


HAPPY BIRTHDAY




Mohammad Nahil

Class:- 3rd 'A'

D.O.B:- 30-12-2015

JKPS Panjtirthi

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Yashaswini Bhardwaj

Class:- 3rd 'B'

D.O.B:- 30-12-2016

JKPS Panjtirthi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Kavika Sharma

Class:- 6th 'A'

D.O.B:- 30-12-2012

JKPS Panjtirthi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Madhu Bala W/o Sh. Om Parkash R/o H O 313/314 Timber Road Lakkar Mandi Janipur Jammu have purchased Plot No. 125, Lane No.5 in Housing Colony from Smt. Goldie D/o Bal Krishan Gupta R/o Patoli Brahmana, Jammu original allotted in favour of Sh. Urmila Kumari W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Dogra C/o 103 Purani Mandi, Jammu, has original papers issued by the J&K Housing Board, I have applied for Transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

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STATE TIMES

## South Africa seals place in World Test Championship final with a tense 2-wicket win against Pakistan



India, Australia and Sri Lanka are the other teams still in contention for next June's WTC final against South Africa at Lord's.

Captain Temba Bavuma (40) and Aiden Markram (37) had thwarted Abbas for an hour after South Africa resumed at a wobbly 27-3, still needing 121 for victory.

Bavuma's controversial dismissal punctuated a South Africa collapse in the latter half of first session with Abbas grabbing three off his six balls in a sensational home team collapse.

## Reddy family meets Gavaskar, Mutyalu thanks 'DSP Siraj'

**■ AGENCY**

MELBOURNE: Mutyalu Reddy, the father of India's newest cricketer hero Nitish, was overwhelmed when he touched the feet of his childhood hero Sunil Gavaskar after being escorted to the official broadcaster's box.

Gavaskar met the Reddy family, a day after 21-year-old Nitish conjured up his maiden Test hundred. The legendary batter, who is now a revered analyst and commentator, acknowledged the sacrifices made by the Reddy family and told them that Indian cricket has got a 'gen' because of their efforts.

Even the little master seemed gripped by a wave of emotions and gave his blessings to the family. The video of the meeting went viral on social media. Mutyalu, while speaking to the PTI, shared how tense the family was when Nitish was batting on 99 and the ninth wicket fell.

"I was a little tense when Siraj came in to bat. How will he play, he might get out. Thanks to Siraj bhai, he played three dot balls and supported my son. Thank you DSP sir," Mutyalu said during the exclusive interaction.

Siraj held his ground when he faced Pat Cummins, allowing Nitish to complete his century. "First time Nitish has come to Australia and first time we have also come to Australia. He made a hun-



dred when we were there in the stands. I feel very proud of him. As parents, we express our gratitude to everyone," Reddy said while speaking in Telugu.

Nitish's sister Tejaswi joined the conversation and also helped her father by translating the questions to him.

"He promised us he will make us all proud, I was confident but somewhere tense too because Bumrah bhai's wicket fell, but he made it," said Tejaswi and also explained how her parents were not very comfortable travelling to Australia.

"Initially my parents hesitated because of the language barrier but you don't want to miss the moments. My uncle is also living here. So we decided, we can also stay together and have some family time," Tejaswi said. When Reddy got

who used to study in Ukraine before the Russia war, said.

"All the strength he has, it is not just from the legends of the game but also from our mother (Sharmila). She is the one who would wake up before every one of us and she made sure that Nitish never had any difficulty while travelling for cricket or when he is at home."

So what is Nitish's favourite food? For the first time, the mother had a huge smile on her face. "He loves all kinds of non-vegetarian food. He loves fish and his favourite is Mutton Gongura (a very spicy Andhra style curry)."

After his memorable Test hundred at MCG, the life is set to change for Nitish but the sister is pretty confident that he will stay rooted.

"To be honest, he is mentally set for it. We don't need to tell him to stay grounded. He has seen everything. He is not a rich guy coming into cricket.

"He came from a background where playing (pursuing) cricket (professionally) was impossible, leave alone getting selected for the Indian team.

"He rose from a humble background and he knows it all. Of course, family will always be around him. Our father will suggest how he needs to be, what all he has to keep in mind. I am sure all these stuff will always be spoken to him."

## Australian tail wags after Bumrah magic, Test at MCG poised for exciting finish

**■ AGENCY**

MELBOURNE: Jasprit Bumrah left the hosts in a daze with a dream spell but the courageous Australian lower order steered the side to a commanding 333-run lead on Sunday, setting up the Boxing Day Test for an intriguing last-day finish.



Australia finished the fourth day at 228 for nine, leaving India skipper Rohit Sharma a bit irritated as the home team was in a spot at 156 for 8 at one stage.

Australia's number 8, 10 and 11 batters saw off nearly 35 overs and it could prove decisive if India doesn't bat exceedingly well on a track which has remained true in all four days.

Bumrah (4/53 in 17 overs) was an artist at work in the first two sessions and found his ally in Mohammed Siraj (3/66 in 22 overs) as momentum suddenly swung in India's favour.

Bumrah was unplayable for the better part of the second innings and completed 200 Test wickets on the day at an incredible average of 19.56.

But as luck would have it, he couldn't complete his five-for as he overstepped when he had Nathan Lyon caught in the slips by KL Rahul. Insult to the

injury was the last-ball boundary hit by Lyon.

With immaculate length, awkward bounce and late movement, Bumrah had the Australian line-up in complete tangle but India let slip the advantageous position in the final session.

Pat Cummins (41 off 90 balls), Lyon (41 batting, 54 balls) and Scott Boland (10 batting, 65 balls) beeced up the second innings total, leaving a jittery Indian top-order with a mountain to climb on the final day. A victory isn't impossible but for it to happen India would need something freakish from Rishabh Pant and at least a couple of senior batters need to shrug off the rust.

The pitch has no demons but Indian batters need to clear the cobwebs in their minds.

Marnus Labuschagne played his grittiest knock of the series

Marsh's Test career during the 2018-19 series, and this time his younger brother Mitchell Marsh (0) had no answers to the star Indian pacer's probing questions.

A short ball between chest and chin with a hint of away movement got the Aussie power-hitter.

Going around the wicket, Bumrah used the width of the crease to find the angle to breach the defence of Alex Carey.

It all started in the first session when Bumrah's perfect nip-backer sent debutant Sam Konstas (8) packing before Siraj jettisoned Usman Khawaja with a peach of delivery.

The Indian bowlers came out with renewed vigour in the second innings and the decision to give the new ball to Akash was a prudent one.

He didn't bowl too many release deliveries even as Bumrah kept beating the bat of both the openers with monotonic regularity.

Konstas, who did live up to the hype during the first innings, played an edgy pull but then Bumrah bowled a delivery that pitched a shade back of length and jagged back enough

to cut him into half.

Hardly animated after taking wickets, Bumrah was seen egging the crowd to get behind the team as Konstas was booed off the ground by a sizeable Indian crowd that chanted Virat Kohli's name.

Labuschagne and Khawaja (21 off 65 balls) did not look comfortable despite both having scored fifties in the previous innings. The way Siraj was able to set up Khawaja is what Test cricket is all about.

The pacer bowled four deliveries which were angling out with speeds varying between 139 to 142 clicks, all pitched on the six to eight metre length.

Having set the left-hander up with a series of away going deliveries, Siraj pitched the next one on an identical length but instead of going away with the angle, it straightened enough to go through Khawaja's defence.

The joy was palpable for Siraj, who has been booed since his Adelaide bust-up while giving Head a rude send-off. The Indian fans cheered him with shouts of "DSP, DSP".

He was well within his rights to ask the partisan Australian fans to keep quiet and he did that in style with a memorable delivery.

**■ AGENCY**

CENTURION: South Africa tailenders Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen hung in against relentless fast bowler Mohammad Abbas for a tense two-wicket win in the first test on Sunday to seal the Proteas' place in next year's World Test Championship final.

Jansen (16 not out) overshadowed Abbas' brilliant figures of 6-54 with a square driven boundary against the fast bowler as South Africa reached 150-8 just after lunch on Day 4 and escaped with a close win in the opener of the two-match series. "Quite an emotional moment for me, good advert for test cricket," said South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who made 40. "We haven't been ruthless but have found a way to ensure the result was on our side. Lot of joy and happiness on our side, a bit of a rollercoaster, glad that we were able to get the result."

Abbas, making a comeback after more than three years in the test wilderness, had knocked back South Africa's tricky chase of 148 runs in a marathon 13-over spell before lunch on Day 4 as the home team limped to 99-8, losing four wickets for three runs.

However, Rabada changed gears in an unbroken 51-run stand with Jansen and made an unbeaten 31 off 26 balls with five fours to seal a memorable victory and denied Pakistan its first test win in South Africa in almost 18 years. South Africa had started this WTC cycle with a 1-1 drawn series against India before getting swept 2-0 in New Zealand. But since then the Proteas have beaten West Indies, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to stay on top of the table. "It (WTC final) is a big one, not just for myself but also the team and the coach," Bavuma said. "The way we started our campaign, against India and then New Zealand with a not-so-strong team, and the way we have gone through with our performances, not many gave us a chance."

lapse in the latter half of first session with Abbas grabbing three off his six balls in a sensational home team collapse.

Bavuma, who made 40, surprisingly didn't request a television review when replays suggested that Abbas' ball had brushed the batter's pocket and didn't make contact with the inside edge of the bat but the South African skipper walked back to the dressing room.

Abbas bowled an unchanged marathon spell of 13 overs, but had to wait as Markram and Bavuma saw off eight overs from the fast bowlers. Resuming at 27-3, Bavuma and Markram showed plenty of patience against Abbas' probing line and length before the fast bowler finally got the breakthrough after the first drinks break.

Abbas was rewarded for his brilliant seam bowling when he beat the outside edge of Markram's bat and knocked back the off stump. Bavuma survived a couple of close chances when he successfully overturned an on-field lbw decision against him early in the day and Naseem Shah couldn't hold onto a sharp catch at fine leg as he overstepped the boundary cushion while grabbing the ball over his head. South Africa had controlled the game at 96-4 before Bavuma's dismissal saw Abbas finding the outside edges of David Bedingham (14) and Corbin Bosch's (0) bat off successive deliveries and in between Kyle Verreyne dragged Naseem Shah's delivery back onto his stumps. Abbas found the outside edge of Rabada's bat in his first over after lunch that fell just short of wicketkeeper Rizwan before both tailenders took the team home.

"Extremely proud of the efforts, but going forward we need to be ruthless," Pakistan captain Shan Masood said. "We keep making the same mistakes but we have to get over the line, seize moments."

The second test begins at Cape Town on Friday.

## 'Robotic-assisted surgery is transforming field of liver surgery'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Robotic-assisted surgery is transforming the field of liver surgery, offering numerous advantages over traditional techniques. With the help of robotic arms, surgeons can perform liver transplantations and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgeries with enhanced precision, leading to smaller incisions, reduced blood loss, and quicker recovery times. In liver transplantation, robotic surgery enables surgeons to make smaller incisions, which significantly reduces trauma to the surrounding organs and minimizes the risk of complications. The use of robotic technology, combined with 3D high-definition imaging, gives surgeons a clearer view of critical blood vessels and the liver, allowing for more accurate procedures, ultimately ensuring better outcomes and faster recovery.

Robotic systems are particularly beneficial in HPB surgeries, such as tumor excision, where precision is paramount due to the proximity of delicate structures and blood vessels. For liver resections, this technology not only reduces post-operative pain and blood loss but also helps preserve healthy liver tissue, which is crucial for long-term recovery.

Dr. Sanjay Goja, a pioneer in robotic liver surgery in India, has been using these advanced techniques since 2014. He recently conducted consultations in Jammu

& Kashmir at Vitasta Charitable Hospital, providing local patients with access to this cutting-edge treatment. Dr. Goja's expertise is instrumental in introducing robotic surgery to the region, enhancing the quality of care for patients with liver diseases.

For patients, the benefits of robotic surgery are clear: shorter hospital stays, faster recovery, and fewer complications. These advantages make it an increasingly popular choice for liver transplants and HPB surgeries.

As robotic technology continues to evolve, it is expected to become more widely accessible, improving the outcomes for patients with liver-related conditions.

## Indian sports in 2024: A year of monumental victories, breakthroughs, and near misses

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A cricket World Cup, half a dozen Olympic medals and two chess world champions. Year 2024 gave the average Indian sports fan unprecedented reasons to celebrate as peaks outnumbered the valleys in a confident march towards a promising future.

Tales that bear repeating were many but the year going by will primarily be remembered for four dates -- June 29, July 30, December 12 and December 28.

A big step towards the future was the formal expression of intent to host the 2036 Olympics, a move that has the potential to change the sporting landscape of the country.

On a humid and nery June evening in Barbados, the Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team won a long-awaited World Cup title after more than a decade of heartbreaks in knockout matches of ICC tournaments, the feat matching the country's undisputed status as the game's most influential voice.

A month later, effervescent pistol shooter Manu Bhaker became India's first athlete post independence to win two Olympic medals in a single edition, showing incredible mental fortitude to exorcise her Tokyo demons and write one of

the best redemption stories at the Games.

Also in Paris, one of India's greatest ever, unassuming javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra embodied excellence like few others and climbed into a galaxy of his own by winning a silver medal, three years after his historic gold at Tokyo Games.

India had hoped for a gold from the reigning world champion, but it was ultimately not to be as he lost to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem who bettered a Games record that had stood for 16 years, not once but twice.

In the last four months, the chess board became India's happy hunting ground with both the men's and women's teams knocking off Olympiad gold medals for the very first time in September. Individually, D Gukesh and Koneru Humpy then sealed new heights with world titles in December.

While Gukesh dethroned China's Ding Liren to become the youngest ever world champion at 18 on December 12, the 37-year-old Humpy won the women's rapid world title for a second time in her career, continuing to be an inspirational tale of perfect balance between motherhood and professional success.

Things like this do not hap-

pen often.

Speaking of that, another major highlight of India's Paris campaign was the hockey team's second successive medal (bronze), proving that lightning can in fact strike twice.

But then six near-misses in the French capital were also a reminder that plenty more needs to be done before being duly recognised a sporting powerhouse.

Also leaving a lasting impression were the para athletes with their record-breaking feats at the Paris Paralympics, and veteran tennis star Rohan Bopanna's Australian Open men's doubles title victory at 44.

Also scripting history was the women's table tennis team of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Suthirtha Mukherjee, and Diya Chitale. They secured India's first-ever medal (bronze) at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan.

But before the success in the Olympics, the Paralympics, Chess Olympiad and the FIDE World Championship, the Indians were rejoicing in a magnificent title triumph in cricket, which came about after years of disappointments in global tournaments.

Displaying absolute domi-

nance, India imposed their collective will upon the world to win a trophy that they so desired, much to the delight of the team's millions of fans across the globe.

However, while they ended their winless run in global events, India's 12-year streak of not losing a Test series on home soil snapped in the most embarrassing manner -- a 0-3 whitewash to a New Zealand side missing its talisman Kane Williamson. Amid the euphoria over a massive World Cup triumph, cricket's financial superpower also tightened its vice-like grip on the game's governance with Jay Shah's ascent to the ICC chairmanship after the BCCI reported an overall revenue of Rs 20,686 crore for the 2024 financial year, which is almost Rs 4200 crore more than their revenue in 2023.

In winning the FIDE world championship as a teenager, Gukesh shattered the record held by Garry Kasparov, who was 22 when he got the better of Anatoly Karpov in 1985.

Gukesh's triumph in Singapore, as also the country's double gold medal-winning effort at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, demonstrated India's growing stature in the game of 64 squares. And if anymore validation was needed, Humpy

provided that in her second world rapid title in New York. She first won it back in 2019, which was followed by a maternity break. The 38-year-old's inspiring comeback could not have gone better as she

While Gukesh almost defied description by achieving a feat as big as this at such a young age, the likes of Arjun Erigaisi (21), Vidit Gujrathi (30) Divya Deshmukh (18) Vantika Agrawal (21), Chennai's Grandmaster siblings R. Praggnanandhaa (19) and R. Vaishali (23) and veteran Tania Sachdev (38) all showed their wares while playing for sides with frightening depth.

All of them are expected to be the dominant names in international chess, making true Kasparov's quip after Gukesh's Candidates win -- "Visly's children" are on the lose.

Most of them truly are his proteges. The semi-retired Viswanathan Anand, who is also a FIDE vice president long, quietly watched these exploits from behind after single-handedly revolutionising chess in India.

He had a definitive hand in shaping their careers and the players have duly acknowledged his role too.

A striking aspect of these success stories in chess, including the world championship wins, was that none of them

came as a surprise thanks to a structure that is probably one of the best in the world.

India could have rewritten Olympic history in Paris but eventually settled for a 71st position among the 206 participating nations with six medals, including one silver and five bronze.

The Games will be remembered as much for the six medals as the six fourth-place finishes that resulted in heartbreaks. Most of the medals missed were by a whisker.

This is the joint-second best haul along with London 2012 and one behind last time's Tokyo, where seven, including a gold, were won.

There were also silver linings such as shooting getting back among the medals and back-to-back bronze from the men's hockey team, something that happened after a long gap of 50 years. Having missed on the final after a narrow loss to Germany, Harmanpreet Singh's India regrouped to beat Spain 2-1 and claim their second successive Olympic medal. After her individual success, Mannu partnered Sarabjot Singh to win the bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Swapnil Kusale continued shooting's resurgence by winning India's first medal in the 50m 3 Positions -- a bronze.

The 21-year-old Aman Sehrawat maintained wrestling's medal streak -- since 2008 Beijing -- by finishing third on the podium in men's 57kg freestyle.

The list of near-misses comprised, among others, Lakshya Sen, Mirabai Chanu, Arjun Babuta and Bhaker herself as she stood a great chance of becoming the first ever Indian athlete to win a hat-trick of medals at an Olympic Games.

Then, what seemed like a definite gold medal slipped through Vinesh Phogat's grasp due to a cruel twist of fate as she ended up being disqualified for being 100gm overweight on the morning of the final, leading to a protracted legal battle which did not pan out in the manner she had wanted it to.

The never-ending administrative chaos in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) also had a hand in pulling down what was once a flourishing sport in the country.

It was a year of validation for those who have supported the Paralympic movement in India. The country's contingent bagged 29 medals at Paris 2024 for their most successful campaign ever at the Games. India finished 18th on the overall medals table, and in all, they won seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze.

The likes of Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sheetal Devi, Nitesh Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Navdeep Singh, Sheetal Devi, Harvinder Singh and Dharambir to name a few from the contingent of 84 athletes, emerged as new heroes after their exploits in Paris.

On the administrative front, the ambitious bid to host the Olympics was set in motion and a long-pending national sports bill entered the final phase of being shaped into a policy but there was no end to the bickering and turf wars that have become the hallmark of Indian sports.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has been a faction-ridden body for the longest time and the PT Ushaleed current dispensation has been no exception.

The sprint legend found herself pitted against 12 members of the 15-strong Executive Council, and an ugly spat over the appointment of a CEO marred the whole of 2024.

But as has been case for many years, Indian sports has managed to flourish despite the system, riding on the sacrifices of individuals and their families most often.

The challenge going forward would be to ensure that the system steps in before it's too late.