

Gukesh makes history as youngest-ever challenger to claim world chess title

Toronto (UNI)
In a thrilling conclusion to the Candidates Chess Tournament, 17-year-old Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh secured a crucial draw against American chess prodigy Hikaru Nakamura in the 14th and final round here. With this, Gukesh concluded the tournament with nine points out of a possible 14, clinching the title and making history as the youngest-ever challenger to win the world chess title. This monumental victory propels Gukesh into a highly anticipated showdown with reigning world champion Ding Liren of China in the forthcoming world championship, scheduled for the last quarter of the year. Chess enthusiasts around the globe eagerly await this clash of titans, as Gukesh looks to challenge Ding Liren for the coveted world title. The Chennai lad outpaced Garry Kasparov's record by a significant margin. The Russian chess maestro was 22 when he first qualified to challenge compatriot Anatoly Karpov in 1984.



Gukesh and Nakamura play a chess match during the Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto.

In the decisive final round, Gukesh showcased his readiness for the grand stage, holding Nakamura to a draw with the black pieces. Despite Nakamura's attempts in the Queen's Gambit Accepted, Gukesh maintained control, ultimately securing victory in the rook and opposite-coloured bishops endgame. After clinching the title, Gukesh said: "So relieved and so happy. I was following this crazy game (between Fabio Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi), and then I went for a walk with my second (Gregorz Gazevsky), I think that helped." Along with the prestigious title, Gukesh was awarded a cash prize of 88,500 euros (approximately Rs 78.5 lakh). The total prize fund for the Candidates Tournament was 5,00,000 euros.

I had confidence in my abilities, says Marina

New Delhi (UNI)
Marina Lalramnghaki, the young and energetic midfielder from Mizoram, recently made it to the 33-member Indian Women's Hockey Team core group, which is currently undergoing training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bengaluru. Her selection came after thorough evaluations of a 60-member assessment squad during intense trials conducted on 6th and 7th April 2024. Her outstanding display of skill and unwavering determination stood out prominently, securing her position among the nation's top hockey players. The 22-year-old midfielder, a product of Hockey Mizoram, displayed outstanding performance during the 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in Pune, in which she netted three goals thus garnering attention for her agility and strategic play on the



Marina's journey in hockey has been marked by numerous accolades, including participation in the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup 2021 and the U-21 3 Nations Invitational Tournament in Australia in 2019. Reflecting on her selection, Marina shared, "I was overwhelmed with joy when I received the news of my selection in the core group."

Padam Chettri vows to improve every day



New Delhi (UNI)
Only a year back, goalkeeper Padam Chettri was guarding the citadel of a club, who failed to save themselves from relegation. His then club, Mumbai Kenkre FC, managed only three wins and

conceded 40 goals from 22 matches in the 2022-23 I-League season and lost the rights to play the I-League this season. Fast forward one year, the 26-year-old is now easily one of the most important members of the I-League champions Mohammedan Sporting and has even been awarded the Best Goalkeeper of the Season. The boys from Shillong, who only started his senior career in football just four years back, however, learned valuable lessons when his side were down and out. "I spent two seasons at Kenkre, and the expectations were completely different in that kind of scenario. We struggled to save our existence in the I-League for two seasons," said Chettri.

Bellingham gives Real Madrid win over Barca

Madrid: Jude Bellingham's injury time goal gave Real Madrid a 3-2 win at home to FC Barcelona to leave his side 11 points clear at the top of La Liga with just six games left to play. Bellingham popped up at the far post to score from Lucas Vazquez's low cross after Real Madrid twice came back from behind against a rival that needed to win to have any chance of denying them the title. Andreas Christensen headed Barca into an early lead, but Vinicius Jr equalized with an 18th-minute penalty after Vazquez was judged to have been fouled by Pau Cubarsi. Fermin Lopez put Barca back in front with just over 20 minutes left to play after a cross from the impressive Lamine Yamal, but poor defending from Joao Cancelo allowed Vazquez to nip in and level just four minutes later to set up Bellingham's grandstand finish.

Mumbai Indians set 180-run target for RR

Jaipur (UNI)
In the 38th match of IPL 2024 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Monday, Mumbai Indians put up a challenging total of 179 runs against Rajasthan Royals, thanks to a stellar partnership between Tilak Verma and Nehal Wadhwa. After winning the toss, Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya elect-



with their explosive partnership. Verma showcased his batting prowess, scoring 65 runs off 45 balls, which included five fours and three sixes. Wadhwa was equally impressive, smashing 49 runs off just 24 balls with three fours and four sixes. Their partnership of 99 runs for the fifth wicket provided Mumbai Indians with the momentum needed to set a competitive target of 180 runs for Rajasthan Royals.

IPL-2024
ed to bat first but faced early setbacks with the loss of wickets. Rohit Sharma fell early, managing just 6 runs, followed by Ishan Kishan who departed without opening his account. Suryakumar Yadav contributed 10 runs before his dismissal. However, Verma and Wadhwa turned the tide for Mumbai Indians

China's Ma, Sun crowned at ITTF World Cup

Macao: China's Ma Long completed a marvellous comeback win in the ITTF World Cup men's final as he beat teammate Lin Gaoyuan 4-3, while Sun Yingsha also overcame Wang Manyu in a seven-game thriller to win her first World Cup title here on Sunday evening. China has already secured the men's and women's singles titles, by wrapping up all the final spots after the semifinals. It was Ma and Lin's 10th meeting, with their latest clash having come earlier this year. Despite Ma leading their head-to-head, Lin has claimed victories in their last two encounters. Ma has won the World Cup twice, with his last win in 2015, while it was Lin's first appearance at the men's World Cup final.

Nida Dar joins elite list as West Indies claim thriller



Karachi (UNI)
Pakistan women's team captain Nida Dar became just the second player from Pakistan's women's team to collect 100 ODI wickets as the Asian side fell to the West Indies in a thrilling contest here. Experienced spinner Dar picked up the superb figures of 4/52 in the clash to take her tally in women's

ODIs to 103 wickets, as the West Indies successfully chased down Pakistan's score of 223 courtesy of a Karishma Ramharack boundary from the final ball of the match. It allowed the West Indies to open up a 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series and also helps the Caribbean side pick up a valuable two points in the ICC Women's Championship (IWC) race. It looked like the West Indies were going to cruise to victory when Stafanie Taylor (73) and Shemaine Campbelle (52) were at the crease, but wickets slowly started to fall and Dar chimed in with three quick scalps of her own to leave the visitors requiring six runs for victory from the final over, an ICC report said.

Odisha FC take on Mohun Bagan SG in ISL semi-final

Bhubaneswar: Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giants will clash at the Kalinga Stadium here in the first leg of their semi-final encounter of the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Tuesday at 7:30 pm IST. The Mariners qualified for the last-four by virtue of emerging as the ISL 2023-24 Champions courtesy of finishing at the top of the points table at the end of the league stages. On the other hand, Odisha FC edged past Kerala Blasters FC in the playoffs to make it to the semi-final. Both these teams have squared off multiple times this season, both in the ISL as well as the AFC Cup where they were pitted in the same group. The Juggernauts will take confidence from having optimised their home advantage.

Third edition of Kung Fu Wushu tournament held

Nairobi (UNI)
The third edition of Kenya Kung Fu Wushu tournament was held in the central Kenya town of Kiambu on Sunday, attracting contestants aged between 4 and 20 years from eight clubs across the country. More than 50 contestants were awarded medals for showcasing their prowess in Kung Fu during the tournament, which was sponsored by the Chinese Embassy in Kenya. Clad in traditional Chinese costume, the youngsters from local schools participated in traditional Kung Fu demonstrations, and Taolu and Sanda competitions. Ngaruiya Njonge, president of the Kenya Kung Fu Wushu Federation, which was formed in 2000, said the



young contestants were drawn from many parts of the country, reaffirming the growing popularity of Chinese martial arts. We are glad to witness the gradual embrace of Kung Fu by children as young as four years old.

Business

Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited Comes Back Stronger

Attaining Over 50% Revenue Growth With Improved Financial Performance for Q4 & FY24

Mumbai
Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited (SWREL) (BSE Scrip Code: 542760; NSE Symbol: SWSOLAR), a leading home-grown renewable EPC, has announced its results for the fourth quarter and the Full Year ended 31 March, 2024. SWREL has had a strong recovery in financial performance and the company turned EBITDA positive at INR 54 crore in FY24 backed by robust growth recorded in the Domestic EPC business. There was a strong rebound in financials both sequentially and YoY, with significant strengthening of FY24 balance sheet and a net debt reduction by over 90%

that well positions the company to secure a larger portion of industry growth. The company attained substantial growth of 64% in its unexecuted order value in FY24, reiterating trust from its clients and the market. Commenting on the results, Mr. Amit Jain, Global CEO, Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited said, "We have overcome several challenges in FY24 and SWREL is in a much better place than earlier. The company delivered a robust financial performance which includes positive gross margins throughout the year and positive EBITDA for the year. Q4 results were also profitable.

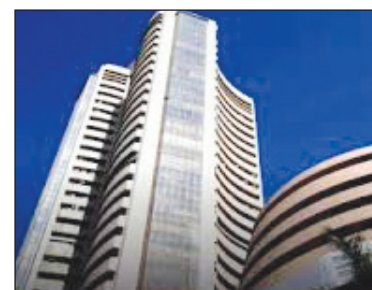
Our future growth prospects look promising based on our strong unexecuted order book and business fundamentals continuing to improve. The company's balance sheet has become more resilient through debt reduction, thereby solidifying our stakeholder's confidence. The market opportunity for renewable EPC players like ours is continuing to grow significantly both in India and internationally, and we are well aligned to capture the growth. As SWREL comes back stronger, we remain confident of delivering an improved performance in terms of growth and revenues over the next few quarters."

Gapblue Software starts office in Infopark Kochi

Kochi: Gapblue Software Labs has begun functioning from Infopark Kochi, marking a milestone for the 2012-founded company that has been providing digital services to clients across the country and the United States. Infopark CEO Susanth Kurunthil inaugurated the new 10,500-sqft workspace that has 140 employees. Present at the ceremony were Gapblue Directors Sudeep Chandran and Gireesh Rudrakshan. While specializing in ERP, delivering quick and quality results that cater to the unique needs of its clients, the company adopts emerging technologies such as generative AI and drives digital transformation (DX) in ways that enables organizations stay ahead on a rapidly-evolving business computing landscape.

Sensex surges 560.29 pts

Mumbai (UNI)
The BSE Sensex on Monday rallied another 560.29 pts to close strong at 73648.62 as renewed buying was seen in Consumer Durable, Industrials, Capital Goods and BSE services stocks amid a positive Asian Market. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 189.40 pts at 22,336.40. The equity market remained in green throughout the session as the Sensex opened strong at 73666.51, up 578 pts. It was spurred 679 pts at 73767.80, days high, before closing at 73648.62, advancing 560.29 pts from its previous close. The NSE registered days high and low at 22,375.65 and 22,198.16 pts respectively. In stocks, Consumer Durable was up by 2.53 pc followed by Industrials by 1.93 pc, Capital Goods by 1.65 pc and BSE services by 1.53 pc.



In 30 scrips, 25 advanced, while 5 declined. The gainers were L& T by 2.67 pc to Rs 3613.30, Axis Bank by 2.38 pc to Rs 1054, Bajaj Finserv by 2.36 pc to Rs 7290.70, Ultracemco by 2.09 pc to Rs 9563.10 and Wipro by 2.01 pc to Rs 461.95. In Asian Market, Strait Times rose by 1.51 pc, Hang Seng by 1.74 pc and Kospi by 1.43 pc.

Nium appoints Alexandra Johnson

San Francisco
Nium, the leader in real-time cross-border payments, on Monday announced the appointment of Alexandra Johnson as the company's first Chief Payments Officer. With this newly-created position, Nium sets itself up to closer align itself with partners across the payments ecosystem. Johnson will work across Nium's markets, leading the Global Banking and Payment Operations teams. She will report to Prajit Nanu, Co-Founder and CEO of Nium. In her role as Chief Payments Officer, Johnson will oversee strategic, day-to-day activities, and the evolution of Nium's payments network



team. She will manage and grow the Nium payments network, applying best practices and regulatory poli-

cies globally and will work with the Risk and Compliance teams in each market to enhance frameworks, build new relationships, and build upon the existing strength of the existing financial network of Nium. Her wealth of knowledge and expertise in the banking and payments space will support Nium's global and vertical business growth. "Fostering and growing our network is one of the most critical aspects of building Nium," said Nanu. "Alex's experience in the world of banking and payments is invaluable and I'm excited to see her tackle this role head on and contribute to the growth of the business."

MOIL to Host 'Readathon' Session today

MOIL, in collaboration with the Vidarbha Literary Festival (VLF), presents the grand finale of the 'Readathon' on April 23rd. This event marks the culmination of a month-long initiative aimed at fostering a love for reading across diverse groups. The finale is set to begin at 5 p.m. on April 23, 2024, at the MOIL Auditorium, Katol Road. Several bibliophiles have already secured their spots. While registration remains open, we extend a warm invitation to all avid readers to join us. Please visit www.vidlifest.com to register and immerse yourself in engaging discussions with fellow book enthusiasts. As a token of appreciation, ten fortunate attendees will each win vouchers worth Rs. 1,000, re-

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deemable at a premier bookstore in Nagpur. More delightful surprises await those in attendance, adding to the charm of this literary gathering. The winning participants will be honoured by the CMD of MOIL, with fellow board members alongside and the key functionaries of the VLF. The Readathon is proudly supported by Maha Metro and Library on Wheels, enriching the event with their invaluable contributions. Join us in celebrating the joy of reading and the power of literature on this occasion and, making the Readathon a cherished experience. We eagerly await your presence at this event.

