

Indian Premier League

RCB clinch thrilling win over CSK

BENGALURU: In a high-octane IPL 2025 clash at Chepauk, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) edged out Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by two runs in a nail-biting finish to match 52, successfully defending a massive 213-run total in a game that had fans on the edge of their seats until the last ball. CSK, chasing 214, fell agonizingly short, ending their innings at 211 for 5, despite a valiant unbeaten knock of 94 runs from young talent Ayush Mhatre, who anchored the innings and nearly pulled off a miracle for the CSK. But tight final overs from the RCB bowlers ensured they held on to secure a crucial win.

Earlier, RCB had set the stage ablaze with a dominant 213/5 in their 20 overs, headlined by an explosive 14-ball 50 from Romario Shepherd, the second-fastest half-

century in IPL history.

His incredible late assault shifted the momentum decisively in RCB's favor and left CSK reeling during the chase. RCB, after losing the toss and being put in to bat, got off to a dream start with openers Virat Kohli and Jacob Bethell launching a flurry of attacking strokes. Kohli, in vintage form, scored a blistering 62 off 33 balls, while Bethell impressed with a composed yet aggressive 55 off 33. However, it was Romario Shepherd who launched an onslaught in the final overs, tearing apart the bowling with 4 fours and 6 sixes in his unbeaten 53 off just 14 deliveries.

Brief Scores: RCB 213/5 (Virat Kohli 62, Jacob Bethell 55; Matheesha Pathirana 3/36) beat CSK 211/5 (Ayush Mhatre 94, Ravindra Jadeja 77*; Lungi Ngidi 3/30) by two runs

PBKS to face LSG

DHARAMSALA: Punjab Kings' explosive opening duo, Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya, who have piled up close to 700 runs between them this season, will aim to extend their scintillating run and take a giant stride towards the IPL 2025 playoffs when they meet a struggling Lucknow Super Giants side in Match 54 at the HPCA Stadium today (Sunday).

Riding high on a four-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, Punjab enter the contest with momentum and form firmly on their side.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer has marshalled his troops with composure, and the team's batting depth—featuring Iyer, Nehal Wadhwa, Shashank Singh and keeper Josh Inglis, makes them one of the most complete sides in the tournament.

On the bowling front, Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen have struck early blows consistently, while Yuzvendra Chahal's guile in the middle overs continues to be a major asset. His four-wicket haul against CSK was crucial in turning the game. All-

rounders Azmatullah Omarzai, Harpreet Brar and Suryansh Shedge further bolster Punjab's arsenal.

In stark contrast, Lucknow, led by Rishabh Pant, are battling both form and pressure, sitting sixth on the points table after losing three of their last four games. A 54-run drubbing by Mumbai Indians has left them teetering on the brink, with today (Sunday's) match effectively a must-win to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Lucknow's batting has lacked cohesion, with Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh struggling to provide a steady start. Nicholas Pooran's bursts of brilliance at No. 3 have been offset by Pant's lean patch, while David Miller and Abdul Samad have lacked the platform to finish strong. Their bowlers too have been erratic—Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav, and Avesh Khan leaking runs in key phases. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi remains their most dependable weapon, with Markram and Digvesh Singh Rathī offering part-time support.

Khelo India multipurpose hall inaugurated

ITANAGAR: In a significant step towards strengthening sports infrastructure in the Northeast, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the Khelo India Multipurpose Hall at Raga in Arunachal Pradesh's Kamle district on Saturday.

State's Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kento Jini, Labour & Employment Minister Nyato Dukam, and Raga MLA Rotom Tebin were also present on the occasion.

Built at a cost of Rs 8 crore and fully funded by the Central Government under the Khelo India initiative, the state-of-the-art facility is designed to boost grassroots-level sports in the region by providing modern training infrastructure.

Equipped with modern amenities, the hall will cater to a range of indoor sports including boxing, badminton, judo, wushu, karate, taekwondo, weightlifting, table ten-

nis, and volleyball, enabling young athletes from the region to train professionally and compete at national and international levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mandaviya reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to inclusive sports development, particularly in remote districts. "This initiative reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of nurturing talent from every corner of the country. Arunachal Pradesh has immense potential, and through facilities like these, we aim to create opportunities for youth to shine in sports and contribute to nation-building," he said.

During his visit, the Union Minister also interacted with local youth and sportspersons, encouraging them to take full advantage of the new facility.

He stressed the importance of incorporating fitness and discipline into daily life to empower the next generation.

Bose, Guguloth bag India's top football honours

BHUBANESWAR: Subhasish Bose and Soumya Guguloth were named the AIFF Best Men's and Women's Players of the Year 2024-25 on the AIFF Awards Day.

The award function was held in the Odisha capital on the eve of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 final.

Among the dignitaries present on Friday along with AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, were Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha, Suryabanshi Suraj, State Minister, Higher Education, Sports and Youth Services, Odia Language Literature and Culture, Bhaskar Sarma, Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Dept, Govt of Odisha, Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tankadhar Tripathy, President, Football Association of Odisha.

Members of the All India Football Federation's top brass, including the Executive Committee, and

representatives from the respective state Member Associations were present at the awards.

Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, said, "It is an honour to be present on this great occasion of the AIFF Awards. I remember in 2002 when Priya Ranjan Dasmuni was the AIFF President, we revived the Kalinga Football Cup, which was started by the late Biju Patnaik."

"During my discussion with Kalyan, we agreed that we'll do something about it, and I'm happy to say that what has been done with the Kalinga Super Cup is a great service, not only to the state of Odisha, but also the sport of football," he said.

Chaubey, said, "First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Odisha for hosting the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 in a very successful manner. Odisha is a state that has the best football infrastructure and

always promotes the sport in various ways. I can proudly say that football has a bright future in Odisha. Last year we had the awards night in New Delhi, but this year we can say that it is much bigger and better, and we hope that with all of your support we can make it even bigger in the coming years."

Apart from Bose and Guguloth, the other individual award winners were Khalid Jamil (Best Men's Coach), Sujata Kar (Best Women's Coach), Vishal Kaith (Best Men's Goalkeeper), Elangbam Panthoi Chanu (Best Women's Goalkeeper), Brison Fernandes (Promising Men's Player), Toijam Thoibisana Chanu (Promising Women's Player), Venkatesh R (Best Male Referee), Tekcham Ranjita Devi (Best Female Referee), Vairamuthu P (Best Male Assistant Referee), and Riiohlang Dhar (Best Female Assistant Referee).

Subhasish Bose became only the seventh defender to win the AIFF Men's Player of the Year Award after Sandesh Jhingan (2021), Syed Rahim Nabi (2012), Gouramangi Singh (2010), Surkumar Singh (2006), Deepak Mondal (2002) and VP Sathyan (1995).

Bose captained Mohun Bagan Super Giant in a sensational season, winning both the ISL Shield and Cup, while breaking the record for most clean sheets in an ISL season. The 29-year-old also scored six goals for the Mariners. Bose became the first player from West Bengal to win the award since Nabi in 2012.

Soumya Guguloth became the first player from Telangana to win the AIFF Women's Player of the Year Award. The 23-year-old winger was the Indian top scorer of the IWL this season, netting nine goals to help her side, East Bengal FC, win the title.

WARSAW: Legia Warsaw claimed the Polish Cup after a thrilling 4-3 victory over Pogon Szezecin at the National Stadium on Friday.

Legia made a strong start, launching an aggressive attack from the very first whistle. In the 13th minute, Ryoya Morishita dribbled past two opponents on the right wing and delivered a precise pass to Luquinhas, who tapped the ball into the net from close range to put his team ahead.

Led by coach Goncalo Feio, the players did not slow down. In the 25th minute, they had a perfect opportunity to double their lead when the referee pointed to the penalty spot after goalkeeper Valentin Cojocarou fouled Radovan Pankov. However, the 29-year-old goalkeeper redeemed himself by saving Marc Gual's penalty effort.

Pogon responded with a shot from Rafal Kurzawa in the 32nd minute, which hit the crossbar from long range. Four minutes before the break, Robert Kolendowicz's team equalized after a stunning cross from Kamil Grosicki allowed Danijel Loncar to score with a well-placed header, making it 1-1.

The second half began in the best

possible way for Legia. In the 46th minute, Pawel Wszolek's shot was blocked, but Morishita found the re-

into the net after a low pass from the left wing.

In the 85th minute, Vinagre made



bound and powered a shot past Cojocarou to restore the lead for Legia.

In the 64th minute, Feio's team showcased its quality once again. After a brilliant through pass from Morishita, Ilya Shkurin dribbled past Cojocarou and scored into the empty net to give Legia a two-goal advantage. Pogon fought relentlessly to score its second goal just three minutes later through Efthymis Koulouris, whose shot deflected off Ruben Vinagre and

amends as he confidently curled a precise shot into the far post to make the score 4-2. Despite Kacper Smolinski giving Pogon some hope of a comeback as he collected a rebound to score during stoppage time, Legia secured a 4-3 victory. This victory marked Legia Warsaw's 21st Polish Cup triumph in the club's history, while Pogon suffered its second consecutive final defeat after having lost to Wisla Krakow in the previous edition.

Dr Gupta new Deputy Governor of RBI

MUMBAI: Poonam Gupta has taken over as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The government appointed her as Deputy Governor on April 2, 2025 for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

As Deputy Governor, Dr Gupta will take charge of the monetary policy department, financial markets operations department, economic and policy research department, department of financial stability, international department, department of statistics and information management, corporate strategy and Budget department and department of communications.

Prior to this appointment, Dr Gupta was the Director General of the

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), dealing with issues related to economic

of the 16th Finance Commission.

Prior to joining NCAER, Dr. Gupta held senior posi-



development, international financial architecture, central banking, macro economic stability, public debt and state finance.

She also served as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Convenor of the Advisory Council

tions at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for nearly two decades. Dr. Gupta also taught at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Maryland (USA) and also served as a visiting faculty at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi.

Coal dispatch & production surpasses

KOLKATA: Coal production touched an all-time high in 2020-24-25, and is expected to move northward in the future, a government report said on Friday.

The report, which reaffirmed the favourable climate of the coal industry, said the dispatch of the black diamond touched 16.81 million tonnes (MT) at the beginning of FY 2025-26, and the country's captive and commercial mines witnessed 14.01 million tonnes (MT) of production in April 2025. Experts and industry insiders believe that the meteoric rise of the coal segment in India has resulted from policy reforms and the auctioning of the captive coal blocks, which further encouraged private players to invest in the segment.

The April 2025 growth

in the coal sector has surpassed the growth parameters it touched in FY 2023-24 and FY 2022-23, the report said.

The Ministry of Coal's constant monitoring, reformed policies, and handholding of the stakeholders have helped the coal segment reach its peak.

The considerable rise in ACQ (Annual Contract Quantity) has helped reduce import dependency by increasing domestic supplies. The Mines and Minerals Act amendment has also been pivotal in this development, the report said.

The change in the Act has helped the Captive mines sell their coal production in the domestic market, which has further helped the domestic market become self-sufficient.

Sensex zooms

MUMBAI: The equity market remained firm for another week as the BSE Sensex rallied 1289.46 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at 80,501.99 during the week ended on Friday on strong gains, supported by robust corporate earnings and series of positive domestic data.

The Nifty, too, advanced by 307.35 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 24,346.70. Of four sessions, three days it was positive while one session, it was seen negative.

Looking ahead, investors will remain focused on geopolitical developments, ongoing tariff disputes, and overall market trends.

BSE Mid-Cap index rose 0.42 percent to close at 42,707.87. BSE Small-

Cap index fell 1.33 percent to end at 47,365.54.

First two sessions of



that kept overall market sentiment upbeat.

On Wednesday it was seen weak as the BSE Sensex shed 46.14 points to 80,242.24. Nifty fell 1.75 points to 24,334.20.

The stock market remained closed on Thursday on account of Maharashtra Day.

On Friday, BSE Sensex added 259.75 points to settle at 80,501.99. Nifty rose 12.50 points to settle at 24,346.70., Supported by optimism over US-India trade negotiations, as foreign investors returned to the market.

During the week following share rose Reliance Industries (RIL) rallied 9.38 percent. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (AP-SEZ) rallied 4.11 per cent and Mahindra & Mahindra jumped 2.38 per cent.

Hero MotoCorp expands network

NASHIK: Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, inaugurated its PREMIA dealership in Nashik.

Enhancing access to its premium portfolio for customers, the Hero PREMIA dealership is located at the prominent Trimbakeshwar Road. This cutting-edge store features dedicated sections for Hero, VIDA and Harley-Davidson X products.

The dealership was inaugurated in the presence of Navneet Kaur, Head - Channel Appointment & Development - Hero MotoCorp. With the inauguration, Maharashtra now has eight Hero PREMIA dealerships.

Promising a fresh automotive experience to all visitors, Hero PREMIA features modern architecture, appealing design and engaging new-age digital technologies. Delivering the best-in-class premium ownership experience, a team of professionally trained sales consultants will offer valued customers personalized sales advice as per their mobility needs.

The Hero PREMIA Dealership offers a selection of premium products, including the Mavrick 440, Xtreme 250R, Xtreme 160 range, Xpulse 210, Xpulse 200 range, Karizma XMR, Harley-Davidson X440 and VIDA V2 range, along with an array of exclusive merchandise and accessories.

Exclusive edition of Innova HyCross introduced

NASHIK: Staying true to its customer-first philosophy, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the launch of the Exclusive Edition of the Innova HyCross available in the ZX(O) grade. Building upon the remarkable success of the Innova HyCross, this new rendition offers distinguished styling and enhanced cabin experience.

Trusted by over a lakh customers across the country, the Innova HyCross continues to impress with its exceptional spirit of glamor and efficiency. Crafted to make every journey as distinctive as

the individual behind the wheel, the Innova HyCross Exclusive Edition of ZX(O) will be available from May 2025 through July 2025, in two colors—Super White and Pearl White, in limited quantity.

Speaking on the introduction, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said "The Innova HyCross has consistently garnered strong customer appreciation for its proportions poise of an SUV with the spaciousness of an MPV, and we are truly humbled for their continued trust

placed in the brand. Today, we are delighted to launch the Innova HyCross Exclusive Edition in ZX(O), thoughtfully crafted to meet the evolving aspirations of our discerning customers. This special variant embodies Toyota's commitment to exclusivity and elevated customer experience.

With this introduction, we aim to offer enhanced value and added convenience features, while continuing to build on the strengths of the versatile Innova HyCross – perfect for families wanting a car that can deliver a seamless, fatigue-free drive."

Bangaram Island Resort operations handover announced

MUMBAI: Praveg Limited (Praveg) has announced the successful and formal handover of operations of its flagship resort property, Praveg Atoll's on Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep to Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), in accordance with the Hotel Management Agreement signed between both parties and announced on March 3, 2025.

With this handover, IHCL assumes full operational control of the property under its esteemed SeleQ-tions brand, reinforcing its commitment to offering guests unparalleled luxury experiences in one of India's most pristine island destinations.

This milestone marks the next phase in a strategic collaboration between Praveg and IHCL aimed at redefining eco-conscious luxury travel.

Guests visiting the Bangaram Is-

land resort can now expect IHCL's signature blend of world-class service, personalized guest experiences, and sustainable hospitality practices that complement the island's natural beauty and ecological significance.

Dr. Vishnukumar Patel, Chairman of Praveg Limited, commented on the handover: "This formal transition represents a shared vision between Praveg and IHCL to transform Bangaram Island into a model for luxury and sustainable tourism. We are confident that under IHCL's stewardship, the resort will reach new heights in hospitality excellence while preserving the island's delicate ecosystem."

IHCL will now lead all facets of resort management, including operations, guest services, food and beverage, recreational experiences, and environmental stewardship.