

Target set to take India among top-5 Olympic medal winning countries by 2047: Mandaviya

GWALIOR: Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said target has been set to position India among the top five Olympics medal-winning countries by 2047, when it celebrates the centenary of its independence.

In order to achieve this target, the country needs a talent-pool of world-level coaches and training, the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister told reporters here after taking part in the 10th Convocation ceremony of Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNPIE) here.

"I am happy to be in Gwalior as it is the workplace of late Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia. The country is marching ahead in the sports sector. When India hosts the Olympics in 2036, it should rank



among the top 10 nations in sports," Mandaviya said. "And when the nation celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047, the country should rank among the top five countries in the field of sports," he said.

"For achieving this tar-

get, the country needs a talent pool of world-level coaches and training and the LNPIE in Gwalior is playing a major role in it," the minister added.

The country needs good coaches, training, and sporting talent should be identified and given op-

portunities, he said.

Good coaches are being groomed in LNPIE by offering diploma, graduation, post-graduation and PhD degrees to them, and they will play a major role in nurturing the new generation in the sports sector, according to him.

Addressing the convocation ceremony earlier, Mandaviya said it was a matter of pride that he was taking part in a programme at the institute that is named after Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, who started the battle for freedom and fought against the British, and stood as a symbol of valour.

He said that as a sports minister he has set the target of taking India among the top 10 sporting nations by 2036 and among top five by 2047.

Bowlers power KNSO to thrilling win over ICs

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Bharath Chipli's superb knock went in vain as Kevin O'Brien and the bowlers powered Irfan Pathan-led Konark Suryas Odisha (KNSO) to a thrilling 5-wicket victory over India Capitals (ICs) in the ongoing Legends League Cricket (LLC) 2024 at MA Stadium.

Chasing a modest total of 127 runs, India Capitals though rode on Chipli's batting brilliance yet fell short of just 5 runs as almost all the KNSO bowlers bowled with a disciplined line and length.

Chipli scored magnificent 61 not out off 48 balls studded with 3 fours and 5 sixes, while Ian Bell (10) was the only



other batsman to touch double figure mark.

Irfan Pathan used his bowlers beautifully to keep the rival batters thinking all

the time. For KNSO, Yousuf Pathan, KV Cooper, KP Apanaa, Shahbaz Nadeem, Diwesh Pathania and Parveen Tambe claimed one wicket each.

Earlier, put into bat, Konark Suryas Odisha (KNSO) scored a modest total of 127 runs in the stipulated 20 overs, losing 4 wickets in the process.

Kavin O'Brien top scored with unbeaten 55 runs off 44 balls with 6 fours and one six, while Dilshan Munaweera contributed 33 runs off 44 balls with 3 boundaries. Yousuf Pathan also contributed 12 runs off 13 balls with 2 boundaries.

Iqbal Abdullah was the wrecker-in-chief who captured 3 important wickets by conceding 16 runs in his 4 overs, while Dhawal Kulkarni bagged one wicket.

India strongest at home, teams can only beat them in dreams: Ramiz Raja lauds Rohit Sharma-led side

NEW DELHI: India continued their merry run in home Tests with a 2-0 series win over Bangladesh. On Day 5 of the second and final Test, on Tuesday (Oct 1), Rohit Sharma-led India beat Bangladesh by seven wickets, in chase of 95, to inflict a series

whitewash. With this, India continue to remain unbeaten in home Tests with their last series defeat versus England in 2012/13. Thus, former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja lauded Rohit & Co. and feels that it is a dream for any visiting team to beat India in their

own backyard. "Bangladesh didn't have the capacity to challenge India"

Ramiz said on his YouTube channel, "India won the Test match easily against Bangladesh. At this point, India is the strongest team

to beat on their home soil... Bangladesh had to do a lot to give a tough time to such a successful team because winning a Test match can only be a dream for any visiting team. Bangladesh didn't have the capacity to challenge India..."

Manchester City discard Kalvin Phillips thanks Ipswich Town for career revival

LONDON: Joining Ipswich Town might have seemed unthinkable for Kalvin Phillips when he was one of the first names on the England team sheet and his career was on a steep upward curve.

But now the 28-year-old former Leeds United midfielder is thankful to the Suffolk club for helping rebuild a career that was going completely off the rails.

Phillips played almost every minute of England's run to the final of the delayed Euro 2020 tournament after bursting on to the international scene under former coach Gareth Southgate.

His rapid rise resulted in a 42 million pounds (\$55 million) move to Manchester City in July 2022 but rather than take his game to the next level -- Phillips stalled.

City manager Pep Guardiola's comments that Phillips returned from the Qatar World Cup out of



shape hardly helped and the following January he was loaned out to West Ham United.

Phillips' stock fell even further there, giving away a goal on his debut, getting sent off in his second league start then being

substituted at halftime in his third. He reached a new low in a game at Newcastle United in March when he came on as a substitute with West Ham leading 3-1 and conceded a penalty as the Hammers eventually lost 4-3.



Younis Khan overlooks Shaheen, Rizwan for white-ball captaincy, picks Fakhar Zaman to lead Pakistan Down Under

ADELAIDE: Cricket great Younis Khan has overlooked Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi as Babar Azam's potential replacement for Pakistan's new white-ball captaincy, naming a surprise choice in top-order batter Fakhar Zaman to take over the vacant role. Currently in Adelaide to promote the white-ball series against Australia starting November 4, Khan is surprised that no one is

talking about Fakhar, who continues to perform every time irrespective of the format.

Shortly after getting sacked as Pakistan's all-format captain after they failed to reach the 2023 ODI World Cup semis, the PCB reinstated Babar into the leadership group, announcing him as the white-ball skipper ahead of the T20 World Cup in the Americas earlier.

'I have no idea' - Steve Smith 'clueless' over batting position against India in Border-Gavaskar series

CANBERRA: Australia great Steve Smith admits being 'clueless' over his batting position against India in the forthcoming Border-Gavaskar series Down Under. Since David Warner's Test retirement earlier this year, Smith volunteered to open, only for him to become the pale shadow of himself at the top of the order. With the five-match Test series against India looming, Smith and the Australian Team are seeking answers to who would open alongside Usman Khawaja.

Though Smith wanted to challenge himself by playing out of his regular position (number four), where he scored most Test runs and hundreds and averaged above 60, his numbers against the new ball suggest a different story.

Khawaja, however, feels Smith is best at batting at number four for Australia.

"I have no idea, there are conversations happening in the background," Smith said in a chat with reporters, as quoted by Hindustan Times. "Usman, I think said



that he likes me down at No.4. I think Marnus has similar thoughts. We will wait and see.

I am happy anywhere, I'll bat wherever for the team, but we'll see what happens," he continued. With Cameron Green's latest injury adding worries for the selectors, they have a hefty task to figure out who

could open alongside Khawaja if not Smith. Though Matt Renshaw, Cameron Bancroft and Marcus Harris were a few names discussed ahead of the past summer, the hosts could either pick any one of them or continue with Smith at the top to accommodate Green (when fit) and Mitchell Marsh in the middle order.

Star circling two other stars that orbit each other shatters a 70-year-old record

CALIFORNIA: A unique triple star system has been discovered using NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) and Artificial Intelligence. A group of NASA astronomers and citizen scientists were stunned to see a distant trio of celestial objects locked with each other.

Designated TIC 290061484, details about the groundbreaking discovery have been published in The Astrophysical Journal. The system comprises two inner stars, both of which orbit each other every 1.8 days. The third star moves around this pair of stars and takes a little longer to complete one orbit, which happens in nearly 25 days.

The outer star has broken a nearly 70-year-old record for the shortest outer orbital period in such systems. The previous record was held by a third star that orbited an inner pair in 33 days which was found in 1956.

The discovery happened after TESS ob-

served cosmic "strobe lights".

Launched in April 2018, TESS has been purposed to find exoplanets and gaze into different star systems with its four high-powered cameras.

The TIC system is almost flat, making it easy for the satellite to detect changes in light as they pass in front of each other. The stars cross right in front of, or eclipse, each other while orbiting. At this moment, the nearer star blocks some of the farther star's light.

The trip bound to each other was found through flickers in starlight. The flickers were recorded and passed through a machine learning program, after which the pattern of dimming and brightening was found, indicating a three-star system.

Citizen scientists, IA Terentev of Russia and HM Schwengeler of Switzerland were then called in to examine the images taken by TESS and look for the large number of

eclipses indicative of a 2+1 triple system.

They are part of the Visual Survey Group, where volunteers sort through images to help professional astronomers.

"It's exciting to identify a system like this because they're rarely found, but they may be more common than current tallies suggest," Saul Rappaport, an emeritus professor at MIT, who led the Visual Survey Group and worked on the study, said in a statement.

"We're mainly looking for signatures of compact multi-star systems, unusual pulsating stars in binary systems, and weird objects," he added.

The orbits of the three stars is so tight that it can fit inside that of Mercury's orbit around our Sun. This has meant that no planet was able to be born in the system. The study further says that the three stars will merge in about 20 million years, resulting in a supernova explosion.



Massive asteroid that eradicated dinosaurs when it crashed into Earth was not alone: Researchers

NEW DELHI: The massive asteroid that is believed to have ended the era of dinosaurs when it crashed into Earth some 66 million years ago was not the only culprit, researchers found recently.

After performing detailed scans of an underwater crater off the coast of Guinea in West Africa, researchers discovered that it was created when another large asteroid smashed

into Earth around the same time at the end of the Cretaceous period.

The violent collision between 65 million and 67 million years ago produced a crater more than five miles across, the scans reveal. Scientists estimate that the asteroid measured a quarter of a mile wide struck Earth at nearly 45,000 miles per hour.

Though the other space rock was much small-

er than the asteroid that caused the mass extinction of dinosaurs, it was large enough to leave scars on the face of the planet.

"The new images paint a picture of the catastrophic event," said Dr Uisdean Nicholson, a marine geologist at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, who first discovered the Nadir crater in 2022. At the time, the details of the impact were unclear.

Earth has hosted mini-moons in the past, and one of them will revisit in 27 years

CALIFORNIA: Earth now officially has two moons after its gravity caught an asteroid. Our planet captured asteroid 2024 PT5 on Sunday, September 29, which has now become our mini-moon. However, do you know that this is not the first time Earth has had a mini-moon?

The asteroid was discovered on August 7 by the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (ATLAS). Carlos and Raúl de la Fuente Marcos, researchers at Spain's Universidad Complutense de Madrid, were the first to spot it and published their findings in Research Notes of the AAS.

These space rocks regularly travel around the sun like other asteroids. But when they come near Earth, sometimes the planet's gravity pulls them in. It is definitely a rare event, however, not the first.

Other mini-moons The two astronomers say in their paper that our planet has had a mini-moon previously as well. The first such recorded event happened in 1981. A cosmic body, called 2022 NX1, was temporarily captured by Earth's gravity. The mini-moon returned in 2022. Both times, it stayed only for a short period of time. It will return to Earth in 2051.

Another short-lived mini-moon, as per the authors, was 1991 VG. It was captured for a short time in 1992 February during a



flyby. Both of the above never completed a full revolution of Earth

However, in 2006 we had a mini-moon that stayed with us for a full year. Asteroid 2006 RH120 remained gravitationally bound to Earth from till July 2007 after getting caught in July 2006.

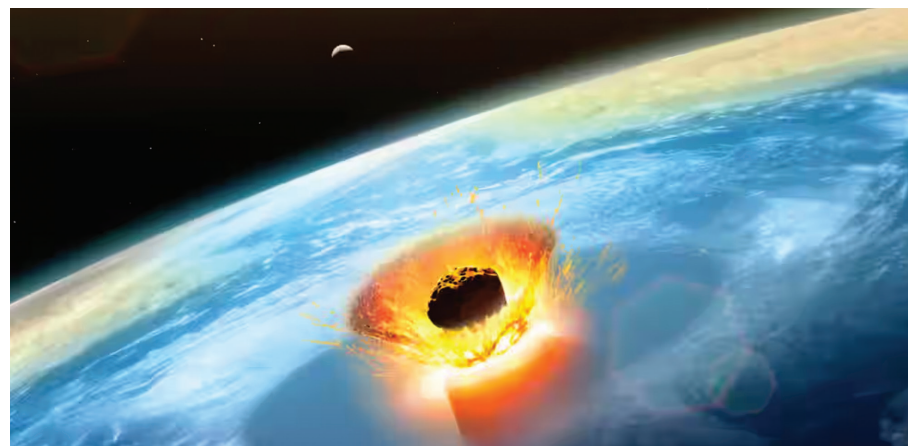
Another asteroid that stayed with us for many years was 2020 CD3. It remained in orbit for years and escaped early in 2020 May.

Alien-like fungus 'Devil's Fingers' with smell of rotten flesh makes rare appearance in UK

LONDON: An alien-like fungus - called 'Devil's Fingers' - has made a rare appearance in the New Forest, United Kingdom.

The fungus smells "like rotting flesh" and has a ghoulish hand-like appearance which appears to be coming straight out of the grave.

It was discovered by a retired teacher Julia Rosser, as reported by The Daily Mail.



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