

Shastri wants to leave a lasting legacy

Says it should be such that other teams going down decades would look to try and emulate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)
The reappointed Team India head coach Ravi Shastri says his primary endeavour will be facilitating a smooth transition by the time he leaves the scene. There will also be room for experimentation, he said, as the side looks to leave a lasting legacy.

Shastri, 57, was on Friday, selected for the post for a second term. As per BCCI's constitution, the national team's head coach has to be below 60 years, the age Shastri will be approaching by the time his current tenure ends. The 2023 World Cup is still a long way and winning the 2021 World T20 is the realistic goal for the team.

Smooth transition
"Next two years is to see that smooth transition happens because you will get a lot of youngsters coming, especially into the white-ball setup. There will be youngsters coming into the Test match setup as well," Shastri told BCCI TV.

"You will need to identify another three-four bowlers to add to the pool, those are the challenges. At the end of our tenure, in 26 months, my endeavour would be to leave the team in a happier place. So that they can leave a legacy for the time to come," the former India allrounder said. "I have the belief that this



Looking ahead: Ravi Shastri has set his sights on an Indian team that keeps lifting its its standard constantly. • FILE PHOTO: AFP

team could leave a legacy very few teams have left behind in years to come, not just for the moment they are playing but at the end of it all... the kind of legacy other teams going down decades will want to try and emulate.

On track
"That is the desire, we are on track. There is always room for improvement. And with youth coming in through the ranks, I think it's very exciting time. When you strive for excellence and you strive to raise the bar day in, day out, then you got to pay attention

to that detail. When you do mess up, you have an off day, don't let that day go by, in fact, make sure that you are focusing and concentrating on how you can get over that barrier," he said.

Among all the candidates, Shastri's record was unmatched as the team reached the No. 1 ranking in Test matches under his guidance and won a series in Australia for the first time in 71 years, besides decent success in the limited overs format.

"It's been superbly consistent if you look at the performance over the last two-

three years. But like I said that is the bar they have set and now it's up to them to raise the bar," Shastri assessed the team's performance in the last two years. "There is no other way, they have to. Unless you make those efforts, even at the cost of certain results, you will not know what your best setup is."

Shastri stressed on the improvements the current setup has made in fielding.

"On thing that is most important is that over the last four-five years, the biggest improvement is fielding and

the endeavour is to make this the best fielding side in the world.

He thanked the three-member committee led by Kapil Dev along with Shanta Rangaswamy and Aunshuman Gaekwad for showing faith in him for another term.

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Smith's gutsy show to the fore

THE ASHES

REUTERS
LONDON

England battled to 96 for four in their second innings by the end of a dramatic fourth day at Lord's to lead Australia by 104 runs and leave the second Ashes Test on a knife-edge on Saturday.

England had bowled out Australia for 250, Steve Smith making 92 after retiring hurt when he was struck on the neck by a venomous Jofra Archer bouncer.

Smith left the field for treatment and returned 40 minutes later, adding 12 runs before he was trapped lbw by Chris Woakes.

England, 1-0 down in the series, led by eight runs on first innings but it quickly

slumped to nine for two on a gloomy evening as Pat Cummins dismissed Jason Roy and Joe Root in successive deliveries.

Rory Burns and Joe Denly

scrambled 55 runs for the third wicket, Denly making 26.

Burns' battling knock of 29 ended when he edged a lifting delivery from Siddle.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 258.
Australia — 1st innings: Cameron Bancroft lbw b Archer 13, David Warner b Broad 3, Usman Khawaja c Bairstow b Woakes 36, Steve Smith lbw b Woakes 92, Travis Head lbw b Broad 7, Matthew Wade c Burns b Broad 6, Tim Paine c Buttler b Archer 23, Pat Cummins c Bairstow b Broad 20, Peter Siddle c Bairstow b Woakes 9, Nathan Lyon lbw b Leach 6, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 3; Extras (b-17, lb-12, nb-1, w-2): 32; Total (in 94.3 overs): 250.
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-60, 3-60, 4-71, 5-102, 6-162, 7-218, 8-234, 9-246.

England bowling: Broad 27.3-7-65-4, Archer 29-11-59-2, Woakes 19-6-61-3, Stokes 8-1-17-0, Leach 11-3-19-1.
England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Siddle 29, Jason Roy c & b Cummins 2, Joe Root c Paine b Cummins 0, Joe Denly c & b Siddle 26, Ben Stokes (batting) 16, Jos Buttler (batting) 10; Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-1): 13; Total (for four wkts. in 32.2 overs): 96.
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-64, 4-71.
Australia bowling: Cummins 8.2-2-16-2, Hazlewood 7-1-15-0, Siddle 8-2-19-2, Lyon 9-2-34-0.



Ouch, that hurts! Steve Smith was felled by a Jofra Archer delivery. • AFP

Pujara, Rohit come good

FIANS
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

India went to tea at 219 for four in 62 overs on the opening day against West Indies-A in the three-day warm-up match ahead of the Test series, here on Saturday.

Cheteshwar Pujara was the mainstay of the innings as he was batting on 89 and had Hanuma Vihari (9) for company at the break.

Rohit Sharma, playing at No. 5, made a fluent 68 before falling to Akim Frazer.

Opener K.L. Rahul made 36, while Mayank Agarwal (12) and Ajinkya Rahane (1) were dismissed cheaply.

Earlier, India began well with the Rahul and Mayank putting on 36 runs for the first wicket before the latter lost his wicket to Jonathan Carter. Then Rahul got out, caught off the bowling of Koen Harding. Carter was again in the act, nailing Rahane.

The scores: India 219 for four in 62 overs at tea (K.L. Rahul 36, Rohit Sharma 68, Cheteshwar Pujara 89 batting) vs West Indies-A. **Toss:** India.

Deepa Malik also recommended for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

Gaurav Gill and Ravindra Jadeja among 19 chosen for Arjuna Awards

SPORTS AWARDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Para athlete Deepa Malik was fourth time lucky after being recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna for the year 2019 on Saturday, becoming the joint recipient with wrestler Bajrang Punia for the highest sporting honour.

Having won silver at the 2016 Rio paralympics, Deepa had been ignored for the award for the past three years, leading her to question and criticise the decision. Punia too had questioned being ignored last year despite his achievements but both have finally been recognised by the 12-member selection committee after a marathon two-day meeting here.

Six Dronacharyas
The annual sports awards for 2019 across various disciplines and achievements saw the final list including some interesting names and a few

firsts. Unlike in the past, the Sports Ministry had formed a single committee for evaluating and deciding on all the awards – both performance and coaching – and the final recommendations include a massive 19-member list for Arjuna Awards and six for Dronacharya Award for coaching - three each in regular and lifetime categories.

While motorsports would finally be satisfied with being considered a sport by the government with ace racer Gaurav Gill becoming the first-ever from the category to be named for the Arjuna – something even the likes of Narain Karthikeyan could not manage – eyebrows would definitely be raised at the committee recommending S. Bhaskaran for the same for bodybuilding.

Chennai's Bhaskaran would be the fourth body-builder to get the award and the first in 31 years, since T.V. Pauly in 1988, in an event that is not considered sport by many and has constantly raised the spectre of doping across the world.



Deepa Malik..another feather in the cap.

• FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Also being recognised for his achievements at the Asian Games last year was rider Fouaad Mirza, getting an award for equestrian for the first time since 2004. Mirza also becomes the first civilian to get the honour in a sport that has been dominated by service personnel for long.

Indian football goalkeeper Gurpreet Sandhu also got third-time lucky after being ignored twice earlier.

In fact, while several of the medallists at the Asian

Games were recognised in 2018 itself, India's achievements in the continental event saw athletics continue to be the most awarded this year also with Md. Anas Yahiya, Swapna Barman and Tejinderpal Singh Toor being recommended for Arjuna with as many as 14 sports receiving representation.

While women's hockey would feel hard done by with only one name in the men's section despite faring better in the past year, it would be

The recommendations

RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA: Bajrang Punia (wrestling), Deepa Malik (para athletics)

ARJUNA AWARD: Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Md. Anas Yahiya, Swapna Barman (athletics), Ravindra Jadeja, Poonam Yadav (cricket), Sonia Lather (boxing), S. Bhaskaran (body building), Chinglensana Singh Kangjiam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi), Gaurav Gill (motorsports) Arjum Moudgil (shooting), Harmeet Desai (table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Sandhu (football), Simran Shergill (polo), B. Sai Praneth (badminton), Sundar Singh Gurjar (para athletics), Pramod Bhagat (para badminton)

DHYAN CHAND AWARD: Manuel Fredricks (hockey), Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis), C. Lalremganga (archery)

DRONACHARYA AWARD: **Regular:** Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis), Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics)

Lifetime: Merzban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokhar (kabaddi), Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR: Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation, Go Sports, Rayalseema Development Trust

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD TROPHY: Panjab University (Chandigarh)

heartening for the followers of the sport to finally see Merzban 'Bawa' Patel being recommended for the Dronacharya in Lifetime category. Patel is credited with identifying, nurturing and promoting talent in Mumbai for more than 30 years with several internationals owing

their careers to him.

Rana's omission criticised
Meanwhile, one prominent name missing from the list of awardees was of ace shooter Jaspal Rana, who was omitted for the Dronacharya Award. The omission of the

Dabang-Warriors match ends in stalemate

Bengaluru Bulls prove too good for Tamil Thalaivas

PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Dabang Delhi tied with Bengal Warriors 30-30 on day one of the Chennai leg in the ongoing season of the ProKabaddi League (PKL) at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Saturday.

The match was decided on a review. With Warriors leading 30-29, it reviewed Prapnan's raid, the last of the match. While Prapnan said he had touched Saeid Ghaffari, the defender denied it.

After the first referee announced that the review was successful, which meant a Bengal win (31-29), the second referee discussed with the first and it was announced that the review was unsuccessful.

Earlier, Bengaluru Bulls beat Tamil Thalaivas 32-21 in the first match of the day. Thalaivas' first raid point came in around the eighth minute, when its star raider Rahul Chaudhari, who brought out the loudest cheers from the crowd, put out Rohit Kumar. Thalaivas trailed 3-10 then.



Gotcha! Bengaluru Bulls' Amit Sheron and Saurabh Mandal effect a super tackle on Thalaivas' captain Ajay Thakur. • M. VEDHAN

Bulls' Banty put out Manjeet Chhillar for a successful raid, Rahul made an empty one, Bulls' Pawan Kumar Sehrawat removed Ajeet and Thalaivas' Ajay Thakur in his raid put out Ankit, following which Bulls led 12-4.

Personal milestones
There were personal milestones for some Thalaivas players in the PKL. Manjeet played his 100th match, Ajay crossed 1600 raids and Ran Singh notched up 200 successful tackles.

Bulls, which led 17-10 at the break, saw Amit Sheron and Saurabh Mandal pull off a fine super tackle on Thalaivas' Thakur in the second half. The move helped Bulls

extend the lead to 21-17 even as Thalaivas had closed in at 17-19 before the tackle.

The result: Bengaluru Bulls 32 (Pawan Kumar Sehrawat 11) bt

Tamil Thalaivas 21 (Ajay Thakur 4, Ran Singh 4); Bengal Warriors 30 (K. Prapnan 10) tied with Dabang Delhi 30 (Naveen Kumar 11).

Ajay Thakur thrilled

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Asked about winning the Arjuna Award, Ajay Thakur's initial reaction was that of surprise.

"Really? I had no idea at all. I was checking my phone till 4 p.m. to know whether the names had been announced, but there was nothing

regarding it. Awards like the Arjuna push us sportspersons further because every athlete dreams of winning it from the very beginning.

"I have been playing for India for the last 15 years and kept yearning for the Arjuna. I still cannot believe my ears. What a news!"

VAR denies City against Tottenham again

Encouraging start to Arsenal's season; Nightmare start to Barca's title defence

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

VAR denied Manchester City against Tottenham for the second time in four months as the visitors secured a 2-2 draw at the Etihad on Saturday despite being largely outclassed by the Premier League champions.

Spurs won a thrilling Champions League quarterfinal tie between the sides last season when Raheem Sterling had an injury-time goal ruled out by VAR and City were denied once more when Gabriel Jesus saw a stoppage-time winner disallowed on review for a handball by Aymeric Laporte.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was Arsenal's match-winner again as the Gabon forward sealed a 2-1 win against Burnley to extend his side's perfect start to the season.

Aubameyang had netted the only goal last weekend at Newcastle and he emulated that crucial contribution with another decisive strike at the Emirates Stadium.

Alexandre Lacazette's first



Spectacular: Aritz Aduriz's final season began with a sensational late volley. • REUTERS

goal of the season had given Arsenal the lead before Ashley Barnes equalised for Burnley just before half-time.

Reality check for Barca
Barcelona made a nightmare start to the defence of its La Liga title on Friday by losing Luis Suarez to injury and then losing 1-0 to Athletic Bilbao, after a sensational late volley from substitute Aritz Aduriz.

Suarez hobbled off in the 37th minute with what looked like a calf injury before Aduriz came on in the 88th, the 38-year-old striker who has announced he will retire at the end of the

season.

The results: La Liga: Celta Vigo 1 (Losada 90+1) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 12, Kroos 61, Lucas Vazquez 80). **On Friday:** Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 89) bt Barcelona 0.

Premier League: Manchester City 2 (Sterling 20, Aguero 35) drew with Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Lamela 23, Moura 56). Arsenal 2 (Lacazette 13, Aubameyang 64) bt Burnley 1 (Barnes 43); Aston Villa 1 (Douglas Luiz 71) losLamela 1 to Bournemouth 2 (King 2-pen, Wilson 12); Brighton 1 (Trossard 65) drew with West Ham 1 (Hernandez 61); Everton 1 (Bernard 10) bt Watford 0; Norwich 3 (Pukki 32, 63, 75) bt Newcastle 1 (Shelvey 90+3); Southampton 1 (Ings 83)

lost to Liverpool 2 (Mane 45+1, Firmino 71).
Bundesliga: Borussia Moenchengladbach 0 drew with Schalke 0. Werder Bremen 1 (Eggstein 47) lost to Fortuna Dusseldorf 3 (Hennings 36, Karaman 52, Ayhan 64); Freiburg 3 (Hoeler 82, Schmid 84, Waldschmidt 87-pen) bt Mainz 0; Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Bailey 10, Havertz 19, Volland 69) bt Paderborn 2 (Michel 15, Mamba 25); Borussia Dortmund 5 (Alcacer 3, 59, Sancho 51, Reus 57, Brandt 82) bt Augsburg 1 (Niederlechner 1); Wolfsburg 2 (Arnold 16, Weghorst 60) bt Cologne 1 (Terrodd 90+1).
On Friday: Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 24, 60-pen) drew with Hertha Berlin 2 (Lukaback 36, Grujic 39).