

Bumrah claims five as India seize advantage in first South Africa Test

Jasprit Bumrah claimed 5-27 as India bundled out South Africa for 159 on the first day in Kolkata

- South Africa bowled out for 159
- India finish day on 37-1
- Play ended early due to bad light

AFP | Kolkata

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah claimed a five-wicket haul as India bowled out South Africa for 159 on the opening day of the first cricket Test yesterday. Electing to bat in Kolkata at the start of the two-match series, reigning world Test champions South Africa lost regular wickets and were bowled out off 55 overs. In reply, India were 37-1 at stumps, trailing South Africa by 122 runs on a pitch that looked good for batting. Left-arm quick Marco Jansen removed Yashasvi Jaiswal for 12 when the left-handed opener chopped a delivery on to his stumps. With the red ball in use, even with the floodlights on, it grew so dark that play was halted early at the iconic Eden Gardens. KL Rahul was on 13 and left-handed Washington Sundar on six. The visitors had suffered a



India's Jasprit Bumrah (C) celebrates after taking five-wicket haul

setback even before a ball was bowled when their premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was ruled out with a rib injury. “KG (Rabada) is a world class bowler, probably is one of the top two or three seam bowlers in the world, and we’ve seen what damage one of the other best seam bowlers in the world could do on that surface,” South African batting coach Ashwell Prince said. “So he’ll definitely be missed

Scorecard

India 37 for 1 (Rahul 13*, Jansen 1-11) trail South Africa 159 (Markram 31, Bumrah 5-27, Kuldeep 2-36, Siraj 2-47) by 122 runs
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on the surface, because I do think it is actually aiding the fast bowlers.” Rabada is under observation after he sustained the injury in the team’s first training session

on Tuesday and failed a fitness test on the morning of the opener. Bumrah, who took his 16th five-wicket haul in Test cricket after, struck twice in the third over after tea. ‘Feels good’ “Feel good whenever you try and contribute, and whenever you give your best all the time,” said Bumrah. “Whenever you make an impact, you help the

BETTER YOU KNOW

South Africa suffered a major setback before play even started when their premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was ruled out of the opening Test with a rib injury

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Feel good whenever you try and contribute, and whenever you give your best all the time. Whenever you make an impact, you help the team in whatever capacity you could, it always feels good

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Bumrah then produced a gem to send back Markram, caught behind for 31 on a rising ball that hit the glove and returning wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant completed a diving catch. Kuldeep kept up the bowling charge and had skipper Temba Bavuma caught at leg slip for three. Wiaan Mulder and Tony de Zorzi -- who both scored 24 -- took the team past 100 and into lunch before Kuldeep trapped Mulder lbw with the batsman attempting a reverse sweep off the left-arm wrist spinner. Bumrah ended de Zorzi's defiance lbw and the batter, like Mulder, wasted a review. Both showed the ball hitting the stumps. Wickets kept tumbling as Siraj picked two in the space of four balls, with Kyle Verreynne lbw for 16 and Jansen bowled for a duck.

Miller fastest in first Valencia MotoGP practice as Martin returns



Prima Pramac Yamaha MotoGP team's Australian MotoGP rider Jack Miller takes part in a practice session

AFP | Valencia

Jack Miller led the way in opening practice for the Valencia MotoGP yesterday as Aprilia's Jorge Martin got back on the bike after injury. Cleared to return this week after a collarbone fracture at the Japanese Grand Prix in September, 2024 world champion Martin was slowest in 24th, 1.5 seconds behind Miller. The Spaniard has endured

an injury-hit season, preventing him from defending his title, which was claimed by Marc Marquez. Alex Marquez wrapped up second in October and Marco Bezzecchi is poised to seal third place in Valencia, leading Francesco Bagnaia, fourth, by 35 points going into the final race of the season. Last year the Valencia race was cancelled because of the deadly flooding which hit the region.

Sinner completes perfect ATP Finals group stage by seeing off Shelton

AFP | Turin

Jannik Sinner comfortably beat Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) yesterday to complete a perfect group stage in his ATP Finals title defence. Italian Sinner took one hour and 35 minutes to see off spirited Shelton who bowed out of his debut Finals in Turin without a win from his three matches in the Bjorn Borg Group. Sinner will face Alex de Minaur in the first semi-final on Saturday afternoon, when he will be red-hot favourite to reach his third final in as many years at the season-ending tournament. The 24-year-old hasn't dropped a set at the Finals since losing the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic and he hasn't even had to play his best tennis to rattle off wins against three of the best players on the planet. Sinner started yesterday's match by immediately breaking Shelton's serve and from there kept up the pressure without ever giving Shelton, the world number five, any chance of victory. Sinner is on course for yet



Italy's Jannik Sinner hits a return against USA's Ben Shelton

another final showdown against Carlos Alcaraz, who before yesterday's match was handed the award for securing the year-end top spot in the men's rankings. Alcaraz, who made sure he would end 2025 top of the pile on Thursday night, has won four of his five meetings with Sinner

this season, all have been in finals of top-level tournaments -- with two deciding Grand Slams. Sinner came out on top at Wimbledon but was on the losing side of one of the greatest tennis matches when he threw away a two-set lead in the

French Open final in June. The semi-final line-up will be completed later yesterday when Alexander Zverev and Felix Auger-Aliassime battle for the chance to finish second behind Sinner and set up a last-four clash with Alcaraz.