

Sinner beats Shelton, secures place in AO final

Melbourne, (UNI) Jannik Sinner, the defending Australian Open men's singles champion, secured his place in the final with a commanding straight-sets victory over American Ben Shelton here on Friday night. The top seed triumphed 7-6(2), 6-2, 6-2 in their semifinal at Rod Laver Arena, extending his impressive run at Melbourne Park. Sinner, who claimed his second Grand Slam title at last year's Australian Open, needed 2 hours and 36 minutes to dismiss Shelton and improve his Grand Slam



semifinal record to 3-2. Alexander Zverev in The Italian will face Sunday's final after the

German advanced earlier in the day. Zverev took advantage of a first-set injury withdrawal by Novak Djokovic, leading 7-6(5) when the Serbian retired. Zverev now heads into the final with a 4-2 head-to-head advantage over Sinner, including a 2-1 edge in Grand Slam meetings. The 26-year-old will be aiming for his first Grand Slam title. The showdown between Sinner and Zverev promises to be an exciting culmination to this year's Australian Open men's singles competition.

Manipur shooters targeting medals in National Game

Imphal, (UNI): With the announcement of the state's participation with a 300-strong contingent in the ensuing 38th National Games in Uttarakhand to be held from January 28 to February 14, 2025, the Manipur Rifle Association (MRA) also initiated an all-out effort to send a 10-member shooting team by conducting regular practice sessions at its Shooting Range complex. "Our shooters have already started regular practice sessions here for the ensuing 38th National Games in the past few weeks," says State Shooting Team Manager Amakcham Olen Meitei. "A 10-member team including eight shooters and two officials will represent the state in four events in the ensuing National Games." The regular practice session of the newly selected shooters including two women shooters is underway at the MRA Shooting Range Complex at Taothong Lamshang in Imphal West district. The eight shooters who are selected based on their performances, to represent the state, include six men and two women.



India lose to Syria in Mandiri U20 Challenge Series opener

Sidoarjo (Indonesia), (UNI) The India U20 men's team lost 1-6 to Syria in the first match of the Mandiri U20 Challenge Series at the Gelora Delta Stadium here on Friday. Hosts Indonesia and Jordan, who will meet later on Friday, are the other teams in the four-nation friendly tournament. India will face Jordan in their second match on January 27. Lining up with nine under-17 players, India struggled to match the speed and physicality of the more experienced Syrian side, who had 2005-born players on the pitch and are preparing for the AFC U20 Asian Cup at full swing. For Biby Thomas' side, Manbhakapur Malngiang scored the lone consolation goal in the 64th minute, a well-crafted goal that the Blue Colts can take heart from. Anas Hussam Dahhan opened the scoring in the fourth minute by

drilling a right-footed shot into the bottom corner. Majd Manaf Ramadan made it two in the 15th minute as he twisted and turned in the box before unleashing a fierce strike straight into the top corner. India created a few half chances of their own, mainly from set pieces. The first of those came in the 19th minute when Ahongshangbam Samson headed Md Arbash's free-kick on target but it was blocked by the Syrian defence. Indian centre-back Mukul Panwar then saw two of his headers go wide from two free-kick deliveries by Arbash and Levis Zangminlun. Syria then added two more goals in the latter stages of the first half. In the 37th minute, Hassan Abdulaziz Al Mahmoud slotted in a cutback from the left by Mahmoud Hasan Al Omar. Then at the stroke of half-time, Syria made it 4-0 on the counter as Homam Mahmoud raced towards goal before laying the ball for Dahhan, who passed it into the net from two yards out.

Sri Lanka name 18-man squad for Australia series



Galle, (UNI) Sri Lanka has named an 18-man squad for their upcoming series against Australia, marking the conclusion of their 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. The two-match series, part of the Warne-Murali Test Series, will be held at Galle, with the first Test scheduled to start on January 29. In a bid to address injury concerns, Sri Lanka has included key players Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, and Pathum Nissanka in the squad. However, Nissanka's ongoing groin injury makes him the least likely to feature in the series. Despite these concerns, the selectors have opted for a larger squad to provide cover as the series approaches. Sri Lanka, currently sitting fifth in the WTC standings, could move up in the table with a strong performance, potentially sur-

passing New Zealand and India. The visitors, Australia, have already secured a spot in the WTC final against South Africa but will be without captain Pat Cummins, who is sidelined with an ankle injury. Stand-in captain Steve Smith has been included in the squad, bringing confidence to the team after recovering from an elbow injury. Team: Dhananjaya de Silva (C), Dimuth Karunaratne, Pathum Nissanka, Oshada Fernando, Lahiru Udara, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Kamindu Mendis, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Sonal Dinusha, Prabath Jayasuriya, Jeffrey Vandersay, Nishan Peiris, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Milan Rathnayake. Fixtures: 1st Test: 29th January - 2nd February 2025, Galle; 2nd Test: 6th - 10th February 2025, Galle.

Jay Shah elected as new member of Marylebone Cricket Club

New Delhi: Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary and the current International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah was elected as a board member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) advisory board on Thursday. Shah was absent when MCC held the inaugural World Cricket Connects forum last year, which witnessed over 100 leading voices at the Lord's which will discuss the state of the global game. Shah is among the 13 found-



ing members of the new World Cricket Connects advisory board, which will be headed by former Sri Lanka skipper and MCC president Kumar Sangakkara. The other founding members of new advisory board are former India captain Sourav Ganguly, former South Africa opener Greame Smith and former Director of England Cricket, Andrew Strauss along with England women's captain Heather Knight and JioStar's CEO (Sports), Sanjog Gupta.

FC Goa host Chennaiyin FC in ISL on Jan 25

Fatorda, (UNI) FC Goa will play Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Saturday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in Goa. FC Goa currently sit second on the table with 30 points from 16 matches, while Chennaiyin FC are 10th with 18 points from 17 games. The Gaurs have won three in their last five games and are seven points behind the top-placed Mohun Bagan Super Giant (37), who have played an additional game (17) too. The Manolo Marquez-coached team will be buoyed with Jamshedpur FC losing to Hyderabad FC on Thursday, since it eases pressure on them at the second spot, as a win would have propelled the Red Miners (28) to displace FC Goa in their position for now. For Chennaiyin FC, the equation is fairly straightforward. The Marina Machans are



trailing the sixth-placed Odisha FC (24) by seven points, having played the same number of games as them. Form hasn't really been on their side off late, losing twice and drawing thrice in their previous five

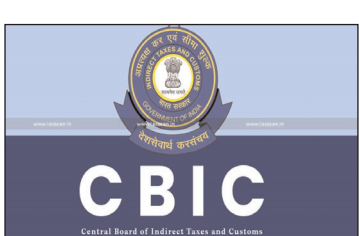
encounters. In fact, their last three matches have produced consecutive draws, and Owen Coyle will be hoping to overturn this streak in order to get more points under their belt. They

can ill afford to succumb to defeats anymore since the competition is intensifying at the middle of the table. FC Goa will look to ride on Brison Fernandes' purple patch upfront, as with six strikes he is the only Indian alongside Sunil Chhetri (11) in the list of top-10 goal-scorers so far this season. Overall, the Gaurs have struck the back of the net 30 times, powered by Armando Sadiku (9), Borja Herrera (4), amongst others. Chennaiyin FC have scored 23 times, with Wilmar Jordan Gil (8) embracing the major chunk of the responsibilities in the frontline. The Gaurs (20), however, have been relatively more disciplined defensively, as compared to Chennaiyin FC (27), and FC Goa have conceded just twice in their last three matches.

BUSINESS

CBIC cautions against fraudulent summons for GST violations

New Delhi, (UNI) The Government has cautioned citizens against fraudsters issuing fake and fraudulent notices for GST violations saying anybody getting such notice must verify the genuineness of these communications before taking action. It has been recently observed that some individuals with fraudulent intent are creating and sending fake summons to the taxpayers who may or may not be under investigation by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. The fake summons resembles



very closely with the original due to use of Department's logo and Document Identification Number (DIN). However, these DIN numbers are fake and are used by the fraudsters to make the document look and feel genuine. It is once again clarified that taxpayers can easily verify the genuineness of any communication (including Summons) issued by any officer of

CBIC by using the 'VERIFY CBIC-DIN' window on the CBIC's website <https://esanchar.cbic.gov.in/DIN/DINSearch>. On verifying the DIN, if any individual or taxpayer finds that the Summon/letter/Notice is fake, it may immediately be reported to the office concerned. This will enable the competent DGGI / CGST formation to take law enforcement action against the fraudsters for using fake Summons/letter/Notice to dupe the public. CBIC has issued Circular No. 122/41/2019-GST dated 05th November 2019 regarding generation and quoting of DIN on communications sent by all CBIC officers, the Finance Ministry said.

Cambridge to be part of India's ambitious One Nation One Subscription initiative

Outlines plans to boost research excellence and learning across India, Cambridge University Press is one of the key publishers in the Government of India's groundbreaking One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, a transformative effort aimed at boosting academic and research excellence across the country. Cambridge will be expanding access to its vast repository of journals, enabling India's academic community to leverage high-quality research and peer-reviewed articles. Spearheaded by the Government of India, ONOS is a landmark effort to ensure access to quality scholarly research journals across the nation. As one of the 30 global publishers participating in this initiative, Cambridge will provide access to 430 journals across Science, Technology & Medicine and Humanities & Social Sciences.

Flipkart & APFBC host workshop empowering State's entrepreneurs, artisans, & weavers through e-commerce

Flipkart, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, in collaboration with the Assam Project on Forests & Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC), organized an orientation and onboarding workshop aimed at empowering cluster level federation, self help groups formed by APFBC with insights, knowledge about Flipkart's 'Samarth' program, benefits the program offers to entrepreneurs, enabling them to leverage digital platforms and providing PAN-India market access. APFBC shall be onboarded as a Samarth partner, thereby enabling livelihood generation for SHGs, CLFs associated through the sale of products. The workshop was held on 20th January at Aranya Bhawan in Guwahati, Assam, focused on economic empowerment through digital platforms and was graced by Anurag Singh, Project Director, Assam Project on Biodiversity & Forest Conservation, Sunnydeo Chaudhary, Activity



Director, Assam Project on Biodiversity & Forest Conservation, Flipkart leadership and other dignitaries. Speaking about the workshop, Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "Our partnership with the Assam Project on Forests & Biodiversity Conservation underscores Flipkart's commitment to fostering digital inclusivity across the nation. Through this collaboration, we aim to create meaningful economic opportunities for artisans and entrepreneurs, equipping them to unlock the potential of e-commerce. With the Flipkart Samarth program, we strive to bridge gaps for underserved communities, empowering them to build sustainable livelihoods and thrive in the digital economy. By offering the right tools, guidance, and support, Flipkart is enabling small and medium businesses to become an integral part of India's journey toward inclusive growth."

Ather Energy Ltd. introduces Multi-Language Dashboard for Indian Consumers

Ather Energy Limited, one of India's electric two-wheeler manufacturers, has launched a multi-language dashboard interface for its family scooter, Rizta. The scooter's dashboard will now support 8 regional languages - Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, making it more accessible to a wider audience and enhancing the overall riding experience. The rollout begins with the Hindi dashboard, with other regional languages to follow soon. According to the Internet in India 2024 report by IAMA and Kantar, 98% of internet users accessed content in In-

dic languages in 2024. Indians show a strong preference for engaging with digital content in their regional languages, which offer a sense of familiarity and comfort - whether it's reading articles, watching videos, or gathering information. Understanding this, Ather worked on bringing to its consumers, the dashboard in multiple languages. Ravneet Singh Phokela, Chief Business Officer, of Ather Energy, said, "Since the beginning we have designed and built our technology and products from the ground up, keeping the needs of Indian consumers in mind.

M Electro Mech IPO Opens

Mumbai: HM Electro Mech Limited is specializing in turnkey projects, including supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of pumping machinery and providing comprehensive operation and maintenance services. Initial Public Offering (IPO) opened on January 24, aiming to raise up to Rs 27.74 crores to be listed on the BSE SME platform. The Issue size is 36,99,200 Equity Shares with a price band of Rs 71 to Rs 75 per share and face value of Rs 10 each. The net proceeds of the IPO will be utilized to meet working Capital requirements, and for general corporate purposes.

India Assist Partners with UP Government & Tourist Information Centres

India Assist, a leader in tech-enabled travel assistance, has partnered with the Uttar Pradesh Government to upscale the travel experience for millions of visitors during Mahakumbh 2025 and beyond. This ongoing collaboration sees India Assist actively operating Tourist Information Centres (TICs) within the Mahakumbh area in Prayagraj, along with additional TICs located at the city's railway station and airport. Harish Khatri, Founder of India Assist, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "India is a country of diverse experiences and cultural treasures, and Ma-

hakumbh stands as an incredible amalgamation of spiritual and cultural unity. Through this ongoing partnership, we are privileged to help millions of visitors celebrate this extraordinary event with ease and confidence. By blending innovative technology with on-ground human support, we ensure that every visitor feels guided and cared for throughout their journey." As Mahakumbh 2025 unfolds, drawing over 40 crore pilgrims and tourists from across India and abroad, India Assist's dedicated TICs are proving to be pivotal in enhancing the travel experience.

The new MINI Cooper S John Cooper Works Pack launched in India

MINI India announced the launch of the new MINI Cooper S John Cooper Works Pack. The car will be available as completely built-up unit (CBU) and can be booked exclusively on MINI Online Shop. Deliveries will begin from April 2025. The fifth generation MINI Cooper S combines progressive technology with the sportiness of John Cooper Works Pack along with the MINI body language and origins. Together, they pack an innovative punch with a new personality and hallmark driving dynamics. Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "The launch of the new MINI Cooper S John Cooper Works Pack underscores MINI's legacy of blending timeless

design with modern innovation. With its dynamic, sporty exterior and exclusive John Cooper Works trim, the special edition stands out as the epitome of driving fun and individuality. The sporty details of the interior are an expression of motorsport passion, while the highly digital interactive interfaces make for a hi-tech experience. This special John Cooper Works Pack is a fitting tribute to MINI's legendary racing genes." Price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Ex-showroom prices inclusive of GST (incl. compensation cess) as applicable but excludes Road Tax, Tax Collected at Source (TCS), RTO, statutory taxes/fees, other local tax/cess levies and insurance.

