

sportspopup

India eye final berth as South Africa aim for survival in women's Tri-Series

COLOMBO: India will be eager to bounce back from their loss and confirm their spot in the final when they face a struggling South African side in the women's Tri-series, here, on Wednesday. Harmanpreet Kaur and her team saw their eight-match winning streak come to an end on Sunday with a rare defeat to hosts Sri Lanka. While India are still well-placed to reach the final -- thanks to a superior net run rate of 0.433 built on dominant performances in their opening two games -- they will look to seal it with a convincing win on Wednesday. The 'Women in Blue' are perched on top of the points table having earned four points from three outings. They are ahead of second placed Sri Lanka, who also have four points but an inferior NRR of -0.166, while winless South Africa are last although the Proteas women have played a game less. India's batting has been a major positive in the series. Squads: India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh(w), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati Reddy, Sneha Rana, Nalapatreddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay. South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt(c), Tazmin Brits, Sune Luus, Annerie Dercksen, Lara Goodall, Nadine de Klerk, Chloe Tryon, Sinalo Jaffa(w), Nonkululeko Mlaba, Masabata Klaas, Ayabonga Khaka, Karabo Meso, Miane Smit, Nondumiso Shangase, Seshnie Naidu Match starts 10 am.

Dhoni skips practice again but CSK bowling coach says he is 'fine' and 'will play'

KOLKATA: Crowd favourite Mahendra Singh Dhoni skipped practice for the second consecutive day as fans thronging the Eden Gardens on Tuesday faced disappointment again. However, his ardent supporters took solace from Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons' confirmation about the talisman's participation in Wednesday's Indian Premier League match against Kolkata Knight Riders, a must-win outing for the home team. Simons said the 43-year-old Dhoni is "fine" and "will play" the game, which could be his last competitive outing at the hallowed venue. "Yes, he's expected to play tomorrow," said Simons, explaining that Dhoni knows exactly how to manage his preparation. "With regards to MS, he knows his situation very well. He knows where he is. In terms of his preparations, he always works very hard at the beginning of a tournament and then allows himself to taper off because he gets himself in a space where he's ready." "So no issues, he just knows when he is prepared and when he's not." Dhoni returned to captaincy duties after skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was sidelined with an injury, and Simons said the transition has been seamless.

Young Indian shuttlers falter in Taipei Open qualifiers

TAIPEI: Young Indian shuttlers failed to make a mark as none of them could progress to the main draw of the singles events at the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament, here, on Tuesday. Manraj Singh, Raghu Mariswamy and Mansi Singh showed early promise with opening-round wins in the singles qualification but fell short in their respective second-round matches. Manraj suffered a narrow 21-9, 19-21, 20-22 loss to Malaysia's Tan Jia Jie, while Raghu went down 16-21, 17-21 to Indonesia's Moh Zaki Ubaidillah in men's singles. Mansi, competing in women's singles, was outplayed 17-21, 10-21 by Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniphut. Earlier, Raghu had staged a comeback win over Macau's Pui Pang Fong 14-21, 21-16, 21-14, while Manraj got the better of local shuttler Cheng Kai 19-21, 21-13, 21-11. Mansi had edged past Chinese Taipei's Tsai Hsin-Pei 22-20, 14-21, 21-17. Among others, Aryamann Tandon lost 27-25, 10-21, 8-21 to Malaysia's Kok Jing Hong, while Mithun Manjunath went down 21-17, 19-21, 9-21 to Tan Jia Jie in the men's singles qualifiers. In women's singles, Isharani Baruah, Ira Sharma and Shreya Lele also bowed out in the opening round. Isharani put up a strong fight before losing 7-21, 23-21, 22-24 to Pitchamon, while Ira was defeated 7-21, 18-21 by local shuttler Chen Su Yu. Shreya suffered a straight-games 14-21, 16-21 loss to Japan's Sorano Yoshikawa.

Argentina's 1978 World Cup winner Galvan dies

BUENOS AIRES: Luis Galvan, who played in every match in Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning campaign, died on Monday aged 77, the Argentinian Football Association (AFA) announced. Galvan had been in hospital in Cordoba for several weeks with kidney problems. Galvan formed a rock hard central defensive partnership with captain Daniel Passarella that laid the foundations for the Argentina side that lifted the World Cup trophy for the first time. Two goals from the tournament's leading scorer Mario Kempes and one from Daniel Bertoni saw off the Netherlands 3-1 after extra-time in Buenos Aires. "The Argentine Football Association, through its President, Claudio Tapia, mourns the passing of Luis Galvan, a defender who won a World Cup with the Argentine national team in 1978, and expresses its condolences to his family and loved ones," read an AFA statement. Galvan, who played the majority of his club career for Talleres de Cordoba, making over 250 appearances for them, also played at the 1982 finals. Like many of the 1978 side, age had caught up with him in the 1982 title defence -- Diego Maradona about the only new face in the line-up -- his 34-year-old legs unable to cope with second round opponents Brazil and Italy, who beat the champions 3-1 and 2-1 respectively.

Sai, Kuldeep have to be in England squad; Arshdeep out of the box pick: MSK Prasad

NEW DELHI: Former India chief selector MSK Prasad feels the presence of Arshdeep Singh, Sai Sudharsan and Kuldeep Yadav is a must in the squad for the five-match Test series in England beginning June 20. In a recent interview, former India head coach Ravi Shastri too had thrown his weight behind Sudharsan, who is in the middle of a stellar IPL and has experience of playing county cricket. Speaking to PTI, Prasad, who was in charge of selection committee from 2016 to 2020, also gave his reasons on why Arshdeep and Kuldeep have to be there in the squad. He would have the in-form Prasidh Krishna over Akash Deep among the five pacers to be picked in case the selectors pick a 15-man squad to be announced in the middle of May. Following the retirement of R Ashwin, Washington Sundar will be his spin bowling all-rounder alongside Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep who the former chief selector sees as a genuine wicket-taker even in pace friendly English conditions. Whether Rohit Sharma should be part of the squad, it is a decision that Prasad feels should be left to the selection panel led by Ajit Agarkar.

Gujarat Titans beat Mumbai Indians by 3 wickets under DLS method

Batting first, Mumbai Indians were restricted to a below-par 155 for eight; in reply Gujarat Titans chased down the revised target of 147 in the last ball of the match after two rain interruptions

PTI



Gujarat Titans' Prasidh Krishna celebrates the wicket of Mumbai Indians' Naman Dhir with teammates during the Indian Premier League match at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, on Tuesday

PTI, MUMBAI: Gujarat Titans defeated Mumbai Indians by three wickets under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in a dramatic Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

Batting first, Mumbai Indians were restricted to a below-par 155 for eight. In reply, GT chased down the revised target of 147 in the

last ball of the match after two rain interruptions.

Skipper Shubman Gill was GT's top-scorer with a 46-ball 43, while Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult bowled beautifully to pick

up two wickets apiece for Mumbai Indians.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans recovered from early fielding howlers while spin ace Rashid Khan (1/21) rediscovered his mojo to restrict

Mumbai Indians to a below-par 155/8.

As many as three dropped catches in the power play notwithstanding, Gujarat fought back through their spinners Rashid and R Sai Kishore (2/34) to grab control of the game in which Mumbai Indians crumbled against pressure.

Will Jacks, who was

dropped twice on 0 and 29, struck a 35-ball 53 (5x4s, 3x6s) while Suryakumar Yadav made a brisk 34 but the rest of the MI batters couldn't respond to the challenge, particularly skipper Hardik Pandya (1) and Tilak Varma (7).

An eventful first over from Mohammed Siraj (1/29) marked the start of the contest when B Sai Sudharsan took a fine low catch at extra cover to dis-

miss Ryan Rickelton (2) but dropped another at the same position when Jacks smacked one straight to him.

Rohit Sharma (7) was beaten a few times by left-arm pacer Arshad Khan (1/18), who kept it tight from one end. Eventually, Rohit fell to Arshad in the fourth over, misfiring one to mid-off where Prasidh Krishna collected it safely.

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians: Ryan Rickelton c Sudharsan b Siraj 2, Rohit Sharma c Krishna b Khan 7, Will Jacks c Sudharsan b Khan 53, Suryakumar Yadav c Khan b Kishore 35, Tilak Varma c Gill b Coetzee 7, *Hardik Pandya c Gill b Kishore 1, Naman Dhir c Gill b Krishna 7, Corbin Bosch run out (Buttler) 27, Deepak Chahar not out 8, Karn Sharma not out 1. **Extras:** 7. **Total:** 155-8. **Fall of wickets:** 2-1, 26-2, 97-3, 103-4, 106-5, 113-6, 123-7, 150-8. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 3-0-29-1, Arshad Khan 3-0-18-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-37-1, Sai Kishore 4-0-34-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-21-1, Gerald Coetzee 2-0-10-1.

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Rickelton b Boult 5, Shubman Gill (c) b Bumrah 43, Jos Buttler c Rickelton b Ashwani Kumar 30, Sherfane Rutherford lbw b Boult 28, M Shahruxh Khan b Bumrah 6, Rahul Tewatia not out 11, Rashid Khan lbw b Ashwani Kumar 2, Gerald Coetzee c Naman Dhir b Chahar 12, Arshad Khan not out 1. **Extras:** 9. **Total:** 147 for 7. **Fall of wickets:** 6-1, 78-2, 113-3, 115-4, 123-5, 126-6, 146-7. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 3-0-32-1, Trent Boult 4-0-22-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-19-2, Hardik Pandya 1-0-18-0, Karn Sharma 2-0-13-0, Ashwani Kumar 4-0-28-2, Will Jacks 1-0-15-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Shubman Gill

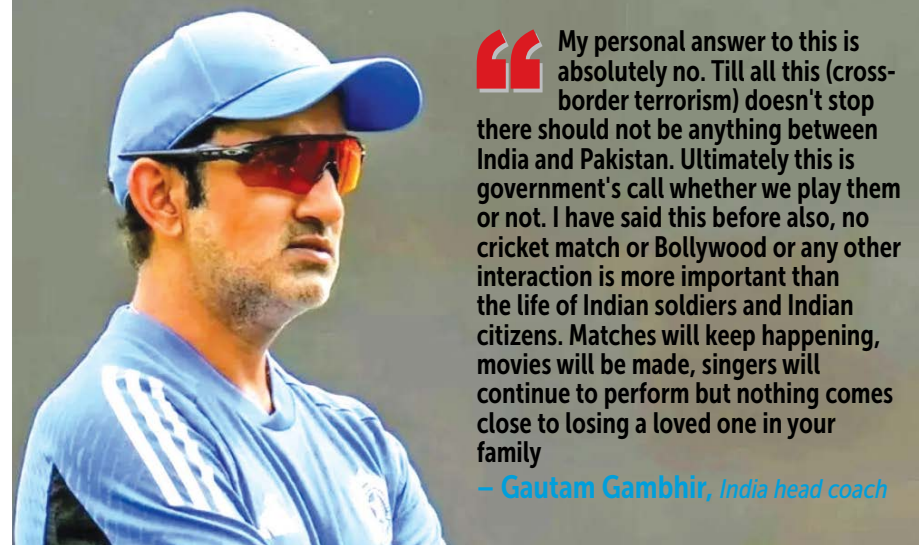
India shouldn't play Pakistan even at ICC events till terrorism ends: Gambhir

PTI, NEW DELHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Tuesday called for a complete halt to cricketing engagements with Pakistan at any forum, including Asia Cup and ICC events, in the aftermath of the Pahalgalam terror attack.

At an ABP event, Gambhir said the national team should not be playing the arch-rivals till cross-border terrorism ends.

India have not played a full series against Pakistan since 2007 due to the tense relations between both countries. They only play each other at multi-team events and even that should be discontinued, said Gambhir.

"My personal answer to this is absolutely no. Till all this (cross-border terrorism) doesn't stop there should not be anything between India and Pakistan. Ultimately this is government's call whether we play them or not. I have said this before also, no cricket match or Bollywood or any other interaction is more important than the life of Indian soldiers and Indian citizens. Matches will keep happening, movies will be made, singers will continue to perform but nothing comes close to losing a loved one in your family



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rent environment.

In a terror attack on April 22 in south Kashmir's Pahalgalam town, 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

Responding to the gruesome incident, India announced several measures against Pakistan, including

suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack.

"Ultimately this is government's call whether we play them or not. I have said

this before also, no cricket match or Bollywood or any other interaction is more important than the life of Indian soldiers and Indian citizens," Gambhir said.

"Matches will keep happening, movies will be made, singers will continue to perform but nothing

comes close to losing a loved one in your family."

Asked specifically about India playing Pakistan in the Asia Cup this year or the T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka next year, Gambhir placed the onus on the BCCI and the government.

"This is not up to me, this is for BCCI and more importantly the government to decide whether we should play them or not. Whatever decision they make, we should be absolutely fine with it and not politicise it."

In the recent Champions Trophy, India played all their games in Dubai and not host country Pakistan owing to security concerns. As part of an agreement worked out between the BCCI, the Pakistan Cricket Board and the ICC, all India-Pakistan matches in ICC events will be played in a neutral country till the 2027 cycle.

...Some people consider cricket as personal fiefdom

PTI, NEW DELHI: "Those living in glass houses shouldn't throw stones at others." India head coach Gautam Gambhir hardly pulled back punches as he responded to criticism from a couple of former Test stars, accusing them of treating Indian cricket as their "personal fiefdom".

While Gambhir didn't take names, he dropped enough hints to make it obvious that the target of his outburst were two former India skippers from Mumbai, who have been critical of him since his playing days.

"I am into this job for eight months. If results don't come, I am fine with criticism. It is people's job to criticise. There are people who are sitting in the commentary box for 25 years and feel that Indian cricket is their personal fiefdom," Gambhir said.

"Indian cricket's no one's personal property and it belongs to 140 crore Indians," he asserted.

Captaincy became too much in the end; stepped down to be happy: Kohli

Says he reached a point in his career where the constant attention became unbearable

PTI, BENGALURU: The constant pressure of leading India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru for nearly a decade and the relentless scrutiny around his batting "became too much in the end" for Virat Kohli, who says he stepped down from leadership to be in a "happy space".

Kohli resigned as T20 captain after the World Cup in 2021, following which he also relinquished RCB's leadership role. A year later, he quit Test captaincy following the defeat to South Africa.

Kohli said he reached a point in his career where the constant attention became unbearable.

"At one point, it did become tough for me because there was just too much happening in my career. I was captaining India for a period of 7-8 years. I captained RCB for nine years. There were expectations on me from a batting perspective every game that I played," said Kohli in an

'RCB Bold Diaries' podcast. "I didn't have this sense that the attention was off me. If it wasn't captaincy, it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24x7. It did get very tough on me, and it did get too much in the end."

Kohli, who also took a month-long break from cricket in 2022 and did not touch a bat during that phase, added that a time had come in his life when he was struggling to be happy in the spotlight.

"That's why I stepped down because I felt like if I've decided I want to be in this place, I need to be happy."

"I need to have a space in my life where I can just come and play my cricket without being judged, without being looked at as what are you going to do this season and what's going to happen now," said Kohli, who has been with RCB since the inaugural edition of the IPL.

Leading India to the Under-19 World Cup title triumph does not guarantee

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— Virat Kohli

one a seamless entry into the senior team, and Kohli said it was his determination and the backing of then skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and coach Gary Kirsten, which helped him secure the No. 3 batting spot in the side.

"I was very realistic about my abilities. Because I had seen a lot of other people play. And I did not feel like

my game was anywhere close to theirs. The only thing that I had was determination. And if I wanted to make my team win, I was willing to do anything."

"That was the very reason I got chances to play for India initially. And Gary (Kirsten) and MS (Dhoni) made it very clear to me that we are backing you to play at number three."



at as this outright match winner who can change the game from anywhere. But I had this thing, I'm going to stay in the fight. I'm not going to give up. And that is what they backed."

Kohli feels nervous energy is something that is crucial to success in cricket, and no matter how many runs one scores, it is something that keeps a player in competitive mode.

"What happens when you're young is you feel like, 'if I have scored X amount of runs by the time I'm this age or whatever', things will ease out. It never happens like that." "And that is the marker actually. When you stop feeling that nervousness or that anticipation of how things are going to unfold is when people say that you're done," he said.

"So that never goes away from you because that very energy is what keeps you engaged to do what you need to do in that moment, in that present moment."