

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Tamil Nadu vs Mumbai, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Khelo India Youth Games: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 10 a.m. & 1.40 p.m.
I-League: D Sport, 5 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m., 10.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Lakers power past Mavericks
LOS ANGELES
LeBron James finished with 35 points and 16 rebounds while battling a virus as Los Angeles Lakers won their seventh straight game with a 129-114 win over the Dallas Mavericks.
The results: Washington Wizards 111 bt Atlanta Hawks 101; New Orleans Pelicans 123 bt New York Knicks 111; Brooklyn Nets 117 bt Miami Heat 113; Indiana Pacers 116 bt Chicago Bulls 105; Memphis Grizzlies 134 bt San Antonio Spurs 121; Phoenix Suns 98 bt Orlando Magic 94; Utah Jazz 109 bt Charlotte Hornets 92; Los Angeles Lakers 129 bt Dallas Mavericks 114; Milwaukee Bucks 127 bt Sacramento Kings 106; Los Angeles Clippers 109 bt Golden State Warriors 100. AGENCIES



Mourinho takes a cautious approach
LONDON
Jose Mourinho expects to oversee a long-term rebuild with Tottenham because his big-spending days are over. "Balanced transfer windows, you need more time and this is the profile so for me it's about time and time to work, so more transfer windows because we are not going ever to be the transfer window king," he said. AFP

Ankita Raina bows out

SPORTS BUREAU
BENDIGO (AUSTRALIA)
Ankita Raina lost 6-3, 6-4 to top seed Patricia Maria Tig of Romania in the semifinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis on Saturday.
In the \$15,000 ITF women's event in Tunisia, Zeel Desai was beaten in the singles semifinals by Sabina Sharipova of Uzbekistan, but made the doubles final with Anastasia Tikhonova of Russia.
The results: \$25,000 ITF women, Bendigo, Australia: Singles (semifinals): Patricia Maria Tig (Rou) bt Ankita Raina 6-3, 6-4.
\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (semifinals): Sabina Sharipova (Uzb) bt Zeel Desai 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles (semifinals): Anastasia Tikhonova (Rus) & Zeel Desai bt Weronika Falkowska & Martyna Kubika (Pol) 1-6, 6-3, [14-12].

Raphael wins

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH
Raphael Collignon of Belgium and Mika Dagan Fruchtman of Israel won the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the ITF grade-3 junior tennis tournament on Saturday.
The results (finals): Boys: Raphael Collignon (Bel) bt Martin Katz (Bel) 7-5, 6-2. **Doubles:** Raphael Collignon & Martin Katz (Bel) bt Taym Alazmeh (Syr) & Tanapatt Nirudorn (Tha) 6-2, 4-6, [10-5]. **Girls:** Mika Dagan (Isr) bt Sabrina Kalandarov (Isr) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. **Doubles:** Jiayi Huang (Chn) bt Yu Yun Li (Tpe) bt Jasmine Conway (GBR) & Alessandra Simone (Ita) 7-6(6), 6-0.

'The changing face of Indian cricket'

Kapil Dev sowed the seeds for India's fast-bowling riches, says Gavaskar

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Recounting distinctive phases of Indian cricket with characteristic sobriety and the odd touch of humour, Sunil Gavaskar, delivering the 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture at the National Museum here, provided perspective to its global might on Saturday.

The 70-year-old Gavaskar, who himself represented an era in the 1970s and 80s, paid humble tribute to the contributions of a number of cricketers, including three eminent players who played alongside him for India — Ajit Wadekar, G.R. Viswanath and Kapil Dev. He narrated what qualities they brought forth to sow the seeds for a better future.

Greatest legacy

Crediting Kapil for bring "joie de vivre" to India, he said, "His greatest legacy was to show the budding India fast bowler that even on pitches without much assistance to them, they could take wickets.

"If today India has a cornucopia of fast bowlers, it is



Legendspeak: Sunil Gavaskar delivers the 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on Saturday. • ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE

thanks to Kapil Dev."

Wadekar, he said, brought in a winning mentality under his captaincy that culminated in the World Cup win in 1983. India had come a long way since the early days

when it didn't have enough confidence in its own ability.

Yet, a team could not always win, and Gavaskar admitted that some of the teams he played for had "rubbish" being thrown at

them by spectators.

He contrasted this with the reception Lala Amarnath is said to have got after scoring the first Test century by an Indian — against England in Mumbai in December,

Bopanna to pair with Sania at Oz Open

Groundwork for a better Olympics showing on in full swing

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Former World No. 3 Rohan Bopanna is all set to join hands with six-time Grand Slam champion and former World No. 1 doubles star Sania Mirza at the Australian Open.

After coming close to a medal at the Rio Olympics, when Sania and Bopanna were up a set in the semifinals against Venus Williams and Rajeev Ram, the resolve is to do better at Tokyo.

Fine start

And, Bopanna has made a fine start to the year. Winning a title in the first tournament of the season is not a new experience for Bopanna, but the win this time in Doha, partnering Wesley Koolhof, on Friday was special as it was the first time his seven-month daughter Tridha was



Well begun is...! Bopanna and Koolhof with the Qatar Open doubles trophy on Friday. • AFP

in 'attendance'.

[However, Bopanna's wife Supriya had to watch from the staircase as children below two years are not allowed inside the stadium.]

That apart, the 39-year-old Bopanna was much relieved that the therapy injections he has had have improved the

condition of his knees.

"The first thing I did after winning the title was call Dr. Madan Ballal in Bengaluru. He told me that my determination to get better had also helped in the cure," said Bopanna, on a brief stop at his home on Saturday before flying to Auckland, where he

will partner Henri Kontinen of Finland.

With his regular partner on the Tour, Denis Shapovalov of Canada opting to skip the doubles at the Australian Open, Bopanna has tied up with Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan, who won the Asian Games singles bronze.

ATK looks to continue good form against resurgent Blasters

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Host ATK will be looking to continue its good form when it takes on a resurgent Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League fixture on Sunday.

The match assumes importance for both the sides as ATK aims to regain the top slot in the current standings while the Blasters seeks to preserve the winning rhythm that it regained against Hyderabad FC (5-1) after remaining winless for nine straight matches.

Knowing well that his team has not been able to win against the present opponent

in the last five meetings, the ATK coach Antonio Lopez Habas spoke about having the right game plan. The ATK lost its season opener (1-2) visiting Kochi in the third week of October but recovered well thereafter to be among the top-four in the table in the season so far. With six wins, three draws and two loses,

ATK is now third with 21 points. It has played a match less than the current leader FC Goa and needs a win to regain the leadership. Blasters is lying at a poor eighth with just two wins in its kitty.

With injuries to key players like David Williams and Pronoy Halder unlikely to give them a start against Blasters, Habas said missing one or two

individuals cannot alter the momentum of the side. "I believe in making the best use of those who will be available for selection and I have faith in my team," Habas said.

The visitor will be looking at the form of its attackers like Raphael Messi Bouli and Bartholomew Ogbeche, who together have contributed in getting 11 of the 15 goals for the team. "We are the only team with seven foreigners and out of which six have suffered injuries at some point in the season. This has caused problems in the defence and midfield and we were not able to field the same eleven in two successive games," Schattorie said assessing his team's predicament.

Goncalves day's best for Hero

Buhler out of contention; Brabec wins Stage 6

DAKAR RALLY

SPORTS BUREAU
RIVADH

Ricky Brabec of Monster Energy Honda Racing won Stage 6 of the two-wheeler category in the Dakar Rally here on Friday. Joan Barreda Bort of Honda Racing finished second, while Matthius Walker of KTM Racing was third.

For Hero MotoSports Team Rally, Paulo Goncalves was the best rider in Stage 6 finishing eighth. Goncalves led the charge again for the team, as he put his vast experience to good use for his third top 10 in a row.

Sebastian Buhler, who has been impressive so far and was well poised to break into the top 15 in the overall rankings for Hero suffered a technical issue and could not finish.

As a result he is now out of contention in overall results, but, like teammate Joaquim Rodrigues, will opt to restart the race in Stage 7 and compete for stage results.

The rally has reached the half-way stage. Saturday was a rest day.

The results: Stage 6 (provisional): Bike: 1. Ricky Brabec



Soldiering on: C.S. Santosh leads the Hero team rankings after the sixth stage. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(Monster Energy Honda Racing) 4:36:28; 2. Joan Barreda

Bort (Monster Energy Honda Racing) 4:38:02; 3. Matthius

1933 — when women threw jewellery at him. "This has baffled me," Gavaskar said dryly, "as when we did well, nobody threw valuables at us."

Matured lot

He was quick to add that the Indian spectator had matured "since the violent days of the 1960s, 70s and 80s."

"Today's spectator is a lot better off than those days when frustration with how some of their lives were shaping made them take it out on the players from the teams that lost," he said.

It wasn't just the contributions of cricketers that helped the game blossom, he noted; the change in the financial situation of the BCCI, too, played a big role. The clout had increased further since the advent of the Indian Premier League, but Gavaskar sounded a warning.

"Today, the IPL dominates even the Ranji Trophy, and unless the playing fees for the First Class cricketer is substantially increased, he will always feel like the orphan and poor cousin of Indian cricket."

RACING

Cuban Pete wins Bangalore City Police Commissioner Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained Cuban Pete (Akshay Kumar up), won the Bangalore City Police Commissioner Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (Jan 11). The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd & Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs. **THE RESULTS**

1 INFANTS PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **BORN QUEEN** (Yash) 1, Shanaey (Irvan) 2, Flamingo Road (Srinath) 3 and Capable (Darshan) 4. 4-1/2, 1-3/4 and 3-3/4. Im 07.13s. ₹ 13 (w), 12, 19 and 12 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 40, FP: 59, Q: 63, Trinella: 122 and 30, Exacta: 462 and 310. Favourite: Born Queen. Owner: Mr. K. Narayan. Trainer: S. Narredu.

2 KALHATTI FALLS PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **ASGARDIA** (Trevor) 1, Cameleons Image (Nazerul) 2, Southern Power (A. Imran) 3 and Indian Star (P. Ramesh) 4. 3-3/4, 2 and 1-1/4. Im 25.64s. ₹ 11 (w), 11, 33 and 17 (p), SHP: 111, THP: 34, FP: 97, Q: 105, Trinella: 416 and 204, Exacta: 6,881 and 5,898. Favourite: Asgardia. Owners: Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. Rama Sesu Eyyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5 BANGALORE CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: **CUBAN PETE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Psychic Warrior (Yash) 2, Commodus (Trevor) 3 and Ice Floe (David Al) 4. 2-3/4, 12/ and Shd. Im 11.99s. ₹ 50 (w), 15, 26 and 14 (p), SHP: 65, THP: 49, FP: 1,088, Q: 666, Trinella: 2,475 and 443, Exacta: 4,209 and 1,948. Favourite: Ice Floe. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd & Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6 TROPHY (1,600m), rated 30 to 50: **FOI ET AMOUR** (David Al) 1, Cavaliere (S. John) 2, Duxton (Darshan) 3 and Smile Of Joy (Rayan) 4. Slnk, 2-3/4 and Nose. Im 37.83s. ₹ 24 (w), 12, 18 and 54 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 93, FP: 189, Q: 84, Trinella: 1,577 and 1,098, Exacta: 9,742 and 11,481. Favourite: Foi Et Amour. Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

7 KALHATTI FALLS PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **KNOTTY OAK** (Antony) 1, Legendary Princess (David Allan) 2, Augustina (C. Umesh) 3 and Alberto (Akshay Kumar) 4. 4, 1-3/4 and 11-1/2. Im 25.35s. ₹ 20 (w), 11, 13 and 17 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 36, FP: 56, Q: 30, Trinella: 130 and 66, Exacta: 633 and 303. Favourite: Knotty Oak. Owners: Mrs. Debajani B Mohapatra & Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

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RANJI SCORES, ROUND FIVE, DAY ONE

Group A
At Ongole: Hyderabad 225 in 77.5 overs (Jaweed Ali 98, K.V. Sasikanth 5/60) vs Andhra 13/0 in 4 overs. **Toss:** Andhra.
Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 227 in 75.2 overs (Robin Uthappa 48, Salman Nizar 91 n.o.) vs Punjab 46/2 in 12 overs. **Toss:** Kerala.
Jaipur: Gujarat 258/4 in 90 overs (Priyank Panchal 48, Samit Gohil 93, Bhargav Merai 54) vs Rajasthan. **Toss:** Gujarat.
Nagpur: Bengal 170 in 56 overs (Manoj Tiwary 48, Akshay Wakhare 5/56, Aditya Sarwate 4/53) vs Vidarbha 89/3 in 32 overs (Faiz Fazal 51). **Toss:** Bengal.



Group B
New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh 124 in 55 overs (Himanshu Sangwan 6/33) vs Railways 104/3 in 29 overs (Mrunal Devdhar 43 batting). **Toss:** Railways.
Chennai: Mumbai 284/6 in 89.4 overs (Jay Bista 41, Shams Mulani 87, Aditya Tare 69 batting) vs Tamil Nadu. **Toss:** Mumbai.
Kanpur: Uttar Pradesh 295/5 in 88 overs (Almas Shaukat 48, Mohammad Saif 99 batting, Rinku Singh 62) vs Baroda. **Toss:** UP.
Rajkot: Saurashtra 296/2 in 90 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 162 batting, Sheldon Jackson 99 batting) vs Karnataka. **Toss:** Saurashtra.

Group C
Guwahati: Chhattisgarh 276/7 in 90 overs (Harpreet Singh 50, Amandeep Khare 105, Shashank Singh 60 batting) vs Assam. **Toss:** Assam.
Lahli: Haryana 90 in 31 overs (Suryakant Pradhan 6/36) vs Odisha 141/5 in 53 overs (Biplab Samantray 45 batting). **Toss:** Haryana.
New Delhi: Jammu & Kashmir 338/7 in 88 overs (Shubham Khajuria 55, Parvez Rasool 171 batting) vs Services. **Toss:** Services.
Nagthane: Maharashtra 227/5 in 89 overs (Azim Kazi 70 batting, Vishant More 67 retd. hurt) vs Jharkhand. **Toss:** Maharashtra.
Agartala: Tripura vs Uttarakhand. First day's play abandoned.

Plate
Sovima: Nagaland 356/5 in 90 overs (Shrikant Mundhe 166, Rongsen Jonathan 49, Hokaito Zhimomi 76) vs Arunachal Pradesh. **Toss:** Nagaland.
Chandigarh: Sikkim 264 in 86.3 overs (Yashpal Singh 80, Iqbal Abdulla 84, Jagjit Singh 4/53) vs Chandigarh 4/1 in one over. **Toss:** Chandigarh.
Puducherry: Goa 252/7 in 83 overs (Amit Verma 113 batting) vs Pondicherry. **Toss:** Pondicherry.
Balughat: Bihar 308/5 in 92 overs (Indrajit Kumar 134, Kumar Mirdul 51, Md. Rahmatullah 67 batting) vs Manipur. **Toss:** Manipur.

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'Time has come for India to host World TT'

PRESS TRUST ON INDIA
NEW DELHI
International Table Tennis President (ITTF) Thomas Weikert on Saturday said it was the right time for India to host a mega event like the World Championships after the country decided to bid for the 2024 edition.

The Table Tennis Federation of India will submit its bid for the World Championships (team) at the end of the year. "We like the fact India is bidding for a big event like the World Championships. 2024 the right time. It is a 32-team event

and India is strong in teams. "It is easier for them to make the quarterfinals than the individual event," Weikert told PTI after the two-day executive meeting of ITTF in national capital, the first one here since 1987 when India last hosted the World Championships. The last big ITTF event that was staged in India was in 2012, when Hyderabad hosted the World Juniors. "We choose India because we think there is a huge potential in India. You can see that in the world rankings," said Weikert.