

Shastri's tryst with head coach post extends

He will be firmly in charge till the 2021 T20 World Cup to be hosted by India



Vote for continuity: Cricket Advisory Committee members Aunshuman Gaekwad, Kapil Dev and Shanta Rangaswamy address a press conference after selecting the India head coach. • VIVEK BENORE

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Ravi Shastri will continue to be the head coach of India men's team. Mike Hesson made a positive impression on the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) during his presentation in person, informed Kapil Dev, who announced that Shastri was chosen by him and two committee members, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shanta Rangaswamy, based on five parameters. "We did our own marking, did not consult each other," said the 1983 World Cup-winning captain.

Three names

Shastri, now firmly in charge till the 2021 T20 World Cup to be hosted by India, appeared before the CAC via Skype from the West Indies. Kapil announced three names shortlisted based on parameters given – Tom Moody at number three, Hesson second and the Indian as first choice – for head coach position. The parameters for which marking was done were: coaching philosophy, coaching achievements, coaching experience, communication skill and know-

ledge of modern coaching tools.

Gaekwad, former India national coach and selector, explained the reasons for Shastri getting picked over the two contenders. "Ravi Shastri knows the boys, is very well-versed with the system and communicates well."

Shanta Rangaswamy, former India women's captain and coach, also stressed on the communication skills as the critical point. Kapil praised Hesson for coming across as "very intelligent". The New Zealander guided his national team to the 2015 World Cup final, losing to Australia in the title clash.

Curtain of confidentiality

West Indies' Phil Simmons opted out from the original list of six. Robin Singh and Lalchand Rajput were the two others who made their presentation before the CAC. Asked to elaborate on the marks given (maximum 100), Kapil opted to hide behind the curtain of confidentiality, but said that there was little to separate the first three. Moody from Australia coached Sri Lanka in World

Cup and has been an applicant for India head coach post from 2005.

Replying to a query about the process followed, Kapil said the time difference during Moody's presentation (from Australia) and Shastri's presentation (from West Indies where he is on a 45-day contract extension with the touring Indian team) led to delays.

"The meeting lasted six hours, the process was simple, we did own marking based on parameters." The noted national women's coach said: "The five (contenders for head coach post)

gave their presentations, it was weighed against their coaching performance."

Shastri guided India to semifinals at three major ICC competitions (2015 World

Cup, 2016 T20 World Cup and 2019 World Cup). M.S. Dhoni was captain in 2015, Virat Kohli led Team India during the other two tournaments.

Impressive record

Ravi Shastri's record as the head coach of India since the time he took over after the champions Trophy 2017 has been impressive

Format	Matches	Wins	Win %
Tests	21	11	52.38
ODIs	60	43	71.67
T20s	36	25	69.44

■ Shastri was earlier Director, Team India, from 2014 to 2016

Kapil Dev on Shastri's presentation

According to Kapil Dev, Shastri gave a presentation as to what the team did under him in the last two years and how the team can improve from here. He also elaborated where he needs more help from the

selectors and from the BCCI to make this team stronger in the times to come.

Kapil and Shastri played together in the 1983 Prudential World Cup held in England which India won.

Australia in trouble on rain-hit day

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England fast bowler Jofra Archer marked his Test debut with a wicket as Australia suffered a top-order collapse before rain cut short play at Lord's on Friday.

Australia lost three wickets for 11 runs and slumped to 80 for four when rain forced an early lunch on the third day of the second Test.

That left Australia 178 behind England's first innings total of 258.

The 24.1 overs that took place in the morning session represented the only action on Friday, with persistent rain leading the umpires to eventually abandon play for the day at 5:22 p.m. local

time in a match where the first day had already been washed out without a ball bowled.

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA, SECOND TEST

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

Archer took one for 18 off 13 overs. Stuart Broad led the way with two for 26 in 13 overs.

Australia — 1st innings: Cameron Bancroft lbw b Archer 13, David Warner b Broad 3, Usman Khawaja c Bairstow b Woakes 36, Steve Smith (batting) 13, Travis Head lbw b Broad 7, Matthew Wade (batting) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-4): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 37.1 overs): 80.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-60, 3-60, 4-71.

England bowling: Broad 13-3-26-2, Archer 13-6-18-1, Woakes 9-3-27-1, Stokes 21-1-1-0.

Pujara, Rahane, Bumrah look for game time

Hey, that hurts! Virat Kohli, who hurt his thumb in the third ODI, may give it a rest. • AP

Kohli likely to sit out to nurse thumb

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

Test specialists Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and a well-rested Jasprit Bumrah will aim for some quality game time when India takes on West Indies Cricket Board XI in a three-day warm-up game starting on Saturday.

With skipper Virat Kohli sustaining a right thumb injury during the third ODI, the team management would like to exercise precaution and may be rest their best player before World Test championship

opener.

Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant will desperately look for runs after a below-par limited-overs leg.

Pacers Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma too will look to impress the team management ahead of the two Tests. India's spin department is expected to be led by R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

The team (from): Virat Kohli (Capt.), Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Rishabh Pant, Cheteshwar Pujara, K.L. Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Ishant Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Hanuma Vihari and Umesh Yadav.

Lara, Sarwan to work with WI batsmen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

The legendary Brian Lara and Ramnaresh Sarwan will work with West Indies batsmen ahead of the first of the two Tests against India.

Lara, one of the greatest batsmen of all-time, and Sarwan, one of the leading West Indies players of his generation, will be part of the pre-series camp, to be held in Antigua.

The two will share their immense knowledge, experience and expertise with the 13-member squad.

Baliyan does it for U Mumba

A last-minute 'Super Raid' dashes Patna Pirates' hopes

PKL

G. VISWANATH
AHMEDABAD

Despite being outplayed after the break, U Mumba pulled off a thrilling 34-30 win against Patna Pirates in the ProKabaddi League Season-7 at the Eka Arena By TransStadia here on Friday.

U Mumba's hero was last man standing Rohit Baliyan.

The lithe raider, faced with the prospect of being captured and giving all out points and a win to Pirates, virtually kept his cant going for the last 30 seconds and unleashed a Super raid to pull off a remarkable win.

Baliyan escaped from the clutches of Hadi Oshorak, Jang Kun Lee and Neeraj Kumar to win the match that, with a bit of luck, could have gone Pirates' way.

Leading 22-9 at half-time U Mumba allowed Pirates to claw their way back with defender Ravinder contributing three vital points. Pardeep Narwal, who started off



Day's hero: U Mumba's Rohit Baliyan kept his cool to deny Patna Pirates. • VIJAY SONEJI

well scoring his 700th raid point and thereafter went past 1600 raid attempts in the league, kept Pirates in the hunt.

But U Mumba, which appeared to be clueless having surrendered a big lead, had

the ice cool Baliyan completing a Super raid.

Baliyan scored nine points, M.S. Athul eight and Sandeep Narwal six for the winner. It was U Mumba's fourth win in eight matches.

In a low scoring second

match, Jaipur Pink Panthers beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 22-19. It was the home team's sixth consecutive defeat.

The results: U Mumba bt Patna Pirates 34-30; Jaipur Pink Panthers bt Gujarat Fortunegiants 22-19.

Bajrang Punia gets the nod

KHEL RATNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After being ignored for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award last year, wrestler Bajrang Punia was the unanimous choice for the highest sporting honour this year with the 12-member selection committee recommending his name to the Sports Ministry on Friday.

Punia's name was the only one decided by the committee – headed by Justice (retd.) Mukundakam Sharma and including the likes of Bhaichung Bhutia and M.C. Mary Kom – on the opening day of the two-day meeting with the rest of the names for the other sporting awards to be discussed and decided on Saturday.

The sports ministry has formed a single committee for all the awards this year, unlike the past when the Arjuna/Khel Ratna and Dronacharya awards were decided separately.

The Asian and Commonwealth Games gold medal-



Bajrang Punia... biggest reward for his consistency. • PTI

list, the world's top-ranked wrestler in the 65kg category, has been on a roll over the last 18 months, adding a World Championships silver last year to go with his bronze in the 60kg in 2013.

Punia is among the brightest medal prospects for India in next month's World Championships at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, and at the Tokyo Olympics next year.

Last year, he had threatened to move court after being snubbed for the award in favour of Virat Kohli and

weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, claiming he had the achievements to merit the honour and seeking explanation from the ministry for his omission.

He joins Olympic medalists Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt and Sakshi Malik as the fourth wrestler to get the award.

Sources said another name could be added during deliberations that would continue on Saturday, along with other awardees for this year.

'This will motivate me'

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

World championships silver medallist Bajrang Punia, who is also the reigning Asian Games, Asian championships and Commonwealth Games champion, said the Khel Ratna would motivate him.

"Definitely, the award will give me motivation to do well, but I do not link the award with my preparations for the Olympics," Punia told *The Hindu*.

Punia said awards never interfered with his focus on competitions. "The award has its own place and the competitions go on as usual. My preparations for the Olympics has been going on nicely and will continue as per the plan."

Punia, conferred the Padma Shri award this year, has continued with his fine form in 2019 by winning gold medals at top-level events like Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov tournament, Asian championships, Ali Aliev tournament and Tibilis Grand Prix.