

Brisbane Test: Day 1 abandoned

BRISBANE: The opening day of the third Test between Australia and India was marred by persistent rain, allowing only 13.2 overs to be bowled before play was abandoned.

With the series finely poised, match officials have announced early starts for the remaining days, scheduling 98 overs for Day 2, weather permitting.

India, having won the toss, opted to bowl first on a greenish surface under overcast skies. Captain Rohit Sharma explained the decision, "The pitch looks soft with a bit of grass. We wanted to make the best use of the conditions. It's a big game, and we're ready to step up."

The visitors made two changes to their XI, including Ravindra Jadeja and debutant Akash Deep, replacing Ravi-

chandran Ashwin and Harshit Rana.

Australia's openers, Usman Khawaja (19 off 47) and

and Akash Deep, reaching 28 without loss before the rain set in. Both Siraj and Deep were disciplined, creating half-

soon escalated into a torrential downpour, leaving the outfield saturated despite the venue's excellent drainage. Ground staff worked relentlessly, but play was officially abandoned after lunch when conditions failed to improve.

Australian skipper Pat Cummins, who would have preferred to bowl first under the favourable conditions, praised his team's preparation: "It's been a great series so far. We've prepared well after the early finish in Adelaide. Just one change for us - Josh Hazlewood comes in for Scott Boland."

With rain forecast over the next few days, both teams will need to capitalise on whatever play is possible.

Fans and players alike will hope for a full day of cricket tomorrow as the series hangs in the balance.



Nathan McSweeney (4 off 33), cautiously negotiated probing spells from Mohammed Siraj

chances but failing to break through. What began as a drizzle

Indian Super League

Mohammedan SC to host Mumbai City FC

KOLKATA: The Kishore Bharati Krirangan will host the first-ever Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 match between Mohammedan SC and Mumbai City FC today (Sunday). The Islanders come into this encounter on a strong run of form when facing new opponents in the ISL, having won their last four such games and having lost only one game in Kolkata in nine games.

On the other hand, Mohammedan SC are still searching for their first home victory this season, having fallen short of winning any of their five home fixtures (D1 L4). Their inability to keep a clean sheet in their own

backyard has also hampered their prospects.

The matchup thus represents a fixture between two contrasting narratives, i.e. Mumbai City FC's pursuit of consistency against unfamiliar foes and Mohammedan SC's quest to reverse their home fortunes.

Mumbai City FC have been in formidable form while playing in Kolkata, losing just one of their last nine ISL matches in the city. This run includes six wins and two draws, with the only loss coming against Mohun Bagan Super Giant on April 15, 2024 (1-2). Mumbai City FC have faced the fewest shots

on target per game this season (three per game) but have a save percentage of only 58.1%, the second lowest in the league. This paradox highlights issues in goalkeeping efficiency, with Kerala Blasters FC being the only side with a lower save percentage (47.5%). Thus, Mohammedan SC can look to launch lethal, timely attacks to find the back of the net.

Mohammedan SC's form at home has been disappointing, as they have lost their last three consecutive home fixtures, the joint-longest active home losing streak in the ISL (along with Hyderabad FC).

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Rahane powers Mumbai into final

BENGALURU: Mumbai booked their spot in the finals of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024, with a comprehensive six-wicket victory over Baroda, powered by Ajinkya Rahane's dazzling 98 and a composed finishing touch from Suryansh Shedge.

Chasing 159, Rahane's masterful innings set the tone for Mumbai's dominant chase. The seasoned batsman smashed 11 boundaries and five sixes in his 56-ball knock, tearing apart Baroda's bowling attack. While he narrowly

missed out on a century, his performance ensured Mumbai stayed in control throughout the chase.

Rahane found able support in Shreyas Iyer, who contributed a brisk 46 off 30 balls. The duo sealed a crucial 88-run partnership that put Mumbai on the brink of victory.

After Iyer's departure, Suryakumar Yadav succumbed for one and Shivam Dube kept the momentum going before Suryansh Shedge sealed the deal with a six off debutant Shashwat Rawat.

UTT National Ranking TT C'ship to conclude

BENGALURU: After three months of travelling across the country, the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships are set to conclude with back-to-back tournaments in the southern states beginning today (Sunday). This final leg of the season provides players with a crucial opportunity to solidify their positions in the rankings and make a strong impression before the year ends.

Starting at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, the eight-day event will open with senior players taking center stage.

Hosting an event of this scale after seven years, the Karnataka Table Tennis Association has ensured top-notch playing conditions, an engaging atmosphere, and the pleasant weather of Bengaluru, which is sure to add to the experience.

The dip in participation in Thiruvananthapuram has been somewhat arrested and the increase in entries in the last event of the calendar is a welcome sign. Significantly, however, the qual-



ity of competition should, as usual, remain high. Nevertheless, two notable absentees will catch the attention of spectators.

Defending champion Manush Shah

from RBI has been forced to withdraw due to a shoulder injury, and G. Sathyan is currently training in Poland. Their absence presents a golden opportunity for other players to aim for the top podium positions and accumulate vital ranking points, which could bring them closer to national team selection.

Harmeet Desai currently leads the men's points table, while Under-19 player Ankur Bhattacharjee has made waves, securing the fourth spot with his impressive performances. Manav Thakkar, who was pushed to fifth after a semifinal loss in the previous tournament, will be looking to bounce back, even as Harmeet aims to maintain his lead.

Young talents like Payas Jain and Akash Pal are also making their presence felt, keeping the competition intense and unpredictable.

FIFA WORLD CUP

Hosts of 2030 & 2034 editions appointed

ZURICH (SWITZERLAND): All 211 FIFA Member Associations convened virtually at an Extraordinary FIFA Congress where Morocco, Portugal and Spain were appointed as the hosts

of the FIFA World Cup 2030, with three centenary celebration matches to be held in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (one in each country), while Saudi Arabia was selected to stage the FIFA

World Cup 2034.

The appointment by acclamation of the hosts of the 2030 and 2034 editions of the FIFA World Cup concludes a thorough bidding process initiated in October 2023 following the unanimous proposal made by the FIFA Council and supported by all confederations, with a view to providing harmony and rotation between the confederations in relation to the hosting cycle for the tournament.



CARS24 launches Autonaut

GURUGRAM: CARS24, India's leading autotech platform, has unveiled Autonaut, a cutting-edge AI-powered chatbot designed to revolutionize how India interacts with cars.

Autonaut is among India's first multilingual automotive AI chatbots, offering intuitive, human-like conversations to simplify and elevate every aspect of car ownership.

Whether it's helping users choose the perfect car, providing insights on selling, or offering post-sale guidance, Autonaut answers all car-related questions with precision and ease. Tailored for buyers, sellers, and enthusiasts alike, it transforms the often complex car journey into a seamless and

empowering experience.

"Autonaut is a global ambition brought to life in India. We're designing AI-first solutions that aren't just for the future of cars—they're for the future of the world," said Vikram Chopra, CEO & Co Founder, CARS24.

Autonaut is the result of countless hours of research, innovation, and collaboration by CARS24's team of tech and automotive experts. Extensively tested with some of India's top car specialists, Autonaut ensures every response, recommendation, and insight is backed by industry-leading expertise. This meticulous validation process guarantees reliability, setting a new benchmark for trust in AI-driven car solutions.

YES BANK launches YES Business

KOLKATA: YES BANK has announced the launch of YES Business, an initiative to sharpen its focus on the business segment and address their needs.

YES Business is designed to bring banking and related services for MSMEs under one roof, according to a media statement.

YES Business is inspired by the way an entrepreneur cares for a growing business which is similar to raising a child, with steady effort, close attention, and genuine commitment.

This business segment offers a single point access to a wide range of tools and resources that help MSMEs in managing their day-to-day operations and achieving long-term growth.

Central to this launch is the IRIS Biz by YES BANK (IRIS Biz), a digital interface that provides a wide range of integrated solutions to both simplify and

strengthen business operations. By combining core banking services with additional resources beyond traditional banking, IRIS Biz enables entrepreneurs and business owners to handle multiple aspects of their enterprise using a single platform.

Prashant Kumar, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, YES BANK, said, "At YES BANK, we have always strived to redefine banking by aligning with the aspirations and challenges of businesses across India. The MSME segment in India employs the largest workforce and is the backbone of our economy. The IRIS Biz app offers a unified, tech-enabled, and customer-first solution to empower business growth. This new-age app is more than just a banking platform; it is a comprehensive business partner that goes beyond banking to cater to every need of our clients."

Stanley Lifestyles opens new store

COIMBATORE: Stanley Lifestyles, India's leading luxury furniture and home décor brand, launched its newest luxury format flagship store, Stanley Level Next, in this Textile city of Tamil Nadu.

Spanning over 18,000 sqft, this well-appointed experience centre is set to revolutionize luxury home living in the region by offering a meticulously curated selection of luxury furniture, bespoke cabinetry, and elegant accessories.

With over 25 years of excellence in luxury craftsmanship, Stanley continues its design innovation and commitment to creating timeless hand crafted furniture that blend artistry and functionality, a company release said.

Sunil Suresh, Founder and Managing Director of Stanley Lifestyles, said "As creators of timeless luxury, we are delighted to introduce " Stanley Level Next " to Coimbatore, a city that beautifully balances tradition and modern elegance."

"This launch represents our dedication to crafting designs that resonate with the refined tastes of our customers. We aim to set new benchmarks in luxury living with this state-of-the-art collection."

BLSIS signs MoU with IHS

NEW DELHI: BLS International Services Singapore Pte. Ltd (BLSIS), a tech-enabled services for governments and citizens, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Finstreet Limited, a subsidiary of International Holding Company (IHC) based in Abu Dhabi and specialized in trading public and private securities, to explore innovative solutions and create value for stakeholders through shared expertise and resources.

This strategic agreement initiates a partnership that provides BLS International access to Finstreet's newly launched platform, a cutting-edge venue for fostering impactful collaborations.

The two organizations plan to leverage their combined strengths to identify and develop initiatives that align with their shared goals, setting the stage for future definitive agreements, BLS said in a release.

Shikhar Aggarwal,

Joint MD of BLS International said "This MoU with Finstreet Limited marks the beginning of an exciting collaboration that reflects BLS International's commitment to innovation and strategic growth. By utilizing Finstreet's state-of-the-art platform, we aim to unlock new opportunities, enhance our service delivery, and create greater value for our stakeholders. We are confident that this partnership will lead to groundbreaking synergies that benefit both organizations."

This alliance highlights the shared vision of BLS International and Finstreet Limited to harness technology, expertise, and innovation to drive progress.

REC Signs MoA with THDC

NEW DELHI: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with THDC India Limited (THDCIL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. REC has committed financial assistance of Rs. 3.97 crore for the development of an Olympic-size swimming pool at the THDCIL Water Sports High Performance Academy of Canoeing & Kayaking in Koteswar, Tehri (Uttarakhand).

The agreement was signed on Friday between Shri Pradeep Fellows, Executive Director, CSR, REC, and Shri Amardeep, General Manager, THDCIL and President, SEWA THDC. The ceremony took place in the presence of Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chairman and Managing Director, REC Limited; Shri Harsh Baweja, Director (Finance), REC, and Shri Shallinder Singh, Director (Personnel), THDCIL.

The upcoming swimming pool facility aims to nurture and train national-level athletes for international competitions in canoeing and kayaking, contributing to India's recognition in water sports globally.

TCS partners with Landis+Gyr

NEW DELHI: Tata group flagship company TCS on Friday announced that it has partnered with Landis+Gyr, a leading energy management solutions company based in Cham, Switzerland, to deliver innovative, flexible energy-efficiency solutions for utilities. These solutions will empower utilities to help their commercial and industrial customers achieve sustainability goals, improve operational efficiency, and reduce carbon emissions, TCS said in a release.

Over the next three years, TCS will integrate its award-winning enterprise-level energy and emission management system TCS Clever Energy with Landis+Gyr's advanced smart metering and grid management technologies, creating a comprehensive energy management solu-

tion for utilities. The partnership will enable utilities to meet the complex energy demands of their commercial and industrial clients while offering them advanced tools to optimize energy usage and achieve sustainability targets. TCS will also leverage TCS Clever Energy to drive energy transformation for Landis+Gyr.

Utilities face increasing pressure to help their customers meet sustainability targets and adapt to changing regulations. The combined capabilities of Landis+Gyr and TCS will enable utilities to offer end-to-end energy efficiency solutions that include real-time energy optimization, demand response, and smart EV charging.

These features help utilities empower their commercial and indus-

trial customers to improve energy efficiency, lower emissions, and drive operational excellence. It simultaneously increases utility's ability to integrate renewable energy sources, optimize use of existing infrastructure, and improve grid flexibility.

Amith Kota, Global CTO at Landis+Gyr, said, "The partnership with TCS brings pivotal technological expertise to our expanding flexibility management offering. By integrating TCS Clever Energy capabilities into our portfolio, we now provide a solution that supports utilities in delivering energy efficiency and sustainability solutions to their commercial and industrial customers. This ensures grid resilience while enabling utilities to meet both their and their customers' sustainability goals."

MIT Bengaluru unveils autonomous mobility centre

BENGALURU: Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Bengaluru, on Monday, launched the Centre of Excellence in Autonomous Mobility, a new initiative designed to foster innovation in the rapidly evolving field of autonomous transportation.

The centre, a collaboration between MIT Bengaluru, Decibel Lab Private Limited, and Virya AI (Maini Group), will focus on developing safe, reliable, and sustainable solutions for autonomous mobility.

The Centre was inaugurated by AICTE Chairman Sitharam, marking a significant step in the region's advancements in transportation technologies. The event featured the unveiling of a state-of-the-art autonomous six-seater electric buggy, a product of a joint development between Virya AI and the Centre.

The buggy represents the potential of autonomous vehicles to revolutionise how transportation systems operate, particularly in urban environments.

Professor Madhu Veeraraghavan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of MAHE, expressed the significance of the project, stating, "The Center of Excellence in Autonomous Mobility is a testament to MAHE's unwavering commitment to innovation and cutting-edge research."