

Bumrah joins elite club of Kapil, Zaheer

ADELAIDE: Jasprit Bumrah has etched his name alongside the greats of Indian cricket, becoming the fourth



Indian pacer to claim 50 or more international wickets in a calendar year.

He reached this milestone by dismissing Usman Khawaja for 13 on Day 1 of the Pink-Ball Test match here on Friday. Kapil Dev leads the list of Indian

seamers with 50+ wickets in a calendar year, achieving the feat twice — 74 wickets in 1979 and 75 in 1983. He is followed by Zaheer Khan, who took 51 wickets in 2002, and Bumrah, who reached 50 wickets in 2024.

Bumrah's achievement comes with an added distinction, as he currently boasts an exceptional average of 15.14, the best among the 16 instances where Indian bowlers have taken 50+ wickets in a calendar year.

The 30-year-old spearhead has been a cornerstone of India's bowling attack across all formats, combining pace, precision, and the ability to perform under pressure.

ADELAIDE: The opening day of the pink-ball Test between India and Australia at the Adelaide Oval saw the hosts seize control after skittling India for a modest 180. Australia's disciplined batting response, guided by Marnus Labuschagne (20*) and Nathan McSweeney (38*), helped them close the day at 86/1, trailing by 94 runs.

The day belonged to Mitchell Starc, whose devastating spell of swing bowling under lights produced figures of 6/48, dismantling India's batting lineup and reaffirming his reputation as the king of day-night cricket.

India's innings got off to the worst possible start when debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal was trapped lbw by Starc on the very first ball of the match. The sharp in-swinging, pitching on middle

2nd Test: Day 1

India folds for 180

and leg, left the young opener stunned, setting the tone for Australia's dominance. The early breakthroughs continued as KL Rahul (37), who looked solid initially, fell to a hostile short ball from Starc. Rahul, who was dropped twice during his innings, succumbed to a miscued shot that flew to gully.

India's middle order offered little resistance. Skipper Rohit Sharma (3) was trapped plumb in front by Scott Boland, while Virat Kohli (7) edged a full delivery to second slip off Starc, leaving India reeling at 37/4.

The only bright spot for India came from Nitish Reddy, who launched a fearless counterattack with 42 off 54 balls. Reddy displayed audacious shot-making, including a reverse scoop and a towering six over deep extra cover.

However, his resilience ended when Starc struck with a sharp bouncer that was top-edged to mid-off.

Rishabh Pant (21) provided brief entertainment, including a pull shot off Mitchell Marsh that sent the ball soaring into the stands, but he fell to a rising delivery from Pat Cummins. The lower order offered little resistance, and India folded in just 44.1 overs. Starc's unplayable in-swinging yorker to dismiss Harshit Rana epitomised his lethal spell, capping off a day where his pace and movement proved too tough for India to handle.

Brief scores: Australia 86/ 1 (McSweeney 38*, Labuschagne 20*, Bumrah 1-13) **India 180** (Reddy 42, Rahul 37 Starc 6-48, Cummins 2-41) by 94 runs

Kyrgios to make Grand Slam return in Australia

LONDON: Nick Kyrgios has used his protected ranking to secure a place in the main draw of January's Australian Open, media reports said.

Kyrgios, 29, has not played at a Grand Slam since September 2022 when he lost in the quarter-finals of the US Open, the BBC reported.

Britons Jack Draper, Cameron Norrie, Katie Boulter, Emma Raducanu, Sonay Kartal and Jodie Burrage have also been confirmed on the main draw list.

The Australian Open be-

gins on January 12.

A series of knee, foot and wrist injuries have interrupted Kyrgios' career over the past two years.

The Australian has not competed since June 2023 but he is planning a return to action at the World Tennis League event in Abu Dhabi from 19-22 December.

Kyrgios, who was beaten by Novak Djokovic in the 2022 Wimbledon final, is due to feature in his first competitive tournament at the Brisbane International later in December.



2nd Test: Day 1

England bowlers strike after Brook century

WELLINGTON: On the opening day of the second Test between England and New Zealand in Wellington, Harry Brook dazzled with a second consecutive century, scoring 123 off 115 balls.

His brilliant knock, along with Ollie Pope's fluent 66, helped England recover from a dire position of 43 for 4 to post a competitive total of 280.

The pair shared a 174-run stand, showcasing aggressive strokeplay despite the challenging conditions on a bowler-friendly pitch.

Brook's innings was particularly impressive, full of attacking strokes,

including 11 fours and five sixes, though he was dismissed just before tea, run out after a miscommunication with Pope.



Pope continued his good form from Christchurch but fell to Will O'Rourke after top-edging a pull shot. Ben Stokes, following Pope, also departed cheaply, leaving England's tail exposed.

New Zealand's response got off to a shaky start, losing five wickets for 86 runs by the close of play. Brydon Carse and Gus Atkinson provided early breakthroughs, with Carse also taking the key wicket of Kane Williamson, who was dismissed after a controversial no-ball call.

Carse and Ben Stokes later removed Daryl Mitchell, leaving New Zealand in a precarious position, still trailing by 194 runs.

Brief scores: New Zealand 86/5 (Carse 2-28) trail England 280 (Brook 123, Pope 66, Smith 4-86, O'Rourke 3-49) by 194 runs

ing England's tail exposed.

The Islanders dominated possession, but the home side's disciplined defence restricted them from converting their chances.

The visitors had eight shots on target but failed to capitalize.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Mumbai City FC Head coach Petr Kratky praised his team's defensive effort while emphasizing the need to improve their finishing in attack.

"Our approach was very good from the start of the

Kratky sets sights on improvement

BHUBANESWAR: Mumbai City FC played out a goalless draw against in-form Odisha FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) match at the Kalinga Stadium here on Thursday night.

The determination and energy were there... they know now this league will not be easy, and they need to dig deep. I think they did very well today against Odisha FC, who scored ten goals in their last two games. So, we stopped that," Kratky opined.

"I think they had only one shot on goal. This is something we can build on. But obviously, I'm a little bit disappointed because we could have won the game. In my opinion, we deserved it more than Odisha FC.

The revamped FIFA

game. One of the better games that we played. The boys were working hard, and everything we said in the changing room they tried to execute it so

I was very happy with that. The determination and energy were there... they know now this league will not be easy, and they need to dig deep. I think they did very well today against Odisha FC, who scored ten goals in their last two games. So, we stopped that," Kratky opined.

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FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP DRAW

Man City to face Juventus

LONDON: Defending champions Manchester City will face Juventus in the group stage of the FIFA Club World Cup next summer, while Chelsea meet Brazilian side Flamengo, media reports said.

Pep Guardiola's City, who beat Brazilian side Fluminense to win the tournament for the first time in 2023, begin their title defence against Morocco's Wydad and also play Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates in Group G, the BBC reported. Chelsea, winners of the 2021 final, were also drawn alongside Mexico's Club Leon and Tunisian side Esperance Sportive de Tunisie in Group D.

The revamped FIFA

Club World Cup, which has been expanded to 32 teams, will take place in the United States between June 15 and July 13 next year.

A complex and lengthy draw ceremony was held across two separate Miami locations and lasted more than 90 minutes, during which a new Club World Cup trophy was revealed.

There was also a video message from incoming US president Donald Trump, whose daughter Ivanka drew the first team. Lionel Messi's Inter Miami will take on Egyptian side Al Ahly at the Hard Rock Stadium in the opening match, staged in Miami.

Elsewhere, Paris St-

Germain were drawn against Atletico Madrid in Group B, while Bayern Munich meet Benfica in another all-European group-stage match-up. Teams will play each other once in the group phase and the top two will progress to the knockout stage.

Teams from each of the six international football confederations will be represented at next summer's tournament, including 12 European clubs - the highest quota of any confederation. The European places were decided by clubs' Champions League performances over the past four seasons, with recent winners Chelsea, Manchester City and Real Madrid guaranteed places.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged

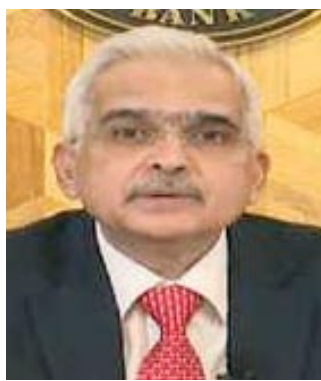
MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday decided yet again to maintain status quo on repo rate in the wake of elevated inflation.

The rate-setting panel voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th consecutive time.

This means there would not be any change in home loan EMIs or borrowing cost for the industry.

"After detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided by a 4-2 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75%," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy.

The RBI has kept the key lending rate unchanged since February 2023, citing persistent



inflation pressures. In October this year, retail inflation climbed to 6.2% breaching the RBI's upper tolerance level. High inflation reduces disposable income in the hands of consumers and dents private consumption, which negatively impacts the real GDP growth.

Commenting on monetary policy, ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said, "The MPC's

decision to keep the repo rate unchanged was along expected lines, with the CPI inflation exceeding the MPC's upper threshold of 6.0%. However, the cut in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 bps would help support growth after the sharp downward revision in the forecast for FY2025. If the CPI inflation retraces to below 5.0% by the Dec 2024 print, the likelihood of a repo cut in Feb 2025 will rise sharply."

Meanwhile, the Monetary Policy Committee also decided unanimously to continue with the neutral stance and to remain unambiguously focussed on a durable alignment of inflation with the target while supporting growth. The rate-setting panel met on 4th, 5th and 6th of December 2024. The RBI Governor said that the MPC took note of the recent slowdown in the growth momentum which translates into a downward revision in the growth forecast for the current year 2024-25.

CAD escalating among younger populations

MUMBAI: The prevalence of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) is escalating rapidly among younger populations in India, posing a significant public health challenge. While previously considered a disease of older adults, CAD is now being diagnosed in people in their 30s, 40s, and 50s. Lifestyle changes, including poor diet, lack of exercise, increased stress, and genetic predispositions, are fueling this alarming trend. This shift underscores the urgent need for heightened awareness and early preventive measures to reduce the burden of heart disease in the country.

CAD Treatment & Metal-Less Angioplasty: The treatment landscape for CAD has evolved significantly. In the past, angioplasty—where a metallic drug-eluting stents (DES) were used to widen the blocked arteries—was the standard approach. In recent years, metal-less angioplasty has emerged as a ground-breaking alternative to traditional stenting. Unlike metal stents that remain in the artery permanently, this innovative approach focuses on opening the artery without leaving any permanent materials behind. It allows the arteries to heal naturally, aligning with the body's healing processes.

Innovative Approaches: Bioreabsorbable Scaffolds (BRS) & Drug-Coated Balloons (DCB).

Sensex falls

MUMBAI: Snapping a winning streak of last five sessions, the BSE Sensex ended negative at 81,709.12, declining 56.74 points on profit booking by local operators.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) slipped 30.60 points at 24,677.80.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its policy on Friday kept its repo rates unchanged for 11 straight

meeting. See-saw trend was seen during the day, as the Sensex opened higher at 81,887.54, rising 122 points.

It was further gained 160 points at 81,925.91, day's high. Later, it went in red, and slipped 259 points at 81,506.19, day's low, before closing at 81,709.12, sliding 56.74 points from its previous close.

VPA adds state-of-the-art facilities

MUMBAI: The Virtual Production Academy (VPA) by Aptech, India's first holistic end-to-end virtual production academy in Mumbai is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, offering students hands-on training, in-depth knowledge, and valuable exposure to the dynamic world of VFX, filmmaking and post-production. It is designed to prepare creative professionals with cutting-edge skills needed to excel in the rapidly evolving world of film and television, gaming, advertising & marketing, education & training, architectural visualisation, live events and virtual concert, among others.

The Virtual Production Academy specializes in ICVFX (In-Camera Visual Effects) and motion capture,

showcasing how innovative and modern tools are revolutionising the world of animation and VFX. ICVFX enables real-time integration of virtual environments, allowing actors to perform within digital settings, while motion capture (MoCap), captures their movements and expressions to create lifelike characters. These modern techniques are transforming the world of content creation, and The Virtual Production Academy aims to make it more efficient and accessible. Some recent use cases of the virtual production technology include notable titles like House of Dragons to create unique, legacy environment with wraparound LED screens that allowed its actors to perform in photorealistic, dynamic environments.