

With no home white ball series till Dec, what will Rohit decide post CT final?

PTI, NEW DELHI: After serving Indian cricket for long, not just with his tremendous batting skills but also as a leader of the pack, skipper Rohit Sharma is likely to take a call on his ODI future after the conclusion of Champions Trophy, irrespective of the outcome.

'Captain Rohit' is tipped to become the second skipper after Mahendra Singh Dhoni to win more than one ICC event as India will enter the title clash against New Zealand as overwhelming favourites.

After the T20 World Cup final in Barbados, both Rohit and Virat Kohli announced immediate retirement from the shortest format and now as the D-day looms, there is speculation that this could well be the last match for Rohit in India blues.

If sources in BCCI are to be believed, post-tournament Rohit and Chairman of Selectors Ajit Agarkar are expected to discuss his future.

In Indian cricket, it is not always the selectors who decide on future of heavyweights but the players themselves in consonance with the decision makers in the Board can decide. There are too many moving parts and it is not as binary as it might seem.

If India wins the Champions Trophy, the skipper could well announce it but it is understandable that he wanted to avoid retirement queries on the eve of the big final and hence didn't turn up for the press conference.

In fact, his deputy Shubman Gill stuck to the brief and said "No discussions on retirement" which suggests how sensitive the matter is.

Also, Rohit and Kohli's retirements can't be bracketed together. It did happen after the T20 World Cup because in that format, there was nothing more for them to achieve at the international level.

But if other formats are analysed, Kohli is looking at 10,000 Test runs, already achieved by Steve Smith and Joe Root and even Kane Williamson.

Hence, Kohli the Test player is going nowhere and he would be needed in England, considering that even someone like Gill hasn't performed in SENA land and there will be too much pressure on Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant.



But in case of Rohit, he himself volunteered to sit out of the last Test in Sydney on the Australia tour and even if he wins the Champions Trophy, it doesn't ensure that he will get his red ball mojo back.

Will selectors continue with Rohit as captain for England Tests?

In case he travels to that part of the world, he can look for his swansong at home during the two-Test series against West Indies. Both series are part of next cycle of World Test Championship.

However for that, Agarkar's committee and Rohit needs to be convinced that he wants to play Test series against England. If he doesn't play Tests, he will have only six away ODIs (3 vs Bangladesh and 3 vs Australia) to play till he gets a home white-ball ODI against South Africa in December.

Except Sachin Tendulkar, who got a grand remembered farewell at his beloved Wankhede Stadium, most of the other players in recent years haven't had that privilege.

Ashish Nehra, who had a middling career as a white ball expert did get a farewell in Delhi but that was more because the erstwhile skipper Virat Kohli wanted to give him a warm send-off.

Will he or won't he is the question but an interesting aspect of Rohit continuing in ODIs is Indian team's Future Tours Programme (FTP) calendar with no ODI matches slotted at home till the series against South Africa in December.

That effectively means that after March 9, the Indian skipper will have to wait till December to play another white ball 50-over game unless he decides to play in ODI away series against Bangladesh, Asia Cup (in Sri Lanka) and then another three games in Australia.

If Rohit doesn't see himself playing ODI World Cup in 2027, will the skipper stretch himself to play 50-over format which has now become least important in bilateral series cycle?

Well, by Sunday night, we will have a clearer picture.

sportspopup

India are going to be a challenge because they understand conditions: Santner

DUBAI: New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner said India's understanding of the conditions has made the Champions Trophy final a "challenging" assignment, but expressed confidence in his team's ability to adapt. The Kiwis are eyeing their first ICC ODI title on Sunday, following their victory in the 2000 KnockOuts Trophy, where they defeated India in the final in Kenya. "We know India are going to be a challenge. They've been playing some very good cricket. They understand these conditions pretty well," said Santner in the pre-match press meet here on Saturday. Santner hoped the experience of playing against India a few days back here in a league match will stand his side in good stead. "I think, obviously, having the run against India a few days ago will definitely help us out, understanding the conditions a little bit better. "But it is a knockout game. And I guess whoever turns up on the day could take home the trophy," he added.

KKR appoints West Indian Ottis Gibson as assistant coach ahead of IPL

KOLKATA: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Saturday announced the experienced West Indian Ottis Gibson as their assistant coach ahead of the Indian Premier League season starting on March 22. A former fast bowler from Barbados himself, with over 650 first-class wickets to his name, the 55-year-old Gibson represented West Indies in both Tests and ODIs from 1995-1999 before embarking on his journey as a coach. He comes with extensive experience, having had two stints as bowling coach of the England Cricket Team -- from 2007-10 and again from 2015-17. He also served as head coach of the West Indies from 2010-14. During his tenure, the team won its first ICC World T20 title in 2012 in Sri Lanka. He went on to become head coach of the South African team from 2017-2019, and has since held several coaching positions across the T20 franchise circuit. Gibson joins a strong support staff unit at KKR, comprising mentor Dwayne Bravo, head coach Chandrakant Pandit, bowling coach Bharat Arun, spin-bowling coach Carl Crowe and others.

Bosch to replace injured Lizaad in Mumbai Indians squad for IPL

NEW DELHI: Bowling all-rounder Corbin Bosch is set to join Mumbai Indians as a replacement for fellow South African pacer Lizaad Williams, who has been ruled out of the upcoming IPL due to a knee injury. The 30-year-old Bosch, who has featured in 86 T20s, has taken 59 wickets and boasts a highest score of 81. He is yet to make his IPL debut but played a key role in MI Cape Town's title-winning 2025 season in SA20, claiming 11 wickets during the campaign. "South African fast bowler Lizaad Williams is ruled out of the upcoming TATA IPL 2025 due to an injury, and Mumbai Indians have signed his compatriot Corbin Bosch as his replacement," MI said in a statement.

Nadaf-Avduth win Men's Doubles Badminton Championship

Siraj, Viraj and Nitin Team Champions

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PANJIM: Avduth and Nadaf won the Men's Doubles Badminton Championship defeating Siraj and Sunny 21-13, 21-18 in the tournament held at Santa Cruz, recently.

In the Three-Player Team Championship match, Siraj, Viraj and Nitin outplayed Avduth, Darwin and Bhushan 45/41. The tournament was open to all where Goa's top ranked players participated. Also veteran players were seen enthusiastically fighting for the top slot. Chief guest Santa Cruz MLA Rudolf Fernandes, guest of honour Goa Badminton Association Secretary Praveen Shenoy and Fredrick Fernandes (State top player) distributed the prizes.



The winners along with chief guest Santa Cruz MLA Rudolf Fernandes, guest of honour Goa Badminton Association Secretary Praveen Shenoy, Fredrick Fernandes (State top player) and other dignitaries at Santa Cruz court, recently

Thaaneesh wins singles Indian Badminton Championship London

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PANJIM: Thaaneesh Devar outsmarted Sunil Dahiya to secure victory in the men's singles final of Indian Badminton Championship London 2025 organised by Goan Sports Club UK at Cranford Community College, United Kingdom, recently.

Over 120 participants of Indian origin travel from across UK to take part in the tournament, which featured men's singles, mixed doubles, men's doubles and a kids festival.

In the men's doubles final, Thaaneesh and Boobalan outplayed Kartik and Gukirat. In the mixed doubles final, Anand and Vinoda defeated Yash and Anita.

The event ran smoothly with technical support from Achivnix Badminton Club, headed by Max Pereira.

Several guests attended the event and participated in the prize distribution, including Jules Alberto, former Indian footballer; Xavier Vas, owner of Leda



Children along with their medals and certificates

80-year-old participant Francisco Carrasco receives the award



Mixed doubles winners receive award from Jules Alberto

Xavier Vas awarding the men's doubles winners

Restaurants Goa; Franzil Fernandes, owner of Jenna Homes; Sarab Singh, regional manager for Kingfisher Drinks in London and Deepiesh Kumar Sethi, owner of Chor Bazaar Restaurant in London.

The high lights of the tournament, was Francisco Carrasco, who is 80 years old, played in the mixed doubles category alongside his daughter. His participation was an inspiration to many. The kids' category had

Voll hits 99 not out as UPW knock out RCB

PTI, LUCKNOW: Georgia Voll smashed a majestic unbeaten 99 as out-of-contention UP Warriorz played party-poopers, eliminating defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru from the Women's Premier League with a thrilling 12-run win in a high-scoring match, here, on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Voll was in exceptional form, striking 17 fours and one six in her 56-ball innings to power UPW to a record total of 225/5, the highest ever in the tournament's history.

UPW's top order was in explosive form, with Kiran Navgire (46 off 16 balls), Grace Harris (39 off 22),

and Chinelle Henry (19 off 15) all contributing with aggressive batting after being asked to bat first.

In reply, Richa Ghosh's blistering 33-ball 69 and Sneha Rana's fiery hitting, including three sixes and two fours off Deepti Sharma in the 19th over, kept RCB in the hunt. However,

they fell short, finishing at 213 all out in 19.3 overs, unable to chase down the record target.

The result also confirmed the knockout berths for Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians. Delhi Capitals had already secured their spot in the knockout stage with 10 points.

USC Seraulim face SC Davorlim in final



Gladson Braganza of USC Seraulim receives the man-of-the-match from Sailesh Vaidya and Sherali Vaidya

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RAIA: United Sports Club Seraulim shocked Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, 2-1 to enter the final of Vaidya Family Memorial Cup organised by Cuncolim Union, at the Government school ground, Cuncolim. United Sports Club Ser-

aulim scored two quick goals through Savan Lotlikar and Elroy Fernandes in the 10th and 11th minute of play, while Fr Agnelo YSC pulled one goal back through Sowell Fernandes in the 30th minute of play.

USC Seraulim will meet Sporting Club Davorlim in the final.



Dimple Gawas, student of Our Lady of the Rosary Higher Secondary School, Dona Paul, won the gold medals in long jump, triple jump and 110m hurdles at the Zonal Level Athletic Meet 2024-25 organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at the Peddem sports complex, Mapusa, recently. Dimple along with ZSO-DSYA official Sanjay Shirodkar and PE Teacher Chandrakant Raikar

Lavina, Murida Veterans in quarters



Camilo Monteiro of Lavina Veterans receives the man-of-the-match from Tony Crasto

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RAIA: Lavina Veterans, Fatorda, thumped Benaulim Veterans 5-1 to move into the quarter-finals of 10th Fatorda Veterans football tournament played at Don

Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, on Saturday.

Lavina Veterans scored goals through a brace by

FATORDA VETERANS FOOTBALL

Camilo Monteiro, Jhon Araujo, Eddy and Rosario



Joao Araujo presents the man-of-the-match to Succoro Azavedo goalkeeper of Murida Veterans

Carvalho scored a goal each, while Charles Silva scored through penalty kick for Benaulim Veterans. Earlier,

Murida Veterans scraped past Fatorda Veterans 5-4

via tie-breaker to march into the quarter-finals.

Fatorda Veterans scored a brace through Francisco Andrade, while Murida Veterans Claudio and Vitorin found the net and made way for penalty shoot-out to decide the winner.