

Indian Premier League

PBKS stun KKR in Mohali thriller

CHANDIGARH: In a historic low-scoring encounter that kept fans on the edge of their seats, Punjab Kings (PBKS) pulled off an extraordinary 16-run win against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in Mohali on Tuesday. In doing so, PBKS defended the lowest total in the history of the Indian Premier League, bowling out KKR for just 95 runs while chasing a modest target of 112.

Despite the seemingly easy chase, KKR's batting line-up faltered dramatically against a fiery Punjab bowling attack. Only Angkrish Raghuvanshi showed some resistance, scoring a fighting 37 runs, but he found little support from the other end. Wickets kept tumbling at regular intervals, and the innings never found momentum. PBKS bowlers kept a tight grip on proceedings, sealing an unlikely victory in the final overs.

Earlier, Punjab Kings endured a collapse of their own after being asked to bat first. Their innings folded at 111 runs in just 15.3 overs, thanks to a ruthless and

disciplined performance by KKR bowlers, particularly Harshit Rana (3/25), Varun Chakaravathy (2/14), and Sunil Narine (2/14).

The PBKS innings started with a brief spark. Openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh showed early intent, combining for a flurry of attacking strokes. Arya struck a six off Harshit Rana and followed it up with a boundary off Vaibhav Arora. Meanwhile, Prabhsimran was in a punishing mood, hammering two sixes and a four to score 30 off just 15 deliveries. However, the momentum was short-lived. Arya's dismissal triggered a rapid collapse. Captain Shreyas Iyer was dismissed for a golden duck, falling to Harshit Rana, who also claimed Prabhsimran soon after. Josh Inglis tried to stabilize but was bowled by Chakaravathy.

Brief scores: PBKS 111 (Prabhsimran Singh 30, Priyansh Arya 22; Harshit Rana 3/25) beat **KKR 95** (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 37, Ajinkya Rahane 17; Marco Jansen 3/17) by 16 runs

NEW DELHI: A resurgent Delhi Capitals will be aiming to seize the top spot on the IPL 2025 table when they lock horns with a beleaguered Rajasthan Royals outfit at the Arun Jaitley Stadium today (Wednesday) evening.

The high-stakes encounter marks a crucial turning point in the league phase — a potential coronation for Delhi and a possible curtain call for Rajasthan. Sitting pretty in second place with 8 points from five matches, Delhi have been one of the most consistent sides this season, led by the calm authority of KL Rahul and bolstered by the wily spin of Kuldeep Yadav. With a superior net run rate and four wins from their last five outings, Delhi know a win could catapult them to the top of the standings, edging ahead of Gujarat Titans.

Rajasthan, in contrast, find themselves in a downward spiral. Eighth on the points table with just two wins from six games, the 2008 champions are running out of time to revive their flagging

DC to host RR



campaign. Their recent form — a 58-run hammering by Gujarat followed by a crushing nine-wicket defeat to Royal Challengers Bangalore — has exposed deep cracks in both their batting order and bowling attack.

The form charts of both teams reflect their contrasting trajectories. For Delhi, Rahul's return to form has been the cornerstone of their campaign. The India opener, who endured a lean patch last season, has struck three fifties in five matches, including an unbeaten 93 off 54 balls against RCB. His assured presence at the top has given Delhi a solidity that was missing in previous editions.

Adding to their strength is Kuldeep's magical touch with the ball. The left-arm wrist spinner has been in vintage form, picking up 10 wickets

at a miserly average of 11.20, bamboozling batsmen with flight, drift and turn on sluggish surfaces. Meanwhile, Rajasthan have struggled to click as a unit. Despite flashes of brilliance from skipper Sanju Samson and allrounder Riyan Parag, the team has looked disjointed. Yashasvi Jaiswal's lean run — just 126 runs in six matches — and Jos Buttler's inconsistency have compounded their woes. In the bowling department, Jofra Archer has lacked support, and the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzuvendra Chahal have failed to deliver regular breakthroughs.

Wednesday's fixture has all the ingredients of a season-defining clash. For Delhi, it offers a chance to consolidate their playoff push and build momentum in the second half of the season. For Rajasthan, it is a must-win — a loss would leave them stranded at four points with just seven games remaining, making the path to the top four almost mathematically improbable.

Khelo India Youth Games logo released

PATNA: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday released the logo of Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025, beginning on May 4. Kumar released the logo of Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025 in presence of Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse.

Mandaviya released Subhankar (Mascot) of the event on the occasion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Khelo India Youth Games on May 4. Both Kumar and Mandaviya also released sports song and flagged off "torch march" (Mashal Yatra) of the event which will cover all 38 districts of Bihar.

The Chief Minister while addressing the

function organised on the occasion, said he was extremely happy that Khelo India Youth Games was being organised in Bihar. It would help in encouraging youths of the state to participate in sports activities more and excel in arenas of their choice where they could perform at optimum level, he added.

"A big sports event being organised in Bihar would further help in tapping sports potential of youths of the state", Kumar said adding that infrastructural facilities to promote sports activities among youths would be improved further in the state. Nitish said that his government was committed to ensure all facilities for youths of the state so that they could win medals in national and international events.

Iyer named ICC Player of Month

DUBAI: India's stylish middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer secured the honour of the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March 2025, overcoming competition from New Zealand's Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra.

Iyer finished as the highest run-scorer with 243 runs, playing a crucial role in India's Champions Trophy triumph.

Iyer's victory of this award means that India have won the award back-to-back, with Shubman Gill winning the award for February.

Iyer was a key factor in India's 2025 Champions Trophy campaign, playing a key role in the middle-order. He helped India progress through the middle overs with his masterful

stroke-play and his knack for anchoring the innings and forging crucial partnerships played a vital role in steering his side through a victorious campaign.

On winning the accolade, Iyer said, "I'm truly honored to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March. This recognition is incredibly special, especially in a month where we lifted the ICC Champions Trophy — a moment I will cherish forever."

"Being able to contribute to India's success on such a big stage is something every cricketer dreams of. I'm grateful to my teammates, coaches, and support staff for their unwavering support and belief," he said.

Concacaf opposes 64-team World Cup plans

MIAMI: Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf) president Victor Montagliani has criticised a proposal to expand the 2030 men's World Cup to 64 teams.

The plans, put forward by South American governing body Conmebol, have also drawn opposition from Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The tournament will be hosted by Spain, Morocco and Portugal, after the opening matches are held in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, the BBC reported.

The 2026 World Cup, which will take place across the United States, Mexico and Canada, has already been expanded from 32 to 48 teams. But Conmebol said it wanted to add more participants to mark the competition's 100-year anniversary. "I don't believe expanding the men's

World Cup to 64 teams is the right move for the tournament itself and the broader football ecosystem, from national teams to club competitions, leagues, and players," Montagliani told ESPN.

"We haven't even kicked off the new 48-team World Cup yet, so personally, I don't think that expanding to 64 teams should even be on the table."

Concacaf is the governing body of football in North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

The decision to expand the 2026 World Cup to 48 teams was taken in 2017 following a unanimous vote at a Fifa congress.

Fifa's 75th congress will be held in Paraguay on 15 May, when Conmebol's proposal could be discussed. If the proposal is accepted, the 2030 edition would consist of 128 matches, double the number played under the 64-game format used from 1998 and 2022.

Women's Ice Hockey World C'ship

Austria defeat China



SHENZHEN: China lost to Austria 3-0 in the second round of the 2025 IIHF Women's World Championship Division I Group A, remaining the sole team yet to score a single goal.

Austria struck first in the ninth minute on Monday, as captain Anna Meixner circled from behind the Chinese net to the right and lifted a quick shot into the top corner.

Anja Trummer sent a pass from the right wing to Emma Lintner, who finished from close range to double the lead, in the 28th minute.

China, which suffered a 4-0

defeat to Slovakia in the first round, had several opportunities during a power play but failed to force them home.

In the third period, Austria's Annika Fazokas added a power-play goal, assisted by Meixner and Theresa Schafzahl.

China created a few chances in the offensive zone but struggled with decisiveness and was unable to grab the opportunities. Despite the loss, 19-year-old Chinese goalkeeper Zhan Jiahui delivered an outstanding performance by making 44 saves.

"Although my save rate

was over 90 percent, I feel that as long as it was not one hundred percent and I did not help the team to win, then I haven't done enough," said Zhan.

"After reviewing yesterday's game video, we were well-prepared for today's match, and we performed better than yesterday," she added.

Earlier on Monday, Slovakia defeated France 4-1, while Denmark defeated the Netherlands 6-3. China will have a pivotal clash against the Netherlands on Wednesday, while Denmark will take on France, and Slovakia will meet Austria.

Sensex soars 1577.63 points

MUMBAI: The equity market remained on top for another session on Tuesday with BSE Sensex advancing 1577.63 points to close high at 76,734.89 after the announcement of tariff exemption for electronic goods by Trump government.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 500 points at 23,328.55.

The equity market was shut on Monday for 'Dr Ambedkar Jayanti'. Registering huge gains of 1310.11 points on Friday, the equity market opened on a strong note at 76,852.06, rising 1695 points. It remained in green throughout the session. During the day, it was spurred 1750 points to 76,907.63, days high, before closing at 76,734.89 up 1577.63 points

from its previous close. The Nifty registered days high at 23,368.35 and low at 23,207 points.

In stocks, Realty was shined by 5.81 pc followed by Industrials by 3.76, Auto by 3.39 pc and Auto by 3.39 pc.

The Mid cap gained 3.02 pc and Small cap by 3.21 pc.

The gainers were IndusInd Bank by 6.70 pc to Rs 734.90, Tata Motors by 4.61 pc to Rs 622.50, L& T by 4.50 pc to Rs 3257.25, Axis Bank by 4.23 pc to Rs 1114.55 and Adani Ports by 4.13 pc to Rs 1212.10.

The losers were Hindustan Unilever by 0.28 pc to Rs 2360 and ITC by 0.28 pc to Rs 420.60.

Asian and European market also booked.

US-based Citizens Financial group partners with Cognizant

HYDERABAD: Citizens Financial Group, a U.S.-based premier financial institution, on Tuesday announced a joint initiative with Cognizant, a leading global technology and professional services company, to launch a Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad to accelerate innovation and the execution of the bank's enterprise technology strategy. Hyderabad GCC is expected to scale up to 1,000 professionals specializing in IT and Data & Analytics by March 2026.

Telangana IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, who participated in the pro-

gram, said "Hyderabad is rapidly becoming a global business hub. In 2024, we secured nearly one GCC per week, bringing our total to over 355 GCCs. This growth is reflected in the rising demand for commercial and retail space, along with a surge in air traffic. By 2030, we plan to add 200 million sq. ft. of Grade A office space." The launch of Citizens Bank's GCC with Cognizant further strengthens our position, showcasing growing confidence in our ecosystem. Our goal is to transform Hyderabad from a GCC hub into a Global Value Centre, driving IP, innova-

tion, R&D, and product development, the Minister added.

Located within Cognizant's new campus in Hyderabad, the GCC is designed to help Citizens move quickly and effectively foster innovative solutions for its customers, the company said in a release. It will also serve as an innovation hub, implementing cutting-edge technologies and fostering a culture of continuous learning and development. This year, Citizens plans to become the first U.S. regional bank to fully migrate to the cloud, unlocking proven advantages and emerging opportunities.

Committed to advancement of industrial sector: LG

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday reiterated that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, we are committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha, after virtually inaugurating the Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymer India Private Limited at Kathua, congratulated the Superior Group of Industries and the members of Superior Polymer India Private Limited on their new venture and conveyed his best wishes.

He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy and employment generation, and

a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

"UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing, and today's project dedicated to the industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said. "We have ensured a workforce prepared for industrial jobs. We have empowered marginalized sections of society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our Handloom and Handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said, the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

PBPartners unveils its future-ready vision

NASHIK: PBPartners, the PoSP arm of Policy-bazaar, successfully concluded the fourth edition of its annual flagship business meet, Shapath 4.0. The annual meetup brought together key stakeholders of PBPartners to reflect on the past year's performance and outline the roadmap for the coming financial year.

The spotlight remained on strengthening PBPartners' foundation and preparing for scalable, tech-enabled growth. Reiterating its vision of "Securing Bharat's future, one family at a time," the brand underlined its mission to build a robust partner ecosystem that supports every stage of the in-

urance journey - for both agent partners and customers. PBPartners remains a frontrunner in PoSP-led distribution across Tier 2, Tier 3, and emerging rural markets. The brand now covers over 19,300 pin codes, has onboarded 90,000+ active partners in FY24 (up from 59,000 in FY23), and processes 20,000 policies a day - or one policy every four seconds. Its workforce spans 556 cities, and the platform directly supports the livelihoods of over 4,500 agent partners daily.

Dhruv Sarin, Co-founder of PBPartners, emphasized in his keynote: "As we look ahead, we are placing technology at the center of our

growth strategy. Our vision is to create a tech agency of the future. From streamlining agent partner onboarding to automating support services and improving RM productivity, we're creating a seamless, empowering experience across India - especially in deep rural markets where tech and trust must go hand in hand."

He added, "The other big focus is service excellence. We're building intelligence-driven service systems to increase transparency, drive efficiency, and help agent partners grow with confidence. Our success will rest on how well we deliver consistent, reliable service at scale."

MCPL eyes Rs 1,000 cr revenue

MUMBAI: Mitsu Chem Plast Limited (MCPL), one of the leading global manufacturers of Blow moulded & Injection Moulded products and a specialist in hospital furniture components, Infrastructure Products, Packaging Bottles Drums, Jerrycan, Pails and Caps, celebrated 35 years of excellence, trust and innovation, and announced a strategic plan to achieve Rs 1,000 Cr in annual revenue by 2028. This goal represents a threefold increase over the company's FY24 topline within four years.

Four Pillars of Growth - Operational Excellence: By refining manufacturing processes, reducing waste, and enhancing speed and quality, Mitsu is set to build an operational model that champions both efficiency and consistency. Data-Driven Marketing: Harnessing insights through

targeted, innovative campaigns, the company is dedicated to strengthening customer engagement and fostering lasting brand loyalty in both domestic and global markets. Scientific Innovation: With robust R&D and meticulous market analysis, Mitsu will introduce state-of-the-art products that meet the evolving demands of healthcare—delivering clear economic benefits. Empowered Teams: Investing in top-tier talent and fostering a culture of cross-functional collaboration and accountability, the firm is building a workforce geared towards rapid, scalable growth.

Mitsu's bold vision is anchored in seven core values that drive every aspect of its operations. The company nurtures employee welfare through a supportive, growth-oriented culture and is deeply committed

to sustainability. Emphasizing green practices, Mitsu adopts many Sustainable solutions, implements eco-friendly manufacturing methods, and champions circular economy initiatives to reduce waste and minimize its environmental footprint. With innovations in value engineering, it delivers high-performance, cost-effective solutions without sacrificing quality.

Additionally, a steadfast focus on quality consciousness and customer delight ensures that every product not only meets but exceeds expectations. Guided by its mission "to challenge ourselves continuously to innovate and create value... beyond expectations," Mitsu is dedicated to becoming a global leader in polymer solutions, delivering purposeful products and building enduring international partnerships.



Change In Name

My old name PATHAN IMRANKHAN AHMEDAD QADIR has been changed to my new name IMRAN ISMAIL PATHAN as per Aadhaar No. 289040608430. (CM-46)

My old name MANSURI KALIM AHMEDAD QADIR has been changed to New name KALIM KADIR MANSURI As Aadhaar No 611594535872

My OLD NAME was AKSHALI SAGAR PAWAR. My NEW NAME is AKSHALI SURESH AHER As Aadhaar No 659550868753