

sportspopup

Chahal agrees to pay Rs 4.75 cr alimony to Dhanashree as HC fast-tracks divorce process

MUMBAI: Yuzvendra Chahal has agreed to pay estranged wife Dhanashree Verma Rs 4.75 crore in alimony, with Rs 2.37 crore already paid, Bar and Bench reported. On Wednesday, the Bombay High Court expedited the divorce hearing process for cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and Dhanashree Verma due to Chahal's commitments with the Indian Premier League (IPL), which begins on March 22. The hearing is now set for March 20. Yuzvendra Chahal, who is a spinner for the Kings XI Punjab IPL team, is set to join his team, Punjab Kings, for IPL 2025 commencing on March 22. The Bombay High Court waived the mandatory six-month cooling-off period under the Hindu Marriage Act, allowing the couple to proceed with their mutual consent divorce without delay. Yuzvendra Chahal and Dhanashree Verma, who tied the knot in 2020, have been living separately for almost a year now. Their divorce will be finalised tomorrow, March 20.



Two Indian track and field athletes handed 4-year ban

NEW DELHI: Sprinter Akshay Nain and race walker Aditya Negi have been handed four-year suspensions by the NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) after they tested positive for steroids. Nain, who had won a silver in 200m and a bronze in 400m at the 2023 National Open, had returned positive for Drostanolone metabolite (3 alpha-hydroxy, 2 alpha-methyl-5 alpha androstan-17-one), will serve a 4-year ban from October 23, 2023. The 24-year-old Nain has personal best of 10.85s (100m), 20.97s (200) and 46.40s (400). Negi, on the other hand, had been under provisional suspension after testing positive for 19-Norandrosterone. His ban period started from February 22, 2024.

Sports Minister calls for inclusion of doping education in schools

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday called for inclusion of doping education in schools and launching awareness campaigns in rural areas to give impetus to the fight against the menace. Delivering his keynote address at the NDTL Annual Conference-2025 on 'Anti-Doping Science: Innovations and Challenges', Mandaviya reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting clean and fair competition in sports.

Eriksen says he will likely leave Manchester Utd at end of season

COPENHAGEN: Christian Eriksen said on Tuesday he is expecting to leave Manchester United at the end of the season and is ready for a new challenge. The Danish midfielder has been in and out of the team since Ruben Amorim took charge last year and his contract at Old Trafford expires in June. "I'm ready to look for something new. That suits me very well," Eriksen told reporters before Denmark's Nations League quarter-final against Portugal, saying United had not approached him about a possible extension to his deal.

Chhetri scores on comeback as India beat Maldives 3-0

PTI, SHILLONG: The talismanic Sunil Chhetri scored on his international comeback to lead India to a commanding 3-0 victory over Maldives in a football friendly here on Wednesday, helping the home side snap their 12-match winless streak that started in November 2023.

This was India's first win in 16 months and also first under Manolo Marquez who was made the head coach in July last year. India's last win was against Kuwait (1-0) in their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying round match in Kuwait City on November 16, 2023. Before Wednesday, India under Marquez lost once and drew thrice.

FRIENDLY FOOTBALL

Rahul Bheke gave India the lead in the 35th minute before Liston Colaco made it 2-0 in the 66th minute. The 40-year-old Chhetri, who returned to the national team after hanging his boots in May last year, made it a memorable day as he scored India's third with a glancing header in the 77th minute for his 95th international goal. Captain Chhetri, who was denied by the Maldives goalkeeper in the 47th minute, was substituted in the 82nd minute.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League (Super League): Goa Police SC vs Dempo SC, at Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 4 pm
GFA First Division League: Cunconil Union vs AA Demora, at Navelim ground, at 4 pm; Candolim SC vs Youth Club of Manora, at Guirim ground, at 4 pm; Clube Sao Minguel de Taleigao vs Nuvem SC, at Santa Cruz ground, at 4 pm; St Savio SC vs Santa Cruz Club of Cavellissim, at Poriat ground, at 4 pm

Churchill Brothers triumph over Dempo

Red Machines stay in I-League title race with dominant performance

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MARGAO: Churchill Brothers bolstered their I-League title aspirations with a commanding 3-1 victory over Dempo SC in a thrilling Goan derby at the Nehru stadium, Fatorda, on Wednesday. The Red Machines led 2-0 at half-time, with an own goal by Dempo defender Mohamed Ali (26') giving them the lead. Wayne Lekay (35') then extended Churchill's advantage with a goal before setting up Stendly Fernandes (58') for a third. Shafer Shaheen (66') pulled one back for Dempo late in the game, but it proved to be only a consolation.

Their breakthrough came in the 26th minute, albeit with a touch of fortune. Lekay fired a low shot towards goal, and in an attempt to clear, Dempo's Mohamed Ali mis-



judged his clearance, inadvertently turning the ball into his own net to give Churchill a 1-0 lead. Churchill capitalised on their momentum and doubled their advantage in the 35th minute. A perfectly-weighted through ball split the Dempo defence, releasing Lekay in a one-on-one situation. The South African striker kept his composure, slotting the ball past a helpless Ashish Sibi to make it 2-0. Dempo attempted to mount a second-half comeback and were handed a golden opportunity in the 56th minute when Kingslee Fernandes brought down Juan Mera inside the box. The referee pointed to the penal-

ty spot, but Marcus Joseph failed to convert, sending his shot high over the crossbar, much to the dismay of the Dempo camp. Just two minutes later, Churchill Brothers effectively ended Dempo's hopes. Lamgoulen Semkhoulun displayed brilliant vision, threading a precise pass to Lekay, who flicked it into the path of Fernandes. The midfielder made no mistake, rifling his shot home in the 58th minute to extend Churchill's lead to 3-0. Dempo finally found the net in the 66th minute through a well-executed set-piece. A perfectly delivered free-kick found Shafer Shaheen, who rose above the defence to head home, giving Dempo a late consolation. With just a few matches remaining, Churchill Brothers remain firmly

in the I-League title hunt, while Dempo will need to fight to stay clear of the relegation zone.

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Students of Young Achievers Primary School and Kids Camp Play School - KCYA successfully swam across the Mandovi River from Divar Ferry Point to Ribander Ferry on Monday, completing the feat in just 11 minutes. This achievement marks the culmination of a month-and-a-half of rigorous training. Guided by Principal Tr Valerie Pinto, physical educator teacher Sujata Gawde and a dedicated team of teachers, these young swimmers showcased skill, determination, and courage

Nuven Veterans storm into final

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FATORDA: Nuven Veterans secured a 5-4 victory over Lavina Veterans, Fatorda, via a penalty shootout to advance to the final of the 10th Fatorda Veterans Football Tournament, at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, on Wednesday. Eddy Fernandes put Lavina Veterans ahead through a penalty kick, but Joe Rose Oliver equalised for Nuven Veterans, leaving the

match tied at 1-1 at full time. In the ensuing tie-breaker, Nuven Veterans held their nerve and emerged the better shooters, sealing their place in the final. Jameson Noronha (Abel) of Nuven Veterans was awarded the

FC Goa edge past Geno FC in thriller

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MAPUSA: FC Goa returned to winning ways with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Geno FC in the Goa Professional Super League, at Duler stadium, on Wednesday.

making it 1-0. However, FC Goa, also known as the Young Gaurs, who started the game with 27 points, equalised in the very next minute. Lalthangliana converted from the penalty spot after Geno FC's captain Lenstan Afonso brought down Akash Oraow inside the box, making it 1-1.

Earlier in the 4th minute, Geno FC striker Chaitan Komarpant latched onto a perfect cross from Niraj Parekh and unleashed a powerful shot, but Young Gaurs' goalkeeper Lionel Rymmei collected it comfortably. At the other end, Shaikh Ismail raced down the right flank, evading a defender before firing a low shot at goal, which was parried

away for a corner by Geno's goalkeeper Savio Pereira. Towards the end of the first half, Prachit Gaonkar unleashed a thunderous strike, which was again parried by goalkeeper Savio Pereira. Meanwhile, at the other end, Saideep Tate failed to connect with a close-range cross from Prajat Naik. In added time, Akash Oraow's powerful strike hit the crossbar, denying the Young Gaurs the lead before the break. Just 50 seconds into the second half, the Young Gaurs surged ahead. A well-executed free-kick by Malsawmtluanga saw defender Sitroy Carvalho rise to head the ball past the standing goalkeeper Savio

GOA PROFESSIONAL SUPER LEAGUE

The first half saw high-paced action, with both teams launching threatening attacks on each other's goal. Geno FC, who entered the match with 29 points, took the lead in the 19th minute through a stunning 30-yard strike from midfielder Niraj Parekh, which crashed into the far corner of the net,

making it 1-0. However, FC Goa, also known as the Young Gaurs, who started the game with 27 points, equalised in the very next minute. Lalthangliana converted from the penalty spot after Geno FC's captain Lenstan Afonso brought down Akash Oraow inside the box, making it 1-1. Earlier in the 4th minute, Geno FC striker Chaitan Komarpant latched onto a perfect cross from Niraj Parekh and unleashed a powerful shot, but Young Gaurs' goalkeeper Lionel Rymmei collected it comfortably. At the other end, Shaikh Ismail raced down the right flank, evading a defender before firing a low shot at goal, which was parried

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Pereira, making it 2-1. FC Goa extended their lead when Malsawmtluanga capitalised on Lalthangliana's spade work, slotting home to make it 3-1. However, Geno FC fought back, with striker Chaitan Komarpant reducing the deficit in the second half. He latched onto a through pass from substitute Abelson Jachi before calmly finishing past the goalkeeper to make it 3-2. In the 82nd minute, FC Goa nearly sealed the win with a stunning 30-yard strike by U-21 player Bryson Pereira, but custodian Savio Pereira pulled off a stylish save to keep his side in the contest. Despite Geno's late surge, the Young Gaurs held on to secure the 3-2 victory.

Dempo SC stage stunning comeback to defeat Sesa FA

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MAPUSA: Dempo SC came back from two goals down to register a 4-2 win over Sesa FA in the GFA's Boys U 19 league played at Sirsaim ground here on Wednesday.

Goa's Sandhya and Leena eye podium finishes

PEDEDEM: Goa's top shuttlers put up a fierce fight against some of the nation's finest as the Indian Masters National Badminton Championship entered an action-packed fourth day on Wednesday. Former Indian stalwarts Abhinav Shyam Gupta, Nikhil Kanetkar, Jaishanvi Xavier, and Amrith Shinde displayed their trademark skill, while Goa's Sandhya Melasheemi powered into the semi-finals and Leena Dhapre secured a quarter-final spot with commanding performances.

INDIAN MASTERS NATIONAL BADMINTON
 Among the men, Govind Navelkar (Goa) gave top-seeded and India International Abhinav Shyam Gupta (UP) [1] a huge scare before going down 21-16, 11-21, 7-21 in the men's 45+ pre-quarterfinals. Navaneet Nasnodkar and Jatinder Singh (Goa) also fought bravely but fell short. In mixed doubles, Kamlesh Kanji (Goa) and

Suja Das Nair (Mah) outperformed Surya Rao TVR and Sowmya CC (TS) 21-19, 21-12 to enter the pre-quarterfinals. Meanwhile, former India International Jaison Xavier (Ker) and Nisha Jayanandan (Ker) secured their quarterfinal spot with a 23-21, 21-14 win over Vineet Dabak and Swapnal Chakra (Mah). Goa's Sandhya Melasheemi and Sangeetha Mari (Ktk) [1] progressed to the quarterfinals in women's 40+ doubles, defeating Nupura Gadgil and Pooja Patil (Mah/Ktk) 21-16, 21-18. However, in men's 40+ doubles, Amit Kakkar and Krishnanand Vasant (Goa) were stopped by second seeds Raghavan P and Varun Sharma (Ktk/Chg) [2], who won 21-8, 21-15.

Assam boxers forced to withdraw from Nationals: BFI chief

PTI, NEW DELHI: Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh on Wednesday alleged that Assam boxers, including Olympic bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain, are being stopped from participating in the National Championships by suspended BFI secretary general Hemanta Kalita, who refuted the charge. In an "emergency press conference" here, Singh said that the Tokyo Games medalist in the 69kg category is keen to participate in the marquee domestic event starting Thursday in Greater Noi-

da but has been asked to withdraw by Kalita. Kalita, who has been found guilty of financial mismanagement in an inquiry conducted by former Delhi High Court judge Sudhir Kumar Jain, holds the secretary's position in the Assam body. "Assam is discouraging players from participating in the women's Nationals," Singh said. "Lovlina has recorded a video of support. But officers have received a call that she has been asked by Hemanta Kalita not to participate. Because she owes a

lot to Assam boxing, she is reconsidering her participation. "We have been hearing that a lot of tickets are being cancelled (both) train and air," Singh added. However, Kalita said the charges were baseless and the dispute was over the dates of the tournament. "This is all being done to malign me. I have done no such thing. Since the beginning, state units were unhappy with the dates of the women's nationals. Several states had written to BFI as well," Kalita told PTI. The BFI has received entries from 22 states but it remains to be

seen how many boxers turn up for the National Championships, being held after close to two years. Talking about his suspension, Kalita maintained his innocence and said he will be contesting the decision. "I will be challenging this. If any misappropriation of funds has occurred, the president should be held guilty, as he is the one who signs all the cheques. "Additionally, it was agreed during the Executive Committee meeting that the Ethics Committee would investigate the matter. Why, then, was a judge appointed

for the task?" he questioned. Singh, however, insisted that he was well within his rights to call for an investigation. "When I was asked by the SAI (Sports Authority of India) to look into the complaint, I took the matter to the Executive Committee and said we need to have a proper investigation and they (secretary and treasurer) agreed. They were part of the meeting and agreed. "The minutes of the EC meeting are available and there was no request for the inquiry to go to the Ethics Commission," Singh said.

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