X.

Sonakshi Sinha has had enough of 'Heeramandi' criticism: We never told you... ventures since Bajirao Mastani (2015) have predominantly unfolded in bygone eras, often revolving around historical figures. Heeramandi presents the perfect opportunity to showcase his mastery as the series delves into the lives of tawaifs (courtesans) in the red-light district of Heera Mandi in pre-independence India. Sonakshi Sinha has had enough of 'Heeramandi' criticism: We never told you...

With the heavily promoted Heeramandi being Bhansali's first foray into Netflix, the show promised to enthrall audiences from the outset. Living up to expectations, the Indian period drama debuted at the number two spot on the platform's weekly top 10 list for non-English language shows, surpassing several recent international titles. So far, it has garnered 4.5 million views, with 33 million accumulated viewership hours.

**Ramayana: Ranbir Kapoor starrer lands in legal trouble; all hopes now pinned on Yash**



The International Press : Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi will be coming together for Ramayana. Everyone has been super excited about the film. After a big disappointment from Prabhas and Kriti Sanon starrer Adipurush, people expect something better and nice from Ranbir's movie. Ranbir will play Lord Ram and Sai Pallavi will be seen as Goddess Sita in the film. The film is directed by Nitish Tiwari and a lot was being said about the cast of the show. It was being reported that KGF star Yash will be seen in the role of Ravana. However, he has recently confirmed that he will be involved in Ramayana as a co-producer. But there is no confirmation if he will play Ravana or not. Ramayana lands in legal trouble? The film has gone on-floors and we also saw so many pictures from the set leaking. Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi's looks from the movie have raised the excitement level amongst fans. But before the film

comes out, it has landed in legal trouble due to dispute over intellectual property rights. As per reports, primary production house of the movie, Allu Mantena Media Ventures LLP is in a legal conflict with Prime Focus Technologies Limited. As per reports in Money Control, Allu Mantena Media Ventures LLP and Prime Focus Technologies Limited are have a dispute over the rights of the title Project Ramayana. The negotiations for the same in April 2024 and reports said that talks to acquire the intellectual property rights failed due to incomplete payment to formalize the agreement. Allu Mantena Media Ventures LLP have claimed that the rights to Project Ramayana continue to belong to them. They further said that any use or exploitation of the script or material by Prime Focus Technologies Limited or any affiliated entities would constitute an infringement of their copyright. They further claimed that Prime Focus Technologies Limited has no right, title, or interest in the Project Ramayana material and the production company also said that they will take legal action to protect its rights if necessary. It will be interesting to see how will the producers react to it and will Yash, who is the co-producer help the team.

## Kohli sweeps aside strike-rate concerns to keep Bengaluru alive

Run machine Virat Kohli produced a match-winning knock in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Thursday that will ease concerns about his strike rate ahead of the T20 World Cup next month.



## Kylian Mbappe's cryptic reaction to Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich question after PSG's exit from UCL

In the wake of Paris Saint-Germain's crushing Champions League exit at the hands of Borussia Dortmund, speculation surrounding Kylian Mbappe's future has reached high. Despite widely touted rumors of a summer



## Indian Cricket Team: Rahul Dravid to leave as India Coach after T20 World Cup



**The International Press :** BCCI is set to release an advertisement for the coaching job as Rahul Dravid is poised to leave his role as head coach after the T20 World Cup. Rahul Dravid's tenure as India's head coach is set to conclude in June 2024, as confirmed by Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India

(CCI). With this end date, the BCCI is gearing up to release an advertisement for the position of a new head coach. Rahul Dravid, who stepped into the role in November 2021, had his contract extended to cover the period until the conclusion of the 2023 ODI World Cup. However, it appears there are no plans for a further, prompting the search

for his successor. The current contract is valid till June 2024 and the apex body of Indian cricket hinted that there are no plans to extend that beyond the current deadline. BCCI secretary Jay Shah reportedly confirmed the hunt for a new coach for team India, while also admitting that the new headmaster can be a foreigner as well. He also mentioned that Rahul Dravid will be

free to apply for the role again. "Rahul's tenure is only up to June. So if he wants to apply, he is free to do so. We cannot determine whether the new coach will be Indian or foreign. It will be up to the CAC, and we are a global body," Shah told Cricbuzz recently. Team India had some decent campaigns under the tenure of Rahul

Dravid. The team won the Asia Cup and reached the Final of World Cup 2023. The men in Blue also reached the semifinals of the T20 World Cup in 2022. The India legend will be hoping to bid adieu to his role with team India with an ICC crown as team India takes part in the upcoming T20 World Cup in West Indies and USA.

## Kohli sweeps aside strike-rate concerns to keep Bengaluru alive



**The International Press :** Run machine Virat Kohli produced a match-winning knock in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Thursday that will ease concerns about his strike rate ahead of the T20 World Cup next month. Kohli has been remarkably consistent in the 10-team league and is comfortably the competition's leading scorer with 634 runs from 12 matches this season. Many, however, felt he was not scoring those runs quick enough for a top-order batter, pointing to his strike rate of 153.51. As if to silence his critics, Kohli smashed 92 off 47 balls against Punjab Kings on Thursday night to keep Bengaluru alive in the playoff race. "It was important to keep up my strike rate through the innings, so I was just focused on taking the momentum forward for the team," Kohli said after the Bengaluru innings. The former India captain was dropped twice and he capitalised on that, hitting six sixes and seven fours in his breezy knock. Particularly remarkable was how Kohli used the sweep shot to counter spin

in the away match in Dharamsala. "I just felt like I need to take a bit more risk and for me that shot was something that I used to hit regularly back in the day," Kohli said after collecting the Player-of-the-Match award. "I think it just takes a bit more conviction and take out that thought that props up: 'What if you get out?'. 'I've been managing to stay ahead of that thought in this IPL and that's really helped me in the middle overs, keeping my strike rate up and keeping the scoring rate going for the team as well." Six successive losses nearly derailed Bengaluru's campaign this season but they have since bounced back to string together four wins in a row. "We were just not good enough in the first half of the tournament," Kohli said. "(It's) precisely why we are in a situation again where so many factors have to go our way. We won the second game of the season and then we had those losses on the trot."

## Kylian Mbappe's cryptic reaction to Real Madrid vs Bayern Munich question after PSG's exit from UCL



**The International Press :** In the wake of Paris Saint-Germain's crushing Champions League exit at the hands of Borussia Dortmund, speculation surrounding Kylian Mbappe's future has reached high. Despite widely touted rumors of a summer move to Real Madrid, the French forward remained tight-lipped in the aftermath of PSG's defeat, leaving fans and pundits alike questioning where his allegiances truly lie. Kylian Mbappe The disappointment for Mbappe was evident as he faced the press following yet another frustrating encounter with Dortmund's strong defense, resulting in a 1-0 aggregate loss for PSG. With the Champions League dream shattered once again, Mbappe found himself dodging questions about his anticipated transfer to Real Madrid. A journalist, undoubtedly hoping for a glimpse into Mbappe's mindset regarding his future, asked the 25-year-old who he would be supporting in the upcoming semi-final clash between Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. However, Kylian Mbappe's response was telling, as he offered nothing more than a blank stare before wandering off, refusing to engage with the speculation surrounding his potential move to the Spanish capital. Understandably, his mind remained active on the disappointment of PSG's missed opportunity, having hit the woodwork six times over the two legs against Dortmund, only to fall short of securing a coveted spot in the final. As Mbappe prepares to bid farewell to PSG, his departure will undoubtedly leave a void in the team's quest for Champions League glory. Despite his illustrious seven-season tenure with the Parisians, including a valiant effort in the 2020-21 campaign where they fell short against Bayern Munich in the final, Mbappe's departure will leave unfinished business for both player and club.

## Beckham urges Man Utd flops to prove they are 'motivated'



**The International Press :** David Beckham has urged Manchester United's flops to prove they are motivated to play for the troubled club. Former United star Beckham was in Manchester on Thursday to attend the premiere of a new documentary about the club's 1999 treble-winning side. Beckham was a key figure in the United team that won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup under legendary boss Alex Ferguson. Now the former England captain's Studio 99 company have played a role in the production of '99', a three-part series that launches on May 17. Twenty-five years on from his role in that epic treble triumph, Beckham addressed the current malaise at Old Trafford. United manager Erik ten Hag is fighting to avoid the sack with his team languishing in eighth place in the Premier League after Monday's embarrassing 4-0 loss at Crystal Palace. Beckham believes the players must take their

share of the blame, saying: "You'd hope that the manager doesn't have to do much. "I think that's the whole point of being a Manchester United player and playing in these big games - you should be motivated." Ten Hag's difficult second season in charge could be salvaged if United beat arch rivals Manchester City in the FA Cup final. And Beckham hopes United's current crop can prove they deserve long-term futures at the club by shining at Wembley as they look to avenge last season's loss to City in the final. "When you're a professional footballer and you're doing the job you love and you're at the club you love, when you're playing in any game, whether it's a regular season game or whether it's an FA Cup final against your rivals, that should be enough motivation," he said. "And, if it's not, then you're in the wrong team and you're playing the wrong sport. We went into every game, whether it was a youth cup game, a friendly game, off-season or a European Cup

final, with the same mentality and the same drive. "We all know Erik's a very qualified manager and a good manager and he has the right motives." Beckham, a member of United's famed 'Class of 92' that also included Paul Scholes, Gary Neville and Nicky Butt, won six Premier League titles, one Champions League and numerous other honours during 11 years before joining Real Madrid. The 49-year-old, a boyhood United fan, admits he has been discouraged by the club's problems since their last Premier League crown in Ferguson's final season in 2013. "Obviously it's been a tough five, 10, 15 years at United and we all know that but it was never going to be easy when the boss left, (Roy) Keane left, Giggsy (Ryan Giggs) left, Gary (Neville) left," he said. "All of these important players and personalities and characters all left United, it was always going to be a difficult time. "We want the lads to feel - from this documentary - the inspiration of being this successful."

## Neeraj Chopra is 'Confident of Throwing 90m' At Doha Diamond League 2024



**The International Press :** Whether it's the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, or Diamond League, Neeraj Chopra has proved himself everywhere, which is why he is currently the king of javelin. Consistency has been the hallmark of Chopra's success. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his training regimen, constantly refining his technique and honing his skills. Whether it's a local meet or the grandest of stages, Chopra brings the same level of focus and determination to every competition. Neeraj Chopra

Neeraj Chopra (PTI/AP) The current World Champion will start his 2024 campaign at the Doha Diamond League in Qatar on May 10. Not only Neeraj, but also his compatriot and Asian Games silver medalist Kishore Jena will be making his debut in the Diamond League. Speaking ahead of the Diamond League, Neeraj Chopra spoke about his consistency "I'm ready for tomorrow; some throwing sessions were good. This is one of my strong points, and I will try to throw 90m and to be consistent is my weapon." Whenever Neeraj

Chopra is talked about, it is impossible not to mention the 90m mark. In contemporary javelin throwing, crossing 90m is like scaling Mount Everest. The 26-year-old came very close when he threw 89.94m at the Stockholm Diamond League in 2022. Speaking about breaking the 90m barrier, he said, "People have been asking me since 2018 when I threw 88.6m in the Asian Games. After that, lots of things happened to me - elbow injury, surgery, and I got stuck between 88-90m. But I really want to break this barrier. Last year, I said in a

press conference that Doha is famous for 90m, but I was not lucky because of too much headwind. But yes, tomorrow I can throw." After the Doha Diamond League, Neeraj will compete at home for the first time in three years, having confirmed his participation in the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15. As Neeraj Chopra prepares to unleash his javelin prowess in the Doha Diamond League, all eyes are on him, eagerly anticipating another remarkable performance.