

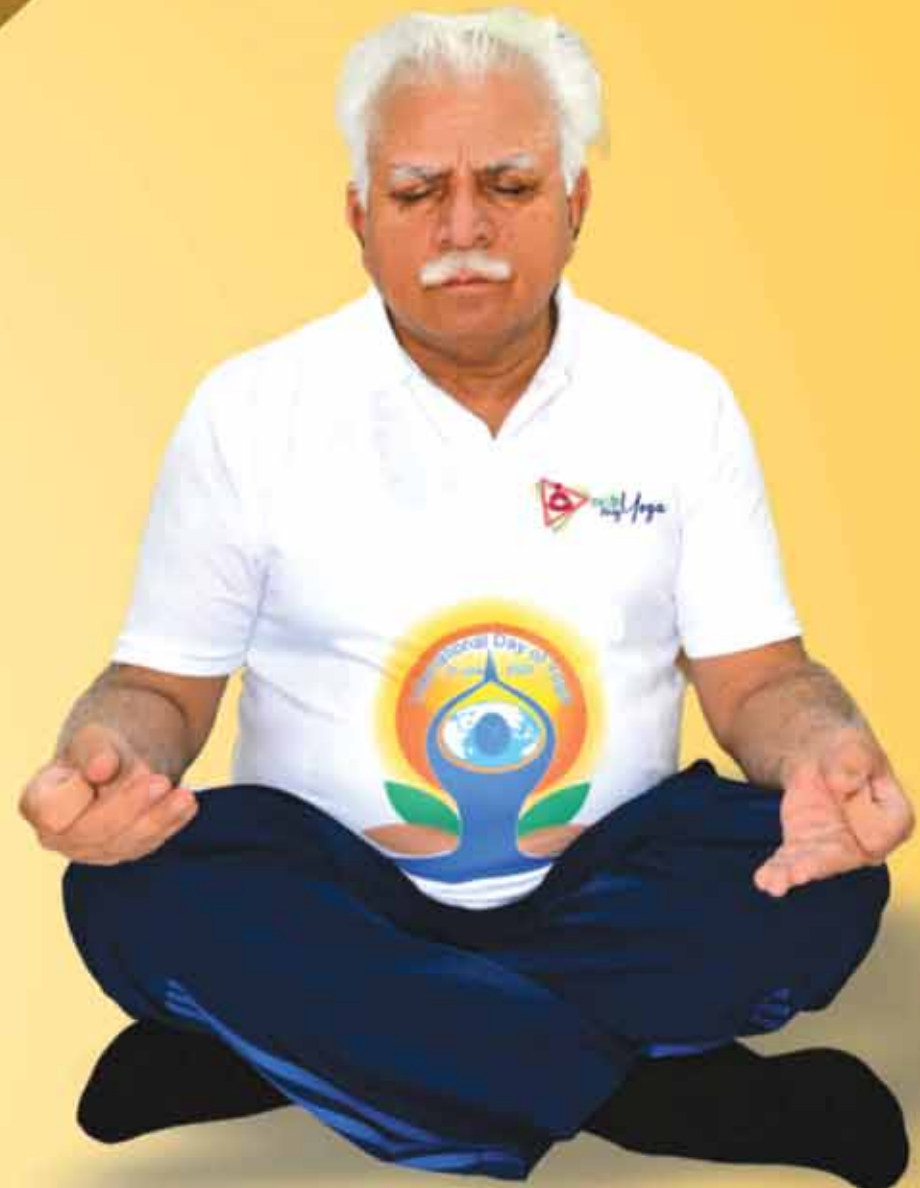
“
दुखों से वियोग को, मुक्ति को ही योग कहते हैं।
सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाली मानवता की ये
योग यात्रा हमें ऐसे ही अनवरत आगे बढ़ानी है।
इन्हीं शुभकामनाओं के साथ, आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
योग दिवस पर पूरी मानव जाति को
आप सभी को बहुत बहुत शुभकामना।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी



सामंजस्य एवं शान्ति के लिए योग

" वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् के लिए योग "

Heartiest Greetings to all
on the occasion of
International Yoga Day



State Level Programme

Chief Guest

Sh. Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

Date - June 21, 2023 Time - 6 AM onwards

Venue - Shivaji Stadium, Panipat

Programmes will also be held at district and block level

योग अपनाएं, रोगों से मुक्ति पाएं

" हर घर आंगन योग "

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Programme





FIRST COLUMN

UNDERSTAND OTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

Respect the perspective or habits of others by offering them empathy



SAKSHI SETHI

In the words of Beau Taplin, "we're all desperate to be understood that we forget to be understanding." Perspective-taking is a complex mental skill that helps an individual to understand a situation from a different point of view. It is a cognitive phenomenon, a thought process about seeing things from somebody else's point of view. Perspective-taking is the ability to take on someone else's point of view when thinking. It is a simple concept and is something that most of us do all the time mostly, without even thinking about it.

Nowadays, people are regularly sharing space with other people. An individual's feelings are not the same as one's intuition. All of us have a uniquely valuable perspective in life—a lens through which we interpret our lives. Perspective-taking requires both - the skill to understand others accurately as well as the motivation to do so. Through that perspective, we define what makes sense to us, which is differentiated from how others see and experience life. It is to some degree an innate human characteristic. Perspective-taking is needed to have empathy for someone else. It is critical to gain insight into one's strengths.

Perspective-taking should not be confused with its emotional cousin- empathy. At times it is usually thought of as a cognitive component of empathy. There is also an emotional aspect of empathy, which is about one's emotional response to another's person's experience. Empathy is about feeling the other person's feelings. It is a



process that begins in childhood starting with an egocentric world view then learning to adjust how one sees things to accommodate others' viewpoint. In order to implement it successfully, an individual must have an understanding of others' thoughts, feelings, motivations and intentions. Respecting the perspective or habits of others by offering them empathy is crucial for individual development on both personal and professional levels.

When it comes to children, Perspective taking forms a critical skill along with parents too as it allows for an individual to better understand and further interact with others around them. It might not only provide new data in complex situations but can also activate networks in their brains that are associated with creative thinking and exploration.

To be thought of as a considerate person, an individual must consider another person's perspective before acting or speaking. When a person does not consider how their actions will make others feel, they end up seeming rude, inconsiderate and self-centred. Perspective-taking is an essential skill and be it a child or an adult, everyone needs to interpret "why" and "how" situations that happen and then respond appropriately to that information. Remember, not to compare or judge others just by looking through the lens of one's own individual experiences. A person has no idea what they have been through. (The writer is an educator)

How to stem the rising airfares?

Saving GoFirst and SpiceJet has become even more important to retain competition in the aviation sector after the privatisation of Air India



ASHWANI MAHAJAN



Domestic airfares have been increasing continuously for some time now. Recently Delhi-Mumbai airfare had reached up more than to Rs.20000, for booking done 24 hours in advance, which used to be only Rs.7000 earlier. Fares have been rising on the remaining routes and for bookings made much in advance also. Passengers have been facing the brunt of rising fares.

Its notable that passenger movement has increased significantly after Covid-19. Recently, on a single day on April 30, 2023, 4.56 lakh passengers travelled by air, which was a record. The monthly passenger count of air travel remains between 12 million and 13 million. The increasing number of passengers indicates increasing demand and growth in the aviation industry. Unfortunately, taking advantage of the increasing demand, airlines have started charging exploitative fares. This is not good news for the Indian aviation sector, as passengers may also get disenchanted from air travel due to higher airfares.

In the last two decades, due to affordable airfares, many passengers who used to travel by rail traditionally, have now started traveling by air because of the economical fares. For instance, the train fare for Delhi-Mumbai AC first-class Rajdhani train is Rs 4730, while the airfare was generally lesser than that if booked in advance. Therefore, many people started preferring air travel to rail. But due to the increase in air fares, people can now turn to other modes again, and demand for air travel may reduce, impacting the growth of this sector.

Notably, airfares are increasing internationally. According to the report of Airports Council International (Asia Pacific), there has been an increase of up to 50 per cent in international airfares. The report also says that the highest increase in airfares was 41 per cent in India, while it was 34 per cent in the United Arab Emirates, 30 per cent in Singapore and 23 per cent in Australia.

The report says that there are two main reasons for the increase in air fares - first,



RECENTLY, JEHANGIR WADIA-LED GOFIRST AIRLINES, WHICH WAS INDIA'S FOURTH LARGEST AIRLINE WITH AN 8 PER CENT MARKET SHARE, IS NOT ONLY GOING THROUGH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BUT HAS FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

the increase in the cost of fuel and second, the high rate of general inflation. Aviation fuel prices have increased by 76 per cent since the year 2019, while other costs of airlines are increasing due to the high rate of inflation globally. But the Airports Council International notes that airlines are trying to keep prices high by limiting supply (seat availability) to keep fares high. The report has expressed the concern that this act of companies can affect the growth in the aviation industry.

Many companies are operating in the domestic aviation sector in India. Indigo ranked first with a market share of 55.9 per cent in February 2023, followed by Tata group's Air India and Vistara at second and third positions, with a share of 8.9 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively. Although Air India and Vistara will soon merge into one entity, they will still be over one-third of IndiGo's share. GoFirst and SpiceJet were the two airlines in the fourth and fifth positions with a market share of 8.0 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively in February 2023. But both these companies are in deep trouble.

Recently, Jehangir Wadia-led GoFirst Airlines, which was India's fourth largest airline with an 8 per cent market share, is not only going through financial difficulties but has filed for bankruptcy. However, its difficulties were initially more technical than financial, for which Pratt & Whitney Engines, the company that supplies the engine, is mainly responsible. The company supplies engines for the Airbus A-320 Neo aircraft. Over the past few years, GoFirst had to ground several of its aeroplanes due to engine problems supplied by the company. Due to all this, the company has gone into huge financial losses. Due to the

inability to pay its liabilities the process of bankruptcy has started. GoFirst has suspended its flights since May 3 and filed its bankruptcy application.

Similarly, SpiceJet company, holding the fifth position in the civil aviation sector is also going through a financial crisis. The airline is also grappling with several technical glitches in its planes and for this, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the company to ground 10 of its Boeing-737 Max planes. From the first quarter of 2022-23, the company has been reeling under losses due to rising fuel costs, inflation and rupee devaluation, apart from its failure to fix technical glitches. Although the company has not given up, its services are disrupted.

SpiceJet and Go-First used to give tough competition to big companies like IndiGo and Tata Group's Air India, Vistara and Sir Asia. Indigo and Tata group companies are facing much less competition after GoFirst and SpiceJet got into trouble. For this reason, these companies are increasing the airfares indiscriminately. Although taking cognizance of this matter, the Central Government has also given instructions to these companies not to increase the fares, but that too couldn't fix the problem significantly.

HOW TO STOP RISING AIRFARES?

After the private sector was allowed into the aviation sector, generally, the decision of airfares has been left to the airlines so that they can fix the prices according to the market and do not suffer unnecessary losses and there is a healthy development of this sector. Competition among a large number of airlines not only kept airfares

affordable to a great extent but also led to a healthy growth of the civil aviation sector in general. India's aviation sector has seen the fastest growth in the world in the past. It is worth mentioning that recently the order of nearly 1000 new aircraft by Indian companies, including 550 aircraft by Air India, surprised the whole world.

This reflects the growth story of our civil aviation sector.

But the economic difficulties of the two major airlines have created a crisis in the civil aviation sector now. For a long time, the government has made this process easier by making major changes in the bankruptcy law to provide relief to the promoters of companies trapped in an economic crisis. If both GoFirst and SpiceJet go bankrupt, IndiGo and Tata Group will virtually have a monopoly in the aviation sector.

In such a situation, the benefit of development and competition in the aviation sector in the last two decades, which the common man was getting in the form of affordable air travel, will now end. As a result, the public was getting the benefit of competition. Since Air India, the only public sector airline, is now a part of the Tata group, saving GoFirst and SpiceJet has become even more important to retain competition in the aviation sector. It's important to understand that these companies are in trouble not because of financial vagaries but because of negligence and misconduct by multinational aircraft and engine manufacturers. These companies have to be taken to task at the highest level, rather than allowing them to ruin our efficiently run airlines. In such a situation, the intervention of the Government of India in this matter becomes even more necessary.

Imbibe yoga in its true spirit on the International Yoga Day

Yoga is incomplete without Pratyahara (withdrawal of the senses), Dhyana (meditation) and Dharana (focused concentration)

The history of Yoga in Indian culture is more than five thousand years old. Many complex physical diseases and mental disorders can be cured by various yoga asanas, pranayama, deep breathing, meditation, and mindfulness. There is also improvement in the personality. Due to these benefits, the popularity of yoga as a preventive therapy is increasing progressively all over the world. Yoga counsellors have been appointed in allopathic hospitals in many countries around the world including India.

The global popularity of yoga is not without reason, psychologists and doctors themselves have wholeheartedly accepted its positive effects on the body and mind. In the transition period of



VK YADAV

(The writer is a Yoga Expert and Naturopathist. Views expressed are personal)

Covid-19, one can lead a stress-free and happy life by practising yoga. This unique way of life of the Indian sages teaches a person to live happily and also provides liberation to those who move forward on the path of Yoga. The sages created this knowledge for self-welfare so that they can get freedom from the hassle of worldly traffic and lead a prosperous life.

Today, yoga is being spread more in the context of health protection than from a spiritual perspective. There are three stages of yoga education - medicine, immortality, and salvation. After the scientific interpretation of Yoga Vidya, it is being used significantly all over the world to make the body healthy as well as to get rid of mental dis-

eases. According to a research work published in May 2020, in a prestigious research journal, the 'Indian Journal of Psychiatry', the Lab for Molecular Reproduction and Genetics of the Anatomy Department of AIIMS and the Department of Psychiatry together concluded that the treatment of depressed patients due to genetic causes is also possible through yoga.*

Under this research, a comparative study was done by a group of doctors on 160 patients undergoing treatment for depression. They were divided into two groups of 80 each - One group was restricted to medicine only, while the other group was made to practice yoga asanas for twelve weeks along with medicinal

treatment. On completion of the research work, blood samples from both groups were tested. The report gave astounding results. Only 29% of the patients taking only the medicines benefitted, on the contrary, 60% of those who practised yoga along with medicines availed benefits.

*The Corona epidemic resulted in a rapid increase in the patients of depression in all the countries of the world.

By the research of AIIMS, Dr Reema Dada suggested that practising asanas like Surya Namaskar, Mayurasana, Vrikshasana, Tadasana, Bhujangasana, Janushirasana, Pawanmuktasana, Shalabhasana, Paschimottanasana, Anulom-Vilom Pranayama, Bhramari, Kapalhati can significantly help in curing de-

pression and other diseases like arthritis.

Mayurasana and Ardhamatsyendrasana are considered a panacea for diabetes and abdominal disorders. Apart from physical and mental balance, yoga is also effective in maintaining efficiency, a well-organized routine, and a lifestyle. Yoga has special importance in changing the sanskaras of the mind.

Although India has had many sages of Yoga, the most famous and prominent among them is Maharishi Patanjali. Today, yoga is directly related to disease prevention, keeping the body flexible and healthy. In reality, this is not yoga but only a means of 'Ashtayoga' of Patanjali Yogasutra. Patanjali has specifically defined yoga in the Yoga Sutras - 'Yogaschitt-

avrittinirodha' i.e., restraining the violent and malevolent instincts of the mind by practicing Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dhyana, and Dharana respectively.

On International Yoga Day, emphasis is given to the practice of physical postures and workouts. There is hardly any discussion on Pratyahara (withdrawal of the senses), Dhyana (meditation), and Dharana (focused concentration). Yoga is incomplete without imbuing these three steps of the Yogasutra. It paves the way to make a person's body, mind, subconscious and soul work smoothly in one rhythm. It is a method of establishing an interrelationship between man and nature. Patanjali was an intense psychologist; he

observed that man's personal life is full of sorrows. These sorrows are directly related to the change in the mind and so, Patanjali talks about living a disciplined life by methodically practicing the middle way of meditation - Ashtanga Yoga.

However, in today's era, yoga is associated with Hinduism, and there is also an attempt to take political advantage of it. But the concept of yoga was born even when the concept of religion was not clear and is used for thousands of years to get rid of physical distress and worldly sorrows. Thus, it is propagated today at the international level due to its positive impact on the health of human beings and the welfare of humanity.

ENGLAND LEADS AUS BY 162 WITH 5 WICKETS LEFT



IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

Robinson removed Khawaja from the first ball Monday and Australia struck back by taking three wickets as the hosts went to lunch at 155-5 on the fourth day of the Ashes opener for an overall lead of 162 runs. England captain Ben Stokes (13 not out) and wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow (1 not out) are at the crease.

Joe Root made England's intentions clear at the start of play by unsuccessfully trying to reverse-ramp Australia captain Pat Cummins (2-33). Both Root and Harry Brook were dismissed for 46 at close to run-a-ball pace. Cummins started the session by finishing his inter-

rupted over from Sunday after rain had limited England to 28-2 in only 10.3 overs. Root's attempt to lift the ball over the wicketkeeper's head didn't work against Cummins but it did in the next over against Scott Boland. That six was immediately followed by another four with the same stroke before Australia got fed up and put a fielder on the boundary. Root tried to reverse-ramp Cummins once more in the 18th, again unsuccessfully, with Root then practicing the highly unorthodox stroke between deliveries. Root and Ollie Pope shared a 50-run partnership for the third wicket before Cummins' superb inswinger claimed Pope for 14. More importantly for



Joe Root owned the game in first hour: Pietersen

IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

On Day Four of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston, Joe Root started by attempting to reverse scoop off Australia skipper Pat Cummins, which he couldn't do so. But nailed the shot a short while later, hitting a six and four off seamer Scott Boland to set the ball rolling for an entertaining 55-ball 46. Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen was in awe of Root's knock helping England extend their lead to 162 runs at lunch on Day Four. "Root owned the game, he ran the game, he was pure quality. He made Australia do everything he wanted them to do, like spreading the field. It was a masterpiece." "The sky is the limit for Root with the brain he has and also his work ethic, which is like none other. With 11,000 Test runs, he could be, I've got enough, I could swan around, get a hundred, watch everyone the next morning warm up

and play football with the lads," he said to Sky Sports Cricket. Pietersen also felt Root's reverse scoops have a connection to his stint in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 with Rajasthan Royals. "Every single morning Root is out there wanting to improve. We are lucky enough to watch a master and long may that continue. It would have been in those two months in the IPL (with Rajasthan Royals) where those shots (the reverse scoops) would have been ingrained in his game." Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting highlighted how England used more attacking shots in the first session of Day Four. "We have talked a lot about Bazball. The average attacking shot percentage since Brendon McCullum has taken over has been 47 per cent. In the first hour that went up to 58 per cent. They played more shots this morning than over the last 12 months."



WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Hasaranga takes six-for as Sri Lanka thrash UAE

PTI ■ BULAWAYO

Ig-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga took a career-best 6/24 as Sri Lanka opened their ICC World Cup Qualifier group league campaign with a crushing 175-run victory over minnows United Arab Emirates here on Monday. All the Lankan top-order players made half-centuries to post a huge total of 355/6 in 50 overs, with some late fireworks from Charith Asalanka and Hasaranga, who nicely warmed up with an unbeaten 23 off 12 balls. Then the RCB spinner came back to remove three of the UAE's top five as they were all out for 180 in 39 overs. En route his six wicket haul, Hasaranga

also completed a mini milestone of 50 ODI wickets. In the Lankan innings, Kusal Mendis did the star turn by hitting 10 fours in his classy 63-ball 78, and shared a 105-run partnership with Sadeera Samarawickrama, which fired Sri Lanka to a big total. Mendis holed out to the substitute fielder off Ali Naseer, and Samarawickrama was run out on 73 from 64 balls, to give UAE hope of restricting the scoring in the final six overs. But Charith Asalanka had other ideas, unleashing boundary after boundary in a brilliant display of finishing, as he struck 48 not out off just 23 balls. Hasaranga hit three boundaries in the final over to take the score past 350.

OMAN ROCK IRELAND Oman pulled off a superb run chase to beat Ireland by five wickets in another group match to cause the first upset in the qualifying tournament. Ireland would have been confident after a flurry of lower-order runs helped them to 281/7 with Harry Tector (52 off 82 balls) and George Dockrell (91 off 89 balls) starring with the bat after Oman elected to bowl. But the Asian nation chased down the target in style, with half-centuries from Kashyap Prajapati, Aqib Ilyas and Zeeshan Maqsood. The win came with 11 balls to spare as Mohammad Nadeem (46*), Ayaan Khan (21) and Shoab Khan (19*) finished it off.

Robinson 'does not care' about how Khawaja send-off is perceived



IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

England pacer Ollie Robinson has said that he 'doesn't care' about how his celebration for the wicket of opener Usman Khawaja was perceived in the Australia dressing room, adding that he is "here to provide that theatre of the game" during the ongoing Ashes 2023. Robinson removed Khawaja for 141 on the third day of the first Test, knocking back his off stump as he came down the pitch looking to force the ball through the off side. The pacer appeared to swear towards Khawaja during his celebrations. "It's my first home Ashes and to get the big wicket at the time was special for me. I think Uzzie played unbelievably well. To get that wicket for us as a team at that time was massive. We all want that theatre of the game, don't we? So I'm here to provide it," Robinson said. Asked whether abusing an opponent could really be considered part of the theatre of the

game, Robinson suggested that it was simply part of "the passion of the Ashes", citing Australian players historically doing the same towards England teams. "No, it's not. But I think when you're in the heat of the moment and you have the passion of the Ashes, that can happen. We've all seen Ricky Ponting, other Aussies do the same to us. Just because the shoe is on the other foot, it's not received well," the England pacer said. The 29-year old was further asked if the outburst towards Khawaja might have been received by the Australian dressing-room and the pacer said he doesn't care. "I don't really care how it's perceived, to be honest. It's the Ashes. It's professional sport. If you can't handle that, what can you handle?" Robinson said. Meanwhile, Australia's wicketkeeper Alex Carey said that he had only heard about Robinson's send-off when he was briefed by the team's media manager while walking to the press conference room.

"I didn't see it at all. Usman hasn't said anything. It's an Ashes - at times it's going to be pretty exciting and hostile cricket, but I actually was sitting there disappointed at getting out and didn't see anything over the top there. From our dressing-room, there was no comment," Carey said. "Don't think there was that much in it": Taylor

Former Australian Test captain Mark Taylor feels there was not any issue in England pacer Ollie Robinson's aggressive send-off to Australia batter and centurion Usman Khawaja on Day 3 of the ongoing first Ashes Test. "It was interesting that when Uzzie went we lost 4-14 and they bowled us out pretty quickly. So, they knew the role and the importance of getting Uzzie out in a situation where he was the anchor, the spine of our innings. It was a big wicket. I didn't see too much more in it than that, to be honest. a lack of class, but Taylor did not join the critics when asked for his thoughts on the controversial incident. "I don't think there was that much in it, to be totally honest. He's obviously excited to get a wicket. He got a very crucial wicket," Taylor told Wide World of Sports. "It was interesting that when Uzzie went we lost 4-14 and they bowled us out pretty quickly. So, they knew the role and the importance of getting Uzzie out in a situation where he was the anchor, the spine of our innings. It was a big wicket. I didn't see too much more in it than that, to be honest."

Ponting praises Stokes 'proactive' captaincy

IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

Former Australian batter Ricky Ponting hailed England skipper Ben Stokes' captaincy and his innovative field placement during Day 3 of the Ashes 2023 opener, here. Stokes tried all sorts of experimental field placings and bowling tactics during Australia's first innings in Birmingham, with a highly-unusual field helping remove centurion Usman Khawaja on day three. When Australia captain Pat Cummins and Khawaja settled in after Alex Carey's dismissal, England opted for some unusual bowling tactics to slow the scoring. And a particularly odd field helped unsettle centurion Khawaja when he was yorked by Ollie Robinson to depart for 141. Ponting said Stokes' commitment to moving things forward is a fantastic fillip for the Test game. "It's hard to keep up with them all, he's making a change almost every ball, which is great, it's proactive captaincy. He's always trying to move the game forward, he's looking at any little way that he possibly can to



pick up a wicket and change the momentum of the game," Ponting told ICC. "With Khawaja's innings, I'd hate to try and count how many times he changed the field for him and how many bowling changes and tactical changes he made to try and get Khawaja out - and then it finally worked. "I don't think I've ever seen a field like

that in Test cricket before. There was just an umbrella of fielders around in-front of the batsman's face. And it was all about bowling a couple of slower balls and being able to bowl a yorker. It's fantastic stuff. It's really refreshing for the Test game to see a team play this way and a captain happy to try everything he possibly can," he added.

Robinson should have been punished: Healy

IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

Legendary Australia wicket-keeper Ian Healy believes England pacer Ollie Robinson should have been punished with a fine as he was trying to incite a reaction from left-handed batter Usman Khawaja through a fiery send-off on day three of first Ashes Test at Edgbaston. Robinson removed Khawaja for 141 on day three's play on Sunday, knocking back his off stump as he came down the pitch looking to force the ball through the off side. The pacer appeared to swear towards a departing Khawaja during his wicket-taking celebrations. "It is a lack of class like he's



been criticised for, but that's ok, it happens in the heat of the moment. I think he should have been punished because it was shown so closely on TV and it does incite retaliation. If Khawaja retaliated to that and said something back to him, he'd probably get in trouble. He (Robinson) was trying to incite that, it was rude and it was rugged. There probably should have been a little fine handed down to Ollie," said Healy to SEN Radio.



'I Shouldn't Have Done This': Avesh Khan Opens Up About Helmet Controversy

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Lpacer Avesh Khan has expressed his regret over his wild celebration, in which he tossed his helmet following the team's victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in a closely contested Indian Premier League match held in Bengaluru. Avesh, who came to bat at No.11, sneaked a single off the last delivery of the match to clinch the game for his side. He was seen throwing his helmet to the ground after completing the winning run. Notably, the LSG pacer was reprimanded for breaching the Code of Conduct. "Yeh social media mein mera mahool bana rehta hai and helmet incident thoda jyada hogaya tha. I realised later that I shouldn't have done that. It just happened in the heat of the moment. I now feel sad that yaar yeh sab cheez nahi karna tha," Avesh Khan was quoted saying by the Indian Express.

However, he admitted that was dissatisfied with his performance during the IPL 2023 season. "If you compare my past two IPL seasons before this one, it went the way I wanted too. However, even though the season didn't go well as per my standard, I maintained my economy rate which is less than 10. I bowl crucial overs 4 or 5th over and later in death," he said. With the West Indies series just around the corner, the Madhya Pradesh seamer, who played five ODIs and 15 T20Is for the national team, is optimistic about being recalled by the selectors. "I'm hoping to be there. Selection is not in my hand as a player, one goes through ups and down. I want to make a comeback and just hoping to do that," said Avesh. The 26-year-old, whose last appearance for the Indian team came during home series against South Africa in 2022, has three ODI wickets and 13 T20I scalps to his name.

Miandad doesn't want Pakistan to tour India for WC

PTI ■ KARACHI

Batting great Javed Miandad spewed fresh venom at India, saying Pakistan should not travel to the neighbouring country for matches, including this year's ICC ODI World Cup, until the BCCI agrees to send its team to his nation first. As per the draft schedule prepared by the ICC, Pakistan are scheduled to play India in the blockbuster World Cup clash at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15. But the 66-year-old former captain feels it is now India's time to reciprocate by touring Pakistan. "Pakistan has been to India in 2012 and even in 2016 now

it is the turn of the Indians to come here," Miandad said. "If I had to make a decision I would never go to India to play any match, even the World Cup. We are always ready to play them (India) but they never respond in the same manner. "Pakistan cricket is bigger... We are still producing quality players. So I don't think even if we don't go to India it will make any difference to us," he added. India last visited Pakistan in 2008 for the 50-over Asia Cup. Since then bilateral cricket ties were suspended due to long-standing geo-political tensions between the two nations. Miandad feels sports should not be mixed with politics.



"I always say one can't choose its neighbours, so it is better to live by cooperating with each other. And I have always said cricket is a sport which brings people closer to each other and can remove misunderstandings and grievances between countries," he said. Miandad's fresh attack came after Pakistan were forced to host the upcoming Asia Cup in a hybrid model with India playing all their matches in Sri Lanka. This decision didn't go down well with Miandad, a vocal critic of India. "It was on the cards that they would again not send their team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup so it is time we also take a strong stand now," he said.