

Shafali scores fastest Test double century India dominate to reach 525/ 4 against Proteas

Chennai, June 29: In an extraordinary display of batting mastery, Shafali Verma's breathtaking double century led India women to a record-breaking total on the first day of the one-off Test against South Africa Women at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday.

Shafali's commanding 205 runs powered India to an astonishing 525/4 by stumps, shattering the previous highest single-day total in women's Test cricket of 431 runs. The young sensation's innings, filled with aggressive strokes and strategic precision, set the tone for a day of absolute dominance.

Shafali eclipsed Australian Annabel's record of 248 balls to reach a double century against South Africa earlier this year, scoring her double century off just 194 balls. During her aggressive knock, Shafali scored eight maximums and 23 fours.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, India's openers, Shafali and Smriti Mandhana,



delivered a performance for the ages. Their record-breaking opening partnership of 292 runs laid a formidable foundation. Mandhana's elegant 149, an innings studded with 27 boundaries and a six, came to an end when she was caught at slips by Annerie Deroksen off Delmi Tucker's delivery. The South African bowlers toiled on a pitch that offered little assistance. Despite Delmi Tucker's efforts, which earned her two wickets, the visitors struggled to make significant inroads into the resilient Indian lineup.

Towards the close of play, captain Harmanpreet

Kaur and the dynamic Richa Ghosh took charge, maintaining the momentum with an unbeaten partnership of 75 runs for the fifth wicket. Harmanpreet remained not out on 42 off 76 balls, while Richa added a brisk 43 off 33 balls, ensuring India ended the day with a commanding total and an imposing run rate.

By lunch, India had raced to 130 runs without losing a wicket. Shafali and Mandhana captivated the crowd with their blend of aggression and elegance. Shafali, unbeaten on 65 off 75 balls, and Mandhana, with a graceful 64 off 93 balls, punished every loose

delivery with impeccable timing and shot selection. Shafali's back-to-back boundaries off Nadine de Klerk and Mandhana's fifty, marked with a sublime punch through the covers off Nonkululeko Mlaba, highlighted their dominance.

At lunch, the scoreboard gleamed with India Women at a commanding 130-0 after 28 overs.

The afternoon session saw the dynamic duo push India to a formidable 334/2 by the Tea break. Shafali's aggressive 165 off 170 deliveries, featuring 20 boundaries and six towering sixes, left the South African bowlers reeling. Their 292-run opening stand not only stabilized India's innings but also put them in a commanding position against the visitors.

Despite South Africa managing to dismiss both Mandhana and Shubha Satheesh (15) in the post-lunch session, India's batting strength continued to shine. Delmi Tucker and Nadine de Klerk's efforts were overshadowed by the sheer dominance of the Indian batters.

Chanu targets to lift 90 kgs in Olympic snatch

New Delhi, Jun 29: Tokyo Olympics silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who is taking it easy since returning to action following a six-month injury lay-off, is targeting a lift of above 90 kgs in snatch in next month's Paris Games.

Chanu, who suffered hip tendonitis and finished fourth in the 49kg women's category in the last Asian Games, returned to competition with a lift of 184 kgs (81kg snatch and 103kg clean and jerk) at the Phuket World Cup in April this year.

She knows that anything less than a 200kg total lift (snatch + clean and jerk) won't be enough to win a medal in Paris and she is working towards that with her long-time coach Vijay Kumar Sharma.

"The injury is fine, I have completely recovered



from that but I am going slowly in training. In training now I am lifting 80-85 per cent in repetitions, I am not lifting 100 per cent till the Olympics.

"88kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk are my best, but my target is 90kg plus in snatch in Paris, and I will try my best," Chanu said during a virtual interaction facilitated by Sports Authority of India (SAI).

"Right now, I am going gradually and lifting 70-80kgs in training but my

target is 90kg plus and better clean jerk lift but I can't say a specific target. I will do what it takes and try to give my best performance to win a medal, but I can't predict the colour of the medal." Chanu said the injury phase was a great learning experience for her.

"I learnt a lot after the injury. I learnt how to keep myself safe because injuries can happen anytime. We need to follow instructions of coaches, adopt right techniques, rest and exercise properly,

and how to build your muscles," she said.

"I understand my body. Injuries can happen anytime and these are difficult phases but we need to motivate ourselves and keep believing in ourselves."

The star Indian weightlifter said self-doubts, which creep up post injury, can make things more difficult for an athlete.

"Problems did happen but I am happy that I made a comeback. It was difficult, there is always self-doubt when recovery will happen, how to recover soon and stuffs like these. All these questions came up in mind because I was counting days as the Olympics was near.

"But I didn't give up and believed in myself, worked according to my coaches and physio and recovered fully," Chanu said.



Am Just Going On Ahead...!

There are many amongst us who have lost a loved one, and grieve for that person. My classmate, one who like glue that bound us together, has just passed away, so also a beloved class teacher and also mother of another classmate and friend of mine, and while we grieve for them, here are a few lines, written by someone who understands our grief, that I hope will bring some comfort to each of us.:

She is only going on a little ahead

**To fashion a home for you,
There will be curtains blowing,**

And books, as there used to be;

Pictures, a desk, and tables fair

Where friends shall love to come...

She is only going on as a mother would

To find a new home for you.

She is only going on as

others have

Who vanished from our sight,

Others whose lives with ours were wed

Till that mysterious flight.

None should declare her death to you,

Your loneliness deplore—

Oh it is like her to go ahead

To open a new door.

She is only going on a little ahead

To find you the loveliest place;

There will be golden roses there

**Abloom in an azure place;
Poppies, pansies, and daffodils**

And moss you will love to tread—

'Oh,' you'll cry, now its clear to me

You've only gone on ahead.

**Wipe those tears my friends!
She is only going there ahead.**

And as she walks over to that

new place, she will not take with her the illness that was eating her up. She will go with no pain, no sickness. And as she goes, I know she will turn to all of us and say, "While I check out this new place for you, I know you can walk alone on earth. I've taught you that, now let me learn to walk over here!"

Wipe those tears, it's only for a while you'll walk alone. Soon you'll hear her cry, "It's time for you to come home to the place I have been living in."

Then that day, you and I will look at our own friends and loved ones we are leaving behind and we will whisper the same words:

I'm only going on a little ahead

To find you the loveliest place;

There will be golden roses there

Abloom in an azure place;

Poppies, pansies, and daffodils

And moss you will love to tread..!

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Genesis of paper leak; steps to prevent future scams



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi

G.K. Chesterton, a prolific writer of the 20th century, once remarked, "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." Regrettably, the esteemed position held by individuals within the education establishment has not only failed the system but also betrayed the ideals of this renowned author and his philosophy of education.

The unethical practice of exam paper leaks has severely tarnished the integrity of the entire education system and compromised the future of countless students. It is imperative to investigate the sources of these leaks and identify those responsible for these reprehensible actions.

Frequent reports of exam paper leaks in India highlight a significant and recurring problem. Due to these breaches, numerous examinations have been canceled. Media reports indicate that, over the past seven years, more than 70 examination papers have been leaked in various

states, affecting the careers of over 15 million youths. Is it not possible to establish a system that ensures the integrity of these examinations and prevents leaks?

An exam paper leak refers to the unauthorised release of examination papers prior to the scheduled test date, thereby granting unfair advantages to certain individuals. These leaks typically affect high-stakes examinations, including school board exams, college entrance tests, and competitive recruitment assessments.

There are two prevalent methods by which exam paper leaks occur. Firstly, leaks occur when question papers are accessed and disseminated by individuals or groups external to the educational institution responsible for conducting the examination. These leaks are often the result of well-organized syndicates that exploit vulnerabilities within the examination system to obtain confidential papers. These syndicates operate across multiple regions and employ sophisticated techniques to infiltrate examination systems and access sensitive materials, which are then distributed to interested parties for financial gain.

Internal leaks involve individuals within the educational institution responsible for conducting



the examination, such as teachers, administrative staff, or even students. These individuals may compromise the sanctity, secrecy, and confidentiality of the examination by leaking the papers.

In some instances, education administrators, who have privileged access to examination papers, are primarily involved in these leaks, making them potential culprits. Exam paper leaks have emerged as a critical challenge within the education system, undermining the fairness and credibility of assessments. The responsibility for these leaks falls on organized syndicates, education administrators, teachers and staff, and occasionally, students.

To address this issue effectively, it is indispensable to implement stronger security measures, adopt technological safeguards, provide ethical training, protect whistle-blowers, impose strict punitive measures, and increase

public awareness. By enforcing these measures, we can safeguard the integrity of examinations, uphold the value of education, and ensure a fair and equitable system for all students. It must be a collective effort to eradicate exam paper leaks and foster an environment that nurtures honesty, integrity, and genuine learning.

The consequences of exam paper leaks extend beyond immediate academic dishonesty, damaging the credibility of the education system and jeopardizing the future of students. Society loses faith in the fairness and objectivity of assessments, diminishing the value of academic achievements.

It is high time to heed the words of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, on education: "Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality."

(*The author is a retired Professor of Zoology, Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi University.)

Vasavi Clubs Chess tournament tomorrow

Chennai, June 29: Vasavi Clubs International District V502A is organising the chess tournament tomorrow at Maharishi Vidya Mandir Thiruvottiyur, Chennai.

This tournament is hosted by the elite clubs VC 2 Elite Chennai and VCV Elite Chennai.

As an ISO 9001-3015 certified service institution, Vasavi Clubs International is dedicated to organizing high-quality events that foster community engagement and personal development. The chess tournament aims to bring together chess enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels, providing them with a platform to showcase their strategic prowess.

The categories are Kids (Age 7 to 16) and Open (16 and above)

Participants can register for a nominal entry fee of Rs.51. Total prize money is Rs.20,000. 1st prize- Rs.5,000, 2nd prize- Rs.3,000, 3rd prize- Rs.2,000.

Additionally, the top 10 players in each category will be awarded trophies. A special "All Rounder" award, consisting of a 1-gram gold coin, will be given to the winners in each category.

Organized by Time 2 Chess and Elite Chess Champion, this event promises a memorable experience for all participants. Every contestant will receive a certificate, medal, and gift, recognizing their effort and participation.

R. Ravichandran, International President, VCI, will participate as chief guest. Rashmi Oleti,

Governor, M. Lavanya, Cabinet Secretary, Acha Anand, B.L. Kumaravel and Vn. Chitra Kumaravel, Chairpersons, Surichetty Balaji and Bn. Surichetty Divya Balaji, Co-Chairpersons, Sharath Kumar Vasnadu and Vn. Nandini Sharath Vasnadu, Secretary, P. Venkatesh and Vn. P. Vanitha Sree, Treasurer are also participating in the inaugural function.



Chennai Premier Clubs League Table Tennis Team Mars Marshals wins title

Chennai, June 29: Team Mars Marshals consisting of Praveen Koduri, Sanjay Madhavan and Devendra Mehta defeated Team Mercurial Speedsters comprising Vivek Baid, Brahma Lakshman, Mahendra Bothra and Ramachandra Reddy in the Chennai Premier Clubs League Table Tennis Edition-3, held at Godavari Hall, Andhra Club.

In the Pro Division singles

event Adithya Ravishankar beat Prasanth Reddy for the individual title.

The Results: Team Event: Finals: Mars Marshals beat Mercurial Speedsters (Sanjay Madhavan lost to Vivek Baid 11-13, 6-11, 1-11, Praveen Koduri beat Brahma Lakshman 11-5, 11-7, 13-11, Devendra Mehta beat Mahendra Bothra 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-5)

Semi-Finals: Mars Marshals beat Plutonian Platoons (Sanjay

Madhavan lost to Sumeet Sanghvi 2-11, 6-11, 7-11, Praveen Koduri beat Commander S.Srikumar 11-9, 11-5, 11-7, Devendra Mehta beat K. Sundararajan 11-7, 12-14, 11-7, 11-4); Mercurial Speedsters beat Jovian Giants (Brahma Lakshman beat Deepak Punwani 11-1, 11-5, 5-11, 14-12, Vivek Baid lost to Ammar Hyderi 6-11, 7-11, 9-11, Mahendra Bothra and Ramachandra Reddy beat Ghanshyam Hemdev and Prerak Shah 11-3, 11-7, 11-5).

Sourav is Veedol brand ambassador

Kolkata, June 29: Veedol, one of India's leading lubricant brands from Tide Water Oil Co. (India) Ltd., has signed up cricket legend Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador on Friday.

This partnership signifies a pivotal move for Veedol as it seeks to enhance its brand presence and solidify its market position across India. Brand Veedol has a rich, near-century-old legacy with markets in over 70 countries.

Positioned internationally as the 'Professional's choice', "My association with Veedol represents a commitment to excellence, innovation, and reliability. Just as Veedol stands for high quality and performance in the automotive industry, I am dedicated to embodying these values in every aspect of my work. Together, we will strive to inspire and connect with our audience, showcasing the best of what we both have to offer," Ganguly said.