

## SPORT

| 23

CHENNAI

THE HINDU • SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016

## An enchanting evening with Gower beckons

S. DINAKAR

**CHENNAI:** David Gower will have happy memories of Madras. After all, it was in this city, now renamed Chennai, that he led England to a Test series-clinching triumph over India with an emphatic nine-wicket win in 1985.

Captained with tact and foresight by Gower, England registered a remarkable come-from-behind 2-1 victory in the series.

A blithe spirit who enjoyed his cricket, provided sublime entertainment to those watching him, and comprehended the game's many-layered texture, Gower was an astonishing player.

Given the era he played in — from late 70s to early 90s — when big, mean fast bowlers and nippy seam and swing bowlers severely tested a batsman's heart and technique on seaming tracks with bounce, Gower's 8231 runs from 117 Tests at 44.25 is laudable.

### Numbers and beyond

Yet, his batting travelled way beyond numbers. Gower was an ethereal, elegant left-handed shot-maker with a

• David Gower will deliver the K.S. Narayanan Oration

sense of timing. He got into position quickly and with natural grace appeared to have loads of time at his disposal.

The ease, the flow and the dare in his batting were hard to miss.

When the 58-year-old Gower, now a respected cricket expert with Sky TV, delivers the K.S. Narayanan Oration on "Lessons from the Cricket Field," at Hotel Crowne Plaza here on Saturday, the Englishman would surely have everyone listening to his every word.

The articulate Gower is the right man to render the oration — this will be followed by his open discussion session with former India cricketer Aakash Chopra — as the Sanmar Family continues to celebrate 50 years of its association with the iconic cricket club Jolly Rovers.

An enchanting evening beckons.

The event will be streamed live on [www.sportstarlive.com](http://www.sportstarlive.com) from 6.30 p.m. on Saturday.