

## Philip Salt takes off in 154 chase

**IPL 2024**



Kolkata (UNI) Delhi Capitals were stopped at 153/9 by Kolkata Knight Riders in their Indian Premier League match at the Eden Gardens on Monday. Opting to bat first, Delhi Capitals scored 67 runs in the power-play while losing three wickets. However, the visitors simply caved in after the dismissal of their skipper Rishabh Pant (27 off 20 balls). Batting at number nine, spinner Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with an unbeaten 34 off 26 balls. Spinner Varun Chakaravathy finished with excellent figures of 3/16 in four overs, while the returning Vaibhav Arora too impressed, an unplayable delivery getting him the wicket of Shai Hope. Meanwhile, in a highly anticipated match of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the Delhi Cap-

## Jacks soars to record-breaking century with Kohli's guidance

Ahmedabad, (UNI)

In a stunning display of power-hitting and strategic guidance, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) achieved the fastest successful chase of a 200-plus target in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, courtesy of an extraordinary century by Will Jacks. The Englishman's blistering knock, supported by Virat Kohli's mentorship, propelled RCB to victory against their opponents. Facing a challenging task at the crease, Jacks initially struggled to find his rhythm but found solace in the advice of his senior partner, Virat Kohli. Kohli's insights on tackling spin bowling, particularly against the formidable Rashid Khan, proved instrumental in Jacks' resurgence. Speaking after the match, Jacks credited Kohli for his guidance during the early phase of his innings, which ultimately paved the way for his record-breaking per-



formance. "Virat kind of helped me through my first 15 balls where I was struggling," Jacks revealed. "He was giving me tips on playing spin. He said he was reading Rashid well and could take him down, which helped me." Jacks' innings, characterized by eight boundaries in his last ten balls, culminated in a remarkable 41-ball century, delighting his partner Kohli, who also contributed a formidable 70 off 44 deliveries.

## Colonel Lamba: Defying odds from Ironman to the Sahara Desert



Bengaluru, (UNI)

In the realm of extreme endurance sports, few challenges rival the Marathon Des Sables, a grueling multi-stage race set amidst the unforgiving terrain of the Moroccan Sahara. Yet, for Colonel Jangvir Lamba, a serving Indian Army Officer, the 38th edition of this legendary marathon was not just another race — it was a test of endurance, resilience, and the unyielding spirit of human determination. Amidst scorching temperatures reaching up to 50 degrees Celsius, Colonel Lamba embarked on a journey spanning 253.5 kilometers of endless dunes, rocky jebels, and blistering salt plains. Carrying his survival items and drawing upon his experience as a triathlete and bodybuilder, he faced the ultimate test of physical and mental fortitude. In a remarkable display of strength and perseverance, Colonel Lamba completed the Marathon Des Sables in 67 hours and 07 minutes, solidifying his place among the elite athletes who dare to conquer the world's toughest foot race.

Colonel Lamba's path to the Sahara desert was paved with years of dedication and training. A fourth-generation Indian Army Officer hailing from Jaipur, Rajasthan, he had previously conquered the Ironman Triathlon — a grueling test of endurance comprising a 3.8 km swim, 180 km cycling, and a 42.2 km marathon. His achievements include completing Ironman events in Malaysia, Australia, and India, showcasing his versatility and unwavering commitment to pushing his limits. For Colonel Lamba, the Marathon Des Sables was more than just a race. It was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Transitioning from the structured courses of Ironman events to the vast expanse of the Sahara presented a challenge unlike any other. Yet, armed with his experience and unwavering determination, he defied the odds and emerged victorious. His journey serves as an inspiration to athletes and adventurers alike, reminding us that no challenge is insurmountable with dedication and determination.

## Alcaraz into last 16 at Madrid Open



Madrid, (UNI)

Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz breezed into the last 16 of the Mutua Madrid Open with a straightforward 6-3, 6-3 victory over Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild in a match that lasted just 75 minutes on a chilly Sunday afternoon. Will never looked like beating the Spaniard and committed 23 unforced errors against a rival who has now won his last 23 matches in Spain on clay. Alcaraz will now face Lennard Struff, whom he beat in the 2023 final in Madrid. "I hope everything goes as well as last year, but I am going to have to work hard and give 100 percent. It will be an uncomfortable game to play, but the fans will enjoy it," said the Spaniard after his game. Andrey Rublev won his third-round match 7-6 (12), 6-4 after a marathon first set against Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokin, who looked comfortable on the beaten clay at

Madrid's Caja Magica.

Elena Rybakina moved into the last 16 in the women's tournament with a routine 6-1, 6-4 victory over Mayar Sherif, with the number four seed quickly establishing her dominance in the opening set, where his patience to control the play on her second serve was a key factor. Number 10 seed, Daria Kasatkina had to work hard to beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-6 (7) 7-5 in a close game where Kasatkina's serve was an important factor. Yulia Putintseva also qualified for the last-16, with the Russian-born Kazak beating Carolina Dolehide 6-2, 6-2, as she took advantage of her powerful serve at Madrid's altitude. 18-year-old Sara Bejlek from the Czech Republic is the surprise package of the women's singles in Madrid, as the World ranked 133 performed brilliantly to defeat Ashlyn Kreuger of the USA, 6-3, 6-1.

## Jadumani & Akash enter quarter-finals at Youth Boxing Championships

Astana (Kazakhstan), (UNI)

Indian boxers continued their winning run on day two of the ongoing ASBC Asian U22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024 here as Mandebam Jadumani Singh (51kg) and Akash Gorkha (60kg) registered victories to enter the U-22 quarters recently. Jadumani Singh outperformed Aldarkhishig Battulga of Mongolia by winning the bout with an RSC (Referee Stop Contest) decision in round two. Akash, on the other hand, faced a tough challenge against Mongolia's Ganbaatar Gan Erdene but made a remarkable comeback after losing the first round to win the bout 4-1. Both boxers will play their quarter-final bouts on Tuesday. Ajay Kumar (63.5kg) and

Ankush (71kg) will begin their campaign in the U-22 category later today. Late on Saturday, Jatin (57kg), Sagar Jakhar (60kg) and Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg) also entered the next round. Jatin and Yashwardhan won their bouts with an identical 5-0 win while Sagar received a walkover from his opponent Leong Brandon of Singapore. On Monday, 11 boxers will be in action in their respective youth categories with Laxmi (50kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg) and Shrusthi Sathe (63kg) in women's category, while Brijesh Tamta (48kg), Jitesh (54kg), Sagar Jakhar (69kg), Sumit (67kg), Rahul Kundu (75kg), Hemant Sangwan (86kg) and Lakshay Rathi (+92kg) in men's category.

## We're fighting to get maximum trophies: Habas

Kolkata, (UNI) Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Antonio Habas expressed satisfaction with his team's collective effort following their victory over Odisha FC in the second leg of the Indian Super League (ISL) semi-final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here recently. The Mariners needed to overcome a 1-2 deficit from the first leg at the Kalinga Stadium to progress to the final. Despite the pressure, Mohun Bagan SG rose to the occasion, with Jason Cummings and Sahal Abdul Samad scoring crucial goals in an intense, edge-of-the-seat contest. The Mariners secured a 3-2 aggregate victory, earning their place in their second consecutive ISL final. This achievement follows their successful run in the 2022-23 season, where they claimed their first ISL Cup. Thanks to their comeback, Mohun Bagan SG will



have another shot at the title, and Habas praised his players for their resilience and hard work in reaching

the ISL final once again. "The team has one important thing that is the energy and belief in the staff. The

players, substitutes went into the pitch with the same intensity, the same emotion, (with) the sight of win, this is the most important. The participation of all players, the whole squad in the final result, this was the most important," Habas said in the post-match press conference. In the second leg semi-final, Mohun Bagan SG carved out the clearer opportunities on goal. Despite Odisha FC enjoying more possession, the Mariners registered 17 shots compared to their opponent's nine. Coach Habas emphasised his unwavering faith in his players to deliver, even after trailing in the first leg. "We continued the same way. (The game in) Odisha was one match and this was another match. I knew that we would have a lot of possibilities to pass the victory with our style of win, with our supporters and with the mentality of the players," he said.

### BUSINESS

## NIQ announces its inaugural 'NIQ Founders Pitch Slam' competition

Mumbai: NIQ, a leading provider of innovative data and analytics solutions, has launched its first annual NIQ Founders Pitch Slam competition, bringing together some of the emerging Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) brands. The competition will challenge a select group of founders to pitch their companies to industry insiders and business leaders, with the assistance of NIQ data experts. This unique competition will provide brands with access to NIQ data experts to help tell their stories through the lens of best-in-class data and analytics. Four finalists will compete for the chance to win 1-year free access to the NIQ data, worth \$30,000. "We



are excited to bring together some of the brightest minds in the CPG industry and offer a platform for innovative brands to present their ideas. It would be inspiring to wit-

ness entrepreneurs introducing innovative products aimed at making an impact in the CPG sector and addressing significant market challenges," stated Pallavi Suresh, Executive Director for SMB at NIQ in India. "This competition isn't just about winning; it's an opportunity for brands to leave their mark and reshape the CPG landscape." The eligibility criteria for this competition are open to brands with total annual retail sales below \$30 million in 2023, spanning one or more qualifying CPG categories. Validated by comprehensive data from NIQ databases for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, entrants must meet these criteria to participate.

With forty-eight qualifying categories encompassing a diverse array of FMCG product groups, including personal care, food & beverage, confectionery, home care, fabric care, and more, brands from various segments have the opportunity to showcase their potential and vie for the top honors. Products must be currently available for sale in India. This opportunity is open to all CPG brands meeting these qualifications and does not require a prior relationship with NIQ. About NIQ, NIQ is the world's leading consumer intelligence company, delivering the most complete understanding of consumer buying behavior and revealing new pathways to growth.

## RCCPL provides pilgrim shelter at railway station



Maihar: RCCPL Private Limited (MP Birla Group), while fulfilling its social responsibility, has been providing the facility of temporary shelter for pilgrims at Maihar railway station every year on the occasion of Navratri for the devotees who come to visit Maihar Mata. This year also, passenger waiting room facility has been provided in the railway station for nine days in which 24-hour first aid and free medicines are being distributed. Every year lakhs of devotees come to Maihar, the city of ShardaMaa, the world famous city of Maa. On the occasion of Navratri, the splendor of Maihar city increases. Devotees light the lamp of faith in their mind with many wishes and after

seeing Mother Goddess, they take her blessings. These days, there is movement of lakhs of people in the city and keeping in mind the facilities of the devotees. On the first day, the passenger waiting room and first aid center was inspected by Railway Station Master Narendra Singh. The company employees are taking care of the facilities for pilgrims at the first aid center. Till now 2300 passengers have taken the benefit of first aid. The company team are taking care of the pilgrims at the first aid centre, in the ambulance and in the passenger waiting room. New BDesign Program at the School of Environmental Design and Architecture Prepares Students for Dynamic Design Program

The School of Environmental Design and Architecture has announced the launch of its innovative BDesign Program in Product Design and Visual Communication. This cutting-edge program, slated to commence from the upcoming academic year, aims to cultivate a new generation of designers who can seamlessly blend creativity, innovation, and boundary-pushing design concepts. The BDesign Program in Product Design and Visual Communication offers students the opportunity to delve into two distinctive yet interrelated specializations: Product Design (PD) and Visual Communication (VC).

## Spandana reports highest ever PAT of Rs 501 crore for FY24



Hyderabad: Spandana Sphoort Financial Limited (NSE: SPANDANA, BSE: 542759) ("Spandana") has announced its audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2024. Shalabh Saxena, CEO and Managing Director, while announcing the results stated, "FY24 was second of the three-year Vision 2025

laid out by the management team of Spandana in 2022.

Our Customer Acquisition led-growth strategy has resulted in a 41% AUM growth with the company delivering highest ever PAT of ₹501 Cr, GNPA & NNPA improved to 1.50% and 0.30% respectively in FY24. The growth was driven by customer acquisition of 13.9 Lacs in FY24 taking the active customer base of the company to over 3.3 million.

The team has demonstrated strong capabilities in managing multiple priorities of the organization like branch expansion, improvement in portfolio quality, strengthening processes, governance, and start of new business lines."

## ICRA firm gets Sebi nod for providing ESG rating

New Delhi, (UNI): Credit-rating agency ICRA said on Monday that market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has granted its approval for registration of Pragati Development Consulting Services Ltd (PDCSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICRA, as a Category-I ESG Rating Provider (ERP). PDCSL had applied for the ERP registration in September 2023. Following the registration as ERP, PDCSL will commence its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings. "This development positions the ICRA Group among the few Indian entities offering holistic risk-monitoring solutions, including ESG ratings and scores," ICRA said in a media release. ICRA said that subject to the statutory approvals, the name of the PDCSL will be changed to ICRA ESG Ratings Ltd.

## Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Unveils Privé

Pune: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers in India, on Monday announced the launch of Privé, an exclusive customer experience program offering access to elevated and unmatched customer service excellence. Traditionally, in India, the thrive to increase insurance penetration over the last few years has largely been focused on tapping the customer base across the tier 2/tier 3 locations and rural markets, predominantly covering middle, upper middle class, and rural customers. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, in addition to its strong focus on increasing insurance penetration across all the above-mentioned customer segments, will now also cater to a special segment of customers typically requiring insurance solutions with enhanced coverage limits. Recognizing the multifaceted requirements and comprehensive protection that align with such discerning customers' financial and lifestyle preferences, Privé goes beyond the traditional insurance offerings.

By being part of Privé, the customers gain access to an array of exclusive and prioritized insurance services, ensuring their requirements are met with precision. To become a part of Privé, the customers have the flex-



ibility to select from a range of products across health, home, motor, personal accident, and cyber insurance as per their specific needs. Insurance products currently include the My Health Care Plan, offering customizable health insurance coverage, with a minimum sum insured of INR 1 crore as the eligibility criteria; the Global Health Care offers coverage like overseas medical treatment, and planned and emergency treatments both international and domestic, and the customers can choose any of the sum insured options for eligibility.