

# SPORTSTAR

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 14, 2026  
₹ 125

  
FOLLOW US:  
SPORTSTARWEB

**POSTER**  
**T20**  
**WORLD CUP**  
**SCHEDULE**

2026

## FAST AND FURIOUS

From trends and memories to India's evolution in the shortest format, the T20 World Cup decoded



15



# HOW INDIA SHED ITS T20 INHIBITIONS TO BECOME THE FORMAT'S DEFINING FORCE

## » T20 World Cup

- 31 Messiahs of the minnows**  
A look at five players from Associate nations who promise to deliver in the tournament
- 43 Group Previews**  
Twenty teams battle it out for the coveted trophy. A look into their strengths and weaknesses
- 55 Battle of the best**  
A few group games will quietly decide who bends the tournament, and who is broken by it. Here's our pick



## 10 Cover Story T20 World Cup

» Using matchup data and phase-wise scoring patterns, an analysis of India's ideal XI

Cover Illustration: Sainath B

## » Read more...

- 66 Big Interview**  
BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia says the operations team has learned how to deliver successful tournaments
- 88 Khelo India Beach Games**  
Offering visibility and belief to athletes and sports that rarely find space in the mainstream
- 90 Spotlight**  
An Se-young continues to dominate, clinches India Open with ease

## Editorial Team

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta  
**Convergence Editor:** V. V. Rajasekhara Rao  
**Design:** R. Ravikannan  
**Editorial Consultant:** Vijay Lokapally  
**Sr. Assistant Editor:** Shayan Acharya  
**Assistant Editor:** Jonathan Selvaraj  
**Chief Sub-Editor:** Karan Pillai, Ayon Acharya, Aashin Prasad, Santadeep Dey, Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan  
**Sr. Sub-Editor/Sr. Reporter:** Salkat Chakraborty, Dhruva Prasad, Neeladri Bhattacharjee, Aneesh Dey, Pranay Rajiv, Nihit Sachdeva, Abhishek Saini  
**Sub-Editor/Reporter:** Nigamanth P, Anish P, Sahil Mathur, Joan Mathew Jacob, Rajdeep Saha, Kavita Menon, Aditya Padinjat  
**Senior Multimedia Producer:** Sivasankar A

## For Subscription:

Email: [customer-care@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customer-care@thehindu.co.in)  
No: 18001021878

## For Advertisement

National Sales Head  
Satish K Mendon  
[Satish.mendon@thehindu.co.in](mailto:Satish.mendon@thehindu.co.in)  
Region

**Delhi** - Antesh Kumar Verma  
☎ +91 9818798519  
**Bengaluru** - Gurunatha Reddy  
☎ +91 9845529981  
**Chennai** - R. Ganesh  
☎ +91 9841290799

Poster: T20 World Cup schedule (Graphic News); Pages 35-42

[www.sportstar.thehindu.com](http://www.sportstar.thehindu.com)  
mail to: [sportstar@thehindu.co.in](mailto:sportstar@thehindu.co.in)

**Published by** Nirmala Lakshman, Kasturi Buildings, 859, 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002 and Printed by SDT Rao at Kala Jyothi Process Private Ltd, Plot no CFC-1&2, Survey No 18, E-City, SEZ & General Industrial Park, Raviryal & Srinagar (Village), Maheswaram(M), R.R.Dist, Telangana - 501359 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600 002.

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta (Editor responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act). All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

**Disclaimer:** Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this magazine.

THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this magazine, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this magazine/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this magazine.

**Air Surcharge:**  
Colombo ₹ 15.00 | Port Blair ₹ 10.00