

# It always has been a dream for me to represent India at the highest level: Raj Kumar Pal

New Delhi, (UNI)  
Raj Kumar Pal, the dynamic midfielder in the Indian Men's Hockey Team, is all set to represent India in the 2024 Paris Olympics. A vital cog in the Indian team, Raj Kumar Pal first came in the spotlight when he was selected for a five-nation U-23 tournament in Belgium in 2018. The youngest of three brothers who took to hockey, Raj Kumar's journey from the streets of Karampur is a tale in itself. Raj Kumar's elder brothers, Jokhan and Raju, are former hockey players too, and he proudly says that there was no other sport to turn to but hockey. Raj Kumar joined



the Meghbaran stadium at age 10, where coach Tej Bahadur Singh took an interest in all three of the Pal brothers. In 2012, Raj Kumar joined the SAI Lucknow hostel, and was

drawn towards the pace and style of Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, who had been a batch mate of Jokhan's. Upadhyay also became his close friend when he earned his first India camp call-up. Talking about his relation with Lalit, Raj Kumar expresses, "I was always encouraged by Lalit bhai who made me understand that it was okay to make mistakes but the most important part is to learn from those mistakes and never make them again. He has always supported me. Most of the times, after we have played a match, I used to pick his brains on what mistakes I did in the match, where I can improve myself and he always used to tell me very calmly." High-performance director David John then spotted his talent at the Sports Authority of India

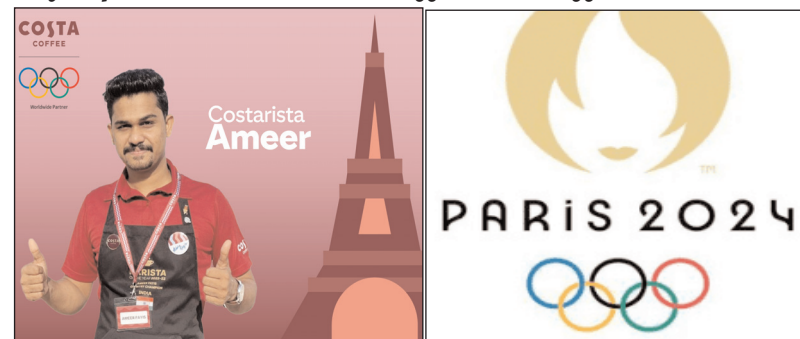
(SAI) Hostel in 2018 during the Senior National Championships and called him up for a national camp with the senior Indian men's hockey team. Now, Raj Kumar's has his attention on the Paris Olympics and he looks to take it one game at a time. "My entire focus is on Paris Olympics. I know what is at stake here and there is no room to make any mistakes whatsoever. I am taking nothing for granted and planning to take one game at a time," said Raj Kumar Pal, who has earned 53 international caps till date. It has been a dream for me to represent my country at the Olympics.



## Indian table tennis great Sharath Kamal shares his special Olympic moments

New Delhi, (UNI)  
Achanta Sharath Kamal has been the face of Indian table tennis for over two decades now and the 42-year-old will mark a record fifth Olympic appearance at the Paris Olympics 2024. He is also the male flag-bearer for the Indian contingent. The multiple-time Commonwealth Games gold medalist also played a pivotal role in helping India create history as the men's team qualified for the Olympic Games for the first time in history. And Sharath pointed out time and again that qualifying as a team could become the catalyst of growth for the sport in India. The table tennis supremo, who has also been the mainstay of Chennai Lions team in the Ultimate Table Tennis, has been inspiring numerous young table tennis players pursuing a dream of playing for the country. During an interview with Ultimate Table Tennis, Sharath, who made his Olympic debut at the 2004 Athens Games, spoke about his top five Olympic moments as he prepares to give his best shot at a medal in Paris. Going to the first-ever Olympics is a special moment for any athlete. It is about soaking in the atmosphere, feeling the special vibe of the Games village and interacting with sportspersons from various disciplines. And understandably, Sharath's top of the chart Olympic moment is when he shared a table with Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer in the dining hall in 2004. And watching the camaraderie between him and USA's Andy Roddick was just the icing on the cake.

## Costa Coffee's Indian baristas to shine at Olympic Games '24 as Official Coffee Partner



Costa Coffee is thrilled to be the Official Coffee Partner at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, marking a significant milestone in promoting coffee culture and providing a centre stage to Indian baristas globally.

With six kiosks and over 110 self-serve Pacto machines, 130 Costa Coffee team members from six countries will deliver exceptional hot and iced beverage experiences to fans and athletes at seven venues across Paris.

As part of this collaboration, Costa Coffee introduces three exceptional Indian baristas: Ameer Fayiz, Mallika Tripura, and Abhishek Kumar. These talented individuals underwent rigorous training to refine their skills and embody Costa Coffee's values of teamwork and excellence. The team members will ensure seamless operation of these sites and will host coffee masterclasses designed exclusively for the athletes and spectators. Adding to the Olympics excitement, selected Costa Coffee's team members will have the incredible opportunity to be a torch-bearer at the Olympic games. Vinay Nair, General Manager, India &

Emerging International, Costa Coffee at the Coca-Cola Company, commented: "We are proud to be the Official Coffee Partner for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. This opportunity not only allows us to showcase the skill and artistry of our Indian baristas on a prestigious international platform, but also underscores our commitment towards our talented team members. By providing them with this extraordinary opportunity, we are investing in their growth, embracing an inclusive culture, and celebrating their dedication to excellence. The participation of our Barista's from India in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 is a transformative journey that will add invaluable experiences and forge meaningful connections.

About The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola in India is one of the country's leading beverage companies, offering a range of high-quality and refreshing beverage options to consumers. The company, in line with its vision of 'Beverages For Life', offers a wide portfolio of products which includes hydration, sports, sparkling, coffee, tea, nutrition, juice and dairy based products.

## French Alps gets conditional approval to host 2030 Winter Games

Paris, (UNI)  
The French Alps has been awarded as the host of the 2030 Winter Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday, but under the condition that French government provides financial and organizational guarantees before the dates set by the IOC. French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his commitment to the IOC members prior to the vote. "I confirm the full commitment of the French nation, and assure you that I will ask the next prime minister to include not only this guarantee, but also an Olympic Law in the priorities of the new government," he said. "Seven years ago we made the same commitment (for the Paris 2024 Summer Games), and we delivered. We will do the same." France last hosted a Winter Olympics in Albertville in 1992," he added.



## Multitasking campaigns ahead, U17 boys busy sharpening fitness & tactics

New Delhi, (UNI)  
The Indian U17 men's team camp has been ongoing for the last two weeks in Srinagar and head coach Ishfaq Ahmed believes it's been so far, so good. The Blue Colts are preparing for the upcoming SAFF U17 Championship in September and the AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers in October. "I am happy with how everything is going so far. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. We don't have any injury issues," said Ishfaq. There are still almost two months until the SAFF U17 Championship begins in Thimphu, Bhutan, on September 18. So, in these early stages of the camp, the primary focus is on building fitness Ishfaq said. "We're in 'cycle one' at the moment - focusing on the fitness part for the last two weeks. These are young boys, technically very smart, and we wish to play a good and mature brand of football for everyone to see, and for that, fitness is important," he said. "Soon, we'll begin cycle two, where we'll try out tactics. We are going to start playing matches also, so that they can understand and implement the tactical stuff," shared Ishfaq. There are 32



players in the camp at the moment. Exactly half of them, 16, were part of India's SAFF U16 Championship winning team, also coached by Ishfaq, in Bhutan last year. These are the players who have any prior international experience. The stakes are higher this time out though, with tougher competitions, a longer camp and a spot at the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025 up

for grabs, the AIFF sources said. After the conclusion of the SAFF U17 Championship, the Blue Colts next assignment will only be four weeks away, at the AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Thailand (October 23-27), where they will face Brunei Darussalam, Turkmenistan and the hosts. Like India, their opponents are also preparing for the qualifiers by competing in their sub-confederation tournaments. Thailand finished runners-up to Australia on penalties in the recently concluded ASEAN U16 Championship, while Brunei Darussalam were eliminated in the group stage after losing all three matches. Turkmenistan will participate in the upcoming CAFA U17 Championship. "We definitely have an eye on the AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers as well. Yeah, we know that winning SAFF is important, and we did it last year too. This time, we have new players as well, with no international experience, and I want to see them in the line-up too," Ishfaq said. "We want to have more friendly matches against stronger teams, who can push us to our limits, to prepare for the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

### BUSINESS

## Yakult Danone India introduces Yakult Light Mango Flavour

New Delhi: Yakult Danone India Pvt Ltd, a globally renowned probiotic brand, has announced today that it is expanding its product portfolio by introducing a new variant - Yakult Light Mango Flavour, on 25th July 2024. The launch event was graced by Bollywood star Sanya Malhotra, Mr Takashi Ariyoshi, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in India, Mr Eiji Amano, Managing Director of Yakult Danone India Pvt Ltd, and Dr Neeraj Hajela, Head - Science and Regulatory Affairs



of Yakult Danone India Pvt Ltd. Yakult Light Mango Flavour is a sister product of the signature Yakult. The new product contains the same unique probiotic, Lactobacillus casei Shirota (SHIROTA strain), in the same amount of 650 crores

as the original and flagship Yakult. The original probiotic drink was invented by a Japanese medical doctor called Dr Minoru Shirota and designed to take in the human-friendly bacterium that had the ability to reach the gut

alive and impart tremendous health benefits. Saddened by the death of children caused by infections due to inadequate hygiene and poverty in Japan in the early 1900s, he emphasised on preventing diseases with the power of probiotics rather than curing diseases and infections after they occur. He embodied his ideal by launching SHIROTA strain as a food in the market so that as many people as possible could get the benefit of the probiotic bacterium while enjoying the delicious taste.

## Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. Board to Consider Stock Split

Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd., a leader in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services, has announced that its board will meet on 26 July 2024 to consider the sub-division/spilt of the Equity shares of the Company. Earlier this year, the board has approved a fund raise of Rs. 4860 Mn through preferential issue of fully convertible warrants, at an issue price of Rs. 300 per warrant, subject to necessary member and statutory approvals. The proposed allottees include FIs and other investors from non-promoter group. The board also approved the increase in authorized share capital and the constitution of a fund raising committee. Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. stands at the forefront of India's rapidly evolving infrastructure landscape, having strategically ventured into the development of a business vertical dedicated to providing high-quality and reliable Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services.

## Muthusubramanian Hariharan Appoints, as Executive Director & CEO of KBC Global Ltd

Nashik: KBC Global Ltd (Previously known as Karda Construction Limited) BSE - 541161, a prominent player in the construction and real estate development sector has approved the appointment of Muthusubramanian Hariharan, as Executive Director and CEO of the Company, Board of Directors, confirmed his appointment in meeting. He will hold office upto the date of the ensuing general meeting. Muthusubramanian Hariharan will be responsible for leading the Global business development set by the company and execution of the company's strategic plan and developing and communicating the organization's vision, mission, and strategic objectives. With the intention of exploring new opportunities for business expansion, company has opened corporate office in Mumbai at Maitrya Business Park, Opp cosmos Bank, Hanuman Rd, Vile Parle. Established in 2007, company has made significant strides in the real estate industry, specializ-

ing in the development and sale of residential and residential-cum-office projects in Nashik, India. The company operates primarily in two segments: construction and development of residential and commercial projects, and contractual projects. Notable projects of the company include Hari Gokuldham, Hari Nakhshtra-II Eastext Township, Hari Sanskruti II, Hari Siddhi, and Hari Samarth, among others. The company has also announced a strategic plans for expansion in both domestic and international markets. In the month of April 2024, board of directors considered and approved conversion of total 60 bonds into equity shares as per the terms and conditions of the issue of FCCB. Company has handed over possession for 100 plus residential cum commercial units in its various ongoing projects in Nashik, Maharashtra. The group has handed over possession for total of 109 units from April 2024. Out of the total units handed over during the period, the company has handed over possession of 76 units of the project Hari Kunj Mayflower.



## CMA applauds focus decarbonisation & development in Union Budget FY'25

New Delhi/Mumbai: The Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) welcome the Union Budget 2024-25 presented by the Hon-ourable Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Budget presents a commendable vision for India's economic growth, with a strong emphasis on infrastructure development, employment generation and energy security. Commenting on the budget, Mr Neeraj Akhoury, President, Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) and Managing Director, Shree Cement Limited, stated, "Against the backdrop of global uncertainties and inflation, the Union Budget 2024-25 is transformative and forward-looking with an eye on fiscal



consolidation. The announcement of INR 11 lakh crore capital expenditure signifies the Government's commitment to modernising India's infrastructure through various significant projects and allocations, which will undoubtedly drive demand for Cement and other building materials. These initiatives collectively illustrate the Budget's comprehensive and strategic approach to bolstering India's infrastructure across various sectors. Additionally, the Cement industry is in alignment with the Government of India's net zero goals. The transition roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries to move from the 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to the 'Indian Carbon Market' mode is a welcome step.

## Credable Partners with Finastra to Provide a Holistic Supply Chain Finance Globally

Mumbai: Credable, a working capital technology platform, today announced its partnership with Finastra, a global provider of financial software applications and marketplaces, to expand the functionality of Finastra Trade Innovation. Credable's feature-rich platform is now integrated with the solution, providing new and existing customers with a comprehensive supply chain finance offering. As a result, banks can increase their revenue growth, accelerate business expansion and customer satisfaction by offering a wider range of financial services within a single platform. "In today's tough economic climate, it is more important than ever that corporates optimize their working capital and maintain real-time liquidity for long-term growth," said Satyam Agrawal, Global Head of Product & MD ASEAN & ME at Credable.



## Tata Motors redefines the mid-SUV category with India's first SUV Coupe

Mumbai: Defining a new era in SUV design, Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer, today unveiled the Tata Curvv ICE and EV. Born of powerful philosophy, form and function, the Curvv is India's first SUV Coupe. Exhibiting the new-age SUV typology, the Curvv artfully blends the toughness and practicality of an SUV with the elegance and sporty silhouette of a coupe. Launching on 7th August, the all-new Curvv will follow Tata Motors' strong multi-powertrain strategy and will be first available in its EV version which will soon be followed by its ICE counterpart. Commenting on the unveil, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Tata Motors has pioneered the Indian SUV arena. What's more is that we have repeatedly disrupted the category through innovative designs that deliver



great road presence as well as enhanced functionality. The original Sierra, Safari, Nexon, Punch and Harrier are testament to this design led market leadership in SUVs. Taking this legacy forward and to further strengthen our SUV portfolio, we have once again broken the clutter in the effervescent and aspirational mid-SUV category by introducing the Tata Curvv - India's first SUV Coupe - a disruptive design which democratizes the Coupe body style in the premium categories, providing best in segment performance and never before seen practicality.

## Kshema launches new marketing campaign for Kharif

Bhopal: Kshema General Insurance Limited has announced the launch of its national marketing campaign aimed at raising awareness about crop insurance to coincide with the beginning of the Kharif season. The centerpiece of the 360-degree campaign is a TVC which will reach farmers as they start sowing with the onset of the monsoons. The TV campaign will be further augmented by a concurrent campaign in print, digital, and outdoor media. The campaign highlights the importance of crop insurance in creating a financial safety net for farmers when extreme climate events are becoming more frequent and intense.

