Shastri's tryst with head coach post extends 'Consult us for support staff too'

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 BENDRE

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

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 knowledge of modern coaching

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

> 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)

We did our own marking based on five parameters, did not consult each

KAPIL DEV

other

■ The parameters for which marking was done were: coaching philosophy, achievements, experience communication skill and knowledge of modern coaching tools

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 tourna-



Kapil Dev on Shastri's presentation

ccording to Kapil Dev, AShastri 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

AMOL KARHADKAR

Less than 72 hours before the controversial selection process for India's support staff is set to begin, the Crick-Advisory Committee (CAC) chairman Kapil Dev has demanded that his three-member panel be involved in the selection pro-

When asked if the reappointed head coach Ravi Shastri should be involved in the interview process, Kapil shot back: "Even we should be consulted. We have given a recommendation to the Board in black and white in the minutes that we should also be involved in the support staff selection process. I think the Board will release that letter to you also, which I don't know. We have given a letter to the Board."

More than 20 candidates According to the Supreme Court-directed administrative overhaul of the BCCI. the head coach is to be decided by the CAC, while the national selection panel is tasked with identifying the support staff. Accordingly, the selection committee, headed by M.S.K. Prasad, is

scheduled to interview more than 20 candidates combined for the posts of batting coach, bowling coach and fielding coach from Monday (August 19) till Thursday (August 22).

When prodded further if he feels the selectors - who are supposed to be appointed annually by the BCCI's general body - should be appointing support staff, Kapil said: "No. Their strength and our strength should combine together. It should be a cohesive effort of all the stakeholders with an aim to

improve the team." While the BCCI is unlikely to make the letter by the CAC members public, a senior executive confirmed that the CAC's letter will be forwarded to the Committee of Administrators (CoA). Accord-

We have given a recommendation to the Board in black and white in the minutes that we should also be involved in the support staff selection process

ing to him, the "CoA will take the final call".

Shastri seeks involvement

The Hindu also understands that during his interaction with the CAC on Friday, Shastri stressed on having a say in choosing the support staff. Two years ago, when Shastri was roped in as the India head coach for the first time, the BCCI had announced Zaheer Khan and Rahul Dravid to be bowling and bowling consultants, respectively, on overseas tours. However, Shastri had the last laugh with his and captain Virat Kohli's favourite triumvirate of B. Arun, R. Sridhar and Sanjay Bangar being reappointed as bowling, fielding and batting coach, respectively.

The selection panel, led by former India wicketkeeper Prasad, has been on a sticky wicket, with the members' lack of international cricket experience being criticised by legendary cricketers, including former captains Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar. It will be interesting to see if Prasad & Co. reach out to the captain, coach and CAC informally.

CoI: CoA invites former players

AMOL KARHADKAR

In an effort to address the contentious Conflict of Interest (CoI) issue pertaining to former cricketers, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) has invited a group of former India cricketers on Monday to discuss the way forward.

While a BCCI executive confirmed the meeting, he stressed it's an "informal gathering".

The Hindu understands that at least one of the three CoA members will interact with the former cricketers, with at least two former India captains having confirmed their presence, to discuss the options to tackle the CoI conundrum.

The CoA is understood to have sought the services of some of the recently-retired cricketers who are either involved in coaching, administrative or broadcasting roles at present. The recommendations

are likely to be forwarded to the court-appointed amicus curiae for his consideration.

Repeated allegations

The meeting has been convened in the aftermath of repeated CoI allegations on some of the legendary cricketers. After Sanjeev Gupta, a life

member of the Madhva Pra-

desh Cricket Association, complained about the possible Conflict of Interest of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and V.V.S Laxman, all three opted out of the CAC and the BCCI had to reconstitute the panel for the head coach appointment.

Seeking clarification

Based on Gupta's complaint, the BCCI ethics officer last week sought a clarification from Rahul Dravid, who has recently taken over as the Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

It resulted in Ganguly and Harbhajan Singh blasting the CoI policy in public.

Australia in trouble on rain-hit day

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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.

Archer took one for 18 off 13 overs. Stuart Broad led

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA, SECOND TEST

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

the way with two for 26 in 13

England – 1st innings: R. Burns c Bancroft b Cummins 53, J. Roy c Paine b Hazlewood O, 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):

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: 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, Mathew Wade (batting) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-4): 8;

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-60, 3-

overs): 80.

Total (for four wkts. in 37.1

England bowling: Broad 13-3-26-2. Archer 13-6-18-1. Woakes 9-3-27-1, Stokes 2.1-1-1-0.

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

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

Rohit Sharma and Rish-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 be led by R. Ash-The team (from): Virat Kohli

win and Ravindra Jadeja. (Capt.), Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeia. 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

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 Oshtorak, 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 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 ap-

peared to be clueless having

surrendered a big lead, had

the ice cool Baliyan completing a Super raid. Baliyan scored nine

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

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

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

weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, list, the world's top-ranked wrestler in the 65kg categoclaiming he had the achievery, has been on a roll over ments to merit the honour the last 18 months, adding a and seeking explanation World Championships silver from the ministry for his last year to go with his omission.

Tokyo Olympics next year.

bronze in the 60kg in 2013. Punia is among the brightest medal prospects for India in next month's World Championships at Nur-Sulaward. tan, Kazakhstan, and at the

name could be added during Last year, he had threadeliberations that would tened to move court after becontinue on Saturday, along ing snubbed for the award in with other awardees for this favour of Virat Kohli and vear.

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

Sources said another

'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.