

# India not unbeatable, says Bavuma

Feels that South Africa can take a lot of positives from the second T20I

## SA IN INDIA

**RAKESH RAO MOHALI**  
Taking responsibility surely comes easily for a not-so-young T20 debutant Temba Bavuma. Minutes after South Africa's seven-wicket defeat in the second T20I match, the 29-year-old minced no words in owning responsibility for the team's sub-par total on a good batting surface.

Coming in at No. 3 in the fourth over, Bavuma looked good until he failed to rotate the strike in the later part and eventually departed for a 43-ball 49 in the 18th.

"When David (Miller) came in at No. 5, I think in the 13th over, we were in a very strong position. That's where we probably fumbled a bit in our batting cause. At the halfway stage, I was thinking 180 at least - that could be a very competitive score. But yeah, we just weren't able to get going.

"I'm the one to be blamed. I wasn't really able to get the momentum. I thought the platform was really set for the boys to go and do their thing."

Talking about the Indian



**Blowing it away:** Debutant Temba Bavuma, who scored 49, took responsibility for South Africa's inability to sustain the momentum after the 12th over. \*AKHILESH KUMAR

team, the first black African to score a Test century for South Africa said, "They're a formidable team but I don't think they're not an unbeatable side. With our batting, it was just one phase where we

let ourselves down and a quality side like that would make us pay."

Looking ahead, Bavuma said, "I think there's always a moment in the game where we can win. For us, it's more

about being aware of those moments and making sure we're in the right mental space to win those moments. It's something that we can work on. I don't think we were completely outplayed

in the game. There are a lot of positives that we can take forward from this game."

**Easy at the death overs**  
Deepak Chahar, who impressed with figures of 4-0-22-2 after three overs in the PowerPlay, revealed, "I find it easy to bowl death overs because, in the PowerPlay, you only get two fielders outside the circle. However, after the PowerPlay, you get five fielders outside."

It may be recalled that in this year's Indian Premier League, Chennai Super Kings' skipper M.S. Dhoni made Chahar bowl his quota upfront in one spell.

The Rajasthan bowler was quick to acknowledge the confidence he got from the IPL. "It benefited me. Whenever you do well in a match, you get confidence."

Chahar, among the aspirants for place in Indian team for the 2020 T20 World Cup, said, "I take every match as my last match. At this time, Indian cricket is at the top and if you want to find a spot, you will have to do very good and, that too, in every match because there is a lot of competition."

# Kuldeep in transition mode

Need to make the most of available chances, says spinner

## ASHWIN ACHAL MYSURU

Not too long ago, the India team management backed wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav to carry the mantle of the white-ball spin attack.

Both have since fallen out of favour, finding no place in the squads for the last two T20I series.

### Challenge

Kuldeep, however, has a chance to make a mark with the red ball, having been named in the Test squad to face South Africa. The change in format presents a challenge to Kuldeep, who has played little First Class cricket in recent times.

Turning out for India-A in the second 'Test' against South Africa-A gives Kuldeep the opportunity to find his rhythm.

"Playing red-ball cricket is difficult, especially when you are a regular in white-ball cricket. It was important for me to come here and bowl as many overs as possible. There is still plenty of work to do," Kuldeep said here on Thursday.

The 24-year-old has taken the white ball snub in posi-



**Finding his rhythm:** Kuldeep Yadav has to make up for the lack of First Class exposure before the Test series begins. \*G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

tive spirit.

"I did well in white-ball cricket; my stats are good. Maybe the selectors feel they need to give me a break in Twenty20s, and that some changes are required. I respect that, and I have no complaints. I see this as an opportunity to do well in Tests," Kuldeep said.

Earning a spot in the playing eleven for the Test side is not guaranteed, as Kuldeep is competing with Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin.

"When three spinners like Ashwin, Jaddu (Jadeja) and I are in the squad, it's challenging to pick the right

combination. You need to be ready to grab your chance. Of course, there is pressure because you only get a few chances, and you have to make full use of them," he said.

### Honing his batting

One of the possible reasons for Kuldeep's ouster from the shorter format squads is his lack of batting prowess. It is a shortcoming that Kuldeep is working on.

"I've been working on my batting with (previous India batting coach) Sanjay Bangar. I feel my batting is good at the Test level," he said.

# IPL brand valued at \$6.8 billion

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The US-based consultancy company Duff & Phelps has said that the Indian Premier League's brand value has registered a 7% growth - from \$6.3 billion (₹41,800 crore) in 2018 to \$6.8 billion (₹47,500) in 2019. This is the company's sixth edition of IPL's annual study.

The study also put Mumbai Indians' value at ₹809 crore, reflecting an 8.5% growth in 2019 and Chennai Super Kings at ₹732 crore reflecting a 13.1%. Kolkata Knight Riders' (₹630 crore) and Royal Challengers Bangalore's (₹595 crore) value has declined by almost 8%, the report said.

The report also said that Sunrisers Hyderabad has made steady gains over the years in terms of its brand value while Delhi Capitals, on the back of its on-field performances in 2019, saw an appreciation of 9% on brand value.

# Shock wins for Manav, Ayhika

## ASIAN TT

### SPORTS BUREAU YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Manav Thakkar and Ayhika Mukherjee created a flutter at the Asian table tennis championships on Thursday. While Manav, ranked 163rd in the world, defeated Japanese Kazuhiro Yoshimura (world ranking 34) 10-12, 11-13, 16-14, 11-4, 11-9 in the third round, Ayhika scripted a 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9 win over Chen Szu-Yu of Taipei, ranked 23rd in the world.

Sharath Kamal and Harmeet Desai, however, bowed out. In doubles, G. Sathiyam and Sharath made it to the last eight, beating Mahfooth Sayed Murtadha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain 11-8, 11-6, 11-3. In the mixed event, both the Sharath-Manika and Sathiyam-Archana pairs lost.

**Other results: Men (third round, round-of-64):** G. Sathiyam bt Dominic Song Jun (SGP) 11-6, 11-4, 11-5; A. Amalraj bt Mohammed Alsharif (KSA) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4.

**Women (second round, round of 64):** Manika Batra bt Al Xin Tee (MAS) 11-8, 11-9, 11-8; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Sikka Suwal (Nep) 11-4, 11-3, 11-6; Madhurika Patkar bt Regine Kim (Uzb) 11-3, 11-8, 11-3; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Chen Szu-Yu (Tpe) 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9; Archana Kamath bt Cruz Kheith Rhyne (Phi) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5.

# Markram, Mulder toy with Indian attack

## SA-A IN INDIA

### ASHWIN ACHAL MYSURU

Aiden Markram (161, 253b, 20x4, 2x6) and Wiaan Mulder (131 n.o., 230b, 17x4, 1x6) got into the groove ahead of the Test series, with authoritative knocks on the penultimate day of the second 'Test' between India-A and South Africa-A here on Thursday.

The duo powered South Africa-A to 400, 17 runs short of India-A's first-innings total. The home side moved to 13 for no loss, before rain forced play to be called off.

Markram and Mulder, both expected to play central roles for the senior team, toyed with the India-A attack. The duo put on 155 for the sixth wicket, and save for a couple of leg-before shouts, never looked in trouble.

The entertaining stand was eventually broken by pacer Mohammed Siraj, when Markram edged one onto the stumps. Markram, 83 overnight, brought up his 11th First Class century with a textbook cover-driven 4 off Siraj.

Mulder, touted as the heir to Jacques Kallis' all-rounder throne, was a picture of elegance. Much like Markram, he neatly moved his front



**Going great guns!** Aiden Markram made the Indians toil, hitting 20 fours and two sixes. \*G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

foot to the pitch of the ball and presented a straight bat.

As the Markram-Mulder partnership grew, the Indians began to lose focus. Siraj and Umesh Yadav often strayed in line, drifting onto the pads to offer easy runs. The short balls carried no bite, resulting in ferocious pulls.

Chinaman bowler Kul-

deep Yadav - named in the senior India Test squad - picked up four wickets, but was largely unimpressive. He frequently overpitched outside off, allowing the batsmen to free their arms.

Kuldeep was left shaken in the afternoon session, when Markram and Mulder smashed him for one straight six each in the same

over. Later on, tailender Dane Piedt hoicked Kuldeep for a six over mid-wicket, but this time, Kuldeep came back strongly to dislodge Piedt's stumps off the next delivery.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem kept it tight, and finished with figures of three for 76 in 31.3 overs.

### The scores:

**India-A - 1st innings:** 417.

**South Africa-A - 1st innings:** Aiden Markram b Siraj 161, Pieter Malan c Saha b Siraj 6, Theunis de Bruyn b Nadeem 41, K. Zondo lbw b Nadeem 5, Senuuran Muthusamy b Kuldeep 12, Heinrich Klaasen c&b Kuldeep 2, Wiaan Mulder (not out) 131, Vernon Philander c Karun b Dube 21, Dane Piedt b Kuldeep 11, Lutho Sipamla lbw b Kuldeep 0, Lungi Ngidi lbw b Nadeem 0; Extras (nb-1, b-5, lb-4): 10. Total (in 109.3 overs): 400.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-20, 2-102, 3-118, 4-136, 5-142, 6-297, 7-356, 8-395, 9-399.

**India-A bowling:** Umesh 18-3-73-0, Siraj 18-2-72-2, Nadeem 31.3-6-76-3, Kuldeep 29-3-121-4, Saxena 5-1-13-0, Dube 8-0-36-1.

**India-A - 2nd innings:** Priyank Panchal (batting) 8, Abhimanyu Easwaran (batting) 5; Total (for no loss in 5.1 overs): 13.

**South Africa-A bowling:** Philander 2-1-1-0, Ngidi 2-0-10-0, Piedt 1-0-2-0, Muthusamy 0-1-0-0.

# Maninder delivers for Warriors

Contributes 18 points in the team's win over Steelers

## PKL

### NANDAKUMAR MARAR PUNE

Bengal Warriors rode on the strong shoulders of captain Maninder Singh (18 points from 19 raids) to sweep away the challenge from Haryana Steelers 48-36 at the ProKabaddi League tie at the Balewadi indoor complex on Thursday.

Warriors placed second, behind Dabang Delhi, and moved closer to a semifinal berth.

Vinay boosted Steelers' hopes with a superb display

of agility and balance to slip away from three catchers, the Super Raid also put his team on the verge of wiping out the high-flying rivals for the first time.

Vikas Khandola did the rest as Warriors suffered a blow, though up 36-24 at that stage. The latter kept winning raid points, the lead was too much and a second all-out for Warriors remained only a statistic.

Steelers suffered an early setback, getting all-out to trail 3-10. The wrecker-in-chief was Maninder who was precise and effective in his

raids. He also managed a Super Raid, slipping out of the grasp of three defenders, as Warriors enforced the second all-out in the first half.

The only moment when Steelers were on a high was when last raider Vinay tried to climb above the catchers in an acrobatic leap, but could not escape.

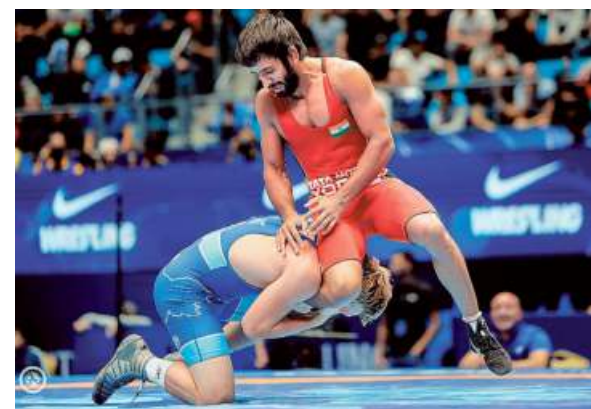
**The result:** Bengal Warriors 48 (Maninder Singh 18, K. Prapanjan 7, Baldev Singh 6) bt Haryana Steelers 36 (Vinay 14, Vikas Khandola 9).

**Friday's matches:** Telugu Titans v Patna Pirates; Puneri Paltan v Bengaluru Bulls.



**On the prowl:** Vinay did his bit for Steelers, but couldn't alter the script. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Bajrang loses in a controversial semifinal



**Doing his best:** Bajrang, in action against Slovenia's David Habat in the pre-quarters, bowed out in the last four. \*PTI

## WORLD WRESTLING

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Bajrang Punia lost his semifinal bout to home wrestler Dault Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances, after securing his place in the Tokyo Olympics along with debutant Ravi Dahiya, at the World wrestling championships here on Thursday.

Bajrang's coach Shako Banitidis kicked the coach's block, protesting the partisan officiating during the 65kg bout, which ended 9-9 after a nerve-wracking six minutes.

Since Niyazbekov was gi-

ven a bigger throw of four points, he was declared winner.

Bajrang, the last edition's silver medalist, will fight for bronze on Friday.

Bajrang had beaten Poland's Krzysztof Bienkowski, Slovenia's David Habat before overcoming Korea's Jong Choi Son in the quarterfinals. Ravi lost his semifinal bout 6-4 to World champion Zaur Uguev from Russia. Ravi also made it to the Tokyo Olympics in 57kg after overcoming Korea's Sunggwon Kim, Armenia's Arsen Harutunyan, Yuki Takahashi of Japan.

Among women, Sakshi and Divya Kakran lost.

# Juventus denied, PSG beats Real



**In the nick of time!** Hector Herrera, second left, scores the 90th-minute equaliser. \*REUTERS

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### REUTERS MADRID

Atletico Madrid produced a typically spirited comeback from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Juventus in a thrilling finale to Wednesday's heavyweight Champions League Group D opener.

Mexico midfielder Hector Herrera levelled in the 90th minute with a thumping header from a corner after defender Stefan Savic had pulled a goal back for the Spaniards in the 70th with a header from close range following a free-kick.

Lokomotiv Moscow tops Group D after beating Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 away. Manchester City eased to

a 3-0 win at Shakhtar Donetsk in Group C at Ukraine. Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski scored a landmark 200th goal for the club as it beat Red Star Belgrade 3-0.

Angel di Maria scored twice in a vintage performance to help Paris St. Germain outclass Real Madrid 3-0 in its opening Champions League Group A game.

In the absence of the formidable attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Edinson Cavani, di Maria provided two first-half goals as PSG suffocated Real throughout and Thomas Meunier added a third in stoppage time.

Last season's runner-up Tottenham Hotspur squandered a two-goal lead to

draw 2-2 in its Champions League Group B opener away to Greek club Olympiakos Piraeus.

**The results:** Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Di Maria 14, 33, Meunier 90+1) bt Real Madrid 0; Club Brugge 0 drew with Galatasaray 0; Bayern Munich 3 (Coman 34, Lewandowski 80, Muller 90+1) bt Red Star Belgrade 0; Olympiakos 2 (Podence 44, Valbuena 54-pen) drew with Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Kane 26-pen, Moura 30); Shakhtar Donetsk 0 lost to Manchester City 3 (Mahrez 25, Gundogan 38, Jesus 76); Dinamo Zagreb 4 (Leovac 10, Orsic 31, 42, 68) bt Atalanta 0; Atletico Madrid 2 (Savic 70, Herrera 90) drew with Juventus 2 (Cuadrado 48, Matuidi 65); Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hoe-wedes 25-og) lost to Lokomotiv Moscow 2 (Krychowiak 16, Barinov 37).

# Sri Lanka to go ahead with Pakistan tour

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket on Thursday said it would go ahead with the tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

SLC secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday. "We have the green light from the defence ministry," de Silva said.

"The tour is on as we planned. I myself and our office-bearers will also be accompanying the team," he said.

# Dananjaya banned

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was, on Thursday, handed a 12-month ban by the ICC for an illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment.

The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle in August.

He subsequently underwent an independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he bowled with an illegal bowling action.

# Mirabai finishes fourth

## SPORTS BUREAU PATTAYA

Former World champion S. Mirabai Chanu bettered her own record as she lifted a total of 201kg to finish fourth in the women's 49kg of the World weightlifting championships on Thursday. The performance boosted her Tokyo Olympics chances significantly.

Mirabai lifted 87kg in snatch and 114kg in clean and jerk to get past the 200kg-mark for the first time in her career. Her previous best was in the Asian championships in Ningbo City, where she had done (86kg, 113kg) in April.

"We are satisfied with Mira's performance. We achieved our target of going past 200kg without exerting too much pressure. She can improve from here in the run-up to Tokyo," said National coach Vijay Sharma.