

# India crush England by 142 runs

(Contd from Page 1)  
An uppercut attempt by Salt went into the hands of Axar Patel, removing the batter for 23 in 21 balls, with four boundaries. Arshdeep got both openers dismissed, at 80/2 in 8.4 overs.

Tom Banton joined forces with Joe Root, making his international return in five years. He welcomed Washington Sundar with a four and six while Root took his time against Indian spinners. England reached the 100-run mark in 13.3 overs.

Banton was caught behind by KL Rahul on a Kuldeep Yadav delivery for 38 in 41 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes. England was 126/3 in 18 overs.

After that, it was all downwards for England as Root (24 in 29 balls, with two fours) was cleaned up by Axar, followed by Harshit Rana and Hardik Pandya wiping out the middle order and tail, reducing England to 193/9.

Axar cleaned up Gus's stumps,



ending his fine cameo of 38 in 19 balls, with six fours and a six. England was all out for 214 runs in 34.2 overs.

An incredible century by super-consistent Shubman Gill and well-made fifties from Virat Kohli and

Shreyas Iyer helped India reach a total of 356 runs in their 50 overs during the third ODI against England at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday.

After England won the toss and elected to bowl first, India was off to

a poor start, losing skipper Rohit Sharma for just one run in two balls. A catch behind the stumps by Phil Salt on a Mark Wood delivery extended Rohit's wait for 11,000 ODI runs. India was 6/1 in two overs.

From then on, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli started to consolidate and stabilise the innings. While Gill was the aggressor on the other end, Virat also hit some fine shots against pace while trying to regain his confidence and form. At the end of 10 overs, India was 52/1, with Gill (28\*) and Virat (17\*) unbeaten.

As innings progressed, Virat took on really well against spin, hitting Joe Root for four boundaries. His shot arsenal looked strong as he made use of cuts and sweeps.

India reached the 100-run mark in 16.4 overs. Virat reached his 73rd ODI fifty in 50 balls, with seven fours and a six. Gill had also reached his fifty in 50 in 51 balls, with nine fours and six.

## Kagiyama of Japan leads men figure skating at Asian Winter Games



Harbin, (UNI)

Beijing Winter Olympics silver medalist Yuma Kagiyama of Japan delivered a near-flawless performance to top the men's short program at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games (AWG) on Tuesday.

Skating to The Sound of Silence, the 21-year-old executed clean quadruple jumps and an Axel to earn 103.81 points, though his final footwork sequence appeared slightly tangled.

"I'll focus on improving it with more training," Kagiyama said.

"In the free skate, I'll attempt a quadruple Axel this time, regardless of the outcome. At the very least, I want to take on the challenge," he added. South Korea's Cha Jun-hwan completed one quadruple and three triple jumps to secure second place with 94.09 points, while China's Dai Dawei followed in third with 82.89 points.

"I performed at about 80 percent of my training level," Dai said.

"Although I landed my hardest jump today, I made mistakes on the triple Lutz and Axel. These have been recurring issues in

training, and unfortunately, I didn't resolve them in time."

Looking ahead, he added, "I hope to skate to my full potential first, and only then will I think about rankings."

China's other competitor in men's figure skating, Chen Yudong, fell on his opening jump and finished seventh with 67.52 points. In ice dance, Japan's Utana Yoshida and Masaya Morita took the lead after the rhythm dance with 68.88 points. China's Ren Junfei and Xing Jianing trailed closely, just 4.59 points behind in second place, while another Japanese pair, Azusa Tanaka and Shingo Nishiyama, edged out China's Xiao Zixi and He Linghao for third place.

Xiao and He finished fourth with 64.29 points. Both Chinese duos set personal bests in their performances. Upon seeing their score, Xiao gasped in surprise. "This is the first time we've scored over 60 points in an international competition," she said. Xiao and He recently won gold at China's national championships, but he believes they made significant improvements in Harbin.



## UEFA: Manchester City beaten 3-2 by late Real Madrid goals

Manchester, (UNI): Manchester City is struggling to stay afloat in the Champions League and a place in the last 16 after Jude Bellingham fired an injury-time goal to settle a tense play-off first leg 3-2 in Real Madrid's favour.

Pep Guardiola's side got back their rhythm in the early minutes at Etihad Stadium. 19 minutes into the game, Jack Grealish and Josko Gvardiol colluded to set up Erling Haaland for a confident finish, the BBC reported.

Grealish, however, had to be replaced after picking up an injury. Real seized control, but failed to convert their chances into something productive in the first half. Finally, the talismanic Kylian Mbappe scrambled home a close-range finish on the hour. Real continued to create and then muss up chances, with Bellingham missing out on two sitters.

The action then happened at the end of the park as Haaland put City again ahead from a penalty after 80 minutes. The referee had pointed to the dreaded spot after Dani Ceballos committed a foul on Phil Foden.

But Real drew parity through former City player Brahim Diaz with four minutes of playing time left. Bellingham then found the target by sliding in from close range to leave Real as the hot favourites to reach the knockouts.

## WSL: Kelly left out of England's Nations League squad

London, (UNI)

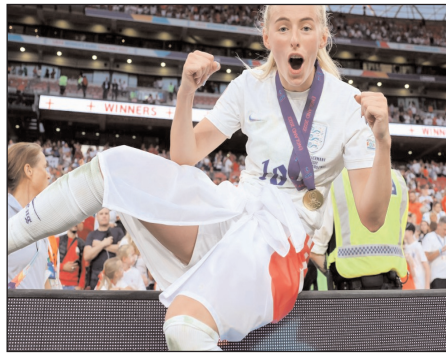
Chloe Kelly has been left out of England's squad for the Women's Nations League matches against Portugal and Spain this month.

The forward moved to Arsenal from Women's Super League rivals Manchester City on transfer deadline day in January after falling out of favour at Joie Stadium, according to a BBC report.

The 27-year-old, who scored England's winner in the final of Euro 2022, has not been selected by manager Sarina Wiegman for the opening Nations League games on 21 and 26 February.

Lauren James and Ella Toone return to the squad following injury, but Georgia Stanway has been ruled out.

Nikita Parris is also called into the se-



nior England squad for the first time since November 2022, as the Brighton forward is rewarded for a strong start to the Women's Super League (WSL) season.

## Restaurant Cricket League to kick off on Feb 17 in New Delhi

New Delhi, (UNI):

The third edition of Restaurant Cricket League (RCL), a national-level tournament scheduled to be held from February 17 to 22 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, here. Supported by the Ministry of Tourism, with an objective to raise awareness about food security, hunger

eradication, sustainable food practices. During the event the coveted trophy of RCL 2025 was unveiled on Tuesday at the Constitution Club in New Delhi, Chairman Governing Council, RCL Rajiv Pratap Rudy, former Indian cricketer and league director Atul Wassan were also present. Speaking on this occasion, Rudy said that RCL is moving ahead with the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Tennis: Rybakina's ex-coach Vukov banned after investigation

London, (UNI)

The WTA Tour ban on Stefano Vukov, the former coach of world number five Elena Rybakina, has been upheld by an independent probe into his behaviour towards the player.

The WTA - which governs women's tennis - had in January provisionally suspended the Croat for allegedly breaching its Code of Conduct, BBC reported.

On Tuesday, the WTA confirmed Vukov's ban had been upheld.

The 37-year-old has rejected the allegations while Rybakina said she was never mistreated by him.



Confirming the conclusion of the investigation to BBC Sport, the WTA added: "Following this process, the suspension remains in place", but declined to give further details, while expressing the body's commitment to deal with the matter in a fair and objective manner. It also did not specify how long the ban on Vukov will continue and which part of the WTA's

code he has breached. Vukov can appeal against the decision.

The decision means Rybakina will not be able to bring Vukov back on to her team - something she hoped to do at the start of the year.

Concerns have been raised over the past few seasons by some, including coach and commentator Pam Shriver, about the way Vukov spoke to Rybakina on and off court at tournaments.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina, who won the Wimbledon title in 2022, said at last month's Australian Open she has

never made "any complaints" about Vukov, adding: "I don't agree with a lot of things the WTA do in the sense of my relationship with Stefano".

Vukov has been working with Rybakina since she was a teenager and he helped her win her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon, but the association ended before last year's US Open. Rybakina announced in January she wanted Vukov to rejoin her team but the provisional suspension meant he did not receive accreditation for the opening Grand Slam of the season.

## Jasprit Bumrah ruled out from India squad for Champions Trophy 2025

Dubai, (UNI)

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the squad for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, media reports said.

Harshit Rana has been named as his replacement, with the lower back injury sustained in January during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy continuing to sideline India's pace ace, according to an ICC media release.

Bumrah had also missed the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, making this the second ICC event the 31-year-old has had to miss with a back injury.

India's Squad for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Rohit Sharma (Cap-



tain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarthy. According to reports, Rana has impressed in the ongoing ODI series against England, scalping four wickets in his first two outings. The third

ODI will be played in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

India also included spinner Varun Chakravarthy in the squad, replacing Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was originally part of the provisional team. Jaiswal has been named as a non-travelling substitute, alongside Mohammed Siraj and Shivam Dube.

India begin their ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign against Bangladesh on 20 February, before taking on rivals Pakistan in a highly-anticipated clash on 23 February.

India will play their final Group A match against New Zealand on 2 March, the report said.

## India rout Macau in Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships opener

New Delhi, (UNI)

India, last edition's bronze medalists, began their Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025 campaign with a commanding 5-0 victory over Macau in Group D at the Qingdao Sports Centre Conson Gymnasium in China on Wednesday.

The emphatic win also secured India's place in the knockout stage. They will now take on two-time runners-up South Korea in the second Group D encounter on Thursday to decide the group winner.

National Games mixed doubles gold medallists Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath set the tone for India with a clin-



ical 21-0, 21-9 triumph over Leong Lok Chong and Ng Weng Chi in the opening mixed doubles fixture. Lakshya Sen extended India's lead, defeating Pui Pang Fong 21-16, 21-12 in the men's singles, while Malvika Bansod sealed India's knockout berth

with a dominant 21-15, 21-9 victory over Chan Hao Wai in the women's singles. India fielded a new men's doubles combination of MR Arjun and Chirag Shetty, who breezed past Macau's Pui Chi Chon and Vong Kok Weng

21-15, 21-9, making it 4-0. The women's doubles pairing of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly completed the rout with a resounding 21-10, 21-5 win over Ng Weng Chi and Pui Chi Wa, capping off India's flawless start to the tournament.

Result: India bt Macau 5-0 (Sathish Karunakaran/Aadya Variyath bt Leong Lok Chong/Ng Weng Chi 21-10, 21-9; Lakshya Sen bt Pui Pang Fong 21-16, 21-12; Malvika Bansod bt Chan Hao Wai 21-15, 21-9; MR Arjun/Chirag Shetty bt Pui Chi Chon/Vong Kok Weng 21-15, 21-9; G a y a t r i Gopichand/Treesa Jolly bt Ng Weng Chi/Pui Chi Wa 21-10, 21-5).

## Ning, Han become triple winners as China racks up 11 speed skating golds at Winter Asiad

Harbin, (UNI)

Ning Zhongyan and Han Mei each secured a triple gold medal haul as speed skating concluded on Tuesday at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games (AWG).

Ning and Han triumphed in the men's and women's 1,000m races, respectively, while Team China also claimed gold in both the men's and women's team pursuit events.

With a final tally of 11 golds, five silvers, and five bronzes from 14 events, China surpassed its previous best record of five golds, four silvers, and three bronzes from the 6th AWG in Changchun

18 years ago. In the women's 1,000m, Han and compatriot Yin Qi se-



cured a one-two finish, with Han clocking one minute and 15.85 seconds to beat then leader Lee Nah-yun to second. Han's performance edged Lee by 0.54 seconds, while Yin overtook Lee in the subsequent pair, finishing second in 1:16.08. Lee had to settle for bronze.

"It's difficult to say I have no regrets since I didn't win the

gold. I could have skated faster, but this is competitive sport," said Yin, who also earned a bronze in the 1,500m. Less than two hours later, Han, together with teammates Yang Binyu and Ahenaer Adake, secured another gold in the women's team pursuit.

With only four teams competing, the other three were guaranteed medals after Kazakhstan withdrew from the race due to injury just seconds after the start. China finished with a time of 3:02.75 to ensure the gold, while Japan and South Korea took silver and bronze, respectively.

"I'm happy to have achieved the goals I set for myself, and I will continue working to improve," said Han, who collected three golds and two silvers at the Harbin AWG.

## Women FA Cup: Manchester Utd to face Sunderland in quarter-finals

London, (UNI):

Women's FA Cup holders Manchester United have been drawn at home to second division Sunderland in the quarter-finals. Sunderland, currently sixth in the Women's Championship, are the only side outside the Women's Super League remaining in the competition, BBC reported. They will travel to Leigh Sports Village to face United, who won the Women's FA Cup for the first time in 2024 by beating Tottenham in the final at Wembley. The other three ties, which are all-WSL affairs, see champions and current leaders Chelsea host bottom club Crystal Palace. The current WSL top four have all been drawn at home, with Manchester City hosting Aston Villa and 14-time winners Arsenal playing Liverpool. The Women's FA Cup quarter-final matches will take place across the weekend of Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 March. Women's FA Cup draw in full: Manchester City v Aston Villa, Chelsea v Crystal Palace, Manchester United v Sunderland, Arsenal v Liverpool.

## Injury-hit Australia gear up for Sri Lanka ODIs

Colombo, (UNI)

Australia star batter Steve Smith said Champions Trophy is at the forefront of his team's thoughts ahead of the two-ODI series against Sri Lanka.

The 35-year-old, who is likely to stand in as skipper for the series with Australia struggling with injuries, emphasised that Australia are focused on the Champions Trophy, but dismissed any suggestion that they are taking the upcoming clashes against Sri Lanka lightly.

"I'd be lying if I said the Champions Trophy wasn't at the forefront of our minds, it's a massive ICC tournament for us," said Smith ahead of the ODI series against Sri Lanka.

"While our focus is firmly on finishing this series on a strong note, there is no denying that the Champions Trophy is looming large. We want to make sure



we carry good form into that competition," he said.

Smith credited the training camp in the United Arab Emirates as a key factor in Australia's success on their subcontinent tour, an ICC report said.

The team secured a 2-0 Test series sweep against Sri Lanka, marking their first red-ball series win in the country in 14 years. Now, they aim to carry that momentum into the Champions Trophy.

"It was a hugely beneficial camp for us, we were able to prepare wickets [on] that were really challenging," Smith said.

"The batters found methods to succeed in these conditions, the spinners worked on varying their pace, and the seamers fine-tuned their reverse swing, and we hope to bring all that into this series and finish well," he said.

