

Indian Open Athletics to be held in Pune on July 12

PUNE: The Indian Open Athletics will be organised by the Maharashtra Athletics Association here on Saturday and will feature around 350 athletes from across the country.

Maharashtra will have the largest representation in the one-day event featuring 95 athletes whereas Army will have the second largest with 28 participants.

Apart from featuring athletes from several states, there also will be teams from the Indian Army, CISF, IOCL, JSW, Indian Navy, NCOE Bangalore, NCOE Trivandrum, ONGC, Police Sports Control Board, Railway Sports, Reliance, and SSCB.

The top athletes in the competition include TK Vishal, who finished fourth in 400m and won the gold medal in mixed relay and silver in 4x400m relay at the Asian Championships in Gumi in South Korea.

Jay Kumar (400m), who won the silver in 4x400m relay in Gumi, Krishan Kumar (800m) who won the silver medal in Asian Cham-



pionships in 2023 as well as this year's Asian Championships' bronze medallist in 1500m, Yoonus Shah will also be among the competitors.

National Games champion Ruchit Mori (400m hurdles) and bronze medal winner in 110m Muhammed Lazan will also be present at the meet here at the Savit-

ribai Phule University.

"As per the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) guidelines, participation in at least one Indian Open Athletics Competition or Indian Grand Prix is mandatory for athletes to be eligible for the forthcoming National Senior Inter-State Athletics Championships," the organisers said in a re-

lease.

"The event was originally scheduled to be organised by the ASI, which later withdrew. The responsibility was then taken up by the Maharashtra Athletics Association, which has worked tirelessly to prepare for the event in a short span of three months," they added.

Diogo Jota possibly driving the Lamborghini car and above speed limit, says Spanish Police report on crash

NEW DELHI: Liverpool and Portugal forward Diogo Jota, 28, and his brother Andre Silva, 26, died in a car crash near Zamora in north-western Spain when their Lamborghini veered off the road and burst into flames after midnight on Thursday. In a preliminary report this week, Spanish police have said that Jota was driving the vehicle at the time of the crash, with investigators examining tire marks to determine if excessive speed was a factor. The Civil Guard in Zamora issued a statement regarding the ongoing investigation into the tragic incident that occurred on the A-52 near Palacios de Sanabria. "The expert report is being prepared and finalised. Among other things, the marks left by one of the vehicle's wheels are being examined. All the evidence so far indicates that the driver of the crashed vehicle was Diogo Jota. The expert report is not yet complete, but as it is subject to judicial review, it will be submitted to the Puebla de Sanabria court," the Civil Guard stated. The Provincial Council confirmed the deaths and emergency response details in their state-



ment: "The Rionegro del Puente Fire Station (Northern Zone of the @DiputacionZA Consortium) responded. The vehicle caught fire, and the flames spread to the vegetation. They were 28 and 26 years old. RIP." The brothers were reportedly traveling to a ferry in Spain to journey to Britain when the accident occurred. Forensics teams are currently analysing the tire marks on the asphalt, which indicate a possible tire burst.

The final police report will be submitted to the local court before being made public. The investigation is focusing on determining whether excessive speed contributed to the crash.

Jota and his brother Andre Silva, who played for Penafiel in the Portuguese second division, were laid to rest in their hometown of Gondomar in northern Portugal on Saturday. The Liverpool forward was part

of Portugal's UEFA Nations League-winning squad and had recently participated in the final against Spain, where he came on as a substitute in the last 15 minutes of extra time after Cristiano Ronaldo's exit due to injury.

Cristiano Ronaldo shared his grief through a heartfelt message: "It doesn't make sense. Just now we were together in the National Team, just now you had gotten married."

Rishabh Pant reveals the secret behind his stump mic antics

NEW DELHI: Rishabh Pant's chirpy and talkative presence behind the stumps is no secret. The Indian wicketkeeper is frequently heard on the stump mic delivering witty one-liners or engaging in light-hearted banter with teammates. As India gear up for the third Test at Lord's, vice-captain Pant credited this habit to his late childhood coach, Tarak Sinha.

"My coach late Tarak Sinha taught me to keep talking to yourself. That's what I have been doing since childhood; it helps me a lot," Pant told reporters ahead of the third Test starting Thursday. The 27-year-old, who recently made a buzz with his appearance at Wimbledon, also shared insights on India's playing XI, how the team overcame



the absence of premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah in the second Test, and the strong on-field communication between himself and captain Shubman Gill. With Bumrah rested, it was Akash Deep

who rose to the occasion at Edgbaston. The young pacer delivered a match-winning performance, taking 10 wickets – four in the first innings and six in the second – playing a crucial role

in India's 336-run victory.

Pant also had words of praise for skipper Shubman Gill, who is leading India in his first assignment as Test captain following Rohit Sharma's retirement from red-ball cricket ahead of the England series. "When you have good camaraderie off the field, communication is better on the ground," said Pant. "Jasprit Bumrah was not playing but Siraj and Akash Deep stood up," he added.

Virat Kohli reflects on Test retirement, Ravi Shastri's role as mentor, says 'if it wasn't for him...'

NEW DELHI: Indian cricket icon Virat Kohli has finally spoken publicly about his retirement from Test cricket, a moment that shocked cricket enthusiasts across the globe, when he called time on his illustrious career in May. Now, for the first time since stepping away from the red-ball format, the former India captain has shared his thoughts about the big decision.

Kohli was speaking at a charity event hosted by, 2011 World Cup Man of the series winner, Yuvraj Singh's YouWeCan foundation, where many cricket legends were in attendance. The evening saw the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Chris Gayle, Ravi Shastri, Brian Lara and Kevin Pietersen gather under one roof, alongside India's head



coach Gautam Gambhir and other members of the current setup.

When host Gaurav Kapoor asked Kohli about retirement, the 36-year-old responded with a smile, saying, "I just coloured my beard two days ago. You know it's time when you are

colouring your beard every four days." Kohli also took a moment to appreciate former coach Ravi Shastri for his constant support during his Test cricket journey. He credited Shastri for standing by him during difficult times, especially during media pres-

sure. "If it wasn't for him, a lot of what happened in Test cricket wouldn't have been possible," Kohli said.

He recalled his early years in Indian cricket, sharing how senior players like Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Zaheer Khan guided him. "They made me feel comfortable in the dressing room and helped me understand what it takes to stay at the top," he said. Kohli also remembered a special match in 2017, where Yuvraj and MS Dhoni both scored centuries after an early batting collapse. "Watching that was like living a childhood dream," he said. It was a heartfelt evening and Kohli added in the end: he wouldn't have attended for anyone else but Yuvraj, a friend and mentor he deeply admires.

Tencent improves testing creative AI models with new benchmark

Tencent has introduced a new benchmark, ArtifactsBench, that aims to fix current problems with testing creative AI models.

Ever asked an AI to build something like a simple webpage or a chart and received something that works but has a poor user experience? The buttons might be in the wrong place, the colours might clash, or the animations feel clunky. It's a common problem, and it highlights a huge challenge in the world of AI development: how do you teach a machine to have good taste?

For a long time, we've been testing AI models on their ability to write code that is functionally correct. These tests could confirm the code would run, but they were completely "blind to the visual fidelity that define modern user experiences."

This is the exact problem ArtifactsBench has been designed to solve. It's less of a test and more of an automated art critic for AI-generated code.

Thrilled to introduce #ArtifactsBench! We're bridging the visual-interactive gap in code generation evaluation.

Our benchmark uses a novel automated, multimodal pipeline to assess LLMs on 1,825 diverse tasks. An MLLM-as-Judge evaluates visual artifacts, achieving 94.4% ranking... pic.twitter.com/84xClcn-



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So, how does Tencent's AI benchmark work? First, an AI is given a creative task from a catalogue of over 1,800 challenges, from building data visualisations and web apps to making interactive mini-games.

Once the AI generates the code, ArtifactsBench gets to work. It automatically builds and runs the code in a safe and sandboxed environment.

To see how the application behaves, it captures a series of screenshots over time. This allows it to

check for things like animations, state changes after a button click, and other dynamic user feedback.

Finally, it hands over all this evidence – the original request, the AI's code, and the screenshots – to a Multimodal LLM (MLLM), to act as a judge.

This MLLM judge isn't just giving a vague opinion and instead uses a detailed, per-task checklist to score the result across ten different metrics. Scoring includes functionality, user experience, and even aesthetic quality. This ensures the scoring is fair, consistent, and thorough.

The big question is, does this automated judge actually have good taste?

The results suggest it does.

When the rankings from ArtifactsBench were compared to WebDev Arena, the gold-standard platform where real humans vote on the best AI creations, they matched up with a 94.4% consistency. This is a massive leap from older automated benchmarks, which only managed around 69.4% consistency.

On top of this, the framework's judgments showed over 90% agreement with professional human developers.

When Tencent put more than 30 of the world's top AI models through their paces, the leaderboard was reveal-

ing. While top commercial models from Google (Gemini-2.5-Pro) and Anthropic (Claude 4.0-Sonnet) took the lead, the tests unearthed a fascinating insight.

You might think that an AI specialised in writing code would be the best at these tasks. But the opposite was true. The research found that "the holistic capabilities of generalist models often surpass those of specialized ones."

A general-purpose model, Qwen-2.5-Instruct, actually beat its more specialised siblings, Qwen-2.5-Coder (a code-specific model) and Qwen2.5-VL (a vision-specialised model).

The researchers believe this is because creating a great visual application isn't just about coding or visual understanding in isolation and requires a blend of skills.

"Robust reasoning, nuanced instruction following, and an implicit sense of design aesthetics," the researchers highlight as example vital skills. These are the kinds of well-rounded, almost human-like abilities that the best generalist models are beginning to develop.

Tencent hopes its ArtifactsBench benchmark can reliably evaluate these qualities and thus measure future progress in the ability for AI to create things that are not just functional but what users actually want to use.

All-Optical Chip Could Unlock Light-Speed Communication

The rise of the big data era presents major challenges for information processing, particularly in terms of handling large volumes of data and managing energy consumption. These issues are further compounded by the fact that over 90% of data is transmitted using light waves, while the actual processing still predominantly occurs in the electrical domain. To address this mismatch, two main approaches have emerged. One involves converting signals from optical to electrical and back again (optical-electrical-optical, or O-E-O conversion). The other focuses on processing the data entirely within the optical domain, a method known as all-optical information processing (AOSP).

While O-E-O conversion encounters significant limitations, including constraints related to transparency and challenges with achieving parallelism using optoelectronic components, AOSP offers a more scalable

alternative. With the right nonlinear processes, AOSP can achieve improved system performance in terms of complexity, cost, and energy efficiency. Interest in AOSP dates back to the 1980s, when it was initially explored using bulk nonlinear devices. However, recent breakthroughs in photonic integration have significantly accelerated its development.

Among the various platforms for integration, silicon-based photonics has emerged as one of the most promising for advancing AOSP technologies. Silicon photonics supports a wide range of functionalities that are closely tied to the architecture of modern optical networks.

To meet future demands, optical networks must demonstrate the capabilities of 3T (format transparency, wavelength transparency, bandwidth transparency), 3M (multi-function, multi-channel, multi-network), and 3S

(self-perceiving, self-learning, self-adopting). Therefore, achieving a high degree of reconfigurability and adaptability is essential for both future optical networks and the broader application of AOSP in systems requiring ultra-large capacity.

A collaborative team of researchers, including Prof. Xinliang Zhang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology), Prof. Yikai Su (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), Prof. Kun Qiu (University of Electronic Science and Technology of China), and Academician Ninghua Zhu (Nankai University), has successfully developed a monolithically integrated, programmable all-optical signal processing (AOSP) chip. This chip supports key functions such as optical filtering, signal regeneration, and logic operations. The project stems from a national initiative aimed at creating silicon-based, reconfigurable AOSP technologies.

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