## Yuvraj Singh praises Shubman Gill

MUMBAI: Former India allrounder Yuvraj Singh couldn't be prouder of his protege and Indian skipper Shubman Gill after he led them to draw a memorable Test series against England.

Yuvraj highlighted how the ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2025 brushed aside the doubts regarding his overseas batting record, leading the team from the front.

"There were a lot of question marks over his overseas record. The guy became the captain and scored four Test hundreds. It's just unbelievable that when you're given responsibility, how you take it," Yuvraj said, speaking to ICC Digital on the sidelines of the '50 Days To Go' Women's Cricket World Cup event.

"So, very proud of them. I certainly feel it's a win for us, although it's a drawn series, because it's a young team. And it's not easy to go and play well in England and prove yourself," he said.

Gill was named India's Player of the Series, having amassed a staggering 754 runs, averaging 75.40 from the five Tests, which included four centuries. Yuvraj also showered praise on all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar for a gutsy, marathon stand to draw the fourth Test in Manchester.

"The moment in the tournament was when India drew the Test series. I've never seen, in a very long time. Washington and Jadeja got hundreds and drew a Test match," he said.

"That speaks volumes. Obviously Jadeja has been there for a long time. But I think Washington Sundar, as a youngster coming into the team, I think it was incredible to do what he did," Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj conceded that what made India's resilient display through the five-Test series all the more remarkable was the fact that they did so in the absence of seasoned veterans in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

## **Khelo India Water Sports** Festival mascot, logo unveiled

SRINAGAR: The Himalayan Kingfisher, will be the mascot for the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival, as unvieling of the logo and mascot took place.

The Games will be held at the city's iconic Dal Lake from August 21-23, 2025.

The water sports festival is part of the expanding Khelo India calendar. The Khelo India portfolioi is ever expanding as the first-ever 'Khelo India Beach Games' were held in Diu in May this year. The KIWSF will be hosted by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affair.

For Jammu and Kashmir, this will be the second Khelo India event after Gulmarg hosted the snow events of the 'Khelo India Winter Games' in March. The KIWSF will feature rowing, canoeing and kayaking as medal events. The demonstration events will be water skiing, shikara race and dragon boat race. More than 400 athletes from 36 states and Union Territories are expected in Srinagar. The Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma, and the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, released the mascot and the logo. The official kits of the Games were also revealed.

The Himalayan Kingfisher, the colourful mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025, embodies the spirit of adventure, nature, and competition in the Games.

With its bold orange and blue, it represents energy, tranquillity, and the beauty of Kashmir. More than a symbol, it's the festival's ambassador, promoting eco-friendly sports, tourism, and youth engagement nationwide. The Khelo India Water Sports Festival logo captures the essence of Kashmir, featuring a Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, framed by snow-capped mountains and pine trees. Its calm reflections mirror the beauty of Kashmir, while the Khelo India colours unite tradition, nature, and the energy of

"Gulmarg has already become the winter games capital of the country, and now Dal Lake will become the water sports hub of the country," said Sadiq, adding: "This is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.'

#### Dr. Vece Paes dies at 80

a member of India's bronze medal winning hockey team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and a prominent figure in Indian sports, passed away at the age of 80.

Confirming his death, Hockey India issued a statement, saying, "Hockey India on Thursday mourned the sad demise of Dr Vece Paes, the charismatic midfielder from the golden era of Indian Hockey. He was part of the Olympic Bronze medal winning team in 1972 Munich Olympics." The statement further added, "An unshakable pillar of Indian sports, the 80-year-old Dr Paes leaves behind a legacy of achievement both in and out of competition, motivating countless athletes and sports admirers."

Hockey India president Dr Dilip Tirkey paid his tributes. "It is a sad day for us in Hockey India. The passing of Dr Paes draws curtains on a great era of hockey. The Olympic medal in Munich is a testament to their grit and determination. I had the good fortune of meeting him a

inspired by his passion for sports in general. He was a great advocate of inculcating sporting culture in the country. We at Hockey India express our deepest condolences to his wife Jennifer, son Leander and their whole family. We stand together in their grief."

Quoting Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh, the statement said, "On behalf of Hockey India, we extend our deepest condolences to Leander, his mother and their family. His achievements in sports and sports science will always be remembered and his legacy will live on forever."

Born in Goa in April, 1945, Dr Paes was exceptional in both sports and academics. Beyond his athletic achievements, he was also a doctor of sports medicine and served as president of the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club. His son, Leander Paes, often spoke of his father's influence and inspiration in shaping his own sporting career, particularly his passion for representing India at the Olympics.

# China's Shang wins women's freestyle parkour gold

Chunsong clinched the women's freestyle parkour gold at The World Games 2025 on Wednesday after a dramatic scoring reversal that turned her initial second-place finish into a

Competing alongside the Xinglong Lake, the former captain of China's national women's gymnastics team delivered a series of high-difficulty tricks, including 360-degree aerial flips. A small flaw in her second rotation cost her points, but the crowd erupted in applause at the end of her routine.

Shang's difficulty score came in at 13.5 points, with an initial execution score of 9.2. That gave her a provisional total of 22.7, 0.2 points behind Japan's Nene Nagai, placing her second. "I knew there was a mistake, but after landing I was confident I'd still be the gold medalist," said the 29-

first Chinese athlete to win both the World Cup and World Championship in parkour.

Tears flowed when Shang saw the scoreboard. But the turnaround came just before the medal ceremony.

Officials informed her there had been an error in judging, and she was in fact the champion, with an adjusted total of 24.7 points. Nagai took silver, while Sara Banchoff Tzancoff of Argentina got bronze.

"There were blind spots in the venue, and some referees couldn't see certain movements," said referee Zhou Jun.

"Three points were deducted for what was judged as a mistake, but after video review we unanimously agreed the penalty was too high and

Despite the win, Shang didn't show much excitement. "The score

wasn't posted immediately, and honestly I didn't perform as well as I can," she said.

"In training I usually score 24 to 25, and have gone above 27.'

Her coach, Sun Jie, said Shang can perform a 720-degree rotation - a move almost no female parkour athlete worldwide can execute.

"She's a very talented athlete starting a new journey in parkour," he said. Shang, who switched from gymnastics to parkour out of "pure love" for the sport, said the gold medal carries special meaning.

"It completes my parkour Grand Slam," she said. "I want to show that Chinese parkour is strong, and I hope this inspires more people in China to join this amazing sport."

Sun, who has spent nearly 20 years promoting parkour in China, believes the sport has entered its best era yet in the country.

#### Kenya slapped with 50,000 **USD** fine

NAIROBI: The Confederation of African Football (CAF) Disciplinary Board on Wednesday fined Kenya 50,000 U.S. dollars following multiple safety and security breaches during their African Nations Championship (CHAN) Group A match against Morocco on August 10. The fine comes a day after the continental governing body announced that Kenya, the co-hosts would play their next match against Zambia on Sunday with a reduced capacity of 27,000 down from 48,000 allowed at the Moi International Sports Com-

plex Kasarani Stadium. "Kenya was warned that continued failure to meet CAF safety and security requirements may lead to the relocation of Kenya's national team matches to an alternative venue.

#### FC Goa defeat Oman's Al Seeb

MARGAO: FC Goa sealed their spot in the AFC Champions League Two 2025-26 Group Stage after staving off a late fightback from Al Seeb Club of Oman to walk away with a 2-1 win in their Preliminary Stage tie at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Dejan Drazic and Javier Siverio scored for FC Goa, and the Gaurs will now wait to discover their Group Stage opponents today (Friday).

Al Seeb started aggressively, testing FC Goa as early as the second minute with Nasser Al Rawahi forcing defender Pol Moreno into an acrobatic clearance, while Zahir Al Aghbari's follow-up

from inside the box was

The home side took time to settle and could have broken the deadlock in the ninth minute when Drazic broke free on the left, but with only the keeper to beat, the midfielder's soft shot was easily collected by Ahmed Al Rawahi.

Al Rawahi was in the thick of things again for Al Seeb in the 23rd minute when his timely tackle opened up space to set up Abdul Aziz Al Muqbali, whose curling effort was parried away by FC

Goa keeper Hrithik Ti-

However, FC Goa showed their quality a minute later when Borja Herrera's instinctive long pass found Dražic on the left, with the midfielder evading Al Rawahi's challenge before delicately chipping the ball over Ahmed Al Khamisi and into the back of the net.

The Indian Super League side stayed on top of things in the second half with Drazic out muscling the Al Seeb defenders to surge into the box before forcing Al Rawahi to palm away his stinging shot in the 52nd minute.

The momentum saw FC Goa extend their lead moments later when Herrera's cross off a corner floated into the box per fectly for Siverio to rise above Al Rawahi for a headed finish.

