

sportspopup

Whatever experience I had, it had to come in right: RCB hero Krunal Pandya

MUMBAI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Krunal Pandya acknowledged that he had to dig deep into his decade-long experience of playing the game to help his side beat Mumbai Indians by 12 runs in an edge-of-the-seat thriller, here, on Monday. Just when it seemed Mumbai Indians would chase down a steep target of 222 with Hardik Pandya (42) and Tilak Varma (56) batting with ferocity, Krunal kept his composure and grabbed three wickets in the last over to take the wind out of the home team's sails, managing to tie them down to 209 for nine. "The amount of games I have played in the last 10 years, whatever experience I had, it had to come in right. Sometimes, you want to commit but you know it is important to commit 100 per cent," said Krunal, who returned excellent figures of 4 for 45, after the match. "So the execution becomes much on your side. I was clear in a way where I wanted to commit fully to whatever ball I wanted to bowl," Krunal added as RCB clinched their first victory at the Wankhede Stadium in 10 years.

Ishant fined 25 per cent of his match for code of conduct breach

HYDERABAD: Gujarat Titans pacer Ishant Sharma has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees besides accumulating a demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday night. "Ishant Sharma admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction," said the IPL in a statement. "For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the statement added. Article 2.2 of IPL's Code of Conduct relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match".

I've 10 months to decide whether I want to play one more year: Dhoni on IPL future

NEW DELHI: The legendary MS Dhoni stayed immune to the growing clamour around his future in the IPL, saying the decision to bring curtains on his career depends on how his body reacts to the demands of top-flight cricket and he has "10 months" to take a call. In this IPL, Dhoni has not been able to make the kind of impact that he usually does while batting in the lower middle-order. His lack of timing and ineffectiveness, evidenced in the 76 runs that he made from four matches, have prompted several experts to urge the multiple World Cup-winning skipper to move on. "I am still playing the IPL and it is one year at a time for me. I am 43 now and by the end of this IPL season, I will be 44," Dhoni said on entrepreneur Raj Shamani's podcast recently. "So, I have 10 months to decide whether I want to play one more year and it's not me to decide as it is my body that decides whether I can play or not," he added. However, the former Chennai Super Kings skipper, who led CSK to five IPL titles, said he is quite content with his achievements on the field. "It is not about whether I am happy or unhappy. Whatever has happened has happened. It cannot be changed. It's about accepting all of it. You know, whatever happens I will not be able to add one more run to my international runs, and no one will be able to reduce them," he said.

Harry Brook appointed as England's white ball captain

LONDON: Harry Brook was on Monday appointed England white-ball captain following Jos Buttler's exit from the role after a poor ICC Champions Trophy campaign last month. Brook, who was signed up by Delhi Capitals during last year's auction, had withdrawn from the IPL 2025 to focus on his England career, and was subsequently slapped with a two-year ban from playing in the league. The 26-year-old has been a key part of England's white-ball set-up since making his debut in January 2022, and has spent the past year as the vice-captain in both ODIs and T20Is. He also led England in the ODI series against Australia last September in Buttler's absence. "It's a real honour to be named England's white-ball captain. Ever since I was a kid playing cricket at Burley in Wharfedale, I dreamed of representing Yorkshire, playing for England, and maybe one day leading the team. To now be given that chance means a great deal to me," said Brook in a statement issued by the ECB.

Top Indian shuttlers for Badminton Asia Championships

NINGBO (China): India's top shuttlers, including Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy and two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, will try to overcome their string of below-par performances this season when the opening-round matches in the Badminton Asia Championships commence, here, on Tuesday. Besides the two top-ranked Indian men's singles players in the world, Prannoy (17th) and Sen (18th), Kiran George (34th) and Priyanshu Rajawat (35th) will aim to put up a good show, while in women's singles, Sindhu, whose world ranking has dropped to 17th, will hope to recover her form in the continental event. The other Indians in the fray, young Malvika Bansod (23rd), Anupama Upadhyaya (43rd) and Aakarshi Kashyap (48th), will be keen to make an impact in an extremely tough field. The mixed doubles event will feature Rohan Kapoor/Ruthvika Shivani Gadge, Sathish Karunakaran/Aadya Variyath, Dhruv Kapila/Tanisha Crasto, and Ashith Surya/Amrutha Pramuthesh. The event will conclude on April 13.

AIFF forms task force to look into MRA negotiations with FSDL, Bhutia opposes move

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Monday decided to form an eight-member task force to look into the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) negotiations with its commercial partner Football Sports Development Ltd (FSDL), a move that was opposed by the legendary Bhauichung Bhutia. This was decided during the apex body's executive committee meeting at the Football House, where they met to discuss the MRA proposal given to the federation by FSDL. Former India captain Bhutia, who is part of the executive committee and attended the meeting, however, opposed the formation of the task force for MRA negotiations and asked the federation to wait for the Supreme Court judgement on new Constitution of the AIFF. "The draft constitution of the AIFF prepared by former SC judge L Nageswara Rao says the ISL should be organised and controlled by the AIFF and in partnership with private bodies. The SC verdict is expected to come in a month's time and the negotiations can wait for a while."

Kickfit Traditional Shotokan Karate Federation Chief Instructor Y Kalagar made Goa proud by securing a bronze medal at the 4th Karate India Organisation National Karate Championship 2025 held at the Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad, Telangana, recently. The event featured competitions in U-21, senior and Para Karate (men and women) categories. Kalagar (centre) along with the officials



Sesa FA champions, Tungabhadra FC qualify

HERALD PIC



Sesa FA Cluster Group C champions along with team officials at Sirsaim ground, on Monday

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Unbeaten Sesa FA eves were held to a 1-1 draw against Mumbai Knights FC in the Indian Women League 2 Cluster Group C match played at Sirsaim ground, on Monday.

Sesa FA qualified to the IWL 2 final league with 8 points, while Tungabhadra FC having 7 points also qualified.

Sesa FA required just a draw which they managed under the guidance of coach Severino Fernandes.

Both the goals came in the second session of play with Sushmita Jadhav putting her team ahead in the 50th minute with Rebecca putting Mumbai Knights back into the match scoring in the 75th minute. Mumbai Knights went all out in

search of the winning goal but Sesa FA eves last line of defence and keeper held their citadel till the final hooter.

In the morning match, Tungabhadra FC broke the

first session of play, while Anwita Raghuraman pulled a goal for Tungabhadra FC.

On crossing ends, Tungabhadra FC eves played a game of their lives where Erukala Vaishitha equalised in the 54th minute and Vyasapuram Nandini.

In the stoppage time, Tungabhadra FC Goalkeeper Biya Anusha brought a brilliant save to deny Singo Murmo from scoring just outside the 6-yard box.

INDIAN WOMEN LEAGUE 2

hearts of Liberty Ladies FC as they edge past them by 3-2 margin.

For Liberty Ladies eves Singo Murmo and Anjana Nakulam scored in

Dempo SC, Sesa FA kick-off campaign today

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Goan teams, Dempo Sports Club and Sesa Football Academy will kick off their respective campaigns on Tuesday, in the second edition of the national finals of the Dream Sports Football Championships.

While Dempo SC play Chennaiyan FC at 8.30 am at the Utora sports complex, Sesa will face Punjab FC at the SAG Benaullim ground, at 5.30 pm.

The U-17 age group football tournament will feature eight, boys and girls teams, divided into two groups. The group matches will take place at

the SAG Benaullim football ground and Utora sports complex every morning and evening at 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, with the two finals scheduled to be held at the Raia football ground, on April 15.

The Group A in the boys' category will feature Reliance Foundation

DREAM SPORTS NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Young Champs, Chennaiyan FC, Dempo Sports Club and Mohun Bagan Super Giants, while the Group B will feature, Punjab FC, Norwich City FC, Football 4 Change and Sesa Football Academy.

In other matches on April 8, Reli-

ance Foundation Young Champs will face Mohun Bagan Super Giants at Benaullim, at 8.30 am and Norwich City FC will face Football 4 Change in Utora, at 5.30 pm.

In the girls' category, the Group A will feature Assam, Jharkhand, Goa and Karnataka, while the Group B will include Kerala, Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi.

The group stage matches in the boys' category will take place on April 8, 10 and 12, while the group stage matches in the girls' category will take place on April 9, 11 and 13. In both categories, the top team from the respective groups will make it to the finals to be played on April 15.

HERALD PIC



Goa Vidyaprasarak's AJ de Almeida High School, Ponda, (South District winners) outplayed St Thomas Girls School, Aldona, (North District winners) 25-02, 25-19 to emerge champions in the U-14 Girls State Level Volleyball Tournament organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, recently. In the final, Captin Harshita Gade, Arya Shinkre played a vital role along with Radhika Naik, Krushnali Shelar, Priyansha Nadar and Sonakshi

Nuven face Verna Veterans in semis

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Nuven Veterans move into semi-finals Nuven Veterans huffed and puffed their way past St Anne Veterans by a solitary goal to enter the semi-finals of the Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup football tournament, at Santa Cruz ground, on Monday.

The only goal of the match was scored early in the game when Robin Pinheiro found himself in the right place at the right time to score the winner.

In the second half, St Anne tried to fight their way back but could not find a way past Nuven defence. Nuven Veterans will now face Verna Veterans in the semi-final on April 14.

Shreyas, Vedant march into U-18 quarter-finals

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Shreyas Patil put in a statement performance in the boys U-18 pre-quarterfinals at the ongoing Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Tennis Open 2025, blanking Vihaan Krishnan 6-0 in a commanding win to secure his place in the quarter-finals of the State-ranking tournament.

Vedant Naik joined Shreyas Patil with a solid 6-2 win over Gaurang Nerurkar.

In the same category, Vihaan Krishnan earlier defeated Rajnikant Mahatme 6-0, Gaurang Nerurkar overcame Rihan Colaco 6-3, while Devaansh Naik edged past Aarin Ballani 6-4. Krishna Volvoikar got the better of Shaurya Verlekar 6-3, while Adianta Devaraya, Alec Barreto and Arsh Sardesai advanced with confident wins. Kaivalya Devaraya also moved into the next round with a 6-4 victory over Ian Godinho.

In the semi-finals of Masters 45+ doubles, Mano Chhabra and Suraj Pombra pulled off a thrilling win against Navin Cardoz and Nikunj

Gupta, clinching the match 6-4, 3-6, 10-7 in a super tie-break. The duo held their nerve in the decider to seal their place in the finals.

In another semi-final match of the same category, Sachin Dukle and Kevin Rebello delivered a commanding 6-1, 6-0 win over Shubert Colaco and Sunil Signapurkar.

BANDODKAR PANJIM GYMKHANA TENNIS OPEN

Meanwhile, in the Masters 55+ singles semi-finals, Manoj Pandey barely broke a sweat in a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Suresh T, while Caetano Fernandes moved past Noel Noronha 6-4, 6-2 booking his place in the finals as well.

In the girls U-18 quarter-finals, Tithee Bhoomkar came through a tight contest against Deeva Sahni, winning 6-4. Urvi Panandiker eased past Aashi Munshi 6-1 and Tvisha Sardesai dropped no games in a clinical 6-0 win over Renee De Menezes.

In other round matches of the same category, Deeva Sahni had defeated Ammiel Fernandes 6-0, Aashi Munshi edged Analeah

Menezes 7-5 and Urvi Panandiker battled past Avni Lotlikar in another 7-5 finish. Bhaavya Bhoomkar, Renee De Menezes and Kimberly D'Sa also advanced with strong performances.

In the boys U-14, Shaurya Verlekar beat Aymer Fernandes 6-1, while in the girls U-14, Tvisha Sardesai notched a 6-0 win over Ammiel Fernandes.

The men's singles draw featured several strong performances. Joshua Cardozo beat Nitye Sood 6-2, Krishna Volvoikar ousted Pankaj Naik 6-3 and Sid-dharth Nunes swept past Sanjay Varak 6-1. Nagesh Naik made quick work of Vidaal De Menezes with a 6-0 win, while Shreyas Patil defeated Neeand Desai 6-1. Raju Kundaikar overpowered Nikunj Gupta 6-0, Pankaj Nanoskar edged Saurish Naik 7-6(2), and Tanay Amonkar beat Sujit Sahoo 6-3. Prajat Halankar (6-2 vs Bidwan Sekhar), Lyndon Pinto (7-6(2) vs Jai Gill), Prince D'Silva (6-1 vs Dhiraj Phadte), Bhalchandra Gaitonde (6-4 vs Navin Cardoz), Rehaan Diaz (6-1 vs Rugved Bandekar), and San-

tosh Gorwar (6-1 vs Aaron Saldanha) also progressed.

Navelim Villagers in semis

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

RAIA: Navelim Villagers Union secured a place in the semi-finals of United Trophy defeating United Club Verna 6-5 via tie-breaker in the quarter-final match played at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Monday.

Nash Pereira scored with beautiful header for Navelim in 28th minute, while Desmond Pereira equalised for UC Verna in the 59th minute and remained 1-1 draw at the end of regulation time.

In the tie-breaker that followed, UC Verna scored through Clive Fernandes, Fulzacio Cardozo, Desmon Gama and Josley Moniz, while for Navelim, Ronaldo Pereira, Meliston Dias, Aden Pereira, Vento Costa and Veling-ton Almeida were on target.



Antonio Da Silva, goalkeeper of Navelim Villagers Union receives the man-of-the-match award from Lorry Dias

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(Parish Priest of St. Andrew's Church, Goa Velha)
Fr. Reuel Clyde Fernandes
(Assistant Parish Priest of St. Andrew's Church, Goa Velha)
Mr. Andre Evaristo Pereira
(Sarpanch of St. Andre Village Panchayat, Goa Velha)
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TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League (Super League): Geno FC vs Cortalim Villagers SWSC, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 4 pm

Panjim Veterans soccer: Verem Veterans vs Calangute Veterans, at Talegaon ground, 5 pm

18th Rebello Pandal football: Setting Boys, Areal, vs Micon Worries, Borda, at St Rita Church

ground, Maina-Curtorim, 4.45 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Cup: Friends Forever, Cuncolim, vs Papa Boys, at Our Lady of Fatima Sports and Cultural Club ground, Baida-Chinchim, 4.30 pm

17th London Trophy 2025 (final): Guardian Angel Sports Club vs Peddem Bomm Sports Club, at Goa Velha ground, 4.30 pm