

TV PICKS

**Roland Garros:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.  
**ICC World Cup:** South Africa vs Bangladesh, Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.  
**FIFA U-20 World Cup:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF



Aditi makes cut at the US Women's Open

**CHARLESTON**  
Aditi Ashok birdied three times on her second nine including the final hole to card an even par 71 and make the cut at the US Women's Open. Aditi was one-over 143 and placed Tied-33rd as there were still many players yet to complete the round. Mamiko Higa of Japan posted an even-par 71 to maintain a one-stroke lead in the weather-hit second round. **PTI**

Patra qualifies for World Cup parallel bars final

**NEW DELHI**  
Indian gymnast Rakesh Kumar Patra has qualified for the parallel bars finals at the FIG World Cup in Koper, Slovenia. He was placed eighth with a score of 13.250. The top eight qualify for the finals. The FIG World Cup in Koper is third of the seven World Challenge Cup Series for 2019. **PTI**

Sidhanta Patnaik passes away



Sidhanta Patnaik.

SPORTS REPORTER

**BENGALURU**  
Bengaluru Sports journalist Sidhanta Patnaik passed away here on Saturday after a prolonged illness. He was 34.

Born in Bhubaneswar, Sidhanta spent most of his journalism career in Bengaluru. He began his career as a freelance writer with Cricket Country, before joining Wisden India in 2012. He was an integral part of the Wisden India Almanack team, and oversaw the running of Women's CricZone website and magazine until recently.

A champion of women's cricket, Sidhanta co-authored a book titled The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India.

Sidhanta is survived by his parents, wife and daughter. The Sports Writers Association of Bangalore (SWAB) condoled his death.

# Yuvraj Singh — triumph of spirit as much as talent

The allrounder's scintillating performance was the cornerstone of India's 2011 WC triumph

MEMORY FILES

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

He was fighting opponents, and himself too, in a silent campaign to live a dream. Something was happening to his body. "Not to the spirit," Yuvraj Singh was to recount later, glancing at the picture in his drawing room of holding the World Cup, rejoicing with the team. He was part of India's World Cup triumph in 2011 after unsuccessful attempts in 2003 and 2007 and it was a kind of "nirvana" for the celebrated cricketer who initially wanted to be a champion at roller skating. He has a pair still tucked away in an attic.

Yuvraj was a toddler when Kapil Dev's team was making history in 1983 at the World Cup. "He hailed from Chandigarh and was a hero to us. I grew up listening to inspiring tales of Kapil paaji," said the left-hander, who was "Man-

I grew up listening to inspiring tales of Kapil paaji

of-the-Series' when India regained the Cup in 2011.

Key element

He aggregated 362 runs and, importantly, claimed 15 wickets. Yuvraj's bowling, experts insisted, was the key element in India's win. His tally of wickets was far more than some of the established bowlers in the team.

"The decision to bowl was important," Yuvraj observed. It helped the team gain a bowler who could strike a restrictive line and length and also make far-reaching breakthroughs. Yuvraj bowled 75 overs in nine matches — with five for 31 in 10 overs against Ireland as his best. He also bowled his full quota in the knockout matches against Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. As batsman, his 113 against West Indies had come at a critical stage.

"It was a dream. I had a medical condition to deal with. I would feel breathless and cough constantly. But the dream of winning the Cup was the driving force of my life," said Yuvraj who must have repeated these lines countless times.

No wonder, Sachin Tendulkar described Yuvraj aptly in the message for his autobiography, calling him "Pure Inspiration". In his heart, Yuvraj has "reverence" for Tendulkar, who he describes as "simply amazing."

Rigorous preparation

The impact that Yuvraj made on the 2011 World Cup was the result of some rigorous preparation that helped him play every match of the tournament.

The circumstances demanded him to be performing consistently. He did not let down his team, bowled with his heart, batted with a calm mind, emerging the decisive factor on the field. His

absence, in hindsight, may have proved catastrophic for Indian cricket.

Yuvraj came into the 2011 World Cup with an experience of 265 ODIs but his career lasted another 30 one-dayers after the tournament was over. His last ODI appearance for India came in June 2017 in the West Indies as national selectors looked beyond this fine all-rounder, who trudged the course of domestic cricket for two years in vain, waiting for an opportunity to showcase his fitness and utility amidst rising competition.

In *The Test of My Life*, where he writes of his journey from cricket to cancer and back, Yuvraj shares his philosophy "Never give up."

As he wishes Virat Kohli and his team "success" at the World Cup, Yuvraj devotes most time to his life's new mission — YouWeCan, the foundation established to fight cancer and spread awareness about the disease.



Goal that mattered: The dream of winning the World Cup was the driving force of his life, says Yuvraj Singh. • FILE PHOTO: VIJAY LOKAPALLY

## Siniakova shatters top seed Osaka's Paris dream

Serena follows the Japanese out; Djokovic steps up his bid for a second 'Djoko Slam'

ROLAND GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**PARIS**  
World No. 1 Naomi Osaka's hopes of winning a third successive Grand Slam ended on Saturday when she was knocked out of Roland Garros in the third round by unheralded Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic.

Japanese top seed Osaka, the reigning US and Australian Open champion, crashed to a 6-4, 6-2 defeat to the 42nd-ranked Czech.

Osaka's defeat left just four of the women's top 10 seeds left in the tournament, including three-time winner Serena Williams and defending champion Simona Halep.

Serena's bid to win a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title was thwarted again when she was knocked out 6-2, 7-5 by US compatriot Sofia Kenin.

It was the 37-year-old's earliest exit at the Slams since a third round loss to Alize Cornet at Wimbledon in 2014.

"There's a lot of emotions now," said Kenin, who wasn't even born when Williams made her Paris debut in 1998.

Osaka was undone by a shocking 38 unforced errors as she finally ran out of luck in Paris having had to come back from a set down in her first two matches.

"It's amazing, I can't believe it, I am so happy now," said Siniakova, who was the women's doubles champion in Paris in 2018 alongside Barbora Krejickova.

"I played my best tennis and I hope it continues."



The big one: Katerina Siniakova was ruthless as she made top seed Naomi Osaka pay for every slip up. • REUTERS

Osaka dropped the first set for the third successive match at the tournament, squandering seven break points in all.

Siniakova made her play, breaking for 5-4 and taking the opener when Osaka sent

back her 16th unforced error of the set. The Czech, who is the World's No. 1 doubles player, kept up the pressure on the misfiring top seed, breaking for a 3-2 lead in the second set.

Siniakova backed it up

with another break for 5-2 off Osaka's third double fault of the match.

Victory was hers on Court Suzanne Lenglen when Osaka unleashed another misguided forehand.

The Czech goes on to face

Madison Keys of the United States for a place in the quarterfinals in what will be her first appearance in the last 16 of the majors.

There were no such problems for men's World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who eased into the last 16, stepping up his bid to hold all four Grand Slam titles simultaneously for the second time.

The Serbian saw off unseeded Italian Salvatore Caruso 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Crowd favourite Tsitsipas became the first Greek player in 83 years to reach the second week at Roland Garros as he survived a scare against Filip Krajinovic. The sixth seed led by two sets when the match was suspended at 5-5 in the third due to darkness on Friday.

On the resumption Saturday, Tsitsipas lost the set in a tie-break but sealed a 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(6) success on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old will take on former champion Stan Wawrinka for a place in his second Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Sunday's picks

- MEN**  
2-Nadal vs Londero  
3-Federer vs Mayer  
6-Tsitsipas vs 24-Wawrinka  
7-Nishikori vs Paire
- DOUBLES**  
Bopanna-Copil vs Lajovic-Tipsarevic
- WOMEN**  
7-Stephens vs 19-Muguruza  
12-Sevastova vs Vondrousova  
23-Vekic vs 26-Konta  
31-Martic vs Kanepi

THE RESULTS

**Men: Third round:** 14-Gael Monfils (Fra) bt Antoine Hoang (Fra) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; 4-Dominic Thiem (Aut) bt Pablo Cuevas (Uru) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; 8-Juan Martin del Potro (Arg) bt Jordan Thompson (Aus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-0; 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Martin Klizan (Svk) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.  
6-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Filip Krajinovic (Srb) 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(6); 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Salvatore Caruso (Ita) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; 9-Fabio Fognini (Ita) bt 18-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) 7-6(5), 6-4, 4-6,

(Esp) bt Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) 6-2, 7-5; Amanda Anisimova (USA) bt Irina-Camelia Begu (Rou) 7-6(6), 6-4.  
3-Simona Halep (Rom) bt 27-Lesia Tsurenko (Ukr) 6-2, 6-1; Katerina Siniakova (Cze) bt 1-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) 6-4, 6-2; 14-Madison Keys (USA) bt Anna Blinkova (Rus) 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-4; Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Monica Puig (Pur) 0-6, 6-3, 6-3.  
**Mixed doubles: First round:** 6-Hao-Ching Chan (Tpe) & Oliver Marach (Aut) bt Jessica Moore (Aus) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 5-7, 6-4, [10-5].

SUDOKU

		5		9				1
9			3	2				5
3					9			
	5		8					
8			2	6	9			1
					3		4	
		9						4
	1			3	5			8
	3			8		2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	1	6	4	3	5	9	2
2	9	4	8	7	5	3	1	6
6	3	5	1	2	9	7	4	8
1	5	7	4	9	8	6	2	3
3	6	2	5	1	7	9	8	4
4	8	9	2	3	6	1	7	5
5	1	3	7	8	4	2	6	9
7	4	6	9	5	2	8	3	1
9	2	8	3	6	1	4	5	7

## 'Invincibles' star killed in car crash



Jose Antonio Reyes. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**MADRID**  
Former Arsenal, Real Madrid and Spain star Jose Antonio Reyes has been killed in a car crash, his hometown club Sevilla said on Saturday. He was 35.

Reyes shot to fame at Sevilla before a switch to Arsenal where he was part of the unbeaten 'Invincibles' 2003-2004 Premier League winners, before spells at Real and Atletico Madrid.

Arsenal described the accident as "awful news".

## Sethu slips, recovers but slips again

Senthil Chandrasekaran finishes 18th in Race 1

ARRC

ANIRUDH VELAMURI

**BURIRAM (THAILAND)**  
It was a day of mixed emotions for IDEMITSU Honda Racing India with Rajiv Sethu finishing 22nd and Senthil Chandrasekaran 18th in Race 1 of the FIM Asian Road Racing Championship Round 3 here on Saturday.

Before the start, the mood in the camp was one of delight and optimism after Rajiv finished a career-best seventh in qualification for the Asian Production 250 category, with a personal best 1:53.573s at the Chang International Circuit.

Costly error

In a race that's done and dusted in 10 laps, one mistake can make a lot of difference — as Rajiv found out.

Mistiming the clutch release in the opening lap forced him into an impressive but unnecessary wheelie which saw him drop 14 positions.



Mixed day: Rajiv Sethu fought his way up to 10th before a crash sent him spiralling down. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Despite being forced to go wheel-to-wheel with the chasing pack, he held his nerve and fought his way up to 10th by the final lap — a position he and his team were aiming for. Looking for the slipstream at turn 3 to further move up the order, the 21-year-old lost control of his bike and crashed. He dropped places again, 12 this time, to finish a disappointing 22nd.

Teammate Senthil Chandrasekaran, placed 20th after qualifying, moved up two places to finish 18th heading into Sunday's

Round 2. Rajiv was visibly upset about not making the most of an excellent qualifying but was determined to leave Thailand with a good performance in Race 2.

"It was not what I expected, but there is a lot to learn," he said, adding, "I had a bad start, managed to recover but after the crash at the end, my aim was to just finish the race. Tomorrow is a new day, a new race. I hope to make amends."

(The writer is in Buriram at the invitation of Honda Racing India)

## Nihal Sarin crosses a milestone

Is third youngest to breach 2600 Elo

CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

**KOZHIKODE**  
India's Nihal Sarin became the world's third youngest player to cross 2600 Elo points on FIDE's rating list. In the latest list released by FIDE on Saturday, the 14-year-old from Kerala has 2606 points.

He is also India's youngest ever to reach the milestone, beating the record set by Parimarjan Negi in 2009 as a 15-year-old.

Five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand is ranked No. 9 in the world, not a mean feat for a 49-year-old. P. Harikrishna is the next-best ranked Indian at No. 25.

Three other Indians — Vidit Gujarathi, B. Adhiban and K. Sasikiran — are in the top 100. Nihal is ranked No. 240.

World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway conti-



Nihal Sarin. • FILE PHOTO

nues to be the World No. 1, followed by Fabiano Caruana (US), Ding Liren (China), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) and Anish Giri (Netherlands).

India's Koneru Humpy is the World No. 4 among women, behind the Chinese duo of Hou Yifan and Ju Wenjun and Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine. Dronavalli Harika is ranked No. 14.