

Indian sports icons pay tribute to Ratan Tata

New Delhi (UNI) Indian sports stars have expressed their grief and paid heartfelt tributes to Ratan Tata, one of the country's most revered industrialists.

In his tribute, Olympic medallist Gagan Narang conveyed a deep sense of respect and admiration for Ratan Tata. He highlighted Tata's kindness, wisdom, and integrity, showing that his leadership extended far beyond business and into making meaningful impacts on individuals' lives.

Narang praised Tata for looking beyond mere financial success. "Ratan Tata Ji saw beyond profits, investing in people and the future of India," he said referring to his long-term commitment to societal betterment through philanthropy, support for education, healthcare, and various sectors.

Narang hinted at Tata's contributions having a lasting and transformative effect on society and suggested his influence will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

Tata, who chaired Tata Sons and Tata Group from 1991 to 2012, played a crucial role in expanding the Indian conglomerate onto the global stage through significant acquisitions like Tetley, Jaguar Land



Rover, and Corus.

He was also known for his philanthropy, with substantial contributions to healthcare and education in India.

Neeraj Chopra, India's first-ever individual Olympic gold medallist in athletics, acknowledged Tata's profound influence, saying, "His kindness and generosity inspired me not just as an athlete but as a

human being, Ratan Tata sir's contributions to society and sports will forever be cherished."

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar reflected on Tata's enduring legacy, stating, "From his love for animals to philanthropy, he showed that true progress can only be achieved when we care for those who don't have the means to take care of themselves. His leadership has left

an indelible mark on all of us."

Tendulkar also shared a personal photograph of himself with Tata.

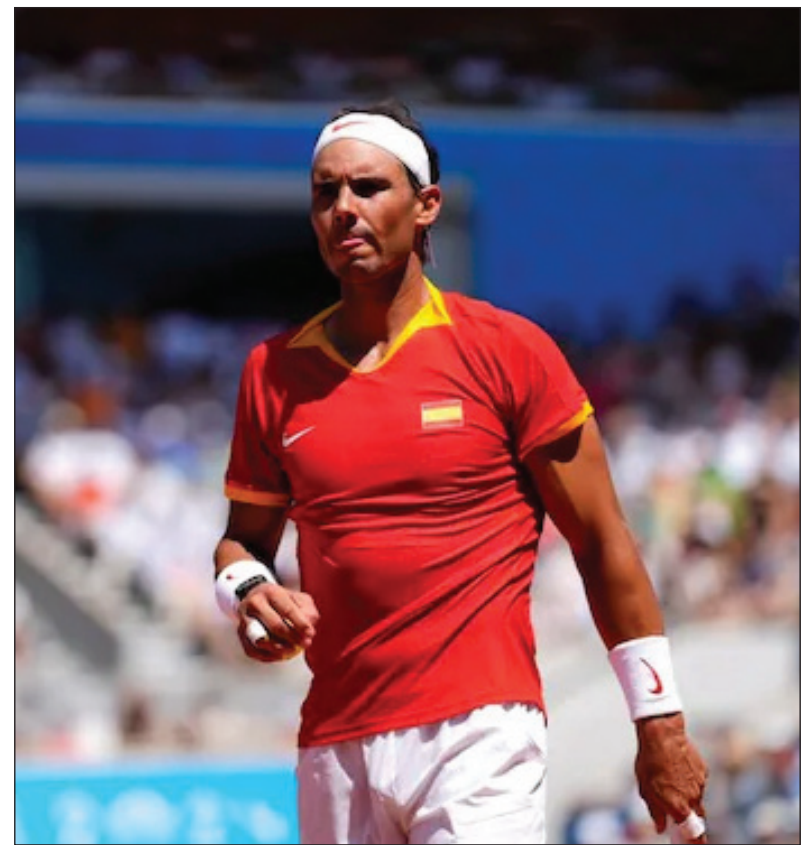
India's T20 cricket captains, both past and present, Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav, also paid their respects. Rohit Sharma said, "He was a giant of Indian industry and an even bigger human being. His contributions extended far beyond business; he made a difference in people's lives, and that's what I admired the most about him."

PT Usha, President of the Indian Olympic Association and one of India's most successful track and field athletes, also mourned his loss: "A pioneer, a philanthropist & a generous benefactor to society, he broke barriers & set new benchmarks with his leadership. May his blessed soul find peace!"

Chess icon Viswanathan Anand reflected on Tata's deep involvement in promoting chess, saying, "The Tata Group has been a key promoter of chess in India, and I personally owe much to his vision. He was a true supporter of the game and Indian athletes."

Ratan Tata's contributions to Indian industry, sports, and society will be commemorated with a state funeral on Thursday, with the Maharashtra government declaring a day of mourning in his honour.

Tennis legend Rafael Nadal confirms retirement in Nov



London (UNI)

Rafael Nadal, the 22-time Grand Slam champion, will retire from tennis at the end of this season, the BBC reported.

The 38-year-old will make his final appearance for Spain at November's Davis Cup Finals in Malaga.

In a video message released on his social media handle on Thursday, Nadal said: "I am here to let you know I am retiring from professional tennis."

"The reality is that it has been some difficult years, the last two especially," he said.

Many more runs to get, says record-breaker Root



Multan (UNI) England cricket batsman Joe Root said there are "many more runs still to get" after he overhauled Sir Alastair Cook to become England's all-time leading Test run-scorer, the BBC reported.

Root went past Cook's mark of 12,472 when he got to 71 on day three of the first Test against Pakistan in Multan, it said.

"I'm obviously proud, but still feel there's plenty more left to do," said Root. "I'm sure I'll look back at it when I'm finished and be very

proud of it, but I think more than anything just the way we played today as a team is what stands out," said Root.

Root's tireless effort in the heat, allied to 141 not out from Harry Brook, has put England in a strong position in the series opener, despite Pakistan racking up 556 in their first innings.

The 33-year-old carried on and on, registering his 35th Test century and batting through the day for his unbeaten 176, taking England to 492-3 and a deficit of only 64 runs.

India knock SL out of WT20WC with record victory

Dubai (UNI)

In a historic match that recorded the highest margin of victory ever for India in Women's T20 World Cups, Team India delivered an outstanding performance against Sri Lanka, knocking them out of the tournament with a comprehensive win on Wednesday.

This victory could not have come at a more opportune moment for the Indian side, as they powered their way to claim the second spot in Group A after suffering a heavy loss and a somewhat shaky win in their previous matches.

Batting first, India showcased their batting prowess, with the top three—Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, and Harmanpreet Kaur—providing a solid foundation. Despite Harmanpreet's absence on the field, Mandhana's leadership proved fruitful, as the team executed their plans flawlessly from the very first ball of the chase. Shreyanka Patil, brought in to bowl the second over, made an immediate impact by dismissing the dangerous Chamari Athapaththu, sending the Sri Lankan opener back to the pavilion. Earlier, Radha Yadav, who had been substituted into the squad, set the tone for India with a stunning catch to dismiss Vishmi Gunaratne in the opening over. Sri Lanka's batting lineup faltered dramatically, slipping



to 6/3 early in the innings, and they were unable to recover from this precarious position. The team aimed to minimise their Net Run Rate (NRR) but could only muster a total of 90 runs before being bowled out. While Kavisha Dilhari and Anushka Sanjeevani showed some resilience during their partnership, the Indian bowlers maintained control throughout the innings.

Arundhati Reddy was particularly impressive, claiming three wickets, while leg-spinner Asha Sobhana also contributed with three scalps of her own. Remarkably, all five

bowlers used by Mandhana finished with wickets to their names, underscoring the team's all-round bowling performance.

With this decisive victory, India not only secured their place in the tournament but also dealt a significant blow to Sri Lanka's aspirations. The win serves as a crucial boost for the Indian team as they aim to advance further in the Women's T20 World Cup.

Earlier, India posted a remarkable total of 172 runs, surpassing their score from the Asia Cup final earlier this year by seven runs against Sri

Lanka in this vital Women's T20 World Cup match.

The Indian innings began cautiously, with opener Smriti Mandhana initially struggling to find her timing during the powerplay. However, Shafali Verma's aggressive batting provided crucial momentum, as she struck several boundaries to help India conclude the powerplay without losing a wicket, finishing with 41 runs on the board.

As the innings progressed, Mandhana found her rhythm, showcasing her skill with a series of elegant inside-out shots. She ultimately outscored her opening partner, reaching a well-deserved half-century. Unfortunately for India, the departure of both openers came in quick succession, with Athapaththu claiming one wicket via a run-out, allowing Sri Lanka to regain some control over the match.

Despite this setback, Jemimah Rodrigues stepped in and delivered a spirited performance, unleashing a series of splendid sweep shots to contribute a quickfire 16 runs.

Harmanpreet began her innings slowly but dramatically increased her scoring rate during the death overs, dispatching the Sri Lankan pacers with powerful shots down the ground and across the line, ultimately reaching her fifty off just 27 balls.

Old Lara-Tendulkar rivalry set to ignite IML 2024

Mumbai (UNI) The long-standing rivalry between cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara is set to be reignited as Tendulkar captains the Indian cricket team in the inaugural International Masters League (IML) 2024.

This thrilling tournament will take place across India from November 17 to December 8, bringing together some of the finest cricketers talents from around the globe.

The IML promises an exciting showcase of legendary players, featuring teams from India, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Australia, England, and South Africa. Fans can look forward to watching these titans of the game compete once more, adding a layer of nostalgia and excitement to the event. Envisioned by Tendulkar and



son, Eoin Morgan, and Jonty Rhodes, who will lead their respective teams. This star-studded line-up guarantees an unmissable event for cricket enthusiasts.

The IML will feature over 90 retired players competing in a total of 18 matches, all played in the popular T20 format. With Tendulkar at the helm, fans can expect a thrilling display of skill, strategy, and nostalgia as these legends take to the field.

Since retiring from international cricket in 2013, Tendulkar, affectionately known as the "Little Master," has remained active in exhibition matches. Notably, he recently partnered with late Shane Warne in a three-match series in the United States, where cricket is set to make its Olympic return in 2028.

Men end the team campaign with bronze in Astana

New Delhi: In a bittersweet end to their campaign at the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana, the Indian men's team bowed out in the semifinals on Thursday, suffering a 3-0 defeat at the hands of powerhouse and second-seeded Chinese Taipei. Following closely in the footsteps of their women counterparts, who also made a respectable run to the semifinals, the men's team will still, return home with heads held high and bronze medals glistening proudly around their necks. The opening tie saw veteran paddler A. Sharath Kamal, India's talisman and world No. 42, up against the fearsome Lin Yun-Ju, currently ranked seventh.

Rinku, Reddy rally India to 221 in second T20I

New Delhi (UNI) In a remarkable display of resilience, Nitish Reddy and Rinku Singh engineered a stunning comeback for India, setting a challenging target of 221 runs despite a shaky start that saw the team lose its top three batsmen within the powerplay on Wednesday.

The Bangladeshi pace attack, led by Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman, showcased their skills with clever variations, leaving India reeling at 41 for 3. However, Reddy and Rinku quickly turned the tide, combining to form a formidable partnership that would prove crucial for their team.

Reddy began his innings cautiously, managing only 13 runs off his first 13 balls. But after a free hit sparked his momentum, he unleashed a flurry of boundaries against the spinners, ultimately scoring his maiden T20I fifty



with an impressive strike rate exceeding 200. His explosive innings came to an end when he fell victim to Mustafizur's crafty slower ball.

Rinku Singh, on the other hand, provided vital support, accumulating runs at a rapid pace. He reached his fifty in just 26 balls, further solidifying the innings. The duo's remarkable 108-run stand came off only 49 deliveries, significantly boosting India's total.

Injured England captain Harry Kane ruled out against Greece

London: Harry Kane will not be fit to start England's Nations League match against Greece at Wembley, according to interim manager Lee Carsley, media reports said.

England and Greece are both on six points from two games in Group B2, having beaten the Republic of Ireland and Finland last month, the BBC reported.

Record England goalscorer and captain Kane went off in Bayern Munich's last game against Eintracht Frankfurt. "Harry is nursing an injury - a small knock, something we won't take a chance with," said Carsley.

'Race Across India' Cycling expedition flagged off from Srinagar to Kanyakumari

Srinagar (UNI) J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday flagged off India's longest cycling expedition from Srinagar to Kanyakumari.

The second edition of the "Race Across India" cycling expedition was flagged off from the Polo View Ground in which 22 teams including national international cyclists were participating and would culminate at the farthest point of the country, Kanyakumari.

The Cyclists will cover 3750 km across 12 States and Union Territories (UTs) to reach Kanyakumari.

The Cycling expedition has around 15 solo riders and 22 teams comprising two or four members categorized into different age

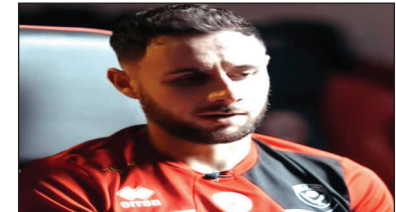


groups. The expedition sponsored by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is the first of its kind in which participants of different age categories and professions are taking part.

Cyclists including Doctors, Professors, Students along with those from Army and Paramilitary forces from different parts of the country are participating in this year's edition of 'Race Across India' to make it one of the most famous sporting events of the nation.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary applauded the efforts of both J&K Sports Council and IOCL for their collaboration in organizing this event in J&K.

Greek footballer Baldock found dead in swimming pool



Glyfada (Greece): England-born Greek international footballer George Baldock was found dead in the swimming pool of his house in Glyfada, southern Athens, the BBC reported.

Police attempted to resuscitate Baldock, 31, at the scene on Wednesday but he could not be revived and medical emergency units confirmed his death, media reports said.

The cause of death is unknown, police said.