

Why did I not want to miss the T20 games? Because I love playing cricket for England, simple as that. I've not had much opportunity to play T20 cricket in the last couple of years.

JOEROOT

Rs 3.1 crore too costly, BCCI parts ways with ICC's ACSU

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

THE INDIAN cricket board (BCCI) has decided to discontinue the services of Anti-Corruption Security unit (ACSU) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the forthcoming edition of the Indian Premier League and will instead use their own Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

The chief reason, it's learned is the financial burden—the board had paid 3,01,40,779 (3.1 crores) to ICC for ACSU services for IPL season 2018.

"There was no logic, because we are paying 10 per cent (to India ACU officer) of what we are paying to them (ICC ACSU)," Vinod Rai, Committee of Administration chief told *The Indian Express* about the pay disparity between Indian ACU and ICC's ACSU officers.

"Why should we not hire our own people, why should we hire other people?" Rai said.

ICC pays 500 US dollars per day of each of their ACSU officer who travels to India. These ACSU officers hire more Indian ACU officers who are called Assistant Anti-corruption managers and they were paid around 6500 rupees per day.

Their prime object has been to keep all unwanted elements away from the IPL. These ACU officers mostly are stationed in hotel lobbies and in Players Match official area inside the stadium.

The BCCI's ACU has been given authority to hire more officers for the two-month long IPL in a decision taken by the Supreme Court appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in a meeting held in Delhi. The BCCI has been paying three crores rupees to ICC every year for hiring their ACSU wing.

More officers on board

The BCCI's ACU works on a salary basis and they were only three members unit for many years. The state of affairs had triggered former Indian board ACU chief Neeraj Kumar to write a strong mail to CoA about the struggles of the under-staffed ACSU in covering the vast number of matches. Kumar had even accused that BCCI has "hardly any interest" in fighting corruption.

As a result, the CoA had hired more officers few months ago and more places are to be filled in the coming days.

It is learnt that board apart from hiring retired officers from Army and Police, will promote ACU officers who have been trained by the BCCI ACU in the past two years and have done matches in domestic cricket.

COA chief Vinod Rai confirmed the BCCI's move. "We have decided to discontinue ICC ACSU wing from this season onwards. We have been hiring ICC's ACSU services for the past ten years now. Why should we not hire our own people?" Rai said.



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Why should we not hire our own people, why should we hire other people?"

VINOD RAI
COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION CHIEF



FLATTENED!

The maverick Australian middle-order batsman unleashed a carnage on Indian bowlers, creaming 113 off 55 deliveries., thus taking Australia to a series win. *PVI*

When Max-hell broke loose

Kohli and Dhoni power India to imposing total, but the Australian's onslaught proves it inadequate

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
FEBRUARY 27

AFTER 16 overs, Australia were 147/3, chasing 191 for victory. Glenn Maxwell had been toying with the Indian bowling and as usual, it became Jasprit Bumrah or bust for the hosts. The pivotal moment had arrived.

Bumrah's first spell was miserly. He didn't get a wicket, but his bowling was the reason why Australia had a below par Powerplay – just 42 runs, losing Marcus Stoinis and Aaron Finch in the process. Maxwell's blitz had more than made up for the slow start, but Bumrah presented a different challenge.

Poor thinking from Krunal Pandya and an overthrow on the first ball brought Maxwell on strike. Bumrah bowled full and wide, and the Aussie marauder drove it over cover for a four. Three balls later, Maxwell used the entire depth of the crease to convert a length delivery into a short ball and hit a four past deep square leg. Twelve runs came from that over.

In Bumrah's final over, Maxwell took a single off the first ball to reach his third T20I hundred. But more importantly, he had taken the game away from the hosts by then. Two sixes in the 18th over bowled by Siddharth Kaul had titled the balance completely in Australia's favour. And when seven runs were needed off the final four deliveries, Maxwell hit another six followed by a four against Kaul to seal the series. The visitors won by seven wickets with two balls to spare. Maxwell, playing one of the finest T20I knocks on Indian soil, remained unbeaten on 113 off 55 balls. His innings had seven fours and nine sixes. The other four Australian batsmen had collectively hit only nine boundaries.

Without Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Hardik Pandya, the Indian seam bowling in limited-overs cricket becomes virtually a one-man show. At Chinnaswamy on Wednesday, Vijay Shankar came in for Mayank Markande, while Kaul replaced Umesh Yadav. But they were

never going to make a serious impact, especially on a flat pitch at a 'six-hitting' venue. As for the spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal was cancelled out by Maxwell's fluidity and improvisation, and Krunal wasn't a wicket-taking option, although he tried to keep things tight.

A six that Maxwell hit off Chahal in the 16th over was the most spectacular shot of the match. The leggie bowled wide outside off stump and the batsman reverse-swept it over the deep point boundary. Three days ago in the first T20I at Vizag, Maxwell had scored 56 off 43 deliveries. He fell prey to a Chahal leg-break, trying to clear the long-off boundary. Apart from displaying his improvisational skills, he opened his stance a bit and targeted the extra cover region, both against Chahal and Krunal.

Supersonic, but risk-free

This century wasn't as devastating as his 65-ball 145 not out against Sri Lanka at Pallekele three years ago. But the beauty of this knock was that Maxwell went supersonic without taking too many risks.

"We were just talking about how we haven't had a lot of success here. To come and perform as well as we have in these two T20Is, it's a great start to this tour. I think it helps playing a big bulk of T20 in the domestic tournament back home and come here. It was a pretty good wicket, so we were able to wait for anything slightly off line or length," he said.

"We just needed to get it to about 11 or 12 an over for the last four overs. We back ourselves from there. After D'Arcy's dismissal, it was up to me to sit around and drive the innings forward. Pete Handscomb did a great job of getting off strike and being busy. We were able to keep consistently having good overs, and keep the run rate in check," he said.

Virat Kohli, too, was full of praise. "We put up a decent total, 190 is a good score on any ground, but there was too much dew around, and when Maxy plays an innings like that, you can't do too much."

Why Rahul's timely rediscovery is good for India in the World Cup

IN BOTH T20I outings against Australia, KL Rahul demonstrated that he has not only put his Test travails Down Under behind but also showed how his rediscovery could infuse more ammo into the batting line-up in the shorter forms of the game.

True that his ODI batting is still fledgling, just 13 innings in which he has collected 317 runs, that his hundred and two fifties have come against either Zimbabwe or Afghanistan, but there's no doubting his potential to change games.

For starters, he's a multidimensional batsman who can seamlessly switch gears. He can anchor and accelerate, consolidate and accumulate, is competent against spin and seam, pace and bounce, is equipped to bat anywhere in the order. He can open if one of the openers is injured or has struck a patch. He can be the long-sought No 4, or if as coach Ravi Shastri wants to slot Virat Kohli at No 4, he can be the man. Those are virtues that have prompted the team management to persist with him, skipper Virat Kohli rates him his best among the young crop of Indian batsmen. He's perhaps the missing link in India's ODI scheme.

There are options like Ambati Rayudu and Kedar Jadhav, but both have neither looked secure against any top-class bowling, nor seemed capable of influencing matches single-handedly like Rahul. Jadhav, one could argue, can add value with his effective part-time off-spin. But they'd rather prefer a more competent batsman than someone with all-round utility. For they have enough mettle in the bowling and all-round departments.

Earlier, Kohli played a sublime innings – 72 not out off 38 balls – to take India to 190/4 in 20 overs. KL Rahul provided the early impetus with a 26-ball 47. Successive sixes off Pat Cummins suggested a pretty decent improvement in his batting compared to the way he was playing in Australia a few months ago.

Yet again, though, Rahul got out when he should have continued. A ramp against Nathan Coulter-Nile went straight to Jhye Richardson.

Shikhar Dhawan got stuck at the other end. To be fair to him though, the pitch was a bit

slow initially and the ball wasn't coming on to the bat. The surface became very good for batting after the first 10 overs.

Kohli waited for a while before opening up. Three sixes on the spin against Coulter-Nile were the most attractive part of the highlights package. MS Dhoni scored 40 off 23 balls and added 100 runs with Kohli for the fourth wicket. Aaron Finch miscalculated big time and brought on Short in the 18th over. Nineteen runs were conceded. It could have been the turning point of the match. Maxwell's brilliance made his skipper's error redundant.

EXPLAINED

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SCORECARD >>

Ind vs Aus

2nd T20I | Bangalore | Toss: Aus

INDIA		190/4 IN 20 OV
KL Rahul	c Richardson b Coulter-Nile	47 (26b, 3x4, 4x6)
SDhawan	c Stoinis b Behrendorff	14 (24b, 1x4)
V Kohli	not out	72 (38b, 2x4, 6x6)
R Pant	c Richardson b Short	1 (6b)
MS Dhoni	c Finch b Cummins	40 (23b, 3x4, 3x6)
D Karthik	not out	8 (3b, 2x4)
Extras:	(lb 3, w 5)	8
Fall of wickets:	61-1 (Lokesh Rahul, 7.1), 70-2 (Shikhar Dhawan, 9.2), 74-3 (Rishabh Pant, 10.5), 174-4 (MS Dhoni, 19.1)	
Bowling:		
Jason Behrendorff		3-0-17-1
Jhye Richardson		4-0-45-0
Pat Cummins		3-0-40-1
Nathan Coulter-Nile		3-0-33-1
Adam Zampa		4-0-23-0
D Arcy Short		3-0-29-1

AUSTRALIA		194/3 IN 19.4 OV
D Arcy Short	c Rahul b Shankar	40 (28b, 6x4)
M Stoinis	b Kaul	7 (11b, 1x4)
A Finch	c Dhawan b Shankar	8 (7b, 1x4)
G Maxwell	not out	113 (55b, 7x4, 9x6)
P Handscomb	not out	20 (18b, 1x4)
Extras:	(lb 1, w 4, nb 1)	6
Fall of wickets:	13-1 (Marcus Stoinis, 2.2), 22-2 (Aaron Finch, 3.6), 95-3 (D Arcy Short, 11.1)	
Bowling:		
Vijay Shankar		4-0-38-2
Jasprit Bumrah		4-0-30-0
Siddharth Kaul		3-4-0-45-1
Yuzvendra Chahal		4-0-47-0
Krunal Pandya		4-0-33-0
Australia won by seven wickets		



MS Dhoni roared back to form with a brutal 40 off 23 balls, which included three fours and as many sixes. PVI

SKY-ROCKETING

03 Glenn Maxwell smacked his third hundred in this format, joint second with Kiwi opener Colin Munro. Only Rohit Sharma with four has more. His other tons have come against England and SL.

India women eye clean sweep against England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

THE SERIES already in the bag, a confident India will look to complete a whitewash when they take on a beleaguered England in the third and final women's One-day International here Thursday.

The Mithali Raj-led outfit had thrashed the reigning World Champions by 66 runs in the opening ODI and then followed it up with a dominating seven-wicket win in the second game to seal the three-match series with a 2-0 unassailable lead.

More importantly, India grabbed four crucial points in the ICC Women's championship as the race for securing direct qualification spots for the 2021 World Cup heats up. With two more points up for grabs, the hosts would not like to experiment by making any changes to the line-up.

India seem to have found the winning momentum under new coach W V Raman as they ticked most boxes in the last two games. Prolific opener Smriti Mandhana, who is the current ICC cricketer of the year, has been in splendid form. Her classy 63 in the last game helped the hosts to clinch the match and the series.



Smriti Mandhana has been in excellent form.

Veteran Mithali Raj, who is the leading run-getter in ODIs, has scores of 44 and 47 in the last two games. Both Mandhana and her skipper would like to continue from where they left. Experienced Punam Raut, who made a comeback to the ODI side, justified her selection over Harleen Deol, by chipping in with a handy 32.

Raut's inclusion seems to have sorted out the middle-order woes. But she and young opener Jemimah Rodrigues, both from Mumbai, need to convert their starts into bigger scores. The likes of Deepti Sharma, Mona Meshram and wicket-keeper Taniya Bhatia also need to chip in if the top-order falters.

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Bowlers to the fore

The Indian bowlers – both seamers and spinners – have been impressive. Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami (with 5 wickets in the rubber) and Shikha Pandey (6 wickets) have troubled the visitors in the first two games at the Wankhede stadium here.

England have found it difficult to face the Indian spin trio of Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav and Ekta Bisht. Slow left-arm orthodox bowler Bisht spun the visitors to their doom with a four-wicket haul in game one. The struggling England side also suffered a blow after all-rounder Sophie Ecclestone was ruled out of the third ODI and remainder of the tour due to a fractured hand. What was expected to be a close series thus trundled out to be a one-sided affair.

Jaiswal, Kandpal slam tons as India U-19 seize control vs South Africa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 27

CENTURIES BY Yashasvi Jaiswal (173) and Vaibhav Kandpal (120) helped India Under-19 pile up 395 in their first innings and take control of the proceedings on day two of the second Youth Test against South Africa Under-19 here Wednesday.

At stumps, the visiting side was 50 for 2 in their second innings, still adrift by 193 runs. Resuming at the overnight score of 112 for 2 in reply to South Africa's 152 all out in the first innings, Jaiswal continued to play well though he kept on losing partners at the other end.

The South African bowlers didn't allow India to get away by taking a few wickets and had the host's in trouble at 177 for 5. Jaiswal, who struck 24 boundaries, and Kandpal stitched together a 89-run stand for the sixth wicket during which the two played some enterprising cricket.

Jaiswal, who displayed a lot of patience during his knock, also flayed the bad balls on either side of the wicket. South Africa struck twice in quick time, getting Jaiswal and Hrithik Shokeen (0) with skipper Matthew

Montgomery doing the damage. However, a 54-run stand for the eighth wicket between Kandpal and Anshul Kamboj (30, 34 balls, 1X4, 4X6s) took the hosts close to the 400-run mark. Lifa Ntanzi (4/90) and Montgomery (3/49) were the best bowlers for South Africa as the Indian innings closed at 395 in 101.2 overs, thereby taking a first innings lead of 243 runs.

Impressive Rex

Needing a solid effort from the batsmen in the second innings to save the Test and prevent a whitewash, South Africa lost opener Ruan Terblanche (2) in the fourth over to Manipur pacer Rex Singh. Skipper Montgomery looked positive in his approach and slammed six fours in his unbeaten 34 as the team ended the day at 50 for 2 in 21 overs. India had won the first Test in three days to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa Under-19 152 all out and 50 for 2 in 21 overs (Matthew Montgomery 34 batting) vs India Under-19 395 all out in 101.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 173, Vaibhav Kandpal 120, Vathsal Govind 25; Lifa Ntanzi 4/90, Matthew Montgomery 3/49).