

Difficult to replace Bumrah but have quality in squad: Gambhir

The five-match marquee series begins in Leeds from June 20

PTI, MUMBAI: India Head Coach Gautam Gambhir on Thursday didn't specify which three of the five Tests will Jasprit Bumrah play in England but insisted that his bowling unit has enough quality to handle the workload in the likely absence of the pace spearhead.

The five-match marquee series begins in Leeds from June 20.

"We have not taken that call that which three games we want (him) to play," Gambhir said, though it is not certain if Bumrah would play only three Tests. India's chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar had informed during the squad announcement for this tour that the 31-year-old Bumrah will not feature in all five Tests, as per the feedback given by the medical team.

"Look it's always difficult to replace someone like Jasprit Bumrah but we have got enough quality," Gambhir told the media during his pre-departure press conference with new Test captain Shubman Gill.

"I have said it before (also) during the Champions Trophy as well that it gives someone else the opportunity to put his hand up and we have got enough



"We have not taken that call that which three games we want him (Jasprit Bumrah) to play. Look it's always difficult to replace someone like Jasprit Bumrah but we have got enough quality. I have said it before (also) during the Champions Trophy as well that it gives someone else the opportunity to put his hand up and we have got enough talent. I know that he is a quality (bowler) but we have got enough quality in the squad – Gautam Gambhir, India Head Coach"

– Gautam Gambhir, India Head Coach

talent. I know that he is a quality (bowler) but we have got enough quality in the squad," he added.

Gill also spoke in the same vein and said the Indian pace attack can not only fill in for Bumrah but also win Test matches from any situation. "We have picked enough

Bumrah's sequence of appearance will depend a lot on how India is positioned in the series.

"Obviously we want to have a discussion with him and it depends on the series as well. A lot will depend on the results of the series as well (as to) where it is

ENGLAND TOUR

bowlers and we have enough pace battery and our fast bowlers are in a great space to be able to win us Test matches from any situation and any position," he said.

"When you have Jasprit Bumrah depending on how many matches you would play him, but whenever he would come back and play it would be a great sight for us, but I think we have a great mix and set of bowlers who can get the job done for the team," he said.

Gambhir indicated that

heading. That is something which I am very well aware of as well and that is important," he said.

Gambhir said he is always under pressure as India coach and this series is no different.

"I am always under pressure irrespective of whether we got the results or not. If you would have asked me this question after New Zealand (series), I would have said 'yes, I am under pressure'. After Australia (tour), I would have said 'yes, I am

under pressure," he said.

"After the Champions Trophy, I am still under pressure because me being the coach, you always want the results. Every game you are part of this team, you want to get the results," Gambhir added.

Gill said he doesn't want to follow a specific style of leadership but hoped he is able to lead by example as a batter.

"There is no particular style that I want to follow. I like to communicate with the players, make them feel secure, talk to them (about) their weaknesses and strengths, giving them comfort and bond with them... it is very important when you are a captain of any team. The players can give their 100 per cent only when they feel very secure," he said.

"As a captain, you definitely want to be able to lead by example, by your

performance in any match that you play."

"When I am batting out there, I just want to play as a batsman and I want to take decisions as a batsman. Having said that, averages and numbers are not something that I look at but I definitely want to lead the way by my performance," he added.

Gambhir said Karun Nair's experience of playing in County circuit and his recent form will come in handy for the Indian team in England.

"It's always good to have the experience of Karun who has played a bit of County cricket as well. He is in really good form. He scored a double hundred for India A.

"It's always good to have players especially on these kind of tours who are in good form and are among runs as well. His experience will definitely come in handy and hopefully, he can deliver."

Gambhir added, "More importantly, we will not judge someone by just one or two Test matches, you guys (the media) can, but we won't because I think if someone has scored heaps of runs, I think he will be given a decent run so that he can showcase his talent at this level as well."

RCB to give Rs 10L each for deceased families

PTI, BENGALURU: IPL champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru announced a financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the 11 supporters, who lost their lives in a stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium during the team's victory celebrations here.

Lakhs of people turned out to catch a glimpse of Virat Kohli and Co. leading to complete chaos and eventually a stampede that caused the death of 11 people outside the stadium here on Wednesday.

"The unfortunate incident in Bengaluru yesterday has caused a lot of anguish and pain to the RCB family," said an RCB statement on Thursday.

"As a mark of respect and a gesture of solidarity, RCB has announced a financial support of Rs 10 lakh to each of the eleven families of the deceased. In addition, a fund called RCB Cares is also being created to support fans injured in this tragic incident," it added.

Sindhu loses in Indonesia Open

Satwik-Chirag enter quarter-finals

PTI, JAKARTA: India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals while two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu lost in the women's singles second round at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament, here, on Thursday.

Satwik and Chirag, the 2023 champions, showed great temperament under pressure to register a hard-fought 16-21, 21-18, 22-20 win over world number 16 Danish pair of Rasmus Kjaer and Frederik Sogaard in a 68-minute second-round clash.

Satwik and Chirag, who had reached the semifinals of the Singapore Open Super 750 last week, thus remained the only surviving Indians in the competition.

The former world number one pair will face Malaysian seventh seeds Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun

Tee next.

Earlier, Sindhu faltered in the deciding game to go down to world number 8 Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the second round.

Sindhu squandered a 15-11 lead in the decider to lose 22-20, 10-21, 18-21 in a gruelling 78-minute battle.

It was a disappointing day for the rest of the Indian contingent, as Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, along with the women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly, also bowed out in the second round.

While Sathish and Aadya were outclassed 7-21, 12-21 by the sixth-seeded Thai duo of Dechapol Pua-varanukroh and Supissara Paewsampran in just 25 minutes, Gayatri and Treesa put up a fight before losing 13-21, 22-24 to Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto in 46 minutes.

Former Lanka cricketer indicted for match-fixing

PTI, COLOMBO: Former Sri Lanka off-spinner Sachithra Senanayake has been indicted by the Hambantota High Court for attempting to lure a fellow player for match-fixing during the 2020 Lanka

Premier League.

The Attorney General's Department said this becomes the first such indictment of a national level cricketer for match-fixing under the country's recently-introduced anti-corruption law. He was arrested and released on bail in 2023.

According to local media reports, he made the corrupt approach to another national player Tharindu Ratnayake, who was playing for Colombo Kings at that time.

Woakes included in England's 14-man squad for first Test against India

PTI, LONDON: Fast bowler Chris Woakes was on Thursday named in a 14-man England squad to take on India in the first of the five Tests to be played from June 20 at Leeds.

The 36-year-old Woakes, who has 181 wickets and 1970 runs from 57 Tests so far, had played a major role in a big England win over India at the Lord's during the 2018 series.

Woakes along with fast bowler Josh

Tongue have been asked by the ECB to get some miles under their legs before the first Test against India starting June 20. Hence the duo will turn up for England Lions against India A in the second unofficial Test starting on Friday at Northampton Jamie Overton returned to the Test fold for the first time since his maiden appearance against New Zealand in June 2022, even though he sustained a fracture to

his right little finger on May 29 during the first ODI against West Indies at Birmingham.

The 31-year-old Overton, who also played in the recently-concluded Indian Premier League for Chennai Super Kings, "continues to be assessed and reviewed daily by the England medical team", the ECB said on their website.

The England squad led by Ben Stokes features a lone spinner in

Shoaib Bashir, who took nine wickets in their win against Zimbabwe in the only Test played earlier this summer.

Young batter Jacob Bethell, who played for eventual IPL winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and seamer Sam Cook, who made his debut against Zimbabwe, were also named in the squad. The ECB said, "Durham seamer Brydon Carse and the Warwickshire pair Jacob Bethell and Chris Woakes

are included in the squad, having last featured during the Test tour of New Zealand in December." "Surrey's Gus Atkinson was unavailable for selection due to a right hamstring injury sustained during the recent Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge," it added.

England's national selector Luke Wright on Thursday said star pacer Jofra Archer could return for the team's second Test against India next

month, four years after his last appearance in the traditional format. The second Test of the five-match series is scheduled to be held from July 2-6 at Edgbaston.

Squad: Ben Stokes (c), Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk), Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes.

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