

Shastri reveals India’s preferred XI

DUBAI: India finished on top of Group A following a commanding win over New Zealand in their final group fixture. India have set themselves up a semi-final showdown against Australia after a solid 44-run win against the Black Caps in the final group-stage fixture of the Champions Trophy 2025, with the tournament now heading into the last-four phase. Former India head coach Ravi Shastri made a call on the XI that should feature for India in the upcoming fixture against Australia, the ICC reported. With a turnaround of less than 48 hours, and

with the side from having an experience of the conditions, Ravi Shastri thinks India should stick with the same lineup. “The square is a little tired at the moment, people have run on the pitch that is going to be used the day after, so the spinners will again come into play,” Shastri added on spin being the preferred route for India. India unleashed their spin attack of Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and new entrant, Varun Chakaravathy on the slow track of Dubai against New Zealand, going with four spinners as Harshit Rana was rested.

Champions Trophy 2025

India, Aus set for SF showdown

DUBAI: Cricketing powerhouses India and Australia are set to lock horns in the first semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium today (Tuesday). The much-anticipated encounter will determine the first finalist of the tournament. India has been the most dominant side in the competition so far, topping Group A with an all-win record. The Rohit Sharma-led side enters the semifinal on the back of a commanding 44-run victory over New Zealand. Shreyas Iyer’s scintillating 79, complemented

by Hardik Pandya’s 45 and Axar Patel’s quickfire 42, powered India to a strong total. In the bowling department, Varun Chakravarthy’s five-wicket haul proved instrumental in sealing the win. Rohit Sharma has struggled with consistency in the tournament so far, with scores of 41 against Bangladesh, 20 against Pakistan, and 15 against New Zealand. The team will expect a big knock from the skipper in this crucial match. Shubman Gill, on the other hand, has been in fine form, scoring an unbeaten 101 against Bangladesh. However, he managed 46

against Pakistan and just 2 against New Zealand. The opening partnership will be crucial in setting the tone for India’s innings. Virat Kohli will take the No. 3 spot. Despite a few underwhelming performances, he scored a century against Pakistan, proving his ability to deliver under pressure. A potential change may occur at No. 5, with Rishabh Pant possibly replacing KL Rahul. While Rahul has played some crucial knocks, including 41 against Bangladesh and 23 against New Zealand, the team may look for a more aggressive option in Pant. Given the conditions in Dubai, the Indian team

may opt for four spinners in their bowling lineup. The expected bowling attack includes Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Kuldeep Yadav. Chakravarthy is expected to feature in India’s playing XI for the semifinal against Australia, with his performance against New Zealand on Sunday night. Former India coach Ravi Shastri has also advocated for his inclusion. Mohammed Shami will spearhead the pace attack, while Hardik Pandya will play a dual role as a seam-bowling all-rounder. With Jadeja, Axar, and Pandya in the lineup, India’s batting depth will also be an advantage.

Rahane named KKR captain

KOLKATA: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Monday announced Ajinkya Rahane as the Captain and Venkatesh Iyer as the Vice-Captain for the upcoming 2025 season of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL). KKR CEO Venky Mysore expressed confidence in the leadership duo, stating, “We are delighted to have someone like Ajinkya Rahane, who brings his experience and maturity as a leader. Also, Venkatesh Iyer has been a franchise player for KKR and brings a lot of leadership qualities. We are confident that they will combine well as we start

the defence of our title.” Rahane, who has previously captained Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, welcomed the opportunity to lead KKR. “It’s an honour to be asked to lead KKR, which has been one of the most successful franchises in the IPL. I think we have an excellent and balanced squad. I look forward to working with everyone and taking up the challenge of defending our title,” he said. KKR, the defending champions, will commence their IPL 2025 campaign against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the season opener at Eden Gardens on March 22.

Dubai Doubles

Bhambri-Popyrin wins title

DUBAI: India’s Yuki Bhambri and Australia’s Alexei Popyrin scripted a stunning come-from-behind victory to claim the doubles title at the Dubai Tennis Championships 2025 on Saturday, capping off a remarkable giant-killing run. In their maiden ATP 500 doubles final, Bhambri and Popyrin rallied from a set down to edge past the second-seeded Finnish-British pair of Harri Heliövaara and Henry Patten 3-6, 7-6 (12), 10-8. Heliövaara and Patten, the reigning US Open and Australian Open champions, had looked in control after a dominant

first set, securing an early break in the fourth game. Undeterred, Bhambri and Popyrin pushed their higher-ranked opponents to the limit in the second set, even forcing them to save a set point in the ninth game. A tense tiebreak followed, with the Indo-Australian duo prevailing 14-12 after an intense exchange. With momentum on their side, Bhambri and Popyrin stormed to an 8-5 lead in the super-tiebreaker. Though Heliövaara and Patten saved four match points, they ultimately succumbed after a gripping one-hour and 51-minute battle.

The stunning final victory was the highlight of an extraordinary tournament for Bhambri and Popyrin, who notched up multiple upsets en route to the title. In the Round of 16, they pulled off a remarkable comeback against top-ranked duo Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Croatia’s Mate Pavic, winning 4-6, 7-6(1), 10-3. Arevalo and Pavic currently share the ATP doubles world No. 1 ranking. In the quarterfinals, Bhambri and Popyrin showcased their resilience once again, overcoming the all-British team of Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool.

Praveg announces partners with IHCL

AHMEDABAD: Praveg Limited, a prominent hospitality services provider, has announced a strategic partnership with Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), one of India’s leading hotel chains. As part of this agreement, IHCL will manage Praveg Limited’s pristine property namely Praveg Atoll’s located on the breathtaking Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep. The resort will be classified under the prestigious SeleQtions brand, further elevating its luxury offerings. This collabora-

tion marks a significant milestone in Praveg Limited’s commitment to offering world-class hospitality experiences in one of India’s most unique and sought-after destinations. With IHCL’s established reputation for excellence in luxury hospitality, this partnership will ensure that Bangaram Island’s resort property will offer guests an unforgettable experience while maintaining the highest standards of service and sustainability. Dr. Vishnukumar Patel, Chairman of Praveg Limited, expressed

his enthusiasm, stating, “We are thrilled to partner with the Indian Hotels Company Limited, a leader in the hospitality industry, to manage our exceptional property on Bangaram Island. "IHCL’s expertise in managing luxury resorts and its commitment to sustainability align perfectly with our vision for this island paradise." This partnership will ensure that guests experience the very best in hospitality, while preserving the natural beauty of the island for future generations.

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Sensex down

MUMBAI: The BSE Sensex on Monday slipped 112.16 points to settle at 73,085.94 as selling was seen in Oil and Gas, BSE services and Financial services stocks. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) eased 5.40 points at 22,119.30. Slumping over 1400 points on Friday, the BSE Sensex opened positive at 73,427.65. The stocks that

Pranav Constructions files DRHP

MUMBAI: Pranav Constructions Limited, a leading real estate company, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to mop up funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO, with a face value of Rs 10 each, combines fresh issuance of Rs 392 crore with an offer for sale of up to 28,56,869 equity shares by the Promoter and investor Selling Shareholder, a company release said. The offer for sale consists of up to 23,07,472 equity shares by BioUrJa India Infra Private Limited and up to 5,49,397 equity shares by Ravi Ramalingam. The company, in consultation with the book-running lead managers, may consider an issue of specified securities, aggregating to Rs 78.40 crores as pre-IPO placement shall not exceed 20 percent of the size of the fresh issue. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

Bajaj Auto sales rise by 2%

MUMBAI: Auto major, Bajaj Auto has posted a two percent increase in total auto sales at 3,52,071 units in February 2025 as compared with 3,46,662 units sold in February 2024. While the company’s domestic sales have decreased by 11 percent to 1,83,415 units, exports jumped by 21 percent to 1,68,656 units in February 2025 over February 2024. Sales of two-wheelers and commercial vehicles stood at 2,99,418 units up by 2 percent over February 2024 and 52,653 units up by%.

HDFC Life receives dual recognition

MUMBAI: HDFC Life one of India’s leading life insurers has been awarded for its Integrated Report and Annual Report at the LACP Vision Awards FY 23/24. Niraj Shah – Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer, HDFC Life said, “We accept this award with humility and thank LACP Vision Awards for recognising our endeavours. For us, this is a reminder to continue upholding our superior standards and practice of financial reporting and maintaining transparency with all stakeholders. Our journey as a life insurer is further strengthened with this dual recognition."

