

Kohli leads India to series victory with 43rd ODI hundred

Shreyas advances his case with another mature knock; Khaleel picks up three wickets



Feisty bunch: Team India celebrates the series win over the West Indies at Queen's Park Oval on Wednesday. • AFP

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Skipper Virat Kohli hammered a second consecutive hundred to fashion India's series-clinching victory here on Wednesday.

Gayle had smashed a 72 to lead the hosts to a competitive 240 for seven in the rain-curtailed match after electing to bat.

‘Send-off’
Soon after his dismissal, the Indian players rushed towards Gayle, shaking hands with him. Kohli even performed a typical Gayle jig before the burly West Indian walked off. There had been speculation that this would be Gayle's swansong.

Gayle, in his inimitable

style, put his helmet on the top of his bat handle and lifted the bat in the air while walking off. Near the boundary ropes, he hurled the helmet in the air only to catch it back.

India was set a stiff revised 255-run target on Duckworth-Lewis method, but Kohli's appetite for runs and young Shreyas Iyer's support meant it eventually turned out to be a comfortable six-wicket win, which translated into a 2-0 series victory.

The counter-attacking 65-run knock by Shreyas was game-changing as he took the pressure off his captain.

It was India's ninth consecutive ODI series win over the West Indies.

Coming in after losing opener Rohit Sharma (10), Kohli raised his 43rd ODI hundred and in the process

crossed the phenomenal 20,000-run mark in international cricket.

Kohli remained unbeaten on 114 and completed the win with back-to-back boundaries off Carlos Brathwaite.

His dominant knock came off 99 balls with 14 fours and the Indian captain now averages 60.31 in ODIs. Kohli had scored 120 in the second ODI.

After Shikhar Dhawan (36) departed, wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was again guilty of playing a reckless shot, getting a first-ball duck.

In complete contrast, Shreyas played with maturity to raise a crucial 120-run stand with Kohli for the fourth wicket, taking the team near the target. His knock came off 41 balls with five sixes and three fours.

When Shreyas was dismissed, India needed 43 runs off

40 balls but Kedar Jadhav (19 not out) ensured there was no twist in the tale. He was involved in an unbeaten 44-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Earlier, the West Indies reached a healthy 158 for two in 22 overs when rain forced a second interruption and the contest was reduced to 35-overs-a-side.

Shai Hope (24) and Shimron Hetmyer (25) resumed the innings but they did not last long with Mohammed Shami dismissing the latter and Ravindra Jadeja cleaning up the former.

Nicholas Pooran played a whirlwind 16-ball 30 to take the hosts past 200. The left-hander smartly handled the Indian spinners, launching Jadeja and Yuzvendra Chahal for massive sixes.

Shami struck again by sending back Pooran, who

chipped a full-length delivery straight to Manish Pandey. Carlos Brathwaite added 16 runs with a six and a four.

Gayle came out with a clear plan to attack the Indian bowlers. Whether it was Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shami or Khaleel Ahmed (three for 68) no Indian pacer was spared. Spinner Chahal was the only bowler to command some respect.

“I was exactly the same when I came in — any opportunity I got I wanted to win games for my team and play according to the situation and you have to take risks. He was brave under pressure

VIRAT KOHLI says Shreyas Iyer reminds him of his own early days in the India side

STAT SPHERE

1 Kohli has become the first cricketer in the game's history to score 20,000 international runs in a decade. He has aggregated 20,018 runs of his 20,502 runs in the 2010s

1 Kohli is the first player to hit hundreds in three consecutive ODI innings in the Caribbean Islands, The India captain is also the first visiting player with four ODI centuries in the West Indies

1 West Indies' 100 off just 9.1 overs is its fastest in ODIs and also the quickest against India

KOHLI'S HUNDREDS AGAINST WEST INDIES

- 117 (Visakhapatnam, 2011)
- 102 (Port of Spain, 2013)
- 127 (Dharamsala, 2014)
- 111* (Kingston, 2017)
- 140 (Guwahati, 2018)
- 157* (Visakhapatnam) 2018
- 107 (Pune, 2018)
- 120 (Port of Spain, 2019)
- 114* (Port of Spain, 2019)

2 Kohli and Tendulkar are the players with most ODI 100s against a particular team. Tendulkar achieved the feat against Australia while Kohli did so against West Indies

2 Shreyas Iyer's five sixes is the second highest by an Indian batsman in an ODI in the West Indies, after Yuvraj's seven hits over the line at Kingston in 2009

9 Number of successive ODI series victory that India registered against West Indies, dating back to 2007. This is also the third straight away-series win for the Men in Blue

43

Number of ODI centuries for Kohli. This is also his 68th international hundred

SCOREBOARD		WEST INDIES VS INDIA, THIRD ODI	
WEST INDIES Chris Gayle c Kohli b Khaleel 72 (41b, 8x4, 5x6), Evin Lewis c Dhawan b Chahal 43 (29b, 5x4, 3x6), Shai Hope b Jadeja 24 (52b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer b Shami 25 (32b, 1x4), Nicholas Pooran c sub (Pandey) b Shami 30 (16b, 1x4, 3x6), Jason Holder c Kohli b Khaleel 14 (20b), Carlos Brathwaite c Pant b Khaleel 16 (14b, 1x4, 1x6), Fabien Allen (not out) 6 (7b, 1x4), Keemo Paul (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-1, w-6): 10; Total (for seven wickets. in 35 overs): 240.		121 (Gayle, 11.4), 3-171 (Hetmyer, 24.5), 4-171 (Hope, 25.4), 5-211 (Pooran, 30.1), 6-221 (Holder, 32.5), 7-236 (Brathwaite, 34.4).	
INDIA BOWLING Bhuvneshwar 5-1-48-0, Shami 7-1-50-2, Khaleel 7-0-68-3, Chahal 7-0-32-1, Jadhav 4-0-13-0, India 5-0-26-1.		INDIA Rohit Sharma run out 10 (6b, 2x4), Shikhar Dhawan c Paul b Allen 36 (53b, 5x4), Virat Kohli (not out) 114 (99b, 14x4), Rishabh Pant c Paul b Allen 0 (7b), Shreyas Iyer c Holder b Roach 65 (41b, 3x4, 5x6), Kedar Jadhav (not out) 19 (12b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-4, w-8): 12; Total (for four wickets. in 32.3 overs): 256.	
FALL OF WICKETS 1-115 (Lewis, 10.5 overs), 2-		FALL OF WICKETS 1-25 (Rohit, 2.4), 2-91 (Dhawan, 12.2), 3-92 (Pant, 12.4), 4-212 (Shreyas, 28.2).	
WEST INDIES BOWLING Roach 7-0-53-1, Holder 4-0-39-0, Paul 5-0-39-0, Allen 6-0-40-2, Chase 7-0-43-0, Brathwaite 3.3-0-38-0.		Man-of-the-Match and Series: Virat Kohli. India won by six wickets with 15 balls remaining (D-L method) to clinch three-match series 2-0.	

‘Never announced retirement’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Everyone seemed to think that the West Indies' third ODI against India here on Wednesday would be the last international match for Chris Gayle, but the ‘Universe Boss’ suggested after the game that he had not yet retired.

The 39-year-old Gayle played the third ODI with a special ‘301’ jersey – indicating the number of ODIs he has featured in, a record for any West Indies cricketer.

The Jamaican, who made 72 off 41 balls, was applauded by the Indian players as he walked off after being dismissed in the 12th over. He raised his bat, helmet perched on top of it, and the crowd continued to cheer, wondering if it was the last time they would see him bat.

But after the game, Gayle dismissed suggestions that this was his farewell game.

“I didn't announce anything... any retirement,” he said in a short video posted by Cricket West Indies.

Asked whether he would still be around, he said, “Yeah, until further notice.”

Former India and Tamil Nadu opener VB Chandrasekhar passes away

He was instrumental in bringing Dhoni into the Chennai Super Kings fold

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Former India and Tamil Nadu opener V.B. Chandrasekhar passed away here on Thursday. He was 57. Police said the body of the former cricketer was recovered from his residence. They suspect it to be a case of suicide.

Chandrasekhar, popularly called VB, is survived by wife and two daughters.

A hard-hitting opener, he represented India in seven ODIs, with an innings of 53 being his highest score. In 81 First Class matches, Chandrasekhar notched up 4999 runs at 43.09 with 10 centuries.

After his eventful cricketing career, where he was a part of the last Tamil Nadu team to triumph in the Ranji Trophy in 1988 – he later led the State side and then briefly played for Goa – VB focussed on coaching and commentary.

VB coached the Tamil Nadu Ranji team and was continually involved with the game. Significantly, he was the cricket manager of Chennai Super Kings in the franchise's first three years and was instrumental in getting the iconic M.S. Dhoni to CSK.

Special bond with Dravid
He shared a special bond with Rahul Dravid and spent



Best knock: V.B. Chandrasekhar celebrates with K. Srikanth after scoring a century off just 56 balls in the Irani Trophy match against Rest of India in October 1988. • FILE PHOTO: N. SRIDHARAN

long hours dissecting cricket with the batting legend. “I taught Rahul how to sweep,” he would say with a sparkle in his eyes.

Interestingly, Dravid's sons used to visit VB's coaching camp in Chennai. “They are very promising. Watch out for them,” VB would say.

The multi-faceted Chandrasekhar wore many hats. He was a National selector from 2004 to 2006. He was

also an exceptional talent spotter. VB's explosive batting skills came to the fore in the Irani Trophy of 1988-89 in Chennai, where he reached his century off 56 balls, which was then the quickest hundred by an Indian in First Class cricket.

During Tamil Nadu's triumphant Ranji campaign in 1987-88, VB scored 551 from eight matches at 45.91, often dismantling attacks at the top

of the order with his barrage of strokes. He cherished hitting the ball straight.

Soon he was drafted into the Indian ODI team. In the early 1990s, VB travelled to New Zealand with the Indian team.

Warm, friendly person
He was a warm, friendly man, who brought with him charm, elegance and wit. He would regale you with anecd-

otes laced with a sense of humour. VB was an entrepreneur. He owned the team VB Kanchi Veerans in the Tamil Nadu Premier League. Cricket meant everything to him. VB was also the owner of a state-of-the-art cricket academy in Chennai.

“It's an absolute shock for me. I cannot believe it. He was an outstanding attacking batsman. It's unfortunate that he did not play more for India,” said former India captain K. Srikanth.

He added, “We also did commentary together after our playing days. He was a warm person.”

Huge blow
Former India leg-spinner V.V. Kumar said, “I live close to his house, used to meet VB regularly. It is a huge blow to all of us. Along with Srikanth, he was the most aggressive batsman Tamil Nadu produced.”

In the last few years, VB took a keen interest in his daughters' career in Carnatic music. He would travel with them to different cities, attending concerts.

Tamil Nadu cricket has lost a genuinely good person, an engaging conversationalist, whose passion for the game knew no bounds. VB will be missed.

VB in numbers

ODIs									
M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	100s	50s	
7	7	0	88	53	12.57	54.32	0	1	
First Class									
81	124	8	4999	237*	43.09	-	10	23	

Deeply saddened and shocked to know about the demise of my good friend VB Chandrasekhar. Heartfelt condolences to his family. May his soul RIP
VVS LAKSHMAN

Terrible news...VB... too soon. Shocking! Heartfelt condolences to his family and friends
ANIL KUMBLE

Extremely sad & shocked to hear about the passing away of VB Chandrasekhar sir. His consistent efforts made it possible to set the right foundation of the CSK team. He always encouraged & believed in us since very beginning. My deepest condolences to the family
SURESH RAJIA

Wittiest Indian cricket team selector I have known VB Chandrasekhar sir left us too soon! IRFAN PATHAN

With one of my favourite captains who mentored me when i was 16-17 #vbchandrasekhar
KARTIK MURALI

England dismissed for 258

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Australia's pacy start to the second Test was slowed by Jonny Bairstow's half-century that pushed England to 258 and the cheap dismissal of David Warner early on in the reply at Lord's on Thursday.

The Australians were 30 for one at stumps on an intriguing and action-packed day that made up for the wash-out on the opening day of the Test.

With England stuttering at 138 for six after being put in to bat, Bairstow put on 72 for the seventh wicket with Chris Woakes (32) before scoring more valuable runs with the tail.

Bairstow was eventually



What a start! Josh Hazlewood is on cloud nine after dismissing Jason Roy. • GETTY IMAGES

dismissed for 52, giving Nathan Lyon a third wicket and moving him to 355. He is now tied with paceman Dennis Lillee in third place on Australia's all-time list.

Quicks Josh Hazlewood (three for 58) and Pat Cummins (three for 61) also took three wickets apiece.

Opener Rory Burns top-scored with 53.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: R. Burns c Bancroft b Cummins 53, J. Roy c Paine b Hazlewood 0, J. Root lbw b Hazlewood 14, J. Denly c Paine b Hazlewood 30, J. Buttler c Paine b Siddle 12, B. Stokes lbw b Lyon 13, J. Bairstow c Khawaja b Lyon 52, C. Woakes c Paine b Cummins 32, J. Archer c Khawaja b Cummins 12, S. Broad b Lyon 11, J. Leach (not out) 6; Extras (b-12, lb-5, w-6): 23; Total (in 77.1 overs): 258.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-26, 3-92, 4-116, 5-136, 6-138, 7-210, 8-230, 9-251.

Australia bowling: Cummins 21-8-61-3, Hazlewood 22-6-58-3, Siddle 13-2-48-1, Lyon 19.1-2-68-3, Smith 2-0-6-0.

Australia — 1st innings: C. Bancroft (batting) 5, D. Warner b Broad 3, U. Khawaja (batting) 18; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (for one wkt. in 13 overs): 30.

Fall of wickets: 1-11.

England bowling: Broad 5-0-13-1, Archer 6-3-10-0, Woakes 2-0-3-0.

Toss: Australia.

Shastri is the clear front-runner

CAC to interview the six candidates today

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

He has a successful track record. The India captain's support for him is public knowledge. He has even been granted indirect approval by one of the three individuals who will have a say.

No wonder then that Ravi Shastri, the incumbent head coach, will be the clear favourite as the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) interviews six candidates at the BCCI headquarters on Friday.

The CAC – comprising former India captain Kapil Dev, former India women's captain Shantha Rangaswamy and former India coach Aunshuman Gaekwad – will interact with the candidates over two sessions on Friday.



Solid support: Virat Kohli's backing has made Ravi Shastri the favourite to retain his post. • FILE PHOTO

Three of the six – former India fielding coach Robin Singh, former India cricket manager Lalchand Rajput and former New Zealand head coach Mike Hesson – will be present in person.

The other three – former West Indies and Afghanistan

head coach Phil Simmons, former Sri Lanka head coach Tom Moody and Shastri – will appear via videoconferencing.

Under Shastri, India has had an impressive run across formats in the last two years. He has also earned the trust

of a majority of India regulars, including captain Virat Kohli. Despite India failing to clinch the World Cup in England last month, Shastri is the runaway favourite.

Moody, the only World Cup winner besides Shastri, was among the four interviewed in 2017, while Robin and Rajput have been on the domestic and IPL circuit for almost two decades.

Despite guiding the West Indies through a critical phase earlier in the decade and Afghanistan during its surge to Test status, Simmons stands only an outside chance. Mike Hesson may be the underdog with his thrust on data analysis. Despite not having played First Class cricket, Hesson has emerged as a sought-after coach.