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Bopanna, Ebden surge into US Open second round

New York, (UNI)

In a commanding display of skill, India's Rohan Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden secured a straight-sets victory over the Dutch pair of Sander Arends and Robin Haase at the US Open 2024 on Friday.

The second-seeded Indo-Australian duo, who were runnersup in last year's tournament, triumphed 6-3, 7-5 in just 64 minutes at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

This win was a significant boost for Bopanna and Ebden, marking their first victory in four matches together. The first set saw both teams exchanging early breaks, but Bopanna and Ebden quickly asserted their dominance.

After initially conceding a break point in the third game, they rallied to win four straight games, including two break points, and closed the set com-

Sophie Devine to step down as NZ's T20I captain after World Cup



Christchurch, (UNI)

New Zealand have confirmed that Sophie Devine, their veteran captain, will step down from her role as T20I captain at the end of this year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup. Devine, 34, has led New Zealand's white-ball teams since 2020, when she succeeded Amy Satterthwaite. However, the allrounder has decided to relinquish the T20I captaincy following the tournament in October. In a statement, Devine explained her decision: "I'm incredibly proud to have led the White Ferns in both formats. However, the additional workload of captaincy can be demanding. By stepping away from the T20I role, I can focus more on my playing performance and sup-port the development of future leaders." Devine will continue to lead New Zealand in One Day In-

ternationals and is set to captain the team in next year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India. "I'm not ready to give up ODI captaincy just yet," she said. "But I believe stepping down from T20I captaincy will allow the next generation of leaders to emerge and grow." New Zealand coach Ben Sawyer praised Devine's leadership and impact on the team. "Soph is the epitome of a fearless leader. Her leadership and experience have been invaluable, especially as we've integrated new talent into the squad," Sawyer said. "While the decision wasn't easy for her, I fully support it and know she will continue to be a key leader within the group." The 15-player squad for the Women's T20 World Cup will be announced on September 10, with a decision on Devine's successor as T20I captain to follow.

Mpower announces launch of **Athlete Mind Performance**

Kolkata, (UNI)

Mpower, the mental healthcare initiative of the Aditya Birla Education Trust (ABET), has announced the launch of its new vertical Athlete Mind Performance (AMP). Spearheaded by Neerja Birla, Founder and Chairperson of Mpower, ABET, AMP is a significant step forward in helping athletes transform their game and reach championship levels, according to a media statement here on Friday. The launch was marked by an indiscussed the critical role of mental

health training alongside physical training for athletes. This initiative has also garnered strong support from legendary sports personalities like Sania Mirza, Abhinav Bindra, Aparna Popat, Pullela Gopichand and Sourav Ganguly all of whom advocated for a sports environment where mental health is given equal importance to physical endurance and training. AMP embodies our commitment to empowering athletes with psychological interventions tailored for and mental

Indian Racing Festival: Chennai all set for historic night races this weekend

Sports/Business 7



Chennai, (UNI)

As the Indian Racing Festival 2024 edition is all set to revvup for the country's first-ever night race, Chennai gears up for an electrifying weekendthat promises to make history with a perfect backdrop of the iconic Island Groundunder the twinkling Groundunder the twinkling starlight.Nestled in the heart of this vibrant metropolis, the 3.5 km street circuit features 19 turns,multiple chicane and fast straights, including the striking Napier Bridge, painted in achequered flag design as the zooming formula cars and the drivers will zoom by theWar Memorial.Presented by Kingfisher Soda and promoted by Racing Soda and promoted by Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd, the nightrace will be nothing short of a spectacle and a monumental step forward for Indianmotorsports.Supported by the Tamil Nadu government,

experienceWith packed houses in attendance having close to 9,000 spectators the streets of Chennai will be transforming itself to etch themselves among the global few when itcomes to having Night Circuit Street in the Street Circuit in the world.Addressing a press conference on Friday, Dr. Atulya Misra, Additional Chief Secretaryto Youth Welfare and Sports Development said, Lot of efforts have been undertaken tobring this milestone night circuit to life in the streets of Chennai It is to life in the streets of Chennai.It is not only a prestigious moment for India but will also propel Chennai and Tamil Naduin the global map as a strong Motorsports destination.While every effort is going into the smooth execution of the race and create a thrillingstree circuit which will not only be a spectacle to watch out for but also will be ascompetitive as one can

conversation between Neerja Birla imagine."This is not just a race; it's performance enhancement, stress and Abhinav Bindra, India's First this race aims to elevate Chennai's a celebration of speed, skill, and the spirit of Chennai",he said. statusas a motorsport capital by offering fans an unparalleled management, Olympic Gold Medalist, where they toughness. TNCA XI, Chhattisgarh register wins, enters semis in Buchi Babu cricket tourney

Chennai, (UNI) TNCA XI and Chhattisgarh registered easy wins and stormedinto the semifinals of the All India Buchi Babu cricket tournament held at variousvenues in Tamil Nadu on Friday.On the fourth and the last day of their final league matches, TNCA defeated Mumbaiby 286 runs in Coimbatore, while Chhattisgarh got the better of Baroda by eight

wicketsat Dindigul. In Group C, Mumbai chasing a huge 510 for win, were bowled out for 223 after resumingat 6 for no loss, despite having star Indian grieketer Surgkumer in the line cricketer Suryakumar in the line up.In a Group D match, Baroda, resuming at 9-0, were all out for 175 suffering a dramaticcollapse after being in a strong position at 152 for four.

Baroda batsmen made a mess as the team lost their last six wickets



for 23 runs in 15.1 overs, setting a 76 run target for Chhattisgarh in 20

overs.Chhattisgarh, however, knocked off the target in 8.4 overs

Hyderabad will meet TNCA President's XI atTirunelveli and TNCA XI will meet Chhattisgarh a Natham, Dindigul.Brief scores :At Coimbatore :Group-C :TNCA X 379 and 286 bt Mumbai 156 and 223 in 72.5 overs (Musheer Khan 40, Shams Mulani 68, C.V. Achyuth three for 37, R. Sai Kishore three for 52).Points : TNCA XI 6 (9) ; Mumbai 0 (1)At Dindigul :Group-D :Baroda 327 and 175 in 77.1 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 58, Shaswat Rawat 34, ShashankTiwari five for 57, Utkarsh Tiwari two for 34) lost to Chhattisgarh 427 and 76 for twoin 8.4 overs (Ayush Pandey 39 not out, Shashank Chandrakar 33, Bhargav Bhatttwo for 15). Points Chhattisgarh 6 (7) ; Baroda 0 (6).

over)losing two wickets.In the semi

finals beginning on Monday

fourth mandatory

the

opening round later on Friday, partnering with Indonesia's Aldila Sutjiadi.

fortably despite a late challenge from their opponents. In the second set, Arends and Haase began with renewed vigor,

establishing a 4-1 lead after breaking in the third game. However, the reigning Australian Open champions demon-strated their experience and strategic acumen, leveling the set at 5-5 with a blend of powerful serves and well-placed winners.

They then seized a crucial break point to go 6-5 ahead and ultimately secured the match by holding their serve.

Bopanna and Ebden will next face the Spanish-Argentine duo of Roberto Carballes Baena and Federico Coria in the second round.

Additionally, Bopanna is set to compete in the mixed doubles

BUSINESS

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Consumption Fund'

Bhopal: India's economic landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation fuelled by rising incomes, urbanization, and burgeoning middle class. To harness the power of India's thriving consumption sector and to offer investors a strategic opportunity to benefit from the country's escalating consumer demand, Axis Mutual Fund, one of the fastest-growing fund houses in India, proudly announces the launch of Axis Consumption Fund The New Fund Offer (NFO), benchmarked against the NIFTY India Consumption TRI, will open for subscription from 23rd August to 6th September 2024. The fund will be managed by Hitesh Das, Shreyash

AXIS MUTUAL FUND

Devalkar, and Krishnaa Narayan (For Overseas Securities), who are committed to leveraging this thematic investment opportunity. Embracing India's Consumption Potential, India's consumption story is poised to be a major economic driver, supported by favourable demographics, rising disposable incomes, and urbanization. With a young and aspirational population, consumer spending in India is expected to grow significantly in the coming years. The Axis Consump-tion Fund aims to provide a

reflects the broad spectrum of India's consumption-driven sectors, including FMCG, Telecommunication, Auto, Healthcare, Realty, and more. "The evolving consumption patterns in India are a crucial aspect of India's growth trajectory. As our population's aspirations grow and spending power increases, companies in this space are positioned for sustained growth", observed Ashish Gupta, Chief Investment Officer, Axis AMC.

portfolio that

diversified

The Axis Consumption Fund offers investors an opportunity to participate in this unfolding trend and aims to build a robust portfolio that dynamic this captures growth.

Greenply Industries of India & Samet of Türkiye come together, offering exceptional furniture

Kolkata: Green-Industries ply Ltd., a pioneer in the Indian plywood industry, and Samet, one of the leading global brands in functional furnihardware ture have com-



menced their business operations together as part of their joint venture Greenply-Samet and are set to revolutionize the Indian furniture hardware market. Greenply Industries and SAMET B.V. marked a signicant milestone on 26th October 2023 by forming a Joint Venture Company named "Greenply Samet Private Limited." This strategic collaboration under the brand Greenply-Samet is poised to bring a new wave of innovation and quality to the industry.

Samsung TV Plus Expands its Channel Offerings; Debuts Aaj Tak HD and The Lallantop for Consumers

Gurugram: Samsung TV Plus, the brand's free ad-supported streaming TV (FAST) service in India, has announced the launch of Aaj Tak HD and The Lallantop on its port-folio. Thepartnershipbetween Samsung TV Plus and TV Today NetworkunderscoresSamsung's

commitment to deliver top-quality pro-gramming and meet the evolving needs of viewers in an increasingly connected world.

TV Today Network's FAST channel offering from The Lallantop and Aaj Tak HD, will meet audiences' need for com-pelling and premium free content on the biggest screen in the house. The connect-ed TV base in India continues to grow as more households opt for internetenabled smart TV options.

'Our endeavour is to bring unparalleled access and exceptional value to our audiences and advertisers on the Samsung TV plus platform. The addition of Aaj Tak HD and The Lallantop channels will provide increased access to the latest news from the world of business, politics,

Samsung **TV Plus**

entertainment and more. This partnership with TVToday Network is a testament to that commitment," said Kunal Mehta Head of Partnerships, Samsung TV Plus India. "We are thrilled to announce

the launch of our two new FAST channels on Samsung TV Plus India. This partnership represents a significant mile stone for us, as it allows us to bring our diverse and engaging content to a broad er audience through one of the most pop ular and innovative smart TV platforms With numerous options available for connected TV viewers, this collaboration enables us to broaden our audience and engage with those embracing new tech nologies, ensuring our content remains accessible across diverse viewing ecosys-tems," said Salil Kumar, CEO - Digital Business, TVTN

Samsung TV Plus, already delivers more than 100 FAST live channels and thousands of on-demand movies and TV shows to millions of users across India- all 100% free.

D-Street rally continues; **BSE Sensex**, Nifty reach new highs

Mumbai, (UNI): India's benchmark indices today rose to a new high on the back of strong global trend and renewed foreign funds inflow as the BSE Sensex on Friday closed at a new peak at 82,365.77 with a gain of over 231 points from its previous close. The market also reacted positively after US economic data alleviated growth worries. However, further trend in the market will depend upon the domestic quarterly GDP data to be

release on Friday. National Stock The Exchange (NSE) Nifty also gained about 84 points to close at, 25,235.90.

Amazon India launches 'Project Ashray'



As part of its unwavering commitment to support the wellbeing of Delivery Associates, Amazon India announced the launch of 'Project Ashray'. Through this program, drivers across entire logistic industry will get access to rest-points at strategic locations, in cities like Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. In collaboration with the Udyasa Foundation, the initial pilot project will establish five Ashray centers at high-footfall locations, with the first

Ashray center being inaugurat-ed by Michiko Miyamoto, India Country Director at International Labour Organisation, at Boulevard, Malibu Town, Sector 47, Gurugram. "At Amazon, we are committed to maintaining industry-leading infrastructure and best practices to enhance the on-road experience for delivery associates. 'Project Ashray' is a significant part of our broader efforts to improve driver experience and well-being. By providing dedicated rest points with essential amenities, we aim to ensure that all delivery associates, whether with Amazon or other compa-nies, have the best possible and most comfortable environment while they work," said Abhinav Singh, Vice President - Opera-

tions, Amazon India.

Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card becomes Fastest Growing Card

Mumbai: Amazon Pay ICICI Bank cred-it card has become amazon pay

India's first co-branded credit card to make it a preferred choice for onboard over 5million cus-tomers nationwide, the com-such as flight and hotel book-Mumbai. It is one of the fastest ceries. growing co-branded credit As a result, the card's average cards, powered by VISA, with spend per user is 22% higher its list of benefits including than industry standards. uncomplicated and unlimited Additionally, it offers exclusive cashback, lifetime free card, instant issuance within 30 options on millions of prod-minutes with a seamless video ucts on Amazon in and is one KYC and paperless onboard- of the most widely used credit

est NPS scores in the industry. Its attractive cashback and seam-

pany announced todayat the ings, and small ticket transac-Global Fintech Festival in tions like utility bills and gro-

six-month no-cost EMI Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit cards for tap and pay transac-tions, empowering customers card, with its digital-first to make payments conve-approachhasone of the high-niently and efficiently.

Mahindra University Hosts Global Experts at ICETCI 2024

New Delhi/Hyderabad: The Fourth International Conference on Emerging Techniques in Computational Intelligence (ICETCI 2024) was hosted by Mahindra University, Hyderabad, and technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society. The conference brought together leading minds in computational intelligence from around and applications. the globe, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration. The three-day Defence Research and Developevent featured a robust schedule ment Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderof tutorials, keynote lectures, a re- abad, highlighted various statesearch colloquium, and technical of-the-art topics in computational on cutting-edge developments in smart grids, and agriculture.



computational intelligence, with a focus on emerging technologies

The Chief Guest, Dr. JVR Sagar, representing the Director of the paper presentations. Experts from intelligence and its applications in various fields shared their insights defence, predictive maintenance,

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