

RECOVERING FROM ANKLE INJURY, NEYMAR EXPECTED TO MAKE PSG RETURN IN JANUARY

AUS OPEN ORGANISER SAYS FEDERER IS TRAINING AND COMMITTED TO PLAY THE GRAND SLAM



GALLERY

Burns cleared for second Test; Pucovski ruled out

Hit on the elbow during the pink-ball series opener, Australia's Joe Burns was on Sunday cleared to play the second Test against India. But young Will Pucovski was ruled out as he continues to recover from concussion. Burns suffered a nasty blow on his elbow off a Jasprit Bumrah delivery during the first Test at Adelaide.

Seifert leads NZ home to wrap up Pakistan T20 series: Tim Seifert's 84 not out trumped an unbeaten 99 by Mohammed Hafeez as New Zealand claimed the second Twenty20 against Pakistan by nine wickets in Hamilton on Sunday to take the series with a game to spare. New Zealand chased down Pakistan's 163 for six with four balls to spare.

Brief scores: Pakistan 163/6 in 20 overs (M Hafeez 99 no; Southee 4/21) lost to New Zealand 164/1 in 19.2 overs (T Seifert 84 no, K Williamson 57 no).

SCG still preferred venue for 3rd Test, says Hockley: Cricket Australia on



Sunday said the SCG remains its preferred venue for the third Test against India after reports emerged that the governing body is contemplating swapping the last two games of the four-Test series due to growing Covid-19 cases in Sydney. "We've made no changes to our schedule and our preference remains to play the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground," Hockley stated.

12 Indian juniors in contention, four crash out: A total of 12 Indian juniors of the participating 16 masters registered victories in contrasting fashion to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Fide Online World Cadets and Youth Rapid Chess Championships being played from home in five age categories in both the Open and Girls' group. On the opening day of the four-day global meet, four players failed to qualify for the last eight.

Tiger's son makes TV debut: The guy with a swoosh on his shirt and a Tiger head cover on his driver looked pretty good. So did Tiger Woods. Charlie Woods, the 11-year-old son of the 15-time major champion, made his national TV debut Saturday in the PNC Championship. And according to his dad, he played just like he does at home. Never mind that he had some 250 people following along. Charlie confidently twirled his club before shots, quickly picked up the tee on his drives and even pumped his fist on the par-5 third hole with a 3-wood into 3 feet for eagle. They finished the scramble format at 10-under 62, four shots behind Matt Kuchar and son Cameron.

Big win for BDL: BDL defeated R Dayanand by 180 runs in the HCA A-1 three-day league match on Sunday.

Brief scores: BDL 292/9 in 90 overs & 213/2 in 40 overs (Sandeep Goud 70no, K Hima Teja 56no) bt R Dayanand 160 in 46.5 overs & 165/9 in 40 overs (K Bhagath Varma 47, R Yeshwanth Reddy 3/18). **Points:** BDL 6, R Dayanand 0. **TNN & AGENCIES**

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: ISL: ATK Mohun Bagan vs Bengaluru FC, 7.30 pm (Star Sports 2); EPL: Burnley vs Wolves, 11 pm; Chelsea vs West Ham, 1.30 am Tuesday (Star Sports Select 1)

OVERHAUL AFTER DEBACLE

Gill, Jadeja, Rahul, Pant Set For Boxing Day Test; Siraj Or Saini May Replace Shami

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Rattled by their sensational collapse in Adelaide, India might completely revamp their XI for the second Test in Melbourne, ringing as many as five changes. TOI has learnt. Two of the changes are forced because of Virat Kohli's absence and Mohammed Shami's injury.

"Opener Prithvi Shaw could be replaced by KL Rahul, talented youngster Shubman Gill will make his Test debut, replacing skipper Virat Kohli at No 4. Hanuma Vihari may make way for the fit-again Ravindra Jadeja. Wriddhiman Saha could lose his wicket-keeper's spot to Rishabh Pant, and either of Mohammed Siraj or Navdeep Saini can replace injured pacer Mohammed Shami," a BCCI source said.

As Siraj and Saini are already a part of the squad, the BCCI is unlikely to name a replacement for Shami, who fractured his hand in the second innings while fending off a Pat Cummins bouncer.

Shaw showed enough technical deficiencies to suggest he may not be ready for Test cricket yet, as leg-spin great Shane Warne quipped after the game. What makes his case worse is his poor fielding. In Shaw's absence, Mayank Agarwal could open the batting with KL Rahul, who was in blazing form in the IPL, finishing as the top run-scorer.

However, as former India batsman-turned commentator Sanjay Manjrekar pointed out, Rahul has had his share of poor performances in the last five Test series that he has played in. In his last five series, Rahul's averages read: 7.1 against South Africa, 29 against England, 18 against the West Indies at home, 10.7 versus Australia (on India's last tour in 2018-19), and 25.4 versus the West Indies.

"In cricket, form is everything, and he's in form," said the source.

Meanwhile, having impressed everyone with knocks of 43 (off 58 balls) & 65 (off just 78 balls) in the second warm-up game in Sydney, Gill is set to make his Test debut in the absence of Kohli. Though he can open, Gill is set to bat at Kohli's usual No 4.

The unimpressive Vihari, who managed just 16 and 8 in Adelaide, will make way for Jadeja. "This way, we get an all-rounder at No 6. We can then enjoy the luxury of five specialist bowlers — two spinners and three pacers," said the source. It helps that Jadeja is a 'gun fielder,' and will help lift India's fielding standards.

Saha was out to poor shots in both innings in Adelaide, and his normally safe wicketkeeping was also not at its best. Pant had cracked an unbeaten hundred off just 73 balls in the second

innings of India's second warm-up game, which was played with the pink ball, against Australia 'A'. The young wicketkeeper wasn't in good form in the IPL, but had scored a hundred in the fourth and final Test in Sydney on many's last tour to Australia. It helps that he's a left-hander and can attack the ball, something which can make up for the ultra-conservative approach adopted by some of India's top-order batsmen these days.

Shami is likely to be replaced by Siraj or Saini, though at the moment, Siraj, who took 3/83 in the first warm-up game, holds the edge. "The good thing is that both Siraj and Saini can generate good pace," said the source.



FACE THE PACE: Rishabh Pant (left) and KL Rahul

INDIA'S CHANGES FOR BOXING DAY TEST

● KL Rahul to replace Prithvi Shaw in opening slot



● Shubman Gill to fill Virat Kohli's big boots at No. 4



● Ravindra Jadeja to replace Hanuma Vihari at No. 6

● Rishabh Pant will come in; wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha will go out

● Between Mohammed Siraj and Navdeep Saini, Siraj has the edge when it comes to replacing the injured Mohammed Shami

It's time to answer the tough questions

Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com

The Indian team's collapse in the second innings of the Adelaide Test has sent shock waves through the cricketing world. Although Saturday's performance was stupefying, there have been many batting collapses for India in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia) countries over the last six years or so.

Chief coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun and field-



ANOTHER LET-OFF: Virat Kohli gestures after dropping a catch during the T20I series in Australia

ing coach R Sridhar have been there with the team for long. Current batting coach Vikram Rathour joined the team after the 2019 ODI World Cup. TOI explains why the support staff members have been under the scanner of late...

Catching, fielding hit abysmal lows

India dropped five catches in Australia's first innings. Labuschagne got three lives. Paine was dropped by Agarwal when Australia's score was 111/7. Paine went on to score 47 more runs and helped Australia add 80 runs for the last three wickets.

In the T20I series, India muffed a total of 12 chances besides some dreadful ground fielding. In the ODI series, they dropped 7 catches and the ground fielding was below par too.

Earlier this year, in the two Tests they lost to New Zealand, India put down six chances, three in Christchurch and three in Wellington. In the ODIs which India lost 0-3, Kohli and his boys fluffed another six chances.

In the 2017-18 India-South Africa Tests in South Africa, which India lost 1-2, the team dropped six catches. In 2018, India went to England and lost the Tests 1-4, missing a total of 10 chances. Interestingly, during the South Africa and England series there was a revolving slip cordon and the team didn't assign any one particular player to a specific slip position.

Problems mount for batting coach Rathour joined the Indian team

India's Support Staff Must Address Issues Facing The Team In Virtually Every Department Of The Game...

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: While one expects major changes in the Indian playing XI for the Boxing Day Test, the selection of players will also be a marker to the policy the team management intends to adopt. TOI understands that the emphasis will now largely be on grooming the next generation of Test cricketers. In doing so, one may expect to see the youngsters getting a longer rope over the next two scheduled series.

The likes of Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill are seen as heavy investments. Pant, who had fallen out of favour in the last year, could get one more long run. Pant, it is learnt, is set to get a run in the four-match Test series against England at home after the team returns from Australia.

According to sources, regular captain Virat Kohli is due to hold a special team meeting before he flies back to India on Tuesday. "The emphasis of the meeting will be to motivate and give confidence to the young boys for the rest of the series," the source said. "Pant is most likely to get a run of seven Tests unless he fails miserably in Australia."

The National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru will also start monitoring left-handed opener Devdutt Padikkal's progress and he is likely to be groomed as a backup opener.

Seniors given stern message

Senior batsmen like Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane too have been given strong messages. Pujara has struggled to score big post the last tour of Australia in 2018-19. Even Rahane's form has been indifferent for three years. "Both of them really need to deliver and take on the responsibility," the source added. The decision to send in a nightwatchman in Jasprit Bumrah on Day Two hasn't gone down well with the team management.

Why Prithvi needs time off

With all the talk around Prithvi Shaw's technical deficiency, the 21-year-old is likely to be given some time off to introspect. There have also been issues with Shaw's on-field concentration. "His mind is swaying too much while he is on the field. He needs to take some time off and work on his concentration," the source said.

Simranjeet, Manish strike gold; India end WC with 9 medals

New Delhi: Indian women boxers Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) and Manish (57kg) notched up gold medals with contrasting final wins in the Cologne World Cup in Germany. Manish defeated compatriot Sankhi 3-2, while Simranjeet got the better of German Maya Klienheans 4-1 to finish on top in their respective categories.

India finished the competition at the second spot overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze

medals. On Saturday, Asian Games champion Amit Panghal (52kg) had claimed the sole gold among men. He got a walkover in the finals.

Veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) had to settle for a silver after an injury forced him to withdraw from the finals. Sonia Lather (57kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) Gaurav Solanki (57kg) and Mohamed Hussamudin (57kg) had claimed the bronze medal in their respective categories. **PH**

Leaders Mumbai down Hyderabad

Aditya.Singh@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: League leaders Mumbai City FC put up a dominant show as they beat Hyderabad FC 2-0 at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Sunday. Vignesh Dakshinamurthy scored a stunner past Hyderabad keeper Subrata Paul from a Bipin Singh assist in the first-half. Adam Le Fondre doubled the Mumbai's lead at the hour mark when he drove the ball home thanks to a Rowlin Borges pass.

Mumbai City dictated the proceedings in the early minutes, keeping the possession and moving the ball well. Bipin set up

a header for Borges, who was offside. Minutes later, Rayner Fernandes was through on goal, but saw his charge stopped by Hyderabad midfielder Joao Victor. Hyderabad struggled to set up attacks due to lack of possession. Mumbai capitalized on this as Ahmed Jahouh gave a long pass to Bipin. The Manupuri set up Vignesh, who hit a curling shot inside the net.

Mohammed Yasir wasted a chance to pull Hyderabad level moments later, when he directed a perfect cross by Akash Mishra just wide of the goal. The teams were more evenly matched at the start of the second half, as they played the ball back-

and-forth across the field. But Mumbai scored their second goal at the hour mark after Borges wrestled the ball near the box and delivered a short pass to Le Fondre, who made no mistake. Mourtaad Fall nearly tripled Mumbai's lead minutes later, heading a far post cross by Bipin wide.

Substitute Liston Colaco tried to lead Hyderabad's fightback but failed to break the Mumbai's defence. Despite several attempts by Hyderabad, Mumbai maintained a clean sheet to go three points clear at the top of the league table as Hyderabad, who suffered their first defeat of the season, remained at the sixth position.

Victory Parade wins main event

Hyderabad: D Netto-trained Victory Parade, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won feature event at the races here on Sunday.

1. Royal Tern Plate (Div I) 100M: Falcon Edge (A Kumar) 1, Proud 2, City Of Bliss 3, Total Darc 4. Won by: NK, 2L, 1/4L, T-1:07.76S, Rs:10, 5.12, 7.SHP, Rs:5L, THP: Rs: 36. Fc: Rs:155, Q: Rs:105, Tanala: Rs: 407 (57). Fav: Falcon Edge (R.H.Sequeira).

2. Flying Treasure Plate (Div I) 1400M: Stud Poker (S Narreddu) 1, Due Diligence 2, Chudkit 3, Queen Daenerys 4. Won by: 1/2L, 3/4L, 2L, T-1:28.46S, Rs: 13, 7.7, 8. SHP: Rs: 36. THP: Rs: 1L, Fc: Rs: 138, Q: Rs: 86, Tanala: Rs: 865 (20). Fav: Queen Daenerys (L. Singh).

3. Royal Tern Plate (Div II) 100M: Indie (A Kumar) 1, The Prospect 2, Unmatched 3, Hot Seat 4. Won by: NK, 2-1/4L, 1/2L, T-1:07.95S, Rs:12, 5, 6, 14, SHP: Rs:12, THP: Rs: 56. Fc: Rs: 48, Q: Rs: 19, Tanala: Rs: 523 (12). Fav: Painted Apache (L. Singh).

4. Rainbows For Life Plate 1400M: Victory Parade (A Kumar) 1, Naydeep 2, Consigliori 3, Exclusive Blue 4. Won by: 1-1/2L, 1-1/2L, Hd, T-1:25.89S, Rs:13, 13.15, 7.SHP: Rs:78, THP: Rs: 19. Fc: Rs: 299, Q: Rs: 202, Tanala: Rs: 1935 (7). Fav: Exclusive Blue (D Netto).

5. Flying Treasure Plate (Div II) 1400M: Bisate (K Singh) 1, Maxwell 2, Red



Snaper 3, Kintsugi 4. Won by: 1L, 4-1/4L, 2-3/4L, T-1:27.43S, Rs:14, 6, 10, 16, SHP: Rs: 2L, THP: Rs: 26. Fc: Rs: 52, Q: Rs: 34, Tanala: Rs: 1856 (8). Fav: City Of Passion (L. Singh).

6. Ming Dynasty Plate 1800M: Artistry (G Singh) 1, NRI Heights 2, Ruletheworld 3, Miss Marvellous 4. Won by: 4-1/4L, 1L, NkL, T-1:27.76S, Rs: 9, 5.15, 38. SHP: Rs: 42, THP: Rs: 35. Fc: Rs: 81L, Q: Rs: 483, Tanala: Rs: 2330 (9). Fav: City Of Wisdom (N.R. Singh).

7. Gallant Commander Plate 1400M: Ballius (A Kumar) 1, Max 2, Guiding Force 3, Dancing Doll 4. Won by: 3 1/4L, 1L, Shd, T-1:27.76S, Rs: 9, 5.15, 38. SHP: Rs: 22, THP: Rs: 325. Fc: Rs: 79, Q: Rs: 44, Tanala: Rs: 1411 (4). Fav: Ballius (R.H.Sequeira).

8. Golden Dagger Plate 1200M: Xfinity 1, Augenstein 2, Blink Of An Eye 3, Linewiler 4. Won by: 3L, 5L, Nk, T-1:24.50S, Rs: 8, 5, 14, 9, SHP: Rs: 25, THP: Rs: 20, Fc: Rs: 44, Q: Rs: 45, Tanala: Rs: 102 (200). Fav: 2Xfinity (A.Vatsalya).

Jackpot: Rs 3884 (30). **Consolation:** Rs 942/- (53). **1st Treble:** Rs 196 (66). **2nd Treble:** Rs 378 (28). **3rd Treble:** Rs 390 (46). **TNN**

Vardy Strikes Again As Foxes Sink Spurs

London: Jamie Vardy scored Leicester City's opening goal and had a hand in the other as the Foxes earned an impressive 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday.

Vardy netted a penalty on the stroke of half-time and his 59th minute header led to Toby Alderweireld's own goal to lift Leicester two places up to second on 27 points from 14 games, four behind champions and leaders Liverpool.

Tottenham dropped two places down to fourth after a second successive defeat, having suffered a 2-1 loss at Liverpool on Wednesday, with their display against Leicester leaving a lot to be desired.

The home side conceded a needless penalty, given after a VAR check, as Sergio Aurier clattered into Wesley Fofana on the edge of the area and Vardy made no mistake when he drilled the spot kick down the middle past goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. **AP**

SPOT ON



TARGET PRACTICE: Jamie Vardy scores Leicester City's first goal from a penalty against Tottenham Hotspur

ARSENAL LOSE, GO 7TH GAME WITHOUT A WIN

Liverpool: Mikel Arteta's woes deepened when Arsenal were beaten by Everton 2-1 to go seven games without a win in the English Premier League as he marked a year in charge of the London club. While Arsenal dropped to 15th on Saturday, Everton scored from only one

shot on target as Rob Holding's own goal opener was followed — after Nicolas Pepe's equalizing penalty — by Yerry Mina's header on the stroke of half-time.

Arsenal were not helped by the absence of top scorer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang with a tight calf but the visitors lacked intensity. Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno says there is no time for the players to feel sorry for themselves after an eighth Premier League defeat of the season. **AGENCIES**

LEAO SCORES FASTEST EVER SERIE A GOAL IN MILAN'S WIN

Sassuolo: AC Milan forward Rafael Leao scored the fastest goal in Serie A history on Sunday, netting after just six seconds at Sassuolo. Statistics supplier Opta said the Portuguese youngster's goal beat the previous record of eight seconds set by Piacenza's Paolo Poggi against Fiorentina in 2001. Milan later tweeted that Leao's goal came after precisely 6.2 seconds. Serie A leaders Milan went on to win 2-1 to remain one point ahead of second-place Inter Milan. On Saturday, Cristiano Ronaldo scored a double as Juventus thrashed Parma 4-0. The Turin giants remained unbeaten after 13 matches this term.

Lewandowski caps year to remember with late Bayern winner: Robert Lewandowski hailed a year to remember as his two goals helped Bayern Munich come from behind to beat Bayer Leverkusen and go top of the Bundesliga on



LEAO AFTER SCORING THE FASTEST GOAL

Saturday, capping a fantastic 12 months for him and his team. Lewandowski's injury-time winner completed another comeback victory for Bayern, ensuring the champions sit top of the standings, ahead of Leverkusen, going into the Christmas break.

Suarez strikes two as Atletico go clear at the top

Atletico Madrid forward Luis Suarez was back among the goals to help his side to a 3-1 win at home to Elche on Saturday, taking them three points clear at the top of La Liga. Suarez scored either side of half-time to put Atletico two goals up, while Lucas Boye

pulled one back for the struggling visitors before Diego Costa sealed the points for Diego Simeone's side from the penalty spot. The victory moved Atleti to 29 points from 12 games, three clear of second-placed Real Sociedad who suffered a surprise 2-1 defeat away to Levante later on. Real Madrid, who beat Atletico 2-0 last week, are third on 26 and can go level on points with their local rivals when they visit Eibar on Sunday. Elche are on 14 points.

Man United close to winning big trophies, says Rashford

Manchester United are capable of winning big trophies and need one final push to bridge the gap to Europe's elite clubs, forward Marcus Rashford has said. "I believe that we have now the team that we have now is capable of winning big trophies," the England forward told the official Manchester United podcast on Saturday. "We are not quite there but I feel like we are close. We just need to make that final push to be a team that can win trophies." **AGENCIES**