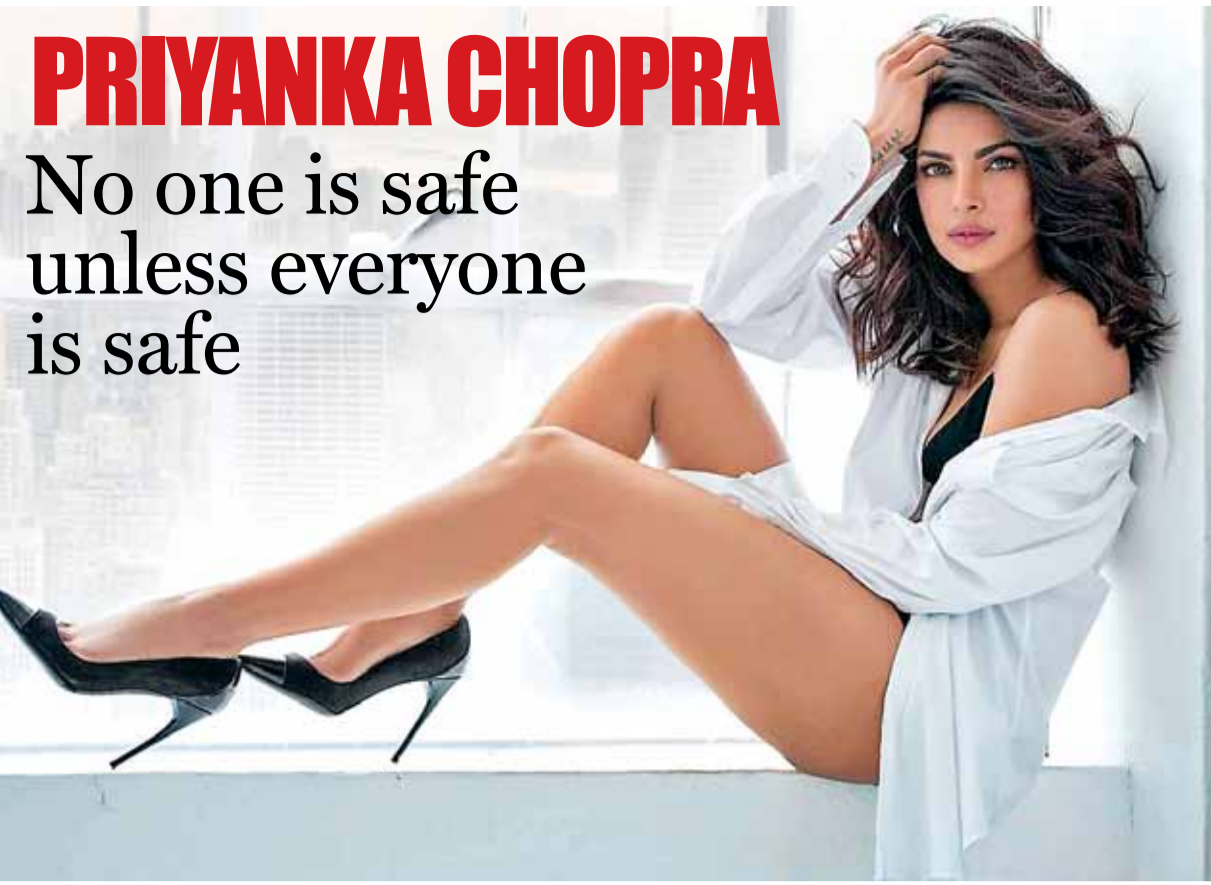


PRIYANKA CHOPRA

No one is safe unless everyone is safe



Whatever you can spare, truly makes a difference. Nearly 63 million people follow me on here, if even 100,000 of you donate \$10, that's \$1 Million, and that's huge.

"Your donation will go directly to healthcare physical infrastructure (including Covid care centres, Isolation centers, and oxygen generation plants), medical equipment, and vaccine support and mobilization."

She shared that no one is safe unless everyone is safe.

"Please please donate. Nick and I already have and will continue to contribute. We have all seen how far and wide this virus can spread, an ocean between us makes no difference. No one is safe unless everyone is safe. It's so heartening to see so many people stepping up to help in so many ways. We need to beat this virus, and to do that requires ALL of us. From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU!" she said.

AGENCIES

POTPOURRI

SHUBHANGI ATRE

Dance is a form of meditation

Television star Shubhangi Atre, who is currently recovering from Covid-19, will not be able to celebrate International Dance Day with fervour on Thursday. She says dance is a form of meditation for her.

"For me, dance is a form of meditation too. It's an ecstatic experience. Dancing and meditation can be just like offering your prayers to the nature or divine powers. It makes you look and feel beautiful at the same time," Shubhangi said.

The actress, whose favourite form of dance is Kathak, idolises late Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan and points out dancing relieves stress. "Dance is not only a wonderful way to express yourself but also a fantastic spare time activity one can enjoy. Dancing will definitely boost your mood, helps you to forget everything around you, and allows you to connect with yourself. It will bring of so much of positivity and relaxation," says Shubhangi, popular as Angoori Bhabhi in "Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai".

AGENCIES



SUNNY LEONE: IT'S TIME TO GET VACCINATED

Sunny Leone has urged everyone to fight Covid-19, saying it is time to get vaccinated.

Sunny posted a picture on Instagram where she is seen in a blue lace leotard paired with a tan jacket, smiling at the camera.

"Let's take the fight to #Covid_19. It's time to get Vaccinated!! Vaccinate yourself and your loved ones to give everyone especially the

Frontline warriors a fighting chance against the pandemic!!" Sunny wrote alongside the image.

Sunny is currently in Kerala to shoot her upcoming film, the psychological thriller "Shero". It is directed by Sreejith Vijayan and will be released in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam.

She had recently shot for the reality TV show "MTV Splitsvilla" in the state.



NATO begins Afghan pullout

BRUSSELS: NATO has started the withdrawal of its mission from Afghanistan following a decision by President Joe Biden to bring U.S. forces home, an alliance official said Thursday.

"NATO Allies decided in mid-April to start the withdrawal of Resolute Support Mission forces by May 1 and this withdrawal has begun. This will be an orderly, coordinated, and deliberate process," a NATO official told AFP.

Members of the U.S.-backed alliance agreed this month to wrap up their 9,600-strong mission in Afghanistan after Mr. Biden made the call to end Washington's longest war.

The decision — which delayed by several months a deadline agreed by former U.S. leader Donald Trump — came despite fears it could allow the Taliban



to regain power in the country.

The NATO official said the safety of the alliance's troops "will be a top priority every step of the way, and we are taking all necessary measures to keep our personnel from harm".

"Any Taliban attacks during the withdrawal will be met with a forceful response. We plan to have our withdrawal completed within a few months," the official said, refusing to give any

further details on the timeline.

Mr. Biden said the U.S. withdrawal would be completed by September 11, the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America that sparked its military involvement in Afghanistan.

Germany's defence ministry has said it planned to get its 1,300 troops out of the country by early July.

NATO's training and support mission, which includes around 2,500 U.S. troops and relies heavily on Washington's military assets, has personnel from 36 alliance member nations and partner countries.

The U.S. has said it is temporarily deploying extra troops to protect international forces as they withdraw and has prolonged the presence of an aircraft carrier in the region to support the pull-out.

AGENCIES

Nebraska's 114-year-old oldest living American

A 114-year-old Nebraska woman who has taken the title of America's oldest living person says what she wants most is to eat with her friend after a year of pandemic restrictions.

Thelma Sutcliffe, of Omaha, became the nation's oldest living person and seventh-oldest in the world on April 17 when Hester Ford, a 115-year-old woman, died in North Carolina, according to the Gerontology Research Group.

The Omaha World-Herald reports that Ms. Sutcliffe was born on October 1, 1906. Her longtime friend, Luella "Lou" Mason, said she is happy that the senior living centre where Ms. Sutcliffe lives is locked down, but "Thelma is as determined as ever to do what she

allows in the dining room, Thelma is taking all her meals in her room. Mason, who has Ms. Sutcliffe's power of attorney, calls the senior living centre 24 hours ahead of time to schedule visits.

"She asks me every time I visit, Are you going to eat with me today?" Mason recalled. "It breaks my heart that I can't." Ms. Sutcliffe's hearing and sight are fading, Mason said, but her mind is still "very sharp."

Ms. Sutcliffe received her Covid-19 shots at the earliest opportunity, but testing for the coronavirus was a nonstarter.

Mason said Ms. Sutcliffe looked at the swab and said, "You're not going to be sticking that thing up my nose. You can tell Lou to stick it up hers."

AGENCIES



IOA vice-president Gehlot no more

NEW DELHI: Indian Olympic Association vice-president Janardhan Singh Gehlot died in Jaipur on Wednesday after prolonged illness.

Gehlot, a former Rajasthan minister, was also the founder president of International Kabaddi Federation. He was in his 70s.

He was the head of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India for 28 years till 2013. He was also serving as the president of the Rajasthan Olympic Association at the time of his death.

"On behalf of IOA family, our heartfelt condolences to Gehlot family on the sad and untimely demise of IOA vice president and president of Rajasthan Olympic association Janardhan Singh Gehlot," IOA President Narinder Batra said in a statement.

AGENCIES



Menon, Reiffel pull out of IPL umpiring



NEW DELHI: India's top umpire Nitin Menon and his Australian counterpart Paul Reiffel have pulled out of the IPL due to personal reasons.

It is learnt that Menon, a resident of Indore, has left the IPL bio-bubble after his wife and mother tested positive for Covid-19.

Menon is the only Indian in the ICC elite panel of umpires and was recently praised for his work during India's home series against England.

"Yes, Nitin has left as his immediate family members have Covid-19 and he is currently not in a mental state to conduct games," a BCCI official told PTI.

In Reiffel's case, the Australian government imposing a travel ban from India in the wake of the rising Covid-19 cases led to his quick departure.

Menon is the second Indian to pull out after Indian off spinner Ravichandran Ash-

win, who withdrew from the tournament.

Three Australians Andrew Tye, Kane Richardson, Adam Zampa have left home due to the unprecedented health crisis in India.

However the BCCI is going ahead with the tournament and interim CEO Hemang Amin has assured all players and support staff that they remain safe in the bio-bubble.

The BCCI is likely to find replacements for Menon and Reiffel from its own pool of umpires.

AGENCIES

Olympic-bound can train during quarantine

NEW DELHI: The Sports Authority of India on Thursday said Olympic-qualified athletes will be allowed to practice and spar in quarantine before they join their respective national camps from a break at home or a competition trip but grant of leave will become an exception now.

The latest move comes after several athletes at various national camps across the country tested positive for Covid-19. In case of Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium,

the national women's boxing camp had to be disbanded for now after detection of cases among pugilists and support staff. "...in view of the need for Olympics-bound athletes to continue their training without disruption, SAI has now taken a decision to allow training even during the quarantine period in a controlled environment," the nodal body said in a statement.

Weekly RT-PCR tests are being conducted at SAI centres to keep a check on the



infections.

"SAI in consultation with the Indian Olympic Association will decide on grant of leave to Olympics bound athlete & support staff. Leave will be granted only as an exception

by National Sports Federation and SAI as it has been observed that most athletes got infected while travelling," it added.

Athletes are required to go through a seven-day mandatory quarantine when they reach a SAI centre from a home break or a competition and to ensure that their training can continue during this period, the SAI said small groups would be formed.

"...small group of athletes, coach & sparring (training) partners will be formed where

ever possible for Olympic bound athletes. The athlete and this group will remain isolated from rest of the environment till quarantine period is over," the SAI stated.

SAI said training in a smaller group during quarantine period will also ensure that large scale transmission of the virus is prevented. "During the quarantine period, general fitness and monitored training on a staggered schedule would be allowed," it said. "...(they) would not be allowed to interact with

athletes/support staff in the bio-bubble until the test results of the whole group comes out negative at the end of the initial quarantine period of 7 days," it added. If any member of the group tests positive for the virus at the end of the quarantine period, the whole group will remain in isolation for another week. "The entire group would be allowed to merge with the regular training group already in the bio-bubble, once every member returns a negative result."

AGENCIES

Brazilian students offer sustainable solution to India's climate challenge

DOMINICK RODRIGUES
Mumbai

Brazilian Students emerged victorious in the India Climate Change Challenge by presenting a solution that highlighted using agriculture residue to generate biomass -- thus substituting carbon-intensive thermal power, reducing air pollution by preventing crop burning and encouraging wider gender participation.

The victorious student team "Green Winx, from Fundação Getulio Vargas in Sao Paulo, Brazil," included Alice Paolbaum, Sophia Hess, Gabriela Pinheiro da Rocha Campos, Victoria Rieser and Carol Zweig. "We spent countless nights learning different aspects about India, different financing methods and alternatives to measure impact, but it was incredibly worth it," Zweig said, adding "The experience was not only ex-



tremely enriching and inspiring, but also eye-opening to us as students."

UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School's Center for Sustainable Enterprise hosted the India Impact Challenge powered by Quantum Advisors from April 16-17 2021, which witnessed six teams from six countries – Brazil, France, India, Switzerland,

United Arab Emirates and the USA – making it to the finals weekend.

The India Impact Challenge had engaged students from around the world to create investment strategies to address the issues of climate change, while spurring equitable economic growth in India. Addressing the student green entrepreneurs for iden-

tifying the problem, evaluating solutions and zoning in on the best idea, Ajit Dayal, Founder, Quantum Advisors said, "It is now upto the asset allocators and owners of capital to start the process of funding your bold ideas from that 'Save The World' bucket."

The India Impact Challenge objective was to draw attention of global policymakers

and investment institutions on the need to shift the dialogue from a conversation dominated by efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the developed world and shed light on potentially alarming levels of GHG due to the necessary and continued economic development in the emerging economies. Over the next 25 years, if developing markets don't attract capital to invest in GHG-reducing technologies and products as they continue on their path to higher GDP growth, the potential savings in emissions in the developed world could be nullified.

On the first day of the finals weekend, two teams with the highest scores made it to the final face-off, and in an unusual outcome, both teams tied with the same score, that triggered a huddle among the judges to vote for a winner. "I have not seen a final like that

before in a competition like this," exclaimed Jeff Mittelstadt (MBA '07), executive director of the Center for Sustainable Enterprise and professor of the practice of strategy and entrepreneurship at UNC Kenan-Flagler. "These student teams diligently addressed all the feedback they received on Friday during their Saturday pitches and it showed. What a photo finish!"

The victorious student team "Green Winx, from Fundação Getulio Vargas in Sao Paulo, Brazil," was challenged to the final vote by "Ravi EV LLP" from UNC Kenan-Flagler which included Anagha Kalvade, Lauren Ma and Brandon Sjew. The other teams were fielded by XLRI Jamshedpur from India, University of St. Gallen (HSG) from Switzerland, BITS Pilani Dubai Campus from the United Arab Emirates, HEC Paris from France.