

# India looks to pull off another series victory

Dhawan needs to sign off on a high; Shami may be rested to give Saini an opportunity

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PORT-OF-SPAIN

Opener Shikhar Dhawan will be desperate for a big knock after four consecutive failures as India eyes another series victory when it takes on the West Indies in the third and final One-Day International here on Wednesday.

With scores of one, 23 and three in the T20 series and just two in the second ODI, Dhawan's comeback post injury has been far from ideal. Troubled by in-coming deliveries, twice Dhawan lost his wicket to pacer Sheldon Cottrell.

Since he is not part of the Test squad, the Delhi left-hander would like to finish the Caribbean assignment on a high.

**Another tussle**  
There is another mini-battle brewing in the Indian line-up, for the No. 4 slot, with Shreyas Iyer putting tremendous pressure on Rishabh Pant.

Pant has enjoyed the backing of the team management, especially skipper Virat Kohli, but his repeated failures and Shreyas' 68-ball 71 in the second ODI changed things.

Kohli, meanwhile, will look to carry the momentum after a brilliant 120 off 125 balls in the second ODI.



The game plan is...! Given that the momentum is with India, the West Indies will have a tough task in the final ODI. •GETTY IMAGES

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who impressed with figures of four for 31 from eight overs in the last match, will look to sustain the form.

His pace colleague Mohammed Shami (two for 39) and Kuldeep Yadav (two for 59) also chipped in.

Although teams don't prefer changing winning combinations, Kohli may

give Navdeep Saini a run, giving Shami a rest.

**Wanted, a win**  
The West Indies, on the other hand, will be desperate to save the series with a win.

But for that to happen, the batting unit will have to take more responsibility. It's time talents like Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas

Pooran rise to the occasion.

After the final ODI, the two teams will battle it out in a two-Test series, starting August 22 at North Sound, Antigua.

**The teams (from):**

**India:** Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzven-

dra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini.

**West Indies:** Jason Holder (Capt.), Chris Gayle, John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran, Roston Chase, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Keemo Paul, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Kemar Roach.

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

## STAT SPHERE



■ If India wins the third ODI, it will help the Men in Blue draw level with West Indies in overall H2H record since the two started playing each other in 1979

■ Of the 129 matches against West Indies, India has won 61 and lost 62, while two have ended in a tie. Four games didn't have a result

■ India has won 13 of the 18 bilateral series it has played after the 2015 World Cup. The break-up:

India in bilateral ODI series since 2015 WC			
Versus	Home/Away	Year	Result
Bangladesh	Away	2015	Lost 1-2 (3)
Zimbabwe	Away	2015	Won 3-0 (3)
South Africa	Home	2015/16	Lost 2-3 (5)
Australia	Away	2015/16	Lost 1-4 (5)
Zimbabwe	Away	2016	Won 3-0 (3)
New Zealand	Home	2016/17	Won 3-2 (5)
England	Home	2016/17	Won 2-1 (3)
West Indies	Away	2017	Won 3-1 (5)
Sri Lanka	Away	2017	Won 5-0 (5)
Australia	Home	2017/18	Won 4-1 (5)
New Zealand	Home	2017/18	Won 2-1 (3)
Sri Lanka	Home	2017/18	Won 2-1 (3)
South Africa	Away	2017/18	Won 5-1 (6)
England	Away	2018	Lost 1-2 (3)
West Indies	Home	2018/19	Won 3-1 (5)
Australia	Away	2018/19	Won 2-1 (3)
New Zealand	Away	2018/19	Won 4-1 (5)
Australia	Home	2018/19	Lost 2-3 (5)

## Subramaniam in trouble?

Allegedly misbehaved with bureaucrats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian team's administrative manager Sunil Subramaniam is set to be reprimanded by the BCCI for allegedly misbehaving with officials of the country's High Commissions in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago during the on-going series.

According to a BCCI source, Subramaniam was told to coordinate with the top officials of the Indian High Commissions in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago for the Indian team's video shoot on 'water conservation', a project of the Indian government.

"The Indian team was

supposed to shoot a small advertisement on 'Water Conservation' as this directive came from the government. When a very senior person from Indian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago called up Subramaniam seeking his cooperation, he told him 'Don't flood me with messages' The BCCI has come to know that he refused to entertain their calls when all they were doing was to carry out the government's directive," said the senior BCCI official.

Subramaniam, the team's administrative manager since 2017, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

## Archer adds teeth to England attack in second Test



Huge responsibility: England will be keen to turn the tables on Australia at Lord's. •REUTERS

Moeen to take a break after Ashes snub

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

England is set to field a revamped attack featuring fast bowler Jofra Archer as it tries to finally get Australia's batting star Steve Smith out cheaply and level the Ashes in the second Test at Lord's.

Holder Australia, bidding to win its first away Ashes series for 18 years, humbled England last time out, thanks mainly to Smith, as it cruised to a 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

England has only twice won the Ashes after losing the opener – when all-rounder Ian Botham turned the 1981 series on its head with

several superb solo efforts, and in the thrilling 2005 contest which it won 2-1.

Defeat at Edgbaston was made worse for England by the fact that James Anderson, its all-time leading wicket-taker, broke down after bowling just four overs with a calf-injury that has ruled the 37-year-old swing specialist out of a Lord's encounter starting on Wednesday.

**Time-out**  
Meanwhile, England all-rounder Moeen Ali will take a "short break" from cricket after being dropped from the squad. The 32-year-old was axed after scoring nought

and four in England's first Test defeat at Edgbaston. He also struggled with his off-spin, taking three wickets for 172 runs across Australia's two innings, failing to take advantage of a pitch that ought to have suited him.

**The teams (from):**

**England:** Joe Root (Capt.), Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jack Leach, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes.

**Australia:** Tim Paine (Capt.), David Warner, Cameron Bancroft, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Matthew Wade, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Peter Siddle, Nathan Lyon and Josh Hazlewood.

# When millions put their faith in a voice coming out of a box

Going back in time when radio commentators magically transported the fans to the venue with their vivid descriptions



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

A few moments before the match began, you heard a series of beeps on the radio. Short, sharp, penetrative. This was followed by a long beep. There was promise of excitement in those beeps, and if you were a schoolboy who dreamt of playing for India, it signalled the start of something guaranteed to burnish that dream. "This is All India Radio," said the measured voice, "We now take you to Eden Gardens..." Suddenly you found yourself at the venue. It was magical.

The recent passing of the best Indian commentator of his time, Anant Setalvad, is a reminder of just how much we owe his tribe, a debt not always acknowledged. Before Hawkeye and Hotspot and Ultraedge, those sitting at home relied on the sharpness and skill of the radio commentator to bring the game to them. Generations put their faith in the voice coming out of a radio. Some charlatans – the Maharajkumar of Vizianagaram was one – thrived, but the best served the game and the listeners well.

## Urbane

Setalvad was urbane, his voice crisp – decades later, I would still be able to recognise it if it were in a line-up with other voices. He was a lovely painter of verbal pictures, a remarkably calm presence among colleagues who made up in high pitched chatter what they lacked in technical knowhow.

This was especially true of the Hindi

commentators. Some of them never paused, their flow like god's love, having no beginning and no end. Still, it meant that the nation south of the Vindhyas learnt much of its Hindi – if not cricket – that way. Was the language imposition a planned move or did it simply work out that way? Bollywood films and Hindi cricket commentary helped many of us through our Hindi exams in school, the essays borrowing heavily from Sahir Ludhianvi and Sushil Doshi, the poet and the radio commentator respectively.

Radio fired the imagination. Even bad commentary – and some of it was indeed awful – forced you to see the action in your mind's eye. I first 'saw' a Gundappa Viswanath square cut on radio before I saw it on the field of play. You quickly chose your favourite commentators just as you did with the players. And it was wonderful when the two came together in the same match, as, for example, Tony Cozier did on the 74-75 tour which saw Viswanath play some of his finest innings.

## Pre-digested opinions

In another way, however, radio commentary suppressed imagination. Millions were handed pre-digested opinions by commentators who made up for all their weaknesses by their one undeniable strength: they were at the venue, you were not. That extra layer between you and the action was a semi-permeable membrane: the commentator could tell you what he saw, but you couldn't argue back. You accepted both his description and his opinion.

As I was growing up, however, an important change in this relationship took place. Transistor radios became easily available. It allowed spectators at the ground to follow the game while listening to the commentary – much like they do

in England now. The Bobby Talyarkhan style of 'creative' broadcasting faded out.

The changed dynamics led to a riot in a Mumbai Test when commentator Devraj Puri said something like "the ball was nowhere near the bat," as Venkatraghavan was given out caught behind off Australia's Alan Connolly. Such was the listeners' faith in the infallibility of the commentator. Umpires made mistakes, commentators didn't!

## Audio treat

Before Setalvad, there was V.M. Chakrapani. He broadcast during India's tour of Australia in '67. I remember my mother, ear fixed to the radio, keeping scores as Farokh Engineer and Chandu Borde put on a partnership in a Test. Mother was the only lady I knew who kept scores and updated friends who were at work. She taught me the joy of listening to cricket. The sport was an audio treat before it became a visual one. When dad came back from work, they would discuss the day's play. Opinions were based on what they had heard, to be reinforced (or not) by what they read in the newspapers the following day.

Ian Peebles has written about the impact of cricket as seen through 12-year-old eyes. That's nothing compared to the impact of the game on six-year-old ears. Many years later, I met Chakrapani in Chennai, a tall man who moved easily and spoke in a beautiful radio voice.

I never met Setalvad or Pearson Surti, the man with the golden voice, but another favourite, Dicky Rutnagar became a friend. As of course did Harsha Bhogle who was such a treat on radio where he began. His manner of representing the listener at all times, thinking his thoughts, expressing his fears and exulting in his triumphs is a gift given to few. He is the last of a special tribe.

## No conflict of interest in Dravid case: CoA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) reiterated its view on Tuesday that former India captain Rahul Dravid has no "Conflict of Interest" (COI) issues in connection with his appointment as Head of the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

The BCCI's Ethics Officer Justice (retd.) D.K. Jain, following a complaint from Sanjeev Gupta, a life member of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, sought a clarification from the former India under-19 and A-team coach about his employment terms with India Cements.

## Thorn in the flesh

The COI issue has been a thorn in the flesh for the BCCI and former players who have shown interest in the development of Indian cricket activities. But the former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha, whose panel wrote the 'Cricket in Re-

forms' report, has dealt with the COI issues in detail and how it is affecting Indian cricket.

After the CoA meeting on Tuesday, Lt. Gen. (retd.) Ravi Thodge said: "There's no conflict in Rahul (Dravid)'s case. We have cleared his appointment. If the Ombudsman (also the Ethics Officer) sees any conflict, we will have our response going to him. He has to consider it. It's a process," said Thodge.

Recently, CoA head Vinod Rai had also expressed the same view.

## Delay possible

On the matter of the BCCI AGM and elections to be held on October 22, Thodge said that with more members showing interest to be in terms with the new BCCI Constitution, there could be delays. "We just took a review and most of them will join. I don't see such a great difficulty. Some of them are yet to register their Constitutions. The intentions are to hold the elections around that time (October 22)."



All clear: The COI case against Dravid has been dismissed.

## Procedure of picking support staff questioned



CAC head Kapil Dev and chief selector M.S.K. Prasad.



VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

Should the National selectors be tasked with the responsibility of picking the support staff for the Indian senior team? Some former Board members disagree with the current arrangement of leaving the job of selecting the head coach to the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and asking the national selectors to identify the support staff.

The CAC, comprising Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy, is scheduled to meet in Mumbai on August 16 to conduct interviews with candidates who have applied for the post of Head Coach.

"I fail to understand how this selection committee is better qualified than the CAC. If Kapil and his colleagues can pick the head coach, they can as well use their wisdom to give the coach the support staff he deserves," said the veteran official.

When John Wright became India's first foreign coach in 2000, he was inter-

viewed by Sunil Gavaskar and Shastri. Gavaskar was also consulted before Greg Chappell was appointed coach in 2005. Gary Kirsten was brought in as head coach in consultation with some of the senior players.

"Earlier, the office-bearers would meet to pick the coach and the system worked well," said the Board official. "The Lodha Committee mandated that the job be performed by a CAC which should include prominent cricketers. Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and (V.V.S.) Laxman were brought into the CAC to ensure there was credibility to the process of picking the national coach."

The previous CAC was disbanded amidst conflict of interest issues against the players. "The appointment of the new CAC should have been made in consultation with BCCI. The CoA doesn't have the authority to appoint such a committee. Having appointed one, the same CAC should have conducted interviews for the support staff," the official insisted.

## de Kock to lead in T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JOHANNESBURG

Quinton de Kock was on Tuesday named South Africa's new T20I skipper for the three-match series against India in September, which will not feature former captain Faf du Plessis in the squad.

However, du Plessis will continue to lead South Africa in the three-Test series that follows the T20Is.

**The squads: Tests:** Faf du Plessis (Capt.), Temba Bavuma (Vice-Capt.), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada and Rudi Second.

**T20Is:** Quinton de Kock (Capt.), Rassie van der Dussen (vice-capt.), Temba Bavuma, Junior Dala, Bjorn Fortuin, Beuran Hendricks, Reeza Hendricks, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi and Jon-Jon Smuts.



de Kock. •GETTY IMAGES