

SENSEX	78,472.87 points down by 67.3 points	NIFTY	23,727.65 points down by 25.8 points	GOLD:	Rs 75,600 per 10 gram up by 100	SILVER:	Rs 99,000 per 1 Kg
---------------	---	--------------	---	--------------	------------------------------------	----------------	--------------------

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Sualiha Iqbal
Class:- 4th 'A'
D.O.B:- 26-12-2014
JKPS Panjtirthi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Vidhant Wazir
Class:- 10th
D.O.B:- 26-12-2008
JKPS Panjtirthi

JAI HIND
Make Repair & Clean
at Door Step
of your Home,
Water Tank Curtain,
Sofa Sets, Chairs,
Modular Kitchen and
All types of Floor Tiles,
Cars & Carpet with
Modern Tech
at PARADE, JAMMU
(M) : 7889668058, 8491968058

NOTICE
I, Babli Devi W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Bonpora Batmaloo Srinagar A/P Lane No. 6 Near Sainik School Nagrota Jammu state that my name my son name and daughter name has been wrongly written as Bablee instead of Babli Devi Son name wrongly Vanish instead of Vansh Singh Slathia and Daughter name wrongly Riya instead of Riya Slathia in Ration Card bearing No. 0007093 D form No. 18711. Now I am applying for the correction of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) Office, Jammu within seven days.

FOR BOOKING ADVERTISEMENT CONTACT
91 9086175696
advl.statetimes@gmail.com.
STATE TIMES

India have their 'nose ahead', they have exploited Australia's 'brittle' top order, says Shastri

■ AGENCY
MELBOURNE: Former coach Ravi Shastri has backed India to win the Boxing Day Test, saying the visitors have exploited Australia's "brittle" top order to have their "nose ahead" in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.



Shastri added that Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is "almost single-handedly" responsible for the visitors keeping the series levelled at 1-1. "I think India would take this, the way the series is poised. Any overseas team being 1-1, especially with the games being in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane, they would take this. "Going 1-1 into Boxing Day is the best case scenario. I would say India have their nose ahead," Shastri told news.com.au. Australia's top order comprising Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney and Marnus Labuschagne have been unable to score against Bumrah. It has forced them to hand a debut to teenage sensation Sam Konstas while dropping rookie opener Nathan McSweeney. "It's been pretty brittle. When you look at this Australian line-up, it's been a long time since I've seen an Australian line-up where the top order is that brittle. India have exploited that and continue to exploit it," Shastri said. All-rounder Mitchell Marsh has also largely struggled for runs. In the last year, Labuschagne, Marsh, Khawaja and Steve Smith all had average less than 30 in

Test cricket. "India is 1-1 in the series and that man (Bumrah) has almost single-handedly got India into that position," Shastri said. "As far as Konstas goes, I think he's very refreshing. He's got flair, he's got flamboyance. But Test cricket is Test cricket. His technique will tighten up and he will be the future for Australia." Shastri feels McSweeney was unfortunate to have been axed after just three Tests. "McSweeney was very unfortunate. He did the hard yards but he's a middle order batsman. I see him travelling to Sri Lanka when the Australian team go there and rebuild his career from there. "But I think it's a good move getting Konstas in because you need someone who can take the attack to the Indian team, because the punches were coming from nowhere." India have won the last two series in Australia and now have the opportunity to become only the third touring side to win three consecutive series Down Under, joining the West Indies (1984/85, 1988/89, 1992/93) and South Africa (2008/09, 2012/13, 2016/17). "Massive. No team has done that in a long time. Australia hammers sides when they come here. For India to pull off three on the trot will be something special. "But they'll have to play good cricket. I see Australia coming hard in this Test match, especially with the bowlers. It's the batting that'll be the challenge for Australia more than anything else." Shastri feels India has come to Australia with a strong intent to win. "India have come here to win, they haven't come here to fill in the numbers. Even when I was the coach, our mantra was to play extremely hard, fair and to win. "You have to think of a method to beat Australia and not just compete. You've got to plan properly, how to take your 20 wickets. India have done that and been very aggressive. "They've been in the face of Australia and give as good as they get. It's been entertaining and feisty stuff. The first day of the Boxing Day Test will determine which way the series will go," he added.

NADA update on Hima Das suspension creates confusion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Asian Games gold medallist sprinter Hima Das, who was exonerated for a 'whereabouts' failure by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), was handed a retrospective suspension by the same body in an unusual turn of events. The 16-month suspension period ran from July 22, 2023 to November 21, 2024 and the athlete is now free to take part in tournaments but what she had been competing in events as recently as in June this year. NADA has recently announced that she was suspended by its anti-doping panels for failing to provide her whereabouts. Known as the 'Dhing Express', she was handed the suspension under a



case resolution agreement as per the NADA website. She is currently training in Thiruvananthapuram. The timeline around her suspension has created confusion as the athlete has been competing since April this year, including participating in the Indian Grand Prix meet in Bengaluru and the National Inter-State meet in Panchkula in June even as her suspension was till November 21, 2024. The most intriguing thing is that she ran four

The development comes weeks after Hima received an all-clear from the NADA's Anti-Doping Appeal Panel (ADAP) which exonerated her from doping charges arising out of three whereabouts failures in 12 months. No details were provided by the agency on how the panels (Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel) arrived at their conclusion that there was no 'whereabouts' failure on her part. The 24-year-old Hima was last year provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for three whereabouts failures in 12 months. She was, however, cleared by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) following a hearing in March. She returned to action in 200m at the Indian Grand Prix 1 in Bengaluru on April 30. In a September 4 decision, the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel upheld the Disciplinary Panel's ruling to clear her of doping charges.

Bumrah equals Ashwin's record for rating points in ICC Ranking for Bowlers



■ AGENCY
DUBAI: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah got a huge boost on the eve of the Boxing Day Test when he achieved the joint-highest rating ever by an Indian player, equalling the record held by spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in the ICC Ranking for Bowlers. The quick gained 14 rating points following his 9/94 in the drawn third Test at Brisbane to not only equal Ashwin's highest-ever 904 rating points but also consolidate his position at the top of the rankings. Bumrah has a chance to better Ashwin's rating points,

which the now-retired off-spinner achieved in December 2016, when the fourth match of the Border-Gavaskar Test begins at the MCG on Thursday. South Africa's Kagiso Rabada (856) and Australia's Josh Hazlewood (852) are trailing the Indian pacer at the second and third place respectively. Charismatic Australian batter Travis Head's stellar run in the ongoing series against India helped him climb to fourth spot (825 rating points) in the Test Ranking for Batters. He is still behind the England duo of Joe Root (895)

and Harry Brook (876), and former New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (867). Head smashed a scintillating 152 at the Gabba to follow up his century in the second Test at Adelaide. Compatriot Steve Smith's century at the Gabba got him into the top-10 once again. Among all-rounders, India's Ravindra Jadeja continues to lead the lead the chart with 424 rating points, while Australia skipper Pat Cummins earned his place back in the top-10, following his four wickets and 42 runs in the third Test at Gabba.

PKL eliminators: UP Yodhdhas to take on Jaipur Pink Panthers, Patna Pirates face U Mumba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PUNE: UP Yodhdhas will play Jaipur Pink Panthers, while Patna Pirates will be up against U Mumba in the eliminators of the Pro Kabaddi League here on Thursday. In the fray for the top prize are Haryana Steelers and UP Yodhdhas, both of whom have never won the title, and along with them are three-time champions Patna Pirates, season 8 winners Dabang Delhi KC, season 1 and 9 title holders Jaipur Pink Panthers, and season 2 champions U Mumba, who sealed qualification for the playoffs with the last game of the league stage. The winners of the eliminators will take on Haryana Steelers and Dabang Delhi KC in the semifinals scheduled for Friday. Table toppers Haryana Steelers, who are through to the semi-finals, are gunning for their first PKL title while Dabang Delhi KC have been one of the best teams this season and have stitched together a 15-match unbeaten streak, which helped them secure



the second position on the points table. UP Yodhdhas, who had to go back to the drawing board before the season began, have seen their young raiders and the defence step up in style and U Mumba stormed into the PKL Season 11 playoffs with a superb win against the Bengal Warriorz in the final league

stage game this season. Among the highlights for U Mumba this season has been that the young brigade have led from the front. Having finished sixth on the points table, Jaipur Pink Panthers are looking for their third title. And coach Sanjeev Balyan believes that the men-

tality and preparations for the playoff week has to be different. "The playoff is a different kettle of fish and there are no second chances like during the league stage. And moreover, to win the PKL title again, the whole squad has to play well, and support Arjun Deshwal."

Indian cricket in 2024: Painful trophy wait ends before rare loss at home triggers transition talk

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The monkey was finally off India's back in a roller-coaster 2024 when the financial giants of international cricket ended a 13-year wait for a world title, lost a rare Test series at home and dealt with transition triggered by both expected and unexpected retirements by the stalwarts of the game. There was plenty of action over the last 12 months that kept the loyal Indian fan interested. The Indian cricket team and its unparalleled fan base were desperate for an ICC trophy after repeatedly faltering in the knock-out stages over the past decade, most recently in the ODI World Cup final at home last year. The trophy finally came home after Rohit Sharma and Co. played a near perfect tournament to become the T20 World Cup champions in the USA and the Caribbean. India's clarity of thought throughout the one-month long event was remarkable and with a little bit of luck on their side, especially in the final at Barbados, they were able to go the dis-

tance. On undercooked pitches in New York, they were pace heavy before unleashing their trump card Kuldeep Yadav from the Super 8 stage of the tournament. India picked as many as four spinners in the squad but played three in Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep. With Jadeja not getting to do much with both bat and ball, Axar came of age in the competition producing match-winning performances with both and ball. The pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh also played their part to perfection, collecting 15 and 17 wickets respectively. In the batting department, Rohit led from the front with a fearless approach that demoralised opposition attacks. His approach was best summed up in the Super 8 game against Australia where he tore into the likes of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins to make all the difference in the game. His opening partner Kohli was not able to make the contributions that were



expected out of him but the superstar came up with an innings of immense substance when it mattered the most -- his not-so-fluent 76 of 59 balls kept India in the final after a poor start. The contributions from all-rounder Hardik Pandya, future captain Suryakumar Yadav and Rishabh Pant, playing his first international event following his comeback from a life-threatening car accident, were also noteworthy. A better script could not have been written for the likes of Rohit and Kohli, who got to say goodbye to

the T20 format with the coveted trophy in their hands. It was also a fitting farewell for head coach Rahul Dravid, whose tenure drew to a close. With Rohit calling it a day, it was expected that Hardik will lead the T20 side into the transition phase, having captained the side in the former's absence. However, Dravid's successor Gautam Gambhir had a different line of thinking as he played a major hand in elevating India's best T20 batter Suryakumar to the leadership position ahead of the series in Sri Lanka. To be fair to Suryakumar,

the team has ticked all the boxes since he took over, also witnessing the rise of Tilak Verma and rebirth of the likes of Sanju Samson and Varun Chakaravarty. All three were simply sensational in India's recent T20 series in South Africa. Alongside Samson, Abhishek Sharma has also shown the talent and resolve at the top of the order and could serve India for long. While India moved on from the mighty duo of Rohit and Kohli in the shortest format rather quickly, the same is unlikely in the Test team. The chatter around the

future of senior players in the Test team has gained momentum after India's first whitewash at home in a three-match series and more recently, the sudden retirement of premier off-spinner R Ashwin. India's loss to New Zealand in their own backyard was easily one of the most embarrassing outcomes for the team in Test cricket over the past decade. Having slayed 'Bazball' earlier in the year against England, India blanked Bangladesh and were expected to hand out a similar treatment to the visiting Black Caps. However, in a stunning turn of events, the spirited Kiwis out-batted and out-bowled Rohit and Co. to script their biggest series wins overseas. The Indian batters' weakness against the turning ball was exposed threadbare and the duo of Ashwin and Jadeja, who run through sides for fun at home, were bettered by Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel. It was only after landing in Australia, Ashwin made up his mind on retirement

but his underwhelming outing against New Zealand may have contributed to his big decision. With Ashwin gone and Mohammed Shami not available, a Test transition is well underway Down Under. The outcome of the remaining two Tests will determine where the Indian batting stands. India is the engine of the global game and its influence on the sport increased further with the elevation of Jay Shah as ICC chairman, making him the fifth from the country at the helm of the governing body after Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar. Shah took over in early December and has already made his presence felt by ending the deadlock over the hosting of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan by ensuring consensus for a reciprocal hybrid model in which India will not be required to travel across the border for any ICC event till 2028. Likewise, Pakistan too will get a neutral venue in case of an event in India. Going forward, Shah will

need to make a conscious effort to align India's interests with the game globally. Under his tenure, the ICC needs to find a way to save Test cricket outside the big three and use the T20 format to break new barriers like it did in the T20 World Cup last year. The build up to cricket returns at Summer Olympics in 2028 will also be at the top of his agenda. The IPL players' auction in Jeddah witnessed record-shattering action with Rishabh Pant (Rs 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer (26.75 crore) becoming the first set of players to invite bids in excess of Rs 25 crore. Amid all the drama in men's cricket, women's cricket continued to be relatively stagnant in terms of performance with ODI and T20 debacles in Australia along with an early exit from the T20 World Cup being the talking points. However, the team did manage to log its first home series triumph at home in five years by beating the West Indies in a T20 showdown.