



LAHIRI BOGEYS TWO OF HIS LAST THREE HOLES TO MISS CUT AT GENESIS OPEN | 22

AT 40 YEARS AND 136 DAYS, PIZARRO BECOMES BUNDESLIGA'S OLDEST SCORER | 22



ENDGAME MASTERS

Sri Lankan batsman Kusal Perera's magical unbeaten 153, which fashioned a famous and memorable one-wicket triumph over South Africa in the first Test at Durban, is being talked about as one of the greatest Test hundreds of all time. On Day Four of a thrilling Test, the youngster put on 78 for the last wicket with No. 11 Vishwa Fernando to pull off an incredible chase of 304. TOI looks at five such solo efforts which scripted epic and thrilling successful chases in the fourth innings of a Test match

MAHELA JAYAWARDENE (VS SOUTH AFRICA, COLOMBO, 2006)

Going into the second Test, Jayawardene had already 'punished' the South African bowlers enough, having slammed 374 in a record stand with Kumar Sangakkara. At the P Sara Oval though, the Proteas seemed to have bounced back in style, making 311 in their second dig to leave the hosts with a 352-run

chase in the fourth innings. Sanath Jayasuriya smashed 73 off 74 balls to put the Lanka on track, but once he was gone as the third wicket to fall at 121, it was Jayawardene who held fort. Against a top-class attack which featured Steyn, Makhaya Ntini and Shaun Pollock, the Lankan captain produced perhaps his finest hundred. Thanks to the stylish batsman's effort, the Lankans scraped through by one wicket.



RUNS 123*



BRIAN LARA (WI VS AUSTRALIA, BARBADOS, 1999)

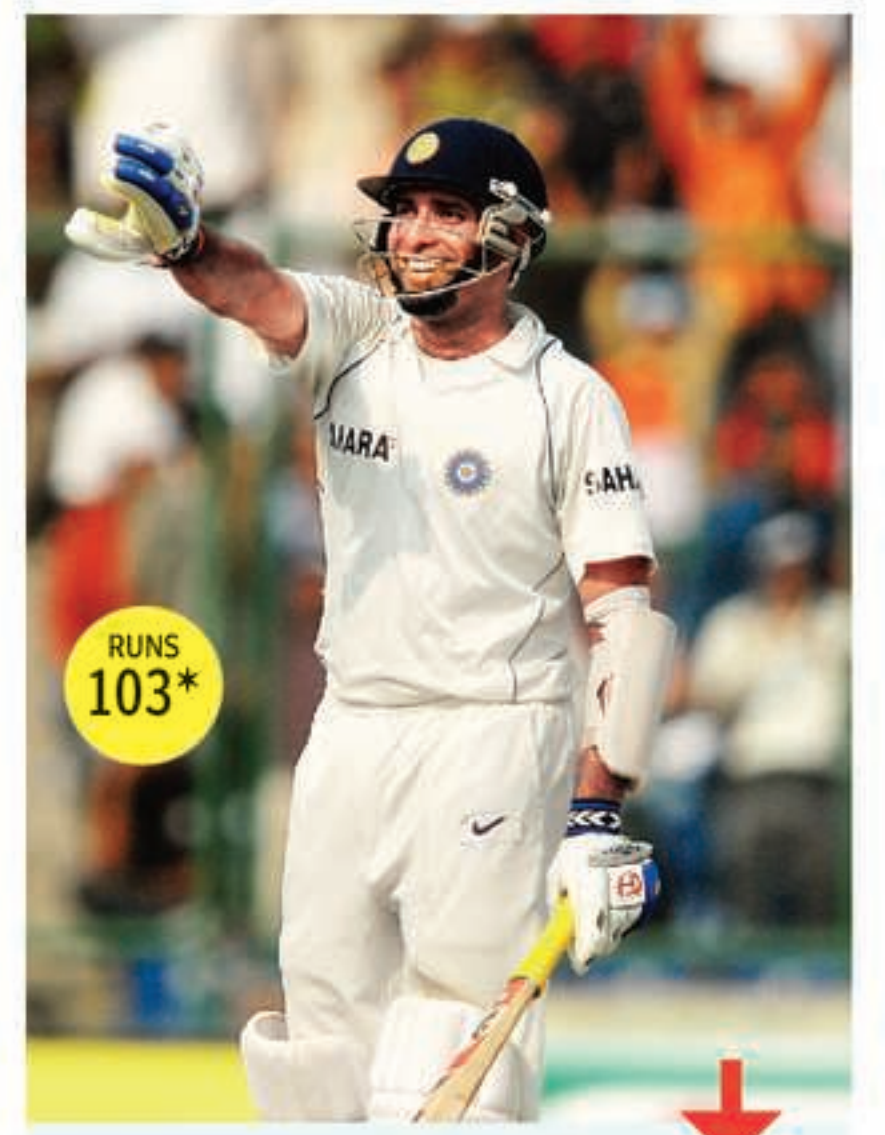
RUNS 153*



GORDON GREENIDGE (WI VS ENGLAND, LORD'S, 1984)

If there was one chance that England had of avoiding a humiliating clean sweep against the West Indies at home, it was this. In the second Test of the series, at Lord's, England captain David Gower declared his team's second innings at 300 for nine, leaving the visitors with a formidable target of 342 with just 78 overs left. The Windies innings began on the wrong note when Desmond Haynes was run out following a mix up with Greenidge, as Allan Lamb threw down the stumps with a direct hit from square leg. Greenidge, though, was in no mood to stop that day. Even as England attacked him with three slips and two gullies, he launched a brutal counter-attack, cutting and pulling the likes of Ian Botham and Bob Willis with ridiculous ease. His unbeaten 214, which came off just 242 balls, and was studded with 29 fours and two sixes took West Indies to a nine-wicket win in the 67th over. It will perhaps be remembered as the most dominating fourth innings double-century of all time. Gower was at the receiving end of huge criticism for his decision to declare the innings, but few could have envisaged Greenidge's savagery. What makes the great opener's effort even more praiseworthy is that he was limping during his innings.

RUNS 214*



VVS LAXMAN (INDIA VS SRI LANKA, P SARA COLOMBO, 2010)

A couple of months before he pulled off a brilliant win against Australia at Mohali with his unbeaten 73, VVS Laxman had produced another very, very special hundred at the P Sara Oval in Colombo. After Sehwag's century (109) helped India reply with 436 to Sri Lanka's 425 in the first innings, the visitors faced a tricky run chase of 257 on the fifth day. Chasing 257, they slumped to 62 for four when Laxman, who had slammed a fifty in the first innings, joined forces with Tendulkar for a 109-run stand for the fifth wicket. Battling a bad back which forced him to use a runner, the elegant Hyderabad batsman showed tremendous grit to take India home with an unbeaten 103, which took just 149 balls and contained 12 sweetly-timed fours. In the Lanka attack were Lasith Malinga and 'mystery spinner' Ajantha Mendis, who had tormented the Indians in 2008 a couple of years earlier on the same wickets. **Text: Gaurav Gupta** **Note:** India's chase of 406-4 in Port Of Spain in 1976 was possible only because of masterly tons by Sunil Gavaskar and GR Viswanath but as we are compiling solo efforts, we had to unfortunately leave them out.

RUNS 103*

The series was level at 1-1 when the third Test of what was turning out to be an exciting contest between Australia and the West Indies was played at Bridgetown, Barbados. After the West Indies conceded a 151-run lead in the first innings, Courtney Walsh brought them back into the match by taking five for 39 to bowl the Aussies out for 146. Chasing 308 on a tough pitch at Barbados, Windies slipped to 78 for three when skipper Brian Lara walked in. Soon, the hosts slipped into further trouble when they lost the experienced Carl Hooper with the score at 105 for five. The 'Prince of Trinidad' then produced perhaps the greatest fourth innings tons of all time, as he battled an attack consisting of Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill. He first added 133 with Jimmy Adams, with Adams contributing just 38. In the end, he just had Curtly Ambrose and Walsh for company, but the way Lara battled with them adds to the significance of his innings. He added 54 for the ninth wicket with Ambrose to take the score from 248 to 302, as the fast bowler managed to hang around for 39 balls. In the end, when he cover drove Gillespie for a four to seal the victory, the West Indian supporters celebrated as if their team had won the World Cup!



SACHIN TENDULKAR (INDIA VS ENGLAND, CHENNAI, 2008)

The mood in the nation when the first Test of the India-England series was played, are quite similar to what is prevalent now. Post the deadly terror attacks in Mumbai, the England team left without playing the final two ODIs of the series. However, they returned for the Tests. In the fourth innings, India, who were chasing 387, were given a rollicking start by Virender Sehwag, who smashed 83 off 68 balls. Then, it was Sachin Tendulkar, criticised normally for not producing match-winning knocks in the fourth innings, who took over. Steadying the ship in the company of Yuvraj Singh, with an unbeaten 163-run stand for the fifth wicket, the legendary batsman comfortably negotiated a quality England attack comprising James Anderson, Steve Harmison, Andrew Flintoff, Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar to take India home. The emotional background to this knock marked it out as one of Tendulkar's best hundreds. It was the 41st century of the then 35-year-old bat. The great batsman later dedicated his hundred to the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks. Sadly, Andrew Strauss, who had scored centuries in both innings, ended up on the losing side. The match was also England off-spinner Graeme Swann's debut Test.

RUNS 103*

GALLERY

Finch's Renegades win Big Bash League final

Melbourne: Aaron Finch's Melbourne Renegades clinched their first Big Bash League title on Sunday after city rivals the Stars imploded during a tense run chase. Chasing 146 to win at Docklands Stadium, Glenn Maxwell's men were 93 without loss and cruising before losing an incredible seven wickets for 19 runs. They finished on 132 for seven, losing the first ever all-Melbourne BBL final by 13 runs at the end of the near two-month tournament.

Kohli maintains top spot in ICC Test batsmen chart, Pujara in third spot:

India captain Virat Kohli remained on top, while teammate Cheshwar Pujara managed to hold on to his third position in the latest ICC Test rankings, where Sri Lankan Kusal Perera made a quantum leap of 58 places. Kohli is leading the chart with 992 rating points ahead of New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (897 points) and Pujara (881). Besides Kohli and Pujara, no other Indian feature in the top 10 list.

Qatar invites 1983, 2011 cricket World Cup champs for FIFA WC:

A senior official associated with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has invited members of India's cricket World Cup winning teams of 1983 and 2011 to the middle-eastern nation for football's quadrennial showpiece. Admitting that cricket was a big sport in India, Nasser Al Khater, CEO, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, extended the invitation to the members of winning squads of the two cricket world cups.

Campbell gets first call-up for West Indies ODI squad:

John Campbell, Carlos Brathwaite and Sheldon Cottrell have been called up to the West Indies squad for next week's first two one day internationals against England. It is Campbell's first call-up to the limited-overs team. The 25-year-old made his test debut in the just-completed series against England.

ACTION TODAY

INTERNATIONAL Basketball: NBA All Stars Game: Team Giannis vs Team LeBron, 6.30 am (Live on Ten 1)

Football: FA Cup: Chelsea vs Manchester United, 1 am (Live on Sony TEN 2); Bundesliga: Nurnberg vs Dortmund, 1 am (Live on Star Sports Select 1)

NATIONAL Football: ISL: Goa vs Kerala, 7.30 pm (Live on Star Sports 1)

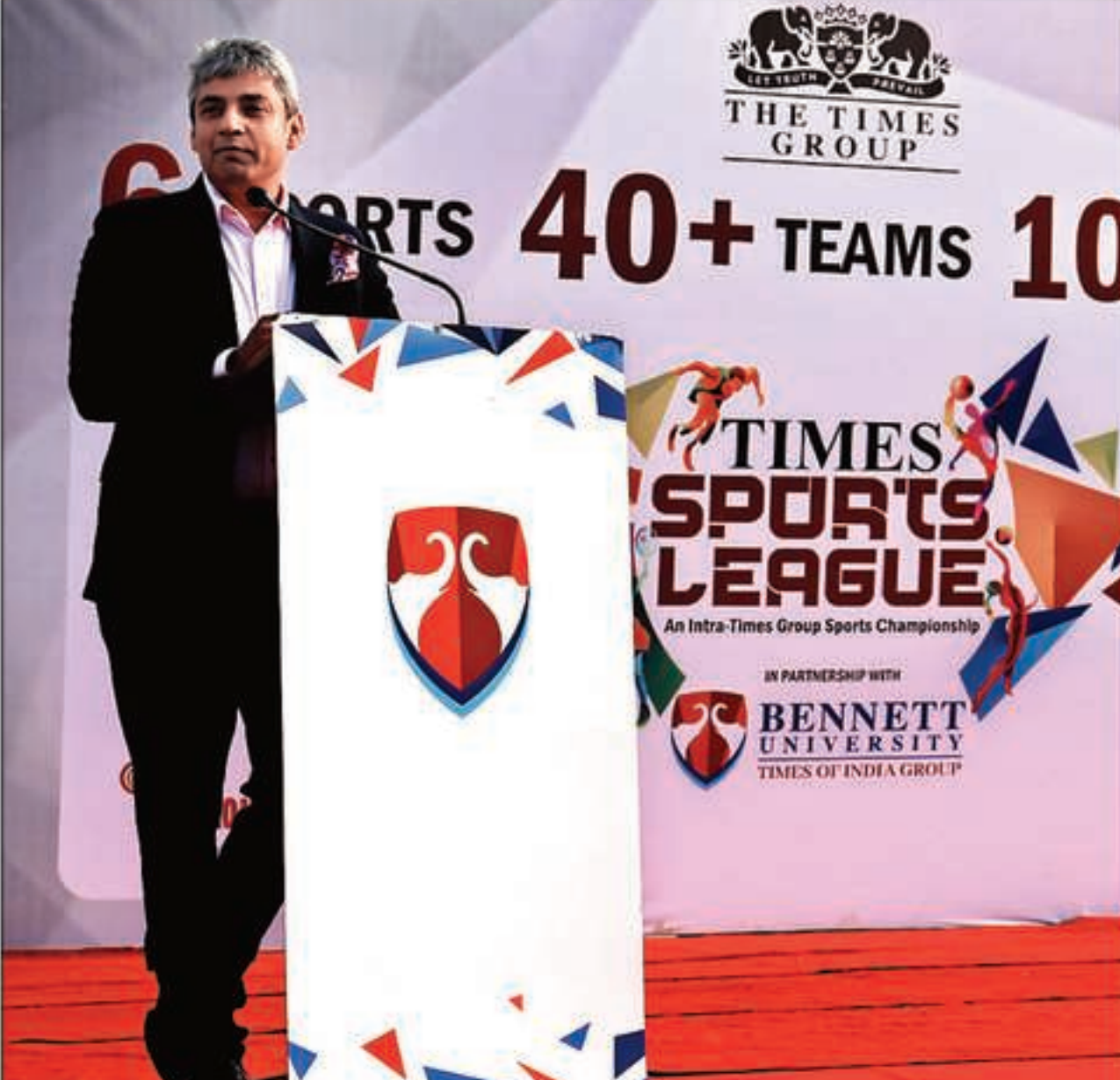
Teams don't have to name WC probables

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Mumbai: When India's chief selector, MSK Prasad stated here on Friday that he and his colleagues would have to pick 30 probables for the World Cup by March 25, two months prior to the event, he wasn't aware of a massive change in rules.

TOI has learnt that under the new Members Playing Agreement (MPA) which came into effect since 2016, there is no need for the teams to name a provisional or probable squad for any ICC event anymore specifically the World Cup, which is scheduled to be held in England from May 30.

However, as is the practice, all the teams are supposed to submit their final 15-man squads for the World Cup 30 days out before the event. As per an ICC official, "The teams have the option of changing players in this 15 anytime up to seven days prior to the tournament, after which point the ICC's Event Technical Committee must approve any such changes."



CELEBRATING SPORTS: Former India cricketer Ajay Jadeja speaks during the prize distribution ceremony of the Times Sports League at the Bennett University campus in Greater Noida on Sunday. Around 40 teams from within the TOI family competed in six disciplines. The function was marked by a music and dance show which featured songs dedicated to the martyrs of the Pulwama massacre. Jadeja, who was the chief guest, acknowledged the efforts of the Bennett group in bringing so many employees together on a sporting platform. "This is something new. When I was growing up, not many corporates thought about sports being an integral part of work," he said.

Fit-again Saha set to return to action

Kolkata: Bengal on Sunday selected a fit-again Wriddhiman Saha in their 15-member squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Twenty20 domestic tournament.

The wicketkeeper-batsman, who went under the knife for a shoulder injury, is set to return to action for the first time since May 25 when he last played for his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens.

"I'm approaching the tournament as just like returning from a normal break. It's like the start of the season for me," Saha said of his comeback.

"I've never played cricket thinking about selection. It's not in my hands. I'm focused on what is in my control and that is my performance. I'm keen to make full use of the opportunities that come my way," the 34-year-old Saha added.

BCCI should donate Rs 5cr: Khanna to COA

New Delhi: BCCI acting president CK Khanna on Sunday appealed to Committee of Administrators chief Vinod Rai to sanction at least Rs 5 crore for the families of the Indian soldiers, martyred in the Pulwama terror attack. Former India opener Virender Sehwag has already declared that children of martyr's families will be provided free education at his 'Sehwag International School' if they wish to apply. The Vidarbha senior team also announced that they would donate their entire Irani Cup winners' prize money for the welfare of the martyrs' families.

"We are saddened and join our fellow Indian citizens in condemning the dastardly Pulwama Terror attack. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers," Khanna wrote in a letter to COA, office bearers and state units. "I request the Committee of Administrators that BCCI should contribute at least Rs 5 crore through the appropriate

government agencies to the families of the martyred soldiers," the acting president further wrote. **Pak cricketers' photographs removed from PCA stadium Chandigarh:** The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) on Sunday removed the photographs of Pakistani cricketers from various points inside the Mohali stadium as a "humble step" to show solidarity with the families of martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack. The decision was taken at a meeting of the cricket body's office bearers here, PCA honorary treasurer Ajay Tyagi said. "As a humble step, the PCA has decided to show its solidarity with the families of martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack. There is so much anger in the nation against the heinous attack and PCA is no different in this," Tyagi said. He said there are nearly 15 photos of Pakistani cricketers, which were kept inside the stadium at various points including in the galleries, long room, reception and hall of fame area.

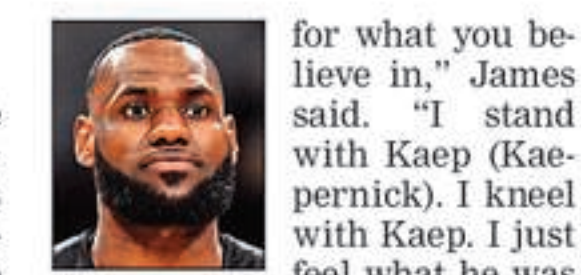
Important to stand up for what you believe in: LeBron

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Charlotte: Love him or hate him, you just cannot ignore him. The enigma of LeBron James extends well beyond the basketball court. More so when he stands by what he believes in, says so and wants you to do so.

On Saturday, it was that side of James on display on the sidelines of NBA All-Star event. He spoke of his humble background and small-town roots.

More importantly, he iterated his support for former American football player Colin Kaepernick, who shook in establishment in 2016 by refusing to stand for the national anthem. "It's important to stand up



for what you believe in," James said. "I stand with Kaep (Kaepernick). I kneel with Kaep. I just feel what he was talking about, nobody wanted to listen to him. Nobody ever really wanted to actually understand where he was coming from. I think that anybody who will sacrifice his livelihood for the good of all of us, I respect that. And he's done that. You've got a guy who basically lost his job because he wanted to stand for something that was bigger than just him." The reference to Kaepernick happened following his settle-

ment of a lawsuit with National Football League.

"I hope it's a hell of a lot of money that can set not only him up but also his family, his grandchildren for the rest of their lives. I hope that the word of what

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he did will live on throughout American history and also world history because it's important for all of us, not only African-Americans but for everybody who wants to stand up for something that's more important than them."

Following reports of killing of African-Americans by police personnel, Kaepernick had pro-

tested first by refusing to stand during the national anthem, and then kneeling down when it was played. Following the end of his contract with San Francisco 49ers in 2016, he was without a team as none of the owners seemed interested in picking him. He claimed that the team owners were deliberately ignoring him. He had filed a case against them which was settled on Friday. Although none of the NBA players actually got down to kneeling or showing protest, many backed Kaepernick, with James being the most outspoken of them. This is not the first time that the NBA legend has stood up for a cause and will continue to do so.

Life comes full circle for Currys:

There will be many many Currys at the Spectrum Center here on Sunday night. Add their friends and the actual number could be enormous. But, who picks the tab for all the tickets? Well, it is going to be Seth Curry. And it may not be purely by choice. Rather, it is a penalty for losing to elder brother Stephen in the three-point contest on Saturday, the second day of NBA All Star weekend here. "Family's obviously big for us, like support, so we kind of wanted to weave that into the bet," Stephen said. "So whoever loses has to pick up the tab for all the tickets anytime we play against each other for the rest of

our careers."

Stephan admitted that is not an easy bet to lose. "The stakes are high considering how many people show up for our games."

For the Curry family, life has come a full circle with all them coming together for the All Star event at home. "I will try to get as much as I can," Stephen said. "It will be like energising my body, despite the fatigue. There will be familiar sights and familiar faces out there. I have played in this building countless games. It is pretty awesome to be back here, representing Charlotte the way I do."

Joe Harris won the three-point event, while Hamidou Diallo was best in slam dunk.