

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Kerala Blasters FC
to face FC Goa

KOCHI: Kerala Blasters FC will face FC Goa at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium as the Kochi-based team aim to maintain their formidable home-scoring streak in the Indian Super League (ISL) match today (Thursday).

Kerala Blasters FC have been strong in their backyard, netting in each of their last 16 matches at Kochi. However, they face a tough challenge against FC Goa, a side with a rich history of success against the Kerala Blasters FC, having won 11 games in this matchup – the third highest in ISL history, after the 15 wins by FC Goa against Chennaiyin FC and 12 wins by Mumbai City FC against FC Goa.

Both teams are tied at 49 clean sheets in the competition and are looking to become only the third side to reach 50 (after Mumbai City FC – 67 and Bengaluru FC – 52), but Kerala Blasters FC have struggled defensively in this fixture, failing to keep a clean sheet against GC Goa in their last 19 meetings. Right now, FC Goa are sixth in the table with 12 points from eight games, whereas Kerala Blasters FC are positioned ninth with 11 points from nine matches.

The Kerala Blasters FC's impressive run of goals at home is powered by Jesus Jimenez, who has scored in six consecutive matches – the longest streak for any Kerala Blasters FC player. Noah Sadaoui's frequent penalty area entries (10 per game) also make him a constant threat.

Kerala Blasters are prolific in the latter stages of games, netting 11 second-half goals this season, which is the highest in the league. It shows that they are lethal once the momentum of the game is settled after the opening essay of the match.

The Gaurs boast the highest

forward passes per game (160.4) this season, orchestrating dynamic attacking moves. In fact, 1,283 of the 3,227 passes attempted by the Gaurs over their eight games of 2024-25 have been forward passes.

Armando Sadiku has been a standout, averaging a goal every 73.4 minutes this season, a testament to FC Goa's efficiency up front. Overall, FC Goa have found the back of the net a staggering 16 times in eight matches, averaging a couple of strikes in every encounter thus far. The two teams have faced each other 20 times in the league. FC Goa and Kerala Blasters FC have garnered 11 and five victories respectively, whereas four matches have resulted in a draw. Kerala Blasters FC's Mikael Stahre opened up on his role as a head coach, which is trying to be objective irrespective of the outcome of the matches.

"A victory brings energy, but it's really important that even though this is our sport and it's about the result, sometimes the results influence the players' and fans' moods. My job is to try to be as objective as possible and to keep up the level of energy," Stahre said.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez backed his players to have a good season, showing faith in their abilities as they gear up for this crucial away fixture.

"We have most of our players ready. I think we have a very good team. I have been saying from the first day that we will have a good season and my opinion doesn't change on that," Marquez said.

Kerala Blasters FC's Noah Sadaoui has made 70 penalty area entries this season, second only to Connor Shields, and will be crucial in breaking down his former team FC Goa's defence.

ICC Test Bowling Rankings

Bumrah wrests
back top spot

DUBAI: India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has regained the top spot in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings after leading his team to a resounding 295-run victory over Australia in the first match of their ICC World Test Championship series in Perth.

Bumrah's hauls of five for 30 and three for 42 have helped him overtake Josh Hazlewood and Kagiso Rabada and reach a career-best 883 rating points, the highest rating points tally ever by an India seam bowler.

Spinners Ravichandran Ashwin (904) and Ravindra Jadeja (899) are the only bowlers from India to record higher

points tallies.

This is the third time that Bumrah has been top of the rankings this year. He was top ranked for two one-month stretches each starting in February and October.

India's huge victory in the first of five Tests is reflected in gains for several other players including centurions Yashasvi Jaiswal and Virat Kohli.

Opener Jaiswal has overtaken Harry Brook and Kane Williamson to reach a career-best second position after top-scoring in Perth with 161 in the second innings while Kohli's unbeaten 100 has

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Bengal beat
Mizoram

RAJKOT: Abishek Bengal, who outclassed Mizoram by 8 wickets, remained unbeaten in the tournament with 12 points from three games so far in Group A.

Abishek, who hit nine boundaries and four sixes, was well supported in the other end by Karan Lal (67, 40b,

just 45 balls to help Bengal register their third successive victory in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday.

7x4s, 3x6s). Batting first, Mizoram scored 157/4 in 20 overs, thanks to Mohit Jangra (80 not out). Kanishk Seth, Sayan Ghosh and Karan bagged a wicket each for Bengal.

Botafogo beats
Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO: Botafogo returned to the top of Brazil's Serie A championship with a 3-1 away victory over championship rival Palmeiras.

Gregore gave the visitor the lead on Tuesday when he swept a first-time effort into the top-right corner following Thiago Almada's one-touch pass.

The host was reduced to 10 men in the 70th minute after Marcos Rocha was shown a straight red card for lashing out at Igor Jesus with a hand to the face.

It took less than three minutes for Botafogo to capitalize on its numerical advantage as Jefferson Savarino ran onto Jesus' headed pass and calmly slotted a low shot past goalkeeper Weverton.

Adryelson put the result beyond doubt a minute from time with a towering header at the far post following a Savarino corner. Richard Rios opened Palmeiras' account by rifling home a first-time effort from 25 yards, but it proved little more than a consolation as the defending champion fell to its eighth defeat of the campaign.

Nathan debuts
against England

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand have confirmed seamer Nathan Smith will make his Test debut against England today (Thursday), while the Player of the Series from their recent whitewash in India Will Young has been dropped.

While Tom Latham failed to divulge the exact playing XI his side will take into the opening match of the three-game ICC World Test Championship series against England, the New Zealand skipper did reveal Smith will win his first Test cap in the Christchurch contest after he beat fellow pacer Jacob Duffy for the role as fourth seamer.

The Kiwis' captain also confirmed that former skip-

per and No.2 ranked Test batter Kane Williamson will return from his groin injury for the first Test at Hagley Oval, with Young the unlucky batter to make way.

Young scored 244 runs and was named Player of the Series during New Zealand's recent 3-0 series whitewash in India last month, but Williamson's return to full fitness sees the right-hander drop out of the side as the Blackcaps try and win their way to a second World Test Championship Final, an ICC report said. "He (Young) played fantastically well over in India and did a great job for us, but unfortunately it's nothing on what Young has done over the last period of time," Latham said on Wednesday.

SDL IPO opens
tomorrow

MUMBAI: Suraksha Diagnostic Limited (SDL) proposes to open an initial public offering of Equity Shares ("Offer") tomorrow (Friday, November 29, 2024). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, being today (Thursday, November 28, 2024). The Bid/Offer Closing Date is Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from ₹ 420 per Equity Share to ₹ 441 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 34 Equity Shares and multiples of 34 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Initial Public Offering is an Offer For Sale of up to 19,189,330 Equity Shares ("Offered Shares"), comprising up to 2,132,148 Equity Shares

by Dr. Somnath Chatterjee, up to 2,132,148 Equity Shares by Ritu Mittal, up to 2,132,148 Equity Shares by Satish Kumar Verma (whose shares are jointly held with Suman Verma) (together with Dr. Somnath Chatterjee and Ritu Mittal, the "Promoter Selling Shareholders"), up to 10,660,737 Equity Shares by Orbimed Asia II Mauritius Limited (the "Investor Selling Shareholder"), up to 799,556 Equity Shares by Munna Lal Kejriwal, and up to 1,332,593 Equity Shares by Santosh Kumar Kejriwal (together the "Individual Selling Shareholders") (The Promoter Selling Shareholders, The Investor Selling Shareholder and the Individual Selling Shareholders, Collectively Referred to as the "Selling Shareholders").

Shri VRL
announces results

JALGAON: Shri Venkatesh Refineries Limited (VRL), is a premier edible oil company, engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of a diverse range of products, including Soyabean Oil, Cottonseed Oil, and other cooking oils, as well as their associated by-products has reported its Unaudited Financial Results for H1 FY25.

Commenting on the Financial performance, Mr. Dinesh Ganapati Kabre, Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Venkatesh Refineries Limited said, "We are pleased to share our H1 FY25 performance, demonstrating steady re-

silience in a dynamic market environment. While total revenue showed growth from the previous period, our EBITDA and net profit remained stable despite slight adjustments in margins, reflecting our focus on sustainable and efficient operations.

The edible oils industry is an essential part of India's agricultural economy, with India being one of the world's largest producers of oilseeds, contributing about 5-6% of global production. The sector is crucial to the livelihoods of millions and plays a significant role in food security.

TCL announces results

SRIPERUMBUDUR: Thaaai Casting Limited (TCL), one of the prominent players in pressure die casting, precision machining of both ferrous and non-ferrous materials, induction heating and quenching, and Gas Nitriding has announced its Unaudited Financial Results for the H1 FY25.

Commenting on the Financial Performance, Anandan Sriramulu, Chairman and Managing Director of Thaaai Casting Limited, As we reflect on the performance in H1FY25, we acknowledge the stable outcomes while look-

ing ahead with confidence to a more dynamic second half. Our recent order inflows provide a solid base to support revenue in the near term, and we are especially enthusiastic about our strategic expansion into the wind sector, which we believe will unlock significant opportunities. This diversification aligns with our commitment to exploring high-potential growth areas outside our traditional markets, positioning us for sustained progress.

As we move forward, we remain focused on driving operational effi-

ciencies and enhancing our product offerings to deliver greater value to our shareholders, ensuring we are well-prepared for a robust performance in the coming years.

About Thaaai Casting Limited: Thaaai Casting excels in High-Pressure Die Casting, a process ideal for mass-producing intricate metal parts, and Machining of Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Materials, where its precision and advanced techniques cater to a variety of industrial needs.

