

India set to hand debut to Saransh Jain in Colombo. this star likely to miss out – Report

COLOMBO: Veteran all-rounder Saransh Jain is likely to make his India debut during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo, starting on August 23, according to a report. The 33-year-old, who plays domestic cricket for Madhya Pradesh, received his maiden Test call-up for the two-match series in the island nation. He was included in the squad to replace Washington Sundar, who was unavailable for selection due to an injury. Saransh, a right-arm off-spinner and a capable left-handed lower-middle-order batter, made his first-class debut in 2014 and had to wait nearly 12 years for an India call-up. According to a report, Saransh has a strong chance of being included in the playing XI for the second Test, which will be played at the Sinhalese Sports Club. The report added that if Saransh makes his debut, he



is likely to replace left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav in the playing XI. On a pitch that offered plenty of assistance to the spinners, Kuldeep failed to make an impact in the Galle Test, returning figures of 25-0-103-1. The 33-year-old off-spinning all-rounder from Indore has been a consistent performer in domestic red-ball cricket for over a decade. Making his First-Class debut for Madhya

Pradesh in December 2014, he steadily developed into a core player for his state team, Central Zone, and Rest of India. Operating primarily as a spin bowler and a handy lower-order batter, he has amassed 181 First-Class wickets alongside 2,223 runs with the bat. Cricket runs in the family: Saransh's father, Subodh Jain, was also a right-arm off-break bowler who represented Madhya Pradesh in nine Ranji

Trophy matches during his playing days, though he never earned an international call-up. Saransh discovered his best form under veteran domestic coach Chandrakant Pandit, transitioning from an occasional squad member into a frontline, match-winning all-rounder. Meanwhile, India won the first Test by 165 runs on Wednesday, with Manav Suthar claiming a match-haul of 10 wickets.

Mumbai Indians' new post sparks 'Hardik Pandya' rumour ahead of IPL 2027

MUMBAI: Ahead of the next season of the Indian Premier League, there has been a huge buzz regarding Hardik Pandya. Multiple reports have claimed that Mumbai Indians are looking to trade the player before IPL 2027. The all-rounder, who made his IPL debut for MI in 2015, left the franchise ahead of the 2022 season and joined Gujarat Titans. Hardik led GT to the title in their debut season and continued as captain for another year before MI reacquired his services through the transfer window. This time, Hardik was handed the responsibility of leading Mumbai Indians. However, the results did not go as expected, with Mumbai finishing at the bottom of the IPL 2024 points table. The following season, MI reached Qualifier 2 before ending IPL 2026 in ninth place. Commenting on IPL transfers and trades, former India captain Sunil Gavaskar made a direct appeal. "...there's some speculation

in the media about the possible switching of players from one franchise to another. There's, of course, still some time before that window closes. However, while the transfer of a player from one franchise to another is in the public domain, when a trade takes place, the numbers are known only to the two franchises, the player and the BCCI." Sunil Gavaskar wrote in Mid-Day. "In such a situation, the other franchises don't know whether the salary cap that every franchise has for its squad was maintained or breached. That's why it's important for full transparency that the numbers are also made public." He added that full transparency would help maintain the high profile of the IPL. "The IPL is the greatest T20 league in the world and it's therefore crucial that full transparency is maintained so that there's no finger-pointing at it from those jealous of it," he wrote further.

PSG Start Ligue 1 Defence with eye on Champions League Hat-Trick

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain kick off their Ligue 1 campaign as overwhelming favourites to win a sixth successive title, but will have one eye firmly on their bid for a third straight Champions League crown. The capital giants eased to a record-extending 14th French top-flight triumph last season, despite often prioritising their European ambitions. They start their Ligue 1 campaign against Rennes on Sunday, hoping to make a quick start before the Champions League begins on September 8. "When the season starts, everyone says the league is easy," said head coach Luis Enrique. "Nothing is easy -- I don't recall any easy French league campaigns, at least not in the last three years." Their six-point winning margin over second-placed Lens last term was the second closest they have come to slipping up domestically since being beaten to the title by Lille in 2021. Two seasons ago, they finished a whopping 19 points clear of closest challengers



Marseille. Across the past five campaigns, PSG have enjoyed an average title-winning margin of 10 points. After finally ending their long wait to translate that success to Europe in 2024/25, they backed it up with a second successive Champions League final victory, over Arsenal on penalties in May. Only three clubs have won three consecutive European Cups -- Real Madrid, Ajax and Bayern Munich. "Everyone thinks we can win, but that's just theory. Now we have to prove on



LG's Diary

Manoj Sinha @manojjsinha
Today, visited Karol Krishna, a border village in Kathua district which comes under the Vibrant Villages Programme. I always believe that this land is not India's last village but it is India's first village and the gateway where our nation begins. Border villages are the frontline of India's identity. Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the border villages of Jammu Kashmir are no longer on the margins but they are now at the center of development. Roads, electricity, telecom, and education have reached every home.



CM's Diary

Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK
Today, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the ₹25.87 crore state-of-the-art Mechanized Abattoir at Allochi Bagh, Srinagar.

Equipped with an Effluent Treatment Plant and bio-digestion system for eco-friendly waste management, the project will provide a safe, hygienic and sustainable solution to the city's meat-processing needs.

Advisor to the Chief Minister @nasirsogami and MLA Lal Chowk @ahsanpardeesi accompanied the Chief Minister.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK · 6h
The Chief Minister visited the J&K Sports Council's Gindun Sports Complex in Rajbagh to inspect the newly constructed swimming pool and other sports facilities during his Srinagar's city tour.

During the visit, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the ongoing efforts to enhance recreational and sports infrastructure for youth.

The Chief Minister was also briefed on the proposed Raj Bagh flyover.



24 Years Later, Sourav Ganguly's Lord's moment returns, courtesy of Indian Mixed Disability Team

MUMBAI: The Indian mixed disability cricket team defeated England by 118 runs in the seventh and final T20I and celebrated the consolation win by recreating Sourav Ganguly's iconic shirt-waving celebration at the Lord's balcony. Riding on Arjun Gawre's 68 off 44 balls and captain Majid Magray's unbeaten 63 off just 19 deliveries, India piled up 206 for four before Hilal Ahmad Wani (4/21) and Jayesh Parmar (3/14) combined to bowl out the hosts for 88. While India won the match, England sealed the seven-match series 4-3. The Differently Abled Cricket Council of India posted a video of the players and officials removing their blazers at the Lord's balcony, imitating Ganguly's shirtless celebration at the same venue after India's memorable NatWest Trophy final triumph over England in 2002. "When India wins at Lord's, the celebrations hit different. A moment of pure cricketing joy on the Lord's Balcony -- coats off, spirits high, and the Tricolour flying with pride. 118 runs.

'Will Be Best Club In The World': Mikel Arteta On Arsenal

NEW DELHI: Mikel Arteta has warned Arsenal's rivals that he plans to build the Premier League champions into the "best club in the world". Arteta's side start their bid for a second successive English title against promoted Coventry in the opening game of the top-flight season on Friday. For the first time in 22 years, the Gunners will begin a campaign as the Premier League's preeminent force, a status Arteta is determined to maintain as he targets an Arsenal dynasty. With Manchester City's golden era potentially at an end after Pep Guardiola resigned at the end of last season, the stage is set for Arsenal to enjoy their own sustained period of success. Guardiola won six Premier League titles and Arteta, who worked under the Spaniard at City before taking charge of Arsenal in 2019, has no qualms about challenging his players to emulate that dominant run. "It's certainly the ambition of the club and the owners to be the best club in the world," he told Sky Sports this week. "In order to do that, you need the best facilities, the best stadium, the best supporters, and you need the best squad and the best players in the world. "That's what we try to build with the actual players that we have, and with



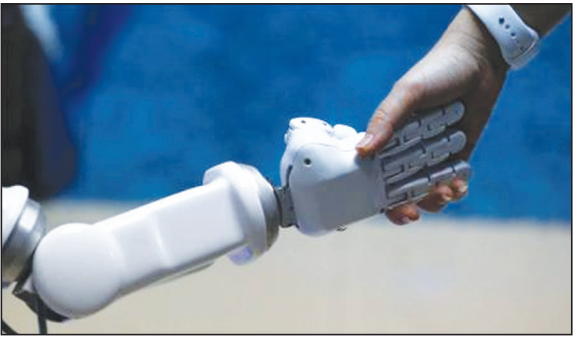
the players that we want to sign to make the difference for Arsenal." Arsenal haven't won consecutive English titles since the 1930s, a feat that proved beyond even Arsene Wenger's 'Invincibles', who were the club's last champions before Arteta's men ended the drought. Arteta is using that goal as a rallying cry for his team, with the pain of their Champions League final loss to Paris Saint-Germain on penalties last season adding further fuel to the Spaniard's motivational fire. "It's very difficult. You have to raise the level from every angle," he said. "When I look into the eyes of my players, I see that fire, that desire and the will to be better every single day." Winning the Champions League for the first time remains a burning desire for Arteta's men, but their manager's primary ambi-

tion is domestic supremacy. Arsenal, installed as the bookmakers' favourite for the title, showed their hunger for silverware has not been sated by dispatching Manchester City 3-0 in the Community Shield on Sunday. Bolstered by the arrival of Brazil midfielder Bruno Guimaraes from Newcastle and Greek winger Christos Tzolis from Club Brugge, Arsenal looked more formidable than ever as they tore City to shreds. Ominously for their rivals, Arteta isn't finished spending yet. The club are on the verge of tying up a deal for Aston Villa defender Ezri Konsa and have also been linked with Atletico Madrid striker Julian Alvarez. Coventry manager Frank Lampard could be forgiven for having a sleepless night or two as he ponders how to subdue Arsenal in his club's first game in the

top tier for 25 years. It is a conundrum that may well torment managers with far greater resources than Lampard this season. City, Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea all have major questions to answer before they can establish themselves as genuine contenders for Arsenal's crown. Enzo Maresca has replaced Guardiola at City, while former Bournemouth boss Andoni Iraola succeeds the sacked Arne Slot at Liverpool and Xabi Alonso takes charge of under-achieving Chelsea. City finished seven points behind Arsenal last term and already seem further adrift on the evidence of their Community Shield debacle. Liverpool, who came fifth last season, and Chelsea, who ended 10th, hope for much improved campaigns, but are far from the finished article. The same is true of United, who climbed to third under Michael Carrick last season but have taken a surprisingly low-key approach in the transfer market. As captain Martin Odegaard says, Arsenal have the destiny of the title in their hands. "This year we want more. We want to do it again in the league and then there are the other trophies," he said.

How AI Is revolutionising advertising for Indian small businesses

Nearly 87 per cent of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India believe that artificial intelligence (AI) has enabled them to access advertising opportunities, such as streaming TV, that previously felt out of reach, according to a study by Amazon Ads. The research noted that 75 per cent of surveyed Indian SMBs stated that AI-enabled advertising has supported their business growth. Additionally, 68 per cent of respondents said that AI tools have unlocked greater creativity in their marketing efforts. "We are seeing Indian SMBs approach advertising with a confidence we have not seen before. The share of Amazon advertisers using AI-powered tools in India has grown by 77 per cent year over year, with SMBs generating 62 per cent more ad



creatives with those tools in Q1 2026 over last year," said Kapil Sharma, Director of Amazon Ads India. "Today, AI-powered tools are opening up channels like streaming TV that once felt reserved for big brands with big budgets. It is exciting to see SMBs writing their own growth stories and at Amazon Ads, we are focused on innovating on their behalf to offer self-service solutions built to help businesses of all sizes," he said.

The study found that three years ago, barriers such as high costs (48 per cent), minimum spend requirements (39 per cent), and planning complexity (36 per cent) kept many SMBs away from streaming TV. Today, 62 per cent of those interested in the medium say it helps them reach new audiences, while 59 per cent say it can increase brand awareness. AI is also facilitating international trade for Indian sellers. According to

the report, 56 per cent of respondents who found cross-border campaigns inaccessible three years ago now say they are more accessible due to AI-powered tools. Furthermore, 59 per cent of businesses said AI has supported their expansion into new countries. However, the report emphasised that human oversight remains critical. Only 2 per cent of SMBs reported using fully automated decision-making without human review. Business owners remain the final decision-makers for 40 per cent of respondents, followed by AI tools with human review at 32 per cent. The research surveyed 300 B2C marketing decision-makers from SMEs in India as part of a larger global study involving 4,100 respondents across 14 countries.

Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut Harvests Vegetables In Space, Shares Video: "Cooking On Space Station"

A SA astronaut Anil Menon harvested and cooked fresh greens grown in space, showing how food could be produced on future long missions. In a recent video shared on X, Menon and fellow astronaut Jessica Meir are seen harvesting kale and wasabi mustard greens grown inside the ISS and preparing them as a fresh space-grown meal. The vegetables were cultivated for about a month as part of NASA's research into growing food in space. "On this episode we give you farm-

to-table, simple, and delicious. This Kale and Wasabi Mustard was grown on ISS over one month. We harvested several leaves and put them to the test. It might be the best meal we have cooked so far. Thanks to the @NASA veggie team for guiding us through the growth process and providing simple skills that could help provide food for future space travel. Mark Watney would be proud," Menon wrote while sharing the video. The experiment takes place inside NASA's Veggie plant-growth cham-

ber, which helps scientists understand how plants respond to microgravity. The research could be crucial for future long-duration missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond. Fresh vegetables could augment packaged meals, add nutrients and provide astronauts with a psychological boost on missions that could last for months or even years. Eventually, it could also reduce the amount of food that has to be shipped from Earth to grow food in space.