



**ACTION ONLINE**

## INDIA'S FIRST ESPORTS LEAGUE ANNOUNCED

The two-crore rupee prize pool for India's first franchise-based Esports league, the Skyesports Masters was revealed recently. The greatest gaming competition ever held in the nation will be hosted by Jet Skyesports, the premier Esports tournament organiser in South Asia.

Eight franchise teams in CS:GO (Counter Strike Global Offensive) will participate in the league, which will take place as a live event (LAN) in Mumbai, India. Jet Skyesports has partnered with local gaming cafés in 20 different Indian cities, including Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and many others, to scout for the best CS:GO players during the qualifiers. The main event will follow the cafe qualifiers.

### CONDEMNING ACT

#### AZERBAIJAN WITHDRAWS ITS WEIGHTLIFTERS FROM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Following a flag-burning incident, Azerbaijan announced on Saturday that it was pulling its athletes from an international weightlifting competition being held in the capital of rival Armenia.

The Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which has a majority of Armenians, has been the subject of a decades-long conflict between the two former Soviet Caucasus states. They engaged in two wars over the mountainous breakaway territory, the first in the 1990s and the most recent in 2020. Footage from the European Weightlifting Championships opening ceremony in Yerevan on Friday depicted a man sprinting to the stage, grabbing the flag of Azerbaijan from a flag-bearer, and burning it on fire. In a joint statement with the National Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan stated that it had made the decision to send its athletes home due to what it called a "barbaric act" at the ceremony.

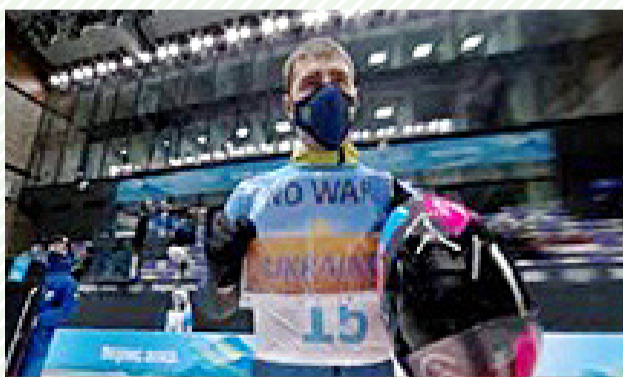
### SHUTTLE TALKS

#### INDIA'S PRIYANSHU RAJAWAT WINS MEN'S SINGLES AT THE ORLEANS MASTERS



Priyanshu Rajawat of India defeated Magnus Johannesen of Denmark in the Orleans Masters 2023 final on Sunday to win his first-ever tour championship. In a thrilling men's singles match that lasted one hour and eight

minutes, twenty-one-year-old Priyanshu defeated the Dane 21-15, 19-21, 21-16. Rajawat, who was also the youngest player on the Indian badminton team that won the historic 2022 Thomas Cup in Bangkok last year, has won his maiden BWF Super 300 title. Priyanshu has won four BWF International Challenge/Series championships to date and placed second in the BWF Super 100 event known as the 2022 Odisha Ope.



### BLANKET BAN

## Ukrainian national teams not allowed to compete against Russian or Belarusian counterparts

According to a regulation issued by the Sports Ministry, Ukraine has barred its national sports teams from participation in Olympic, non-Olympic, and Paralympic competitions that feature athletes from Russia and Belarus. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which enraged Kyiv by allowing Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutrals despite Russia's invasion of Ukraine, made the decision, which was condemned by some Ukrainian competitors.

In February, Russia invaded Ukraine, initially utilising its ally Belarus as a staging area while troops advanced towards Kiev in what Russia referred to as a "special military operation." The ban has drawn criticism from certain Ukrainian athletes, notably Olympic skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych, who claimed it would destroy Ukrainian sports.



SPORTS SCIENCE INDIA

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023



### LANDMARK

## INDIA'S SANJU SAMSON BECOMES FIRST TO COMPLETE 3K RUNS IN IPL

Rajasthan Royals (RR) skipper Sanju Samson completed 3,000 runs for his franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He has become the first batter to achieve the feat. Samson reached this milestone during his side's IPL 2023 match against Gujarat Titans (GT) at the Narendra Modi Stadium in India's western city of Ahmedabad. During a run-chase of 178

runs, Samson scored 60 runs in just 32 balls. His knock consisted of three fours and six sixes at a strike rate of 187.50. For RR in 115 matches, Samson has scored 3,006 runs at an average of 29.76 and a strike rate of 139.10. So far, he has scored two centuries and 16 fifties for the side, with the best score of 119. His most prolific season came in 2021. According to reports, in 14 matches that year, he scored 484 runs at an average of 40.33 and a strike rate of 136.72. Behind him in the run-scoring

charts for RR are Ajinkya Rahane (2,810 runs in 100 matches), Jos Buttler (2,508 in 63 matches), Shane Watson (2,372 runs in 78 matches) and Rahul Dravid (1,276 runs in 46 matches). The top five-run scorers in IPL are Virat Kohli (6,838 runs in 227 matches), Shikhar Dhawan (6,477 runs in 210 matches), David Warner (6,109 runs in 167 matches), Rohit Sharma (5,986 runs in 231 matches) and Suresh Raina (5,528 runs in 205 matches).



### FOR FAIR PLAY

## INDIAN SPORTS MIN LAUNCHED APP TO CHECK 'OVER THE COUNTER' DOPING

Furthering the fight against potential 'over the counter' doping in Indian sports, a new mobile app unveiled by Indian Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on Thursday would allow

Indian athletes to examine drugs and their contents for banned substances. The app **KYM: Know Your Medicine**, which can be downloaded in English and Hindi, enables Indian athletes to instantly determine whether the medications they are given to take con-

tain ingredients that are prohibited by WADA (World Anti Doping Agency).

While NADA and WADA both list prohibited substances on their own websites, athletes can search pharmaceuticals by brand name using the app.



### NOT TEEING-OFF

## RORY MCILROY LEAVES THE RBC HERITAGE TOURNAMENT

The PGA Tour said that World No. 3 Rory McIlroy withdrew from this week's RBC Heritage.

At Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, South Carolina, the competition starts on Thursday next week. The 33-year-old Northern Ireland star withdrew for unspecified reasons. McIlroy shot a 5-over 77 on Friday at the Masters, missing the cut last week.

The RBC Heritage is a designated event, so competitors must be among the top 20 in the Player Impact Programme. Players are allowed to skip one designated event for personal or professional reasons, but McIlroy already sat out of the season-opening Sentry Tournament of Champions in January.



## PEATY MISSES THE BRITAIN SQUAD FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Adam Peaty, a three-time Olympic winner, was the notable omission when Britain unveiled its 29-member squad for the Global Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, in July. The 28-year-old stated last

month on social media that he was boycotting the British championships in order to concentrate on his mental health in preparation for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Eight-time world champion Peaty, who holds the 50- and 100-meter breaststroke world records, was forced to withdraw

from the 2022 world championships in Budapest after breaking a bone in his foot. For the championships from July 14 to 30, Britain's team will include six Olympic champions: Freya Anderson, Tom Dean, Anna Hopkin, James Guy, Matt Richards, and Duncan Scott.