

Hardik Pandya lifts India to 196/5 against Bangladesh

Antigua (UNI) Hardik Pandya's blistering unbeaten 50 off just 27 deliveries propelled India to a commanding total of 196/5 against Bangladesh in a crucial Super-8 T20 World Cup clash at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here. Pandya's innings was a masterclass in power-hitting, as he showcased his ability to score quickly and decisively under pressure. His knock included four boundaries and three massive sixes, which not only accelerated India's scoring rate but also demoralised the Bangladeshi bowlers in the death overs.



Coming in when India needed a late surge, Pandya wasted no time in settling down. He accounted for loose deliveries, particularly targeting Mustafizur Rahman and Rishad Hossain, who struggled to contain his aggressive strokes. Pandya's fifty was a testament to his ability to adapt to different match situations and deliver when it mattered most for his team. Earlier in the innings, India's top order had set a solid platform with explosive contributions from Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant. Rohit got India off to a flying

start with a flurry of boundaries off the bowling of Mahedi Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan, scoring 23 off 11 balls before falling victim to Shakib Al Hasan. Kohli then took charge, smashing a quickfire 37 off 28 deliveries, including three towering sixes.

However, his innings was cut short by Tanzim Hasan Sakib, who bowled him with a well-executed delivery. Rishabh Pant continued the onslaught with a brisk 36 off 24 balls, featuring four boundaries and two sixes, before he was dismissed by Rishad Hossain. As Bangladesh prepare to respond, India's total of 196/5 poses a significant challenge. The focus now shifts to whether Bangladesh can mount a successful chase against India's formidable bowling attack, led by Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja.



Heartbreak for Georgia as Lobjanidze misses golden chance in 1-1 draw

Hamburg (UNI) In a tense Group F encounter at Hamburg's Volksparkstadion here on Saturday, Georgia's Euro 2024 hopes were marred by a missed chance in stoppage time by Saba Lobjanidze, allowing the Czech Republic to escape with a 1-1 draw. The match was defined by high drama and missed opportunities from both sides, but none more glaring than Lobjanidze's chance in the dying moments. With the game poised at 1-1 and the final whistle looming, Georgia launched a lightning counter-attack that left Lobjanidze with only the goalkeeper to beat.

header to equalise, denying Georgia their maiden victory in Euro 2024.

The match was a tale of two halves, with the Czech Republic dominating possession and creating numerous chances in the second half, only to be thwarted by Georgia's resilient defense and goalkeeper, Giorgi Mamardashvili, who made several crucial saves throughout the game. Despite the disappointment of conceding late and missing out on a potential win, Georgia will take solace in securing their first-ever point in a major tournament. The Czech Republic, on the other hand, will rue missed opportunities to secure all three points and will need a positive result in their final group game to strengthen their chances of advancing.

In a moment that could have secured Georgia's historic first win in a major tournament, Lobjanidze leaned back and skied his shot over the crossbar, leaving him visibly distraught and his teammates consoling him. Earlier in the game, Georgia had taken the lead just before halftime when Georges Mikautadze calmly converted a penalty in the 45th minute plus stoppage time. However, the Czech Republic responded in the 59th minute when Patrik Schick capitalised on Ondrej Lingr's

the physicality of the contest was evident, with several yellow cards shown, reflecting the intensity of the battle on the field. Later today, attention in Group F will turn to the clash between Turkey and Portugal, with both teams aiming to capitalise on the draw between Georgia and the Czech Republic.

EAS Prasanna advocates for quota for state cricketers in IPL



Bengaluru (UNI): As the Indian Premier League (IPL) continues to captivate millions of cricket fans around the world, there has been a persistent debate about the inclusion of local talent in the league. EAS Prasanna, a legendary former cricketer, has voiced his opinion on this matter, suggesting the introduction of a quota system for state cricketers alongside Indian and foreign players. When the IPL was inaugurated, many hoped that local players would have ample opportunities to showcase their skills on such a grand stage. However, as Prasanna pointed out, the dynamics of investment and returns took precedence.

teams could have been mandated to include a certain number of players from their respective states. "For instance, RCB could have been required to include four Karnataka players in their squad of 17. Similarly, teams from Maharashtra, like the Mumbai Indians, and other states could have picked their local talents," he explained.

Despite this missed opportunity, Prasanna acknowledged the invaluable contributions that foreign players have made to the league. "What foreign players have brought to the IPL is the standard of fielding. While anyone can hit sixes and fours, the eye-catching fielding standards set by overseas players have elevated the game," he said. This high level of fielding has not only thrilled fans but also raised the bar for domestic players.

In addition to their fielding prowess, Prasanna highlighted the professionalism and commitment of foreign players. "Their dedication to the game is extraordinary, and their professional approach has been a major factor in the success of the IPL," he noted.

The presence of such dedicated professionals has undoubtedly contributed to the IPL's reputation as a top-tier cricket league. Prasanna's insights into the IPL reflect a broader vision for the development of Indian cricket. He believes that incorporating more state players into IPL teams would have a substantial impact on cricket in India.

Mirabai Chanu eyes Paris Olympics amidst recovery challenges

Patiala (UNI): Mirabai Chanu, the celebrated Indian weightlifter, is gearing up for a triumphant return at the Paris Olympics, navigating through the shadows of past injuries and the demanding road to recovery. Mirabai, reflected on her recent comeback at the World Cup following a setback during the Asian Games. "After the Asian Games injury, the World Cup was my first competition. I was certainly apprehensive about picking up another injury," she revealed. "I didn't want to jeopardise my chances for Paris. Managing injuries and maintaining a stress-free mindset are crucial for me," she told the Sports Authority of India (SAI Media) here on Friday.

The road to Paris has not been without its challenges, as Mirabai emphasised the importance of meticulous training and injury prevention in her sport. "Weightlifting demands comprehensive training. Every muscle group plays a vital role, and maintaining strength is crucial for lifting heavy weights," she explained. "Consistency in training is key. Skipping even a single day sets back my progress significantly." Mirabai's determination to overcome setbacks was palpable as she discussed her aspirations for the Paris Olympics. "An Asian Games medal remains a goal. Despite being close in Hangzhou, an untimely injury halted my progress," she lamented. "However, setbacks fuel my determination to return stronger for India."

Austria keep Euro 2024 hopes alive with 3-1 win over Poland

Berlin (UNI) Austria revived their UEFA Euro 2024 hopes with a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland in Group D action here on Friday. Christoph Baumgartner netted the crucial goal midway through the second half, capping off a well-orchestrated team effort. This second consecutive loss means Poland has been eliminated from the tournament.

Austria approached the match with determination following their Matchday 1 loss to France, fully aware that another defeat would end their chances of advancing to the knockout stages. Their efforts paid off early, as Gernot Trauner opened the scoring with a precise header in the



ninth minute, capitalising on a long throw-in from Philipp Mwene. Although Austria dominated the first half, Poland managed to equalise against the run of play. A defensive mishap in the Austrian backline allowed Krzysztof Piątek to find the net in the 30th minute, leveling the score at 1-1. Despite Austria's control over possession and numerous opportunities, they entered the halftime break on level terms. The second half mirrored the first in terms of Austria's dominance, prompting Poland to bring on their star striker, Robert Lewandowski, in the 60th minute. Lewandowski had missed the Matchday 1 loss to the Netherlands due to a thigh

injury. However, it was Austria who regained the lead with a superb team goal. Alexander Prass, utilising Marko Arnautovic's run as a decoy, set up Baumgartner, who calmly slotted the ball past Wojciech Szczesny in the 67th minute.

Poland's hopes of a comeback were dashed in the 78th minute when Marcel Sabitzer broke through their defense and was brought down by Szczesny, resulting in a penalty. Arnautovic converted from the spot, sealing a 3-1 victory for Austria and confirming Poland's exit from the tournament.

Group D concludes on Tuesday with Austria facing the Netherlands and France taking on Poland. France and the Netherlands will battle for the top spot in the group later on Friday.

BUSINESS

GST Council exempts certain railway services from GST, approves measures to ease compliance

New Delhi (UNI) Providing relief to smaller firms and taxpayers, the all-powerful GST Council on Saturday decided to exempt certain services provided by Indian Railways, reduce the quantum of pre-deposit required to be paid for filing appeals under GST, and fix monetary limits for filing appeals in order to substantially cut litigation.



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman said in a media briefing after the 53rd GST Council meeting held here. The GST Council also clarified on a number of procedural issues to ease the compliance burden on taxpayers. "The GST Council, in its meeting on Saturday, has taken a lot of decisions on trade facilitation, easing compliance burdens, and giving relief to taxpayers in terms of compliance," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a media briefing after the 53rd GST Council meeting held here.

The Minister, who also heads the GST Council, said that while there were a lot of issues on which the Fitment Committee and the Legal Committee had worked and readied quite a few agenda points, all of them could not be taken up for lack of time. She said that the remaining agenda items would be taken up in the next meeting, which could be scheduled in August this year following the presentation of the Union Budget in Parliament. Sitharaman noted that the decisions taken by the GST Council today would benefit traders, MSMEs, and taxpayers.

Significantly, the GST Council recommended exempting the services provided by Indian Railways to the general public, namely the sale of platform tickets, the facility of retiring rooms or waiting rooms, cloak room services, and battery-operated car services. The Council also recommended certain exemptions related to accommodation services, providing relief to students and working professionals.

Among changes in GST rates on goods, the Council decided to reduce the tax rate on 'carton, boxes, and cases of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paper-board' from 18% to 12%. Further, all milk cans (of steel, iron and aluminium) irrespective of their use, will attract 12% GST. All solar cookers, whether single or dual energy sources, will attract 12% GST. The GST Council recommended waiving interest and penalties for demand notices issued under Section 73 of the CGST Act (i.e. the cases not involving fraud, suppression or willful misstatement, etc.) for the fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 if the full tax demanded is paid up to March 31, 2025.

It is also recommended that the time limit to avail input tax credit with respect to any invoice or debit note under Section 16(4) of the CGST Act, through any GSTR 3B return filed up to November 30, 2021 for FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21, may be deemed to be November 30, 2021. The Council recommended to prescribe monetary limits, subject to certain exclusions, for filing of appeals in GST by the department before GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), High Court, and Supreme Court, to reduce government litigation.

Lets make India "Food Basket" of the world: Chouhan to Agri scientists

New Delhi (UNI) Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday appealed to the scientific community to work in the interest of small and medium farmers to bring revolution in Indian agriculture and make India the "Food Basket" of the world. "Let us together make a roadmap on which not only the welfare of Indian agriculture and farmers can be achieved, but let us make India the food basket of the world, feed the world, and export," the Minister said at the alumni meet of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa, New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, he appealed to the scientific community to work in the interest of small and marginal farmers and bring about a revolution in Indian agriculture. He said about 86 per cent of the farmers here are small-marginal farmers. "We have to make the model of farming such that farmers can earn their livelihood properly even in farming up to one hectare." The minister stressed the need to make India "self-reliant" on pulses and oilseeds. He said, "Adoption of technological advancement is absolutely necessary to increase the in-

come of our farmers and to meet the changing scenario." We have to ensure that our agricultural policy and research bring a positive change in the lives of small and marginal farmers, he added.

In this important meeting, R.S. Paroda, former Director General ICAR, Ramesh Chand, Member NITI Aayog, Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE, and Director General ICAR also presented their views. IARI Director A.K. Singh, DDG Dr. R.S. Aggarwal were also present. These experts had an indepth discussion on the challenges and prospects of Indian agriculture and stressed the need for scientific approaches and policy reforms to address the problems of farmers.

R S Paroda said that the need of the hour is to upgrade Indian agriculture with the help of innovation and scientific research. We have to test and implement new technologies in collaboration with farmers, which will increase their yield and income. The scientists and experts present at the conference also shared their views and resolved to take concrete steps to make Indian agriculture self-reliant and prosperous.

Industrialist expecting relief on tax, reducing GST rates from govt

Pune (UNI): Ahead of Union Budget, which will be presented in July after the formation of a new BJP-led NDA government at the centre, Pune industrialists are expecting relief from tax and a reduction in the rates of GST. In view of the upcoming budget, industrialists have started to put their demands before the government. The meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is taking place at the national capital, Delhi, today, where discussion on simplifying GST and reducing rates in many sectors is possible, said Rajesh Agarwal, National President of the Agarwal Marwadi Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Education (AMCCIE) here today.

CII inaugurates new Marathwada office in Sambhajinagar

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (UNI): The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced on Saturday the opening of its new zonal office near Akashwani Chowk in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra in the presence of national, regional, state, and zonal CII leadership.

After the formal inauguration by the hand of R. Mukundan, CII Vice President, Managing Director, and CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited, addressing media persons, he said the new office will serve as a hub to drive economic growth and development in the Marathwada region. The

Marathwada Zonal office will focus on strengthening industry-government collaboration, promoting ease of doing business, and supporting the region's small and medium enterprises. It will also work to boost investments, foster innovation, and facilitate technology adoption across key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure, he said.

He further said that the opening of our CII Marathwada office is a strategic move to deepen our engagement in this important region of Maharashtra. "It will provide tailor-made services for industry members to identify their specific requirements

and serve them through knowledge inputs, assessments, training, and capacity building. The new CII Marathwada office will reinforce CII's existing presence in Marathwada, including across Maharashtra and western regional offices. It will continue to serve as a platform for businesses, policymakers, and thought leaders to collaborate on key issues and drive transformative initiatives for the region. Marathwada has been and continues to be a strategic investment destination for companies in the manufacturing and automotive sectors and has a developed ecosystem of an-

cillary industries. CII, through its policy advocacy, is committed to working towards further enhancing the presence of industries in the region and addressing the concerns of enterprises through appropriate and impactful representation to the local, state, and national authorities. This will ensure economic growth with employment creation for the youth of the region, he added. Dr. Rajesh Kapoor, CII Regional Director, emphasised that CII will work with all stakeholders, including the local industry associations, to put the Marathwada region on the national and global manufacturing map.