

Shah meets Brisbane panel

BRISBANE: "Very exciting time ahead for Cricket's involvement in the Olympics movement," remarked ICC Chairman Jay Shah, expressing optimism following his meeting with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee.

Shah is in Australia with the goal of securing cricket's inclusion in the prestigious global sporting event, set to take place in 2032.

The discussions between Shah and Cindy Hook, CEO of the Brisbane Games' organising committee, centred around the potential of cricket in the Olympic platform.

Shah highlighted the sport's ability to grow globally, stressing that cricket's inclusion in the Olympics would help expand its reach to new audiences, particularly in regions where it has yet to fully establish itself.

"This is a significant moment for the future of cricket," Shah stated after the meeting. He pointed out that with cricket's return to the Olympic stage in Los Angeles in 2028, the 2032 Brisbane Olympics offers a further opportunity to showcase the game to the world. "It is a great time for the sport to align itself with the Olympic movement, reaching out to fans from all corners of the globe," he added. This push for cricket's inclusion in the Olympics follows a series of steps taken by the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the past few years.

In August 2021, the ICC formed a special working group consisting of representatives from several key cricketing nations, including the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), USA Cricket, and Zimbabwe Cricket.

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

U Mumba defeat Tamil Thalaivas

PUNE: U Mumba delivered a dominant display against Tamil Thalaivas in match 106 of Pro Kabaddi League Season 11, winning 47-31 at the Badminton Hall in Balewadi Sports Complex.

Led by Ajit Chouhan's Super 10, Manjeet's 8 points and Amirmohammad Zafardanesh's 9-point game, they completed a 15-point rout as they jumped back to second place on the points table.

It was a rollicking start for U Mumba who were breathing fire in the first six minutes, rocketing to a 9-0 lead on Wednesday night.

Amirmohammad Zafardanesh and Ajit Chouhan came out all guns blazing to put Tamil Thalaivas under pressure from the get-go and inflicted an All-Out without wasting much time at all.

Tamil Thalaivas responded strongly after

having their backs against the wall, courtesy of Moein Shafaghi getting some momentum



for his side. They inflicted an All-Out of their own, closing the gap to make it a close contest after a rapid start to the game.

JUNIOR ASIA CUP

China defeats India

MUSCAT: China defeated India 2-1 in a tightly contested third Pool A match at the Women's Junior Asia Cup in Oman. With three points won on Wednesday night, China confirmed its spot in the Semi Final as the Pool A winners.

Jin Zhuang Tan (32') and Lihang Wang (42') were the goalscorers for China. Deepika (56') scored her seventh goal for India to lead the tournament's goalscorer's leaderboard. The first quarter saw both sides attack aggressively on all fronts looking for an early opening goal. India created plenty of chances but wasn't incisive enough in the shooting circle.

India received an early penalty corner but their attempt on goal was saved by China's strong backline.

China too received a penalty corner towards the end of first quarter. Jin Zhuang Tan took a powerful shot on goal which was met by a crucial

save by Nidhi, India's goalkeeper to keep the scores level.

In the second quarter, India received two back-to-back penalty corners but couldn't capitalise on the opportunity and score the first goal. After a tightly fought first half, both sides couldn't be separated and headed back into their dugout with no goals scored.

In the opening minutes of the third quarter, Xueling Zeng of China launched a dangerous counter-attack as she dribbled past the Indian defence from the left wing and was ultimately brought down by Nidhi in the shooting circle and won a penalty stroke for her side.

Captain Jin Zhuang Tan stepped up to take the stroke and bagged the first goal with a powerful shot past Nidhi.

China built on the momentum and created a plethora of chances after taking the lead.

MSLTA ALL INDIA RANKING U-14 TT

Prisha Patil clinches doubles title

MUMBAI: 10 December 2024, Young tennis sensation, Prisha Patil, has clinched the doubles title at the prestigious MSLTA-The Club All India Ranking U-14 Tennis Tournament, held from November 30 to December 6, 2024, in Mumbai.

Trained at the Chembur Gymkhana under the guidance of Nandan Bal Tennis Academy, Prisha showcased exceptional skill and teamwork to secure the coveted title.

To fully dedicate herself to her tennis career, Prisha has opted for homeschooling, allowing her to focus on intensive training at the academy.



Jibe of Jaiswal spurred career-best show of Starc: Ponting

BRISBANE: A light-hearted jibe from India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal may have fired up Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, resulting in a scintillating performance during the second Test in Adelaide.

Jaiswal, who scored a brilliant 161 in the series opener in Perth, had quipped that Starc was "bowling too slow" during his innings. The remark, while playful, seemed to spark something in Starc, who dismissed Jaiswal for a golden duck with a stunning delivery on the very first ball of the second Test.

Australian cricket legend Ricky Ponting reflected on this exchange during The ICC Review, suggesting that Jaiswal's comment provided Starc with some extra motivation. "Mitchell Starc is generally a level-headed guy, but I think that smile he wears might sometimes mask the fire burning inside," Ponting observed.

Starc's fiery spell in Adelaide earned

him career-best figures of 6/48 in the first innings, setting the tone for Australia's dominant 10-wicket victory that levelled the series at 1-1. Ponting credited Starc's performance and the contributions of other key players, including skipper Pat Cummins and batter Travis Head, for Australia's resurgence after their Perth defeat. Ponting noted, "When Australia lost the toss, it was up to the likes of Cummins and Starc to lead from the front. Starc's first-ball dismissal of Jaiswal was crucial—it set the tone for the entire match."

At 34, Starc remains a cornerstone of Australia's bowling attack, amassing an impressive 692 wickets across formats. He has been a pivotal figure in Australia's triumphs, including two ICC Cricket World Cup titles (2015, 2023), the T20 World Cup (2021), and the ICC World Test Championship (2023).

(Contd. from P 1)

He is India's Gukesh D

It also heightened the excitement among the chess enthusiasts as the final round unfolded before Gukesh emerged triumphant in a game in which fortunes fluctuated.

Both the players have shown enough resilience all through the contest amid a plethora of draws, and finally boiled down to a battle between the youthful exuberance of Gukesh and the experience of 32-year-old Ding Liren, who was keen to defend the title. In the end, the youthful exuberance prevailed over the experience, marking a watershed moment in Indian sports history. The tournament witnessed nine

draws and five wins—three by Gukesh and two by Ding Liren. The FIDE World Championship 2024 match is the first in 138 years to feature two contestants from Asia, the reigning World Champion, China's Ding Liren and challenger Dommaraju Gukesh from India, who competed for the prize fund of USD 2.5 million.



Winning position

Historic and exemplary!

Congratulations to Gukesh D on his remarkable accomplishment. This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work and unwavering determination.

His triumph has not only etched his name in the annals of chess history but has also inspired millions of young minds to dream big and pursue excellence.

My best wishes for his future endeavours.
@DGukesh

- PM Narendra Modi

India needs 2.2 tn dollar in infrastructure investment

KOLKATA: Reviving private Investments cited that an estimated investment of USD 2.2 trillion (tn) into infrastructure development is imperative to support India's GDP size to expand to USD7 tn by 2030, according to a Knight Frank, India's leading real estate consultancy, latest report on India Infrastructure.

To achieve an economic size of USD 7tn by 2030, India's economy is required to grow at a CAGR of 10.1 percent between 2024-2030. The central and state governments' heavy reliance on infrastructure investments

could strain fiscal deficit targets. Private participation in infrastructure development in India has decreased significantly, from USD 160 bn (46.4 pc of total investments) between 2009-13 to USD39.2 bn (7.2 pc) between 2019-23, the report said on Thursday. This shift has led to a larger share of government-led investments, potentially widening the fiscal deficit. Maintaining a controlled fiscal deficit is crucial for long-term economic stability and effective debt management.

The central government

aims to reduce its gross fiscal deficit to below 4.5 pc by 2025. Increasing private sector participation in infrastructure development would help balance fiscal deficit targets.

By increasing the private participation in infrastructure development, the government can redirect the expenditure towards other key segments of economic growth such as — public healthcare, strengthening humancapital, debt payments, etc which will support long term growth of the economy, the report maintained.

TATA MUMBAI MARATHON 2025

ASICS introduces limited edition merchandise

MUMBAI: ASICS, the Japanese sportswear brand, launched the Limited 20th Edition Merchandise of Asia's most prestigious Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025. The collection was unveiled by Actor and Triathlete, Saiyami Kher along with ASICS Brand Athletes, Rohan Bopanna and Saurav Ghosal, at ASICS store on Linking Road in Mumbai.

The limited 20th edition merchandise draws inspiration from The

Queen's Necklace, the iconic Marine Drive of Mumbai. This radiant curvature of the shore seamlessly blends with the urban skyline, creating a unique design that captures the essence of life in Mumbai. The t-shirt features a unique graphic with a repeating pattern of tetrapods lining Marine Drive's coastline, set against subtle wave-like curves in the background, symbolizing the rhythm and energy of the sea.

The GEL-KAYANO™ 31 Limited Edition embodies the design language inspired by the iconic Marine Drive, its shimmering streetlights and the rhythmic waves that define the city's energy that never stops moving. The shoe is equipped with 4D Guidance System for stability and FF BLAST™ PLUS ECO cushioning and Pure-GEL™ technology to deliver adaptive stability and smooth strides for journeys long and short.

WhatsApp kicks off Bharat Yatra

NEWDELHI: In a first-of-its-kind, mobile digital app WhatsApp has started a unique WhatsApp Bharat Yatra, an initiative aimed at providing on-ground, in-person training to small businesses across India to help small businesses fully leverage the capabilities of WhatsApp, enhancing their digital skills and business growth potential.

Starting with Delhi-NCR, the bus will visit some of the region's most popular and busy markets such as Laxmi Nagar, Rajouri Garden, Nehru Place, Malviya Nagar, Amar Colony, and Safdarjung Enclave. The journey will also cover key hubs in Gurgaon and Noida, including Sapphire Mall and Atta Market, the company said in a release.

SWL announces allotment of 46,81,709 equity shares

MUMBAI: Sumit Woods Limited (SWL), a leading real estate redevelopment player with over 38 years of experience in the Mumbai market, Sumit Woods has consistently shaped the urban landscape through trust, quality, and innovation.

The company has announced the successful allotment of 46,81,709 equity shares at Rs 115 per share (face value Rs 10 each) to non-promoter investors. This strategic initiative reflects the unwavering confidence of investors in the company's financial strength and growth potential.

As per company's special resolution passed on September 28, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the preferential allotment of 27,65,000 convertible warrants at Rs 115 each, with a face value of Rs

10 at the meeting held on December 06, 2024, and December 11, 2024. These warrants, which are convertible into an equal number of equity shares, will be issued to both promoters and non-promoters. The allotment, amounting to significant capital infusion, is poised to enhance the company's ability to deliver on its ambitious project pipeline. The funds will be allocated to ensure the timely completion of quality developments, further reinforcing Sumit Woods Limited's commitment to creating vibrant communities.

This latest development marks another milestone in Sumit Woods Limited's journey as it accelerates growth while adhering to its mission of operational excellence and stakeholder satisfaction.

