

TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. & 9 a.m.  
**Khelo India Youth Games:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 9.30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**Big Bash League:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 p.m. & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**AO Rally for Relief:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Thursday**  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.  
**Khelo India Youth Games:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.; Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 6 p.m.  
**Big Bash League:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**South Africa vs England:** 3rd Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Setien to replace Valverde at Barcelona

MADRID  
Barcelona has sacked its coach Ernesto Valverde and appointed Quique Setien as his replacement, the club announced on Monday. The decision to remove Valverde was confirmed following a board meeting on Monday afternoon." Barcelona and Quique Setien have reached an agreement for the latter to become first team coach until 30 June 2022," the club said. AFP

Ghosal loses to Rosner

NEW YORK  
Saurav Ghosal bowed out of Tournament of Champions, a PSA World Tour platinum squash event, losing to German sixth seed Simon Rosner 11-8, 11-2, 11-9 in the pre-quarterfinals on Monday.

Ummer Koya passes away

KOZHIKODE  
P.T. Ummer Koya, the former FIDE vice-president, passed away here on Tuesday. He was 69. Koya also served as the secretary of the All India Chess Federation for a long period. Koya was recognised as an active sports administrator who played a significant role in bringing major international tournaments – including the World championship – to India.



Pacers extend 76ers' woes

LOS ANGELES  
T.J. Warren scored 21 points and produced a big block with 29 seconds left on Monday as Indiana Pacers extended the Philadelphia 76ers' road woes with a 101-95 NBA victory.  
**The results:** Pelicans 117 bt Pistons 110 (OT); Pacers 101 bt 76ers 95; Celtics 113 bt Bulls 101; Oklahoma 117 bt Timberwolves 104; Trail Blazers 115 bt Hornets 112; Hornets 114 bt Kings 112; Lakers 128 bt Cavaliers 99. AGENCIES

MCC bats for five-day Tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

MCC, the custodian of cricket laws, on Tuesday said Tests should continue to be a five-day affair though it sees "some benefits" of ICC's proposal to trim the longest format to four days.

"Cricket committee and MCC World Cricket committee have recently discussed the issue and although they can see some benefits that four-day Test cricket could bring, both committees believe that Test cricket should continue to be played over five days," said the MCC.

The ICC is set to discuss the proposal during its cricket committee meeting in March. However, the feedback so far has been largely critical with top current and former players such as Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, Ian Botham and Virender Sehwag ridiculing the plan.

# Warner and Finch hammer India into submission

Their unbeaten centuries take Australia to a 10-wicket win after Starc and Cummins restrict the hosts to 255

AUS IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

The three-match ODI series between India and Australia was billed as a contest between the heavyweights.

On Tuesday, however, it seemed as if only one team turned up as a near-perfect performance saw Australia steamroller India at the Wankhede Stadium.

If Aaron Finch's bowling unit put up a clinical performance to bowl out India for 255, the skipper joined forces with David Warner to tear apart the Indian attack.

Such was the dominance of the two, Virat Kohli's men couldn't take a single wicket. Warner and Finch smashed unbeaten hundreds and also were involved in the highest opening partnership against India – 258 – as the visitors won with 74 deliveries remaining and took a 1-0 lead.

India needed early breakthroughs if they had to be competitive.

Erring in length

However, the pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur erred in their length, allowing the Australian pair to break free.

Finch, in particular, hit boundaries at will against anything that was full-pitched.



Packing a punch: David Warner celebrates his century in characteristic style. • VIVEK BENDRE

Warner soon joined the party. After being cautious initially, the left-hander changed gears in the eighth over as Shardul faced the fury of Warner's bat. A lofted cover-drive and a flick were both mistimed, but still crossed the boundary. A swat over midwicket then sailed into the stands. Warner continued in the same

vein in the Mumbai seamer's next over, a rasping cover-drive and a cut taking Australia to 84 in the PowerPlay overs.

With dew starting to play a role, the Australian openers proved unstoppable.

While the hosts were unlucky with a review, the visitors were saved thrice by DRS. Warner (128 not out,

112b, 17x4, 3x6) and Finch (110 not out, 114b, 13x4, 2x6) completed the formalities in the 38th over.

The only phase during which India was in control was during the 121-run partnership for the second wicket between Shikhar Dhawan and K.L. Rahul.

After being asked to bat, Rohit Sharma, who stroked

two majestic boundaries off Mitchell Starc's opening over, fell to the left-arm speedster in the fifth over, mistiming a drive that went straight to Warner at mid-off.

Dhawan and Rahul then saw off a threatening spell by Pat Cummins and Starc.

Though the two couldn't really go after spinners Adam Zampa and Ashton Agar later

on, they managed to keep the scoreboard ticking.

The slide begins

Just when Dhawan and Rahul were looking to accelerate, the latter chipped the first ball of left-armer Agar's new spell straight to Steve Smith at cover.

Rahul's dismissal triggered a mini-collapse as the hosts lost four wickets for 29 runs off 35 balls.

Dhawan was caught by Agar sprinting to his right at mid-off after top-edging Cummins while Kohli's full-blooded straight drive was

well caught by leg-spinner Zampa off his own bowling.

After Shreyas Iyer edged Starc to wicketkeeper Alex Carey, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja put the innings back on the rails with a 49-run stand for the sixth wicket.

However, once Jadeja nicked Kane Richardson to Carey and Pant was dismissed by Cummins, it took a late-order flourish from Shami and Kuldeep Yadav to push the hosts past 250.

That total was never going to be enough, as Warner and Finch proved.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA	AUSTRALIA
Rohit Sharma c Warner b Starc 10 (15b, 2x4), Shikhar Dhawan c Agar b Cummins 74 (91b, 9x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Smith b Agar 47 (61b, 4x4), Virat Kohli c & b Zampa 16 (14b, 1x6), Shreyas Iyer c Carey b Starc 4 (9b), Rishabh Pant c Turner b Cummins 28 (33b, 2x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Carey b Richardson 25 (32b, 2x4, 1x6), Shardul Thakur b Starc 13 (10b, 2x4), Mohammed Shami c Carey b Richardson 10 (15b, 1x4), Kuldeep Yadav run out 17 (15b, 2x4), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-3, w-8): 11; Total (in 49.1 overs): 255.	Starc 10-0-56-3, Cummins 10-1-44-2, Richardson 9.1-0-43-2, Zampa 10-0-53-1, Agar 10-1-56-1.
AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA
David Warner (not out) 128 (112b, 17x4, 3x6), Aaron Finch (not out) 110 (114b, 13x4, 2x6); Extras (b-4, lb-7, w-9): 20; Total (for no loss in 37.4 overs): 258.	David Warner (not out) 128 (112b, 17x4, 3x6), Aaron Finch (not out) 110 (114b, 13x4, 2x6); Extras (b-4, lb-7, w-9): 20; Total (for no loss in 37.4 overs): 258.
INDIA BOWLING	INDIA BOWLING
Shami 7.4-0-58-0, Bumrah 7-0-50-0, Thakur 5-0-43-0, Kuldeep 10-0-55-0, Jadeja 8-0-41-0.	Shami 7.4-0-58-0, Bumrah 7-0-50-0, Thakur 5-0-43-0, Kuldeep 10-0-55-0, Jadeja 8-0-41-0.
Toss: Australia.	Toss: Australia.
Man-of-the-Match: Warner.	Man-of-the-Match: Warner.
Australia won by 10 wickets with 74 deliveries to spare and take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.	Australia won by 10 wickets with 74 deliveries to spare and take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.
Second ODI: January 17 (Friday), Rajkot, 1.30 p.m.	Second ODI: January 17 (Friday), Rajkot, 1.30 p.m.

## Rahul's dismissal the turning point: Dhawan

SHAYAN ACHARYA  
MUMBAI

It may not have been the start India wanted, but Shikhar Dhawan termed the 10-wicket loss against Australia in the first ODI a "bad day in office". "We played well against the West Indies where all the batsmen performed. As players, we don't focus too much on things that are not happening. As a team, we need to back each other and don't focus too much on a loss," Dhawan said.

He felt that Rahul's dismissal was the turning point. "At the time KL got out, we had planned to accelerate. Those four wickets we lost, that's where we lost the momentum. We were targeting 300 and with the loss of wickets, we ended up scoring less runs than what we need on that wicket. In bowling too, we could not take early wickets. They outplayed us," said the India opener, heaping praise on Pat Cummins.

Warner, playing an ODI after nearly six months, was happy to strike form. "For us, it was about coming over here and trying to make our mark from where we left off in the World Cup," said Warner. "It's our first ODI this summer and it's away. For us, it's about trying to put on clinical performances each time we go out there. We have a great bunch of guys."

STAT SPHERE

2 Starc's second ODI in India after his debut at Visakhapatnam in 2010

2 Australia's 258/0 is the second highest ODI total in a 10-wicket run chase, after South Africa's 279 against Bangladesh (Kimberley, 2017)

4 Number of times Zampa has dismissed Kohli in ODIs.

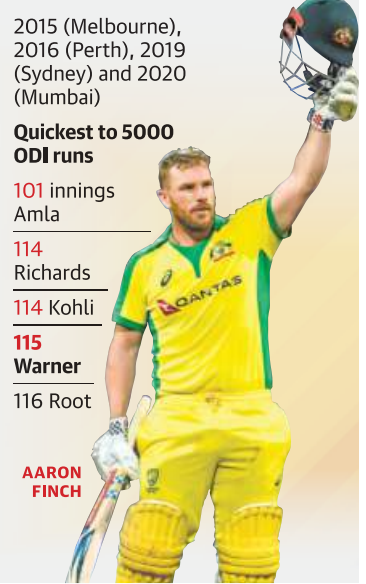
Bowlers to have claimed Kohli's wicket most times  
Ravi Rampaul 6  
Thisara Perera 5  
Southee 5

Randiv, Swann, Jhye Richardson, Zampa 4

4 Number of 150-plus opening stands between Finch and Warner, three of those have come against India

4 Century partnerships for the opening wicket by Australia against India since Oct. 2013. No other side has managed the feat even once

5 India has lost the last five ODIs, which were the first of a calendar year, against Australia - 2012 (Melbourne),



## Pant suffers concussion, being monitored

Rahul dons the big gloves

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

India wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who suffered a concussion at the time of his dismissal, couldn't take the field for Australia's chase.

"Pant is under observation at the moment. "His progress will be tracked overnight. A specialist has been consulted and an update

will be given accordingly," said a team spokesperson. A short ball from Pat Cummins hurried on to Pant and the left-hander's pull took the top-edge, rammed into the helmet and lobbed to Ashton Turner at point. With the team management confirming the concussion at the start of the second innings, K.L. Rahul donned the big gloves and Manish Pandey fielded as a substitute.

## Another century, another list — the intelligent fan's guide



BETWEEN WICKETS  
SURESH MENON

In the last century, cricket writer A A Thomson gave this advice to a friend who asked which ten books he should start a cricket collection with: "Any eight by Cardus." What about this century? I shall borrow from Thomson and start by saying, "Anything by Gideon Haigh..."

Three personal favourites are *Stroke of Genius: Victor Trumper and the Shot That Changed Cricket*, about a player, a single stroke, a history of the game and what it means to people, identity and more. *Mystery Spinner* is the story of Jack Iverson while *Silent Revolutions* is a delightful collection of Haigh's journalism. Haigh's secret has been known for some time. He brings to his journalistic pieces the same discipline, controlled intensity and authority that he displays in his books.

For the remaining titles, I have divided the books into five broad categories: Concerning India, biographies and autobiographies, history, issues of the game and anthologies.

Ramachandra Guha's *A Corner of a Foreign Field* brought Indian cricket writing into the 21st century, weaving together many threads – historical, biographical, personal, political, cultural, philosophical – in a vibrant, original pattern. Prashanth Kidambi's recent *Cricket Country*, the well-researched story of an Indian team's first tour of England in 1911 sits comfortably alongside it, another fine example of a scholar turning his attention to cricket.

*Pundits From Pakistan*, written a decade and a half ago on the Indian team's tour of Pakistan remains fresh and reaf-

firms that its author, Rahul Bhattacharya is one of the finest cricket writers anywhere.

Among efforts by players, there is Aakash Chopra's debut *Beyond The Blues* and its companion, *Out of the Blue*. The diary of a season, and then the story of Rajasthan's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph are narrated with an empathy few players bring to their writing.

The final choice is James Astill's *The Great Tamasha*, a story of Indian cricket with all its chaos and mismanagement. "There's great passion for cricket in this country," the late Tiger Pataudi told Astill, "but little knowledge."

*Opening up*  
Knowledge comes through in Michael Atherton's *Opening Up*, by a sportsman with the rare quality of self-awareness. Perhaps there is something about opening batsmen – Chopra was one – for my next choice is Marcus Trescothick's moving, candid story of his depression in *Coming Back to Me*, which brought mental issues out in the open.

When Jack Fingleton first met Don Bradman, the latter corrected his pronunciation. The relationship never improved. The story is told in George Growden's *The Man Who Stood Up to Bradman*. The famous Bill Woodfull quote in the dressing room during Bodyline ("there are two teams out there; one is trying to play cricket, the other is not") was leaked to the press. Fingleton was responsible, according to Bradman. No, it was Bradman himself who leaked it, Fingleton always insisted and provided the clues.

*Cricket: The Game of Life* by Scyld Berry, ex-editor of Wisden and the doyen of journalists is a paean to the game by someone close to it in every sense.

The history of Pakistan cricket, *The Unquiet Ones* by Osman Samiuddin is an account by an insider who had the advantage of distance, while *The Fire Burns Blue*, the story of women's cricket

in India is a lovingly constructed history by Karunya Keshav and the late Sidhanta Patnaik. *Bodyline Autopsy* by David Frith might well be the final word on the subject, it is that comprehensive.

*A study of cricket suicides*  
Frith also wrote *Silence of The Heart*, a study of cricket suicides. It tries to answer the question: Are cricketers at greater risk of suicide, and if so why? The conclusion may not be scientific, but the research and the narration – two Frith specialties – are impressive. Mike Brearley, who wrote the foreword to that book, examines with his usual combination of authority and profundity the question of form in cricket in *On Form*. There is width as well as depth here.

Malcolm Knox's *Never a Gentleman's Game* is a reminder that the game has seldom been pure. Most of the maladies afflicting the game today have a long history, and this book is recommended to those who think match-fixing began at the turn of the century. To be read with Simon Rae's story of "skullduggery, sharp practice and downright cheating in the noble game", *It's Not Cricket*.

The century's most original book analyses its most original format, the T20. *Cricket 2.0* by Tim Wigmore and Freddie Wilde takes us where cover drives and vicious pulls are not as important as the data they give rise to. The IPL is no longer "cricketainment" but a business venture where the computer is king and the number-cruncher is coach. A fascinating look at a format we are still coming to grips with.

Finally, the anthologies. Frith, Atherton, Richie Benaud, Brearley have all had their journalism put together in books. *Picador Book of Cricket* by Ramachandra Guha stands out here. *The Meaning of Cricket* by Jon Hotten is a delight. The subtitle – *How to Waste Your Life on Inconsequential Sport* – says it all.

## Ganguly non-committal on D-N Test down under

SHAYAN ACHARYA  
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli, ahead of the ODI series against Australia, had made it clear that his team was ready to play a day-night Test in Australia later this year.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, however, revealed that the Board is yet to take a call on the matter. "He (Virat) is a tremendous ambassador of the game and that's why he is such a great player. (As far as day-night Test is concerned), let's see what happens," Ganguly told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards on Monday.

The top brass from the BCCI and Cricket Australia met here over the last couple of days, along with members



Sourav Ganguly. • R. RAGU

of Cricket South Africa and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Though Ganguly termed the meetings 'meet and greet' sessions, it is understood that a range of issues were discussed, including

## Sania makes a winning return

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
HOBART

Six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza made a successful return to the professional circuit after two years.

Sania and Nadiia Kichenok of Ukraine posted a 2-6, 7-6(3), 10-3 win over Oksana Kalashnikova and Miyu Kato in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$275,000 WTA tournament on Tuesday.

The fifth-seeded Sania and Nadiia will next play Vania King and Christina Mchale of the USA.

"Today was one of the most special days of my life.



Sania Mirza. • GETTY IMAGES

To have my parents and my little baby boy with me in my first match after so long... And we won our first round. Feel very grateful for the love I am receiving," Sania tweeted.

**The results:**  
**\$275,000 WTA, Hobart: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Nadiia Kichenok (Ukr) & Sania Mirza bt Oksana Kalashnikova (Geo) &

Miyu Kato (Jpn) 2-6, 7-6(3), 10-3.  
**\$54,160 Challenger, Bangkok: Second round:** Santiago Giraldo (Col) bt Sidharth Rawat 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-4. **Doubles (pre-quarters):** Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Goncalo Oliveira (Por) & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) 6-3, 6-3.  
**\$54,160 Challenger, Bendigo, Australia: Second round:** Sasikumar Mukund bt Yoshihito Nishioka (Jpn) 5-2 (ret'd.). **Doubles (pre-quarters):** Sun Fajing (Chn) & Sasikumar Mukund bt Luca Margaroli (Sui) & Andrea Vavassori (Ita) 6-3, 6-4.  
**\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Duje Kekez (Cro) & Gergely Madarasz (Hun) bt Nathan Seateun (Fra) & S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-0, 6-2.