India fight back after Australia dominate Day 1

Melbourne, (UNI)

Australia took the honours on Day 1 of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), but it was India's dramatic fightback in the final session that stole the spotlight. After Australia dominated much of the day, India's bowlers, spearheaded by Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep, clawed back with three quick wickets to ensure the game remained finely balanced.

Australia's debutant Sam Konstas was the standout performer, blazing to a fiery 60 off 65 balls. His fearless approach, including audacious reverse scoops and aggressive strokes off India's ace bowler Bumrah, set the tone early for the hosts.

Konstas became the secondyoungest Australian to score a fifty on debut, helping Australia to a solid 96-run opening partnership with Usman Khawaja, who contributed a patient 57.



Despite some early breakthroughs for India, including the wickets of Konstas and Khawaja, Australia's middle order held firm. Marnus Labuschagne top-scored with 72 off 145 balls, while Steven Smith (68*) guided

his team through the middle session with calm assurance. The pair put on an important 83-run partnership, with Smith bringing up a fluent fifty.

However, the final session saw a dramatic turn. With Australia cruising at 237/3, India struck back with a vengeance.

Bumrah and Deep claimed the key wickets of Mitchell Marsh (4) and Travis Head (0), reducing Australia to 246/5. The middle-order collapse continued as Deep dismissed Alex Carey for 31, caught behind by Rishabh Pant, leaving Australia

India's fightback in the final session leaves the game evenly poised. With Australia at 311/6, India will be keen to clean up the tail quickly and limit the hosts' first-innings total.

While Australia appears to have the upper hand, India's resilient performance has given them a glimmer of hope, setting the stage for an intriguing Day 2. Brief Scores: Australia: 311/6 (Steven Smith 68*; Marnus Labuschagne 72; Sam Konstas 60; Akash Deep 1/59; Jasprit Bumrah 3/75).



'Jammu & Kashmir girls & boys must continue to play competitions like Reliance Foundation Youth Sports to improve themselves,' says Mehrajuddin Wadoo

Srinagar: Former Indian footballer Mehrajuddin Wadoo believes that the on-going leg of the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS) 2024-25 in Kashmir gives an ideal platform to assess the players who platform to assess the players who are ready to play outside of Jammu & Kashmir. This is the second time that the RFYS football tournament is taking place in the Union Territory and Wadoo was impressed with the quality of talent on display last season. He is predicting the competition to produce massive impact in the current term, saying that several young players were ea gerly looking forward to the competition this year.

"Last year it was very successful and received a great response. Players enjoyed and had a great experience. We needed such tournaments for the youth. I also witnessed a few games and had a great experience. It will have a great impact this season too as everyone is waiting to participate.

I am sure this season we will get to see players who are ready to play outside Jammu & Kashmir," Wadoo said in an interview with the RFYS "Girls must continue to play such competitions to improve"

One of the key features of the RFYS chapter in Kashmir was the U-19 age-group event for girls. Wadoo garnered some key takeaways from those matches last year, adding that several female footballers participating in the games have the potential to play for professional clubs and even the national team. He, however, explained that they need to be trained adequately.

'Of course it was incredible to see girls participate too. I saw the finals last season and got to see some good quality players who can play for outside clubs and the national team as well if groomed properly. Yes, in order to improve they must continue to play such competitions," Wadoo said.

Wadoo has underlined that the expertise of the coaching personnel needs improvement to optimally harness the potential of the players in the region.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant to Niki Prasad to lead India in face Punjab FC in ISL match



New Delhi, (UNI)

Mohun Bagan Super Giant will face Punjab FČ in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Thursday night, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, here.

The Mariners have won both their previous ISL encounters against Punjab FC. However, Punjab FC have already beaten two sides, Mumbai City FC and Odisha FC, who managed the double over them last season, showing their ability to bounce back. Mohun Bagan Super Giant enter this match after an eight-game unbeaten run that was ended with a defeat to FC Goa in their last fixture.

Head coach Jose Molina has never lost consecutive games in ISL history, and the Mariners themselves have not suffered back-to-back away defeats in a

single season.
Punjab FC, on the other hand, have lost their last two matches on the road, conceding six goals

across these encounters, as many as they conceded in their previous five games combined.

However, their home record has been solid, with four wins in five games (L1), including a 2-0 victory against Mohammedan SC in their

Right now, Mohun Bagan Super Giant lead the points table with 26 points from 12 games, whereas Punjab FC are positioned seventh, having garnered 18 points from 11

Punjab FC have conceded only one goal in the opening 15 minutes of matches this season, the joint lowest in the league alongside Odisha FC. This defensive strength could give them an early foothold against the Mariners.

Punjab FC's Nikhil Prabhu (33) and Tekcham Singh (28) rank first and second, respectively, in interceptions this season. Their defensive awareness will be key in countering Mohun Bagan Super Giant's attacking threats.

U19 Women's T20 World Cup

Mumbai, (UNI)

Niki Prasad will lead the 15member Indian squad for tunder-10 Women's T20 World Cup slated to be played in Malaysia from January 18 to February 2, 2025.

India are the defending champions, having won the inaugural edition last year in South Africa.

While Niki Prasad is the captain, Sanika Chalke is her deputy, the BCCI announced.

The board also named three standby players.

Squad: Niki Prasad (Captain), Sanika Chalke (Vice-captain), G Trisha, Kamalini G (WK), Bhavika

Ahire (WK), Ishwari Awasare. Mithila Vinod, Joshitha VJ, Sonam Yadav, Parunika Sisodiya, Kesari Drithi, Aayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shabnam, Vaishnavi S Standby players: Nandhana S, Ira J, Anadi T, 16 teams will partici-pate in the U19 T20 World Cup 2025, and will be divided into four groups. India are placed in Group A along with Malaysia, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur will host India's group stage matches. They begin their campaign on January 19 against

PKL Season 11 Playoffs Kick Off with top 6 coaches praising young stars "The Haryana Steelers team is like a

Pune, (UNI)

PKL Season 11's Playoffs week is all set to commence on Thursday at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, here.

In the fray for the top prize are Haryana Steelers and UP Yoddhas, both of whom have never won the title, and along with them are threetime champions Patna Pirates, Season 8 winners Dabang Delhi K.C., Season 1 & 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 playoff race going to the last match of the league stage is a testament to how competitive this season has been, setting the stage for an exciting final week for season 11.

Ahead of a week that is set to celebrate the sport of Kabaddi in more ways than one, the six coaches,

Manpreet Singh (Haryana Steelers), Joginder Narwal (Dabang Delhi K.C.), Jasveer Singh (UP Yoddhas), Narender Redhu (Patna Pirates), Gholamreza Mazandarani (U Mumba) and Sanjeev Baliyan (Jaipur Pink Panthers) spoke at length at the Panga Roundtable,

of PKL Season 11. Staying true to the "Fan First" ap-

and touched upon various aspects

proach that has become synonymous with the PKL, also present at the engaging Panga Roundtable were the Super Fans, who made their presence felt.

Table toppers Haryana Steelers, who are through to the Semi-finals, are gunning for their first PKL title, and coach Manpreet Singh, who was full of praise for the Show-Stopper Mohammadreza Shadloui, said,

family. The players are all like my younger brothers, and we will work together, and leave no stone un turned when we play our Semi-final." "Having qualified for the Se mi-final directly is a source of grea motivation for the team before the final week, and for Haryana, a state which has won so many medals in other sports, it is the PKL title that remains elusive, and hopefully, we

can win it," he said.

The Dabang Delhi K.C. have been one of the best teams this season and have stitched together a 15match unbeaten streak, which helped them secure the second po sition on the points table. Having qualified for the Semi-final already coach Joginder Narwal, who won the PKL title as a skipper in Season 8, spoke about the bond between his two co-captains - Ashu Malik and Naveen Kumar.

BUSINESS

Shalimar Paints launches new paint ranges to reach out in every areas

Recognizing that more than 50

percent of walls in India especially in rural and remote areas remain unpainted, Shalimar Paints has launched its 'Mela range' paints meeting affordability and durabili-

The company has also launched 'Smart Bharat 2-in-1 Paint' at an event held in Thailand, it said in a release and added that over 100 key channel partners across India attended the launch event.

Mela series of products is a budget-friendly paint range designed to bring vibrant colour and durability to homes across India. It includes a comprehensive basket of products -- undercoats and enamel for wood and metal, as well as wa-



ter-based primer and distemper for walls. Recognizing a significant market gap, Shalimar Paints conducted extensive research and identified that more than 50% of walls in India, especially in rural and remote areas, remain unpainted. With a commitment to innovation and a mission to make quality paint accessible to all, the company has introduced the Mela Series as a solution to bring life and colour to these raw surfaces.

The launch of these new products underscores Shalimar Paints

ambitious growth journey. As a trailblazer in the dynamic paint industry, the brand continues to set benchmarks with its unwavering dedication to quality and innovation. Commenting on the success, Mr. Kuldip Raina, Director- Sales and Marketing at Shalimar Paints said, "We are incredibly proud of the success of our HERO & ZERO DAMP range; it's a true reflection of our commitment to creating innovative, high-performance solutions that meet real needs. With our 'Upgrade Kiya Kya' strategy, we are excited to take bold steps forward, launching new products like Smart Bharat 2-in-1 Paint and the Mela Range, while also expanding into categories like wood adhesives and

Standard Capital Markets Ltd.Board Approves Allotment of NCDs, Raises INR 15 Cr

Standard Capital Markets Ltd. (BSE: 511700) a leading player in Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), has announced that its board has approved the allotment of NCDs aggregating to INR 15 Cr on private placement basis. Earlier, the company announced the successful issuance of INR 5 billion in Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) to strengthen its capital structure and support its growth initiatives. Of the total funds INR 1.3 billion has been successfully raised aand strategically deployed towards enhancing and expanding the company's operations. This investment is aimed at driving operational efficiency, increasing capacity, and supporting the company's continued growth trajectory. Commenting on the issuance, Management of Standard Capital Markets Limited, said, "The successful issuance of these NCDs is a testament to the strong investor confidence in our business model and growth prospects.

CESL leapfrogs micro mobility with deployment of 1,800 e-cycles

Bhopal: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has awarded its first Letter of Award (LoA) for the procurement and distribution of 1,800 cargo e-cycles across four states. The contract, under CESL's Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Cycles (STREE) initiative, includes the delivery of e-cycles by M/s. Motovolt Mobility

STREE intends to empower the rural Self-Help Group (SHG) women by providing them with access to green mobility through the introduction of cargo e-bicycles. This pilot initiative will be implemented in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in the following four Andhra states-Bihar, Kerala,

Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
Speaking about the tender, Mr

Vishal Kapoor, MD & CEO, CESI said, "This initiative is a testament to CESL's ongoing commitment to accelerating clean energy solutions and providing accessible mobility alternatives to communities By deploying e-cycles in rural parts of India, we are reducing the carbon footprint and helping to create a sustainable and efficient mobility ecosystem. This project will go a long way in advancing micromobility solutions and keeping rural mobility congestion-free." As part of the STREE initiative, the deployment aims to empower women's economic status by providing green mobility solutions. By deploying e-bicycles, the project fosters livelihood opportunities, independence, and socio-economic upliftment for women.

Kirloskar Brothers Limited's Vertical Turbine Pumps Transform Water Management in MP

Sehore/Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh: Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) has significantly enhanced water management for the ISP Parwati Micro Lift Irrigation Scheme, a project that supplies water from the Indira Sagar Reservoir to 268 villages across the Sehore and Shajapur districts. This initiative benefits over 100,000 hectares of farmland, ensuring a reliable water supply for farmers. At the heart of this groundbreaking project are KBL's state-of-the-art Vertical Turbine (VT) pumps, installed at the Parwati site pumping station for the Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA)

These pumps are engineered for optimal efficiency, vibration-free operation, and minimal water loss, making them highly durable and reliable for large-scale irrigation systems.

This collaboration between KBL and the Government of Madhya Pradesh underscores a shared commitment to advancing agricultural prosperity by addressing water supply challenges in rural

The installation of VT pumps ensures that farmers across the region receive a consistent and sustainable water supply for irrigation, transforming the agricul-tural landscape of Madhya Pradesh.

KBL's expertise and innovative solutions continue to play a pivotal role in empowering communities and supporting the state's development goals.

Ola Electric Accelerates EV Revolution with Record Expansion to 4,000 Stores Nationwide

pure-play EV company, today announced the expansion of its network to 4,000 stores nationwide, registering a four-fold increase from the existing network. One of the world's most significant expansions of the EV footprint, bolstering access, growth, and adoption in the country, Ola Electric cements its leadership in the space. With the launch of 3,200+ new stores co-located with service facilities, the company is committed to driving large-scale EV adoption enabling deeper penetration beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities to almost every town and tehsil across India. With this expansion, Ola Electric has fulfilled its promise under its

#SavingsWalaScooter campaign.



Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman & Managing Director, Ola Electric, said, "We promised, and now we have delivered! Today marks a significant milestone in India's EV journey as we expand our network to every city, town, and taluk. With our newly opened stores co-located with service centres, we have completely redefined EV purchase & ownership experience, setting new benchmarks with our #SavingsWalaScooter campaign. As

we continue to scale, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation and accelerating the country's journey towards #EndICEAge.

Offers worth up to Rs25,000 on S1 portfolio, Marking the massive expansion of the network, Ola Electric has rolled out attractive offers with benefits ranging up to Rs25,000 on the S1 portfolio, exclusively available on ecember 25, 2024.

Customers can visit their nearest newly launched Ola Store and get a flat discount of up to Rs7,000 on S1 X portfolio. Besides, customers can avail additional benefits up to Rs18,000, including Rs5,000 on select credit card EMIs and MoveOS benefits worth Rs6,000.

Vakrangee Ltd. partners with Canara bank for offering banking services

Vakrangee Limited (VL) (BSE: 511431, NSE: VAKRANGEE), one of India's largest Last Mile Distribution Platform, has entered into an agreement with Canara Bank as Corporate Business Correspondent (CBC) for offering Banking Services through Vakrangee Kendra networks. Through this collaboration, Vakrangee's extensive network of Kendras will deliver a comprehensive suite of banking services to underserved and unbanked com munities in the East Zone parts of the Bank. This alliance will enhance rural banking infrastructure ensuring seamless access to essential financial services in the remotest and most underserved areas. It reflects Vakrangee's unwavering commitment to bridging the financial inclusion gap and transforming banking experiences in rural regions. Commenting on this partnership, Mr. Vedant Nandwana, Managing Director, Vakrangee Ltd. said, "Our collaboration with Canara Bank underscores our vision to make banking services accessible to every Indian, particularly in rural and remote areas.