

Shubman Gill reflects on injury recovery

CANBERRA: Shubman Gill has expressed his satisfaction with his recovery after a recent injury, describing his return to the field as a fulfilling experience.

Speaking about his experience, the opening batter shared the unique joy of hitting the ball, especially when it connects with the middle of the bat.

"Anyone, when it hits the bat, especially the middle of the bat, the feeling that you get, that's the feeling that I play for," Gill said.

"I was quite low and a bit disappointed when I first got to know about my injury. The first is the only venue we hadn't played at when we came here last time, and I was looking forward

to playing there. It's such an iconic venue."

Despite initial disappointment, Gill reflected positively on his performance and the team's effort. "The way we played that game, and by the end of it, I was very happy with how we played, and we won again."

Regarding his injury, Gill admitted that he was cautious in his first outing back on the field, prioritising his recovery.

"It was my first day, I was just trying to get a feel, to be honest, and see how the injury was reacting, if there was any kind of soreness or tightness while playing. But it actually went much better than I expected, and I'm very happy with that," Gill added.



Olympic badminton champion Zheng to retire from international competition

BEIJING: Olympic mixed doubles badminton gold medalist Zheng Siwei of China announced Friday that he will retire from international competition and next month's BWF World Tour Finals in Hangzhou will be his "last dance."

"Many people expect me to play at least until the Los Angeles Olympics or even longer. Considering our competitiveness, we just won the Olympic gold and rank among the top in the world rankings. As for why I suddenly stop play-

ing, my answer is, this is my life plan," the 27-year-old wrote on Chinese social media platform Weibo.

Zheng said that returning to the family is one of the important reasons for him to retire from international competition: "My life pursuit focuses on both family and career. Everyone knows that I married relatively early, and now I've just had a second baby, so I want to return to the family."

After finishing runners-up at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, Zheng

Sakshi Malik to flag off 15000 plus runners in Vasai Virar Marathon

MUMBAI: Sakshi Malik, Olympic Bronze medalist and Commonwealth Games Gold medalist will flag off the races as Event Ambassador of the 12th Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation Marathon, to be run on December 8.

The event that offers among the highest prize money of Rs 58 lakhs plus, exclusively for Indian participants, will see some of the country's fastest athletes vying for glory in the Full Marathon for men and the Half marathon for men and women. This was announced by Anilkumar Pawar (ISAS), the Commissioner of VVCMC.

The Full Marathon will be spearheaded by Army's Pradeep Singh, who has a personal best of 2:16.55, the fastest in the field. He will face a strong challenge from Army mate Dhanwant Prahlad, who has a PB of 2:18.10. Also returning to stake his claim will be Mohit Rathor, two-time champion and

last year's runner-up, who also holds the course record of 2:18.05, set in 2022.

The women's Half Marathon will feature defending champion Prajakta Godbole of Maharashtra, who has a personal best of 1:14.21, besides Phoolan Pal, who has a personal best of 1:16.20, Archana Jadhav, and Tamsi Singh, to name a few.

The Half Marathon elite field for men will be led by Arun Rathod, who is the fastest in the field, with a PB of 1:04.39. He will have to contend with Dinesh Kumbhar (1:05.44) and Deep-



Full Marathon winner stands to win a purse of Rs 3 lakh, while the half marathon winners will be richer by Rs 2 lakh each.

Liverpool Vs Man City highlight in Premier League

LONDON: One of the biggest city rivalries in England takes center stage in the Premier League when Liverpool entertains Manchester City, and Manchester United hosts Everton.

The visit to Anfield looks increasingly vital for Manchester City, who may have ended a run of consecutive defeats in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday, but a 3-3 draw at home to Feyenoord after being 3-0 ahead is not a result to build confidence, and its defense looks worryingly shaky to play arguably the most in-form team in Europe.

Liverpool goes into the match eight points clear at the top and with confidence sky-high after a 2-0 win at home to Real Madrid kept its 100 percent record in Europe intact.

Mateo Kovacic is out for City, leaving the team without a natural replacement for Rodri, and winger Jeremy Doku is also a doubt with a thigh injury, while Trent Alexander-Arnold could be back for Liverpool as Arne Slot's side looks for another statement win.

Ruben Amorim made his league debut as Manchester United coach with a slightly underwhelming draw away to Ipswich last weekend, and Sunday sees him in the Old Trafford dugout for the first time in the Premier League.

Everton makes the short trip to Manchester after four winless games, although three draws from those four games show that Sean Dyche has his players well-drilled in defense. The home fans will want to see a return to attacking football, and it will be interesting to see if



Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Rasmus Hojlund can connect in attack.

Fifth-placed Brighton gets the weekend underway against Southampton in a south-coast derby on Friday night, and a win would lift Brighton up to second place for at least 24 hours.

Arsenal would also move second with a win away to West Ham, and the team will cross London in high spirits after an impressive 5-1 win away to Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday. A fortnight ago, this game would have looked like a certain away win, but West Ham was greatly improved in beating Newcastle on Monday, and Julen Lopetegui looks to be getting a grip on his side's defense.

Newcastle has the chance to recover from that defeat when it faces Crystal Palace, which has just one win all season and is handi-capped by injuries to key trio Eberechi Eze, Adam Wharton and Eddie Nketiah.

Consecutive wins have changed the panorama at Wolverhampton and lifted the team out of the bottom three, and a home win against Bournemouth would be doubly sweet for coach Gary O'Neil against the club that harshly

sacked him 18 months ago. Successive defeats have put the brakes on Nottingham Forest's impressive start to the season.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side now has a chance to get back to winning ways at home to Ipswich

Town, although it will have to be careful of the impressive Liam Delap.

Steve Cooper became the first managerial casualty of the season when he was sacked by Leicester City in the wake of last weekend's defeat to Chelsea.

Ruud van Nistelrooy looks set to be named as his replacement, but he is unlikely to be in charge for Saturday's visit to Brentford, which has scored 18 of its 22 league goals at home.

Two draws and two defeats have brought Aston Villa to the reality of combining Champions League and Premier League football, and Unai Emery's side has a tough visit to play Chelsea, who could also end the weekend in second place with a win.

Tottenham has a habit of following a swashbuckling win with a defeat, which may worry fans turning up for its home game against Fulham, whose striker Raul Jimenez will be a threat to the home side's high defensive line.

Smallest asteroid ever spotted hit Earth over Canada in a stunning green fireball

ONTARIO: The smallest ever asteroid to hit Earth and the only one to be properly measured is about the size of a regular cat, as per a study. It exploded over Canada in 2022 in a stunning green fireball. The tiny asteroid was discovered only three hours before it made an impact on our planet.

The study was published on Nov 22 in The Planetary Science Journal.

On Nov 19, 2022, asteroid 2022 WJ1 entered the Earth's atmosphere and violently broke apart due to intense friction from the air. This led to a bright flash of green light streaking in the night sky for about 10 seconds. It was accompanied by a loud sonic boom and could be seen many kilometres away.

The explosion was reported in southern Ontario but was watched by people even in the Toronto area and in the states of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland, as per a New York Times report.

The asteroid was spotted merely three hours before entering Earth by the Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona.



In order to learn where it might hit, the team ran tests and was able to correctly predict the location.

It was also an opportunity to study the space rock and so they quickly enabled the equipment along the asteroid's path.

This included the 4.3-meter Lowell Discovery Telescope (LDT) in Arizona and a meteor camera network at Western University in Ontario. Both these helped scientists monitor the space rock closely as it raced through the sky.

Using the data of the LDT and the cameras, researchers ran an analysis of the asteroid's brightness. The space rock was found to be around 16 to 24 inch-

es (40 to 60 centimetres) wide, the smallest confirmed size for any asteroid, researchers wrote in a statement.

Asteroids smaller than 2022 WJ1 hit Earth almost every day. However, they have never been measured because the scientists never see them coming. In the case of 2022 WJ1, they were prepared because they spotted it a few hours before impact.

NASA keeps an eye on the potentially hazardous bigger asteroids, but there are a few that are spotted merely hours before impact. At that time, 2022 WJ1 was only the sixth asteroid to be detected right before entering Earth.

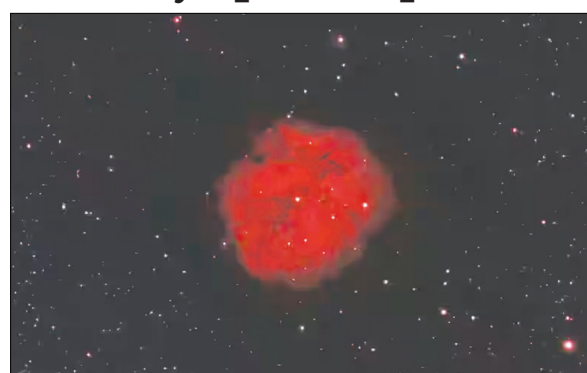
Strange red and dusty 'UFOs' discovered in space are not exactly spaceships

COLORADO: Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs, have intrigued humans for decades. Now and then someone spots something strange in the sky and believes it to be extra-terrestrial. However, there is one kind of UFO that can be seen in space. These are "UFO galaxies" that are a mystery to humans.

UFO galaxies are big, red and really dusty and can only be seen in infrared light, with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) first to spot them in deep space.

This is why they were only discovered recently. They appear similar in size and shape to other galaxies but have never been caught on other telescopes, such as the Hubble. Scientists wanted to figure out more about these galaxies and why they were so red and dusty.

Known as Ultra-red Flattened Objects (UFOs), a team of researchers led by the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) set out on a mission to dive deep into these mystery galaxies, EarthSky reported. They published their



peer-reviewed findings in The Astrophysical Journal on October 3, 2024.

Justus Gibson in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at CU Boulder, and the lead author, said, "JWST allows us to see this type of galaxy that we never would have been able to see before. It tells us that maybe we didn't understand the universe as well as we thought."

Co-author Erica Nelson added, "They're so visually striking. They're enormous red disks that pop up in these images, and they were totally unexpected. They make you say: 'What? How?'"

Why are UFO galaxies

red?

The researchers say that the reason why these galaxies have never been seen before is because they emit very little visible light. Webb is an infrared telescope so was able to pick them up since these galaxies give out infrared radiation. This is why in the photos they appear bright red.

The authors say that some of these UFO galaxies are much closer to us than others that Webb has previously discovered. They say that for the longest time, astronomers believed they knew what the closer galaxies were like. But discovering these UFO galaxies has surprised them all.

Footprints in sand made 1.5 million years ago reveal something shockingly unexpected

NEW JERSEY: Nearly 1.5 million years ago, two species of humans lived alongside each other, may be aware of the existence of the other and even interact. A study has revealed that the two species of ancient humans crossed paths on a lakeshore in what is now modern-day Kenya. That ancient lakeshore is part of the Koobi Fora fossil site.

The revelation was made by fossilised footprints in the sand in the area that have preserved the unexpected and extraordinary moment. Scientists say they likely lived as friendly neighbours instead of squabbling over their differences.

The study was published in the journal Science on Thursday (Nov 28).

"Their presence on the same surface, made closely together in time, places the two species at the lake margin, using the same habi-

tat," geologist and anthropologist Craig Feibel of Rutgers University in the United States said.

The footprints were so closely made that they indicated that the two species passed each other in this area within hours to a couple of days.

Kevin Hatala, first author of the study and an associate professor of biology at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, said, "We see them in the very same lake margin environment, passing within this area within hours to a couple of days of one another."

"They probably would have been aware of each other's existence. They saw each other and they might have interacted," added Hatala.

Footprints in Kenya The footprints at Koobi Fora were first spotted in 2007. They are the oldest known example of

hominins walking upright like modern-day humans. In the same region, the skeletal remains of several ancient human relatives have also been found.

More footprints have been found since then, with the most recent ones in 2021. Scientists noted deep and perfectly preserved prints gouged out of what was once soft, squishy mud. They were covered with sediment over time, but Hatala's team excavated them in 2022.

"There's one long trackway with 12 (hominin) footprints in it. It was made at a decent walking pace ... especially since they were walking through mud. There's not a clear destination at the end," Hatala said.

They lived peacefully The researchers discovered that based on the imprints, two distinct walking styles existed at the time. They were made by two different species of hominin and both in-



habited the site. The prints appear in the same sediment layer, which led them to conclude that they were made at the same time.

Researchers say that the two species coexisted with each other because they had different diets and lifestyles. They did not have

to compete with each other, and so lived peacefully.

They are confident that the footprints were made within hours to a few days of one another since there is no cracking on the surface of the footprints. That would have happened if they were exposed to air.

Parts of the US to likely witness auroras on Thanksgiving night

WASHINGTON: Thanksgiving would be even more exciting for millions as many parts of the US and Canada are likely to witness northern lights. The night skies on Thursday and Friday (Nov 28 and 29) are likely to light up in vibrant hues as minor to moderate geomagnetic storms are likely to hit the Earth on the holiday.

According to NOAA, a coronal mass ejection (CME) launch was observed from the sun on Monday (Nov 25), which is likely to strike Earth on Thursday or Friday. CME is a large cloud of plasma and magnetic fields thrown from the corona of the Sun. The eruption may result in vibrant hues across the night sky. The duration and intensity of the auroras will depend on how strong the solar storm is. NOAA has predicted the storm to be of G1 or G2 strength, the lowest levels. Besides resulting in auroras, a stronger storm can lead to disruptions in the power grid, GPS, satellite, and radio waves.

NOAA has also acknowledged the possibility of CME missing the Earth and no solar storms hitting the planet, which would mean auroras could not be visible this week. The researchers can only become sure once the CME nears the Earth.

Where and how to watch the Northern Lights? The auroras are likely to be seen in the US states that share the border with Canada from Maine to Washington, while it is also possible they may be seen even further south.

To see the Northern Lights, it is best to get away from the artificial light pollution. They are visible to the naked eye and do not require any equipment like binoculars or telescopes, although they may appear sharper through a smartphone camera.

The auroras and CMEs are more frequent when the sun's 11-year activity cycle, called solar maximum, is at its peak. NASA and NOAA have said that October 15 marked the beginning of the current solar cycle's solar maximum.



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