India-South Africa T20I series in numbers

79* 131

49

40

28

1/19

2 1/23 27

38

17

21

18.5

21

131

76

76

34

2

2

India launches World T20 preparations

South Africans confident of challenging the hosts despite missing three top stars

SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR

The men may have moved on from the India blues into white flannels, but India's women cricketers will commence their final phase of the World T20 preparation on Tuesday in a five-match T20I series against South Africa at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium here.

Considering the World T20 will start in Australia on February 21, 2020, captain Harmanpreet Kaur understands that the five T20Is under lights - India Women's first floodlit outing in a bilateral series at home - will offer her and coach W.V. Raman an opportunity to test the young talent.

Experimenting

"As you know, the World Cup is coming, that's why we are playing more T20s ahead of the tournament. We have 10-15 games to experiment and give chances to youngsters and see how they fit into the side," said Harmanpreet said on Monday, before slogging it out in the nets with her teammates.

The fact that the team has several young faces - with



All set: South Africa captain Sune Luus addresses the media along with her India counterpart Harmanpreet Kaur in Surat on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the 15-year-old Shafali Verma stealing the limelight - coincides with the onset of the post-Mithali Raj era in T20Is.

The legendary Mithali recently announced her retirement from the shortest format. It will be interesting to see whether the younger batters can grab the opportunity and senior pros like Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet can shoulder the additional

Raman also conceded that the inclusion of four pacers in the squad was done "keeping the World T20 in mind". It remains to be seen if a youngster like Pooja Vastrakar, who has been re-

called, can impress.

Just like the host, the visiting outfit has also rested three of its key players - veteran batter Mignon du Preez, along with star all-rounders Marizanne Kapp and Chloe Tryon. But captain Sune Luus exuded confidence that

H2H

■ Played 6

■ India won 4, South Africa

■ No Result 1

her bunch can stretch India over the next two weeks.

While the teams will have one eye on the World T20, the Surat District Cricket Association officials and volunteers will be hoping that the weather remains clear.

After all, they are hoping for a capacity crowd for what would be the maiden international cricket match to be staged in the Diamond City. The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues. Deepti Sharma. Taniya Bhatia (wk), Poonam Yadav, Shikha Pandey, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav, Veda Krishnamurthy, Harleen Deol, Anuja Patil, Shafali Verma and Mansi Joshi. South Africa: Sune Luus

(Capt.), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta (wk), Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Kohli gets official warning, one demerit point

Batting

Virat Kohli

Quinton de Kock

Temba Bavuma

Shikhar Dhawan

Reeza Hendricks

Bowling

Bjorn Fortuin

Kagiso Rabada

Beuran Hendricks

Deepak Chahar

Tabraiz Shamsi

Hardik Pandya

For an inappropriate shoulder contact with pacer Beuran



Virat Kohli. • AFP

SA IN INDIA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU India captain Virat Kohli has

received an official warning and one demerit point for violating the ICC Code of Conduct when he made an inappropriate shoulder contact with pacer Beuran Hendricks during the third T20I against South Africa here.

Kohli was found guilty of a Level 1 breach of the ICC

Code of Conduct in the match which South Africa won by nine wickets on Sunday.

The incident took place in the fifth over of the Indian innings when Kohli made contact with Hendricks

while taking a run. "Kohli was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'Inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player

Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match'," the ICC said in a statement.

147.19

120.89

115.15

135.71

7.28

3.5

5.28

0/0

0/0

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Kohli.

Kohli now has three demerit points after having got one each during the Pretoria Test against South Africa on January 15, 2018 and against

Afghanistan in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 on Support Personnel, Umpire, TNCA misinterpreting SC

Madhav Apte passes away

G. VISWANATH

Former India cricketer Madhav Apte breathed his last at the Breach Candy Hospital here on Monday morning. He was 86 and had been ailing for a few months. He is survived by wife Sheela, son Vaman and two daughters, Radhika and Janhavi.

Apte was admitted to hospital last Saturday. "He lived a full life," said Vaman, an accomplished squash player. Apte's younger brother, Arvind, who played one Test against England at Headingley in 1959, passed away five years ago.

India's cricketing fraternity has always wondered why Madhav Apte had not worn the India cap more than seven times.

He made a decent Test debut against the Abdul Hafeez Kardar-led Pakistan at the Brabourne Stadium in 1952 -30 and 10 not out. He then made 42 against Pakistan at Chepauk, 64 and 52 in his first overseas Test against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain, 64 and 9 at Bridgetown, 0 and 163 not out at Port-of-Spain, 30 and 30 at Georgetown and 15 and 33 at

Despite this, the right-

Madhav Apte. ■ FILE PHOTO

handed opener never played for India again. He must have heard at least a thousand times the question why he was not chosen after that tour of the West Indies.

According to those who have watched him play, Apte was a solid and stylish opener. He scored 542 runs at 49.27 and most of his runs came against the likes of Frank King, Gerry Gomez, Frank Worrell, Alf Valentine and Sonny Ramadhin.

He played 67 First Class matches (46 Ranji Trophy for Bombay and three for Bengal) scored 3,336 runs, with six centuries and 16 half-centuries.

He was a true aficionado of our beloved game and just couldn't have enough of it. The cricketing gettogethers at his house were memorable evenings. I will miss those evenings, listening to him along with some of the greatest names

Apte was chairman of the Mumbai Cricket Association's Cricket Improvement Committee. He was also president of the Cricket Club of India in the early 1990s and president of the Legends Club.

in Indian cricket

Chandu Patankar, Vasu Paranjape, Sunil Gavaskar, Jatin Paranjpe and many cricketers were present at Shivaii crematorium.

"Madhavrao was a real friend," said a very emotional Patankar.

Apte got along well with different generations of cricketers and was a raconteur par excellence.

T10 is ideal for Olympics and CWG, says Morgan

Eoin Morgan, England's World Cup-winning captain, said the T10 format of cricket is ideally suited for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

While promoting the first Abu Dhabi T10 featuring 10 teams that will be broadcast by Sony Pictures Network from November 14 to 24, the 33-year-old Dublin-born attacking left-hander said that just as Twenty20 made an impact in international cricket, T10 will also entertain and popularise the

Morgan, who played his last Test in 2012 and began the journey of white-ball cricket, felt that a 60-ball game will cause as much buzz as the Twenty20 (120ball game) did.

"The role that T20 has played in growing and changing the game, I think T10 has a similar role to play. I say that for different reasons. T10 is one of the most entertaining formats for people to watch. It's a minute avenue in the same way as T20 and saying to people



Eoin Morgan. • VIVEK BENDRE

that this is our sport and this is what it looks like. It's a great little advert for the game; one can host a tournament in such a short span of time, say 10 teams in 12 days.

Selling point

"And that makes it such a selling point for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. We don't know anything about the 100-ball tournament because we have not experienced it. I think it will be a success. I do believe that T10 could be ideal for the Olympics and CWG. A game only lasts 90 minutes. A lot of countries will prepare for the Games and financially back the sport."

Touching upon the evolution of the game from Test to 50-over, T20 and now T10, Morgan believes that the game is in a healthy state. 'Speaking on behalf of English cricket, it's in a healthy place. We had the summer of a lifetime, winning the World Cup, seeing the popularity of the game rise a lot, ticket sales go through the roof and more integration with grass roots.

"The Ashes is popular anyway, the level of speculation and talk was extraordinary. I have not seen anything like this since 2005. T20 compacted the most impactful overs of the game. The PowerPlay and last overs have become important. In T10, every over and every ball is important. The momentum changes in about six or seven overs in 50-over cricket and two or three overs in T20.

Morgan backs the "concussion substitute rule" in the game.

"The concussion rules are relevant for the game. Safety is paramount and in international cricket it always remains a priority."

order: CoA files petition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has filed a 20page petition in the Supreme Court seeking clarification as it feels that the apex court's September 20 order is being "mischievously" misinterpreted. On September 20, the Su-

preme Court had passed an interim order allowing TNCA to conduct elections. The order also stated that disqualification from contesting State body elections on completion of nine years would only be confined to office-bearers.

The CoA, in its submission (a copy of which is with PTI), has stated that SC's order is being "erroneously construed in such a manner so as to override principal judgement dated July 18, 2016, and August 9, 2018." The SC judgement, ac-

cording to CoA, is being "erroneously and mischievously misinterpreted by certain persons" as they are trying to override the principal judgment as per the August 9, 2018, order in which clause 6 (5) states that even members of the governing construed in such a manner so as to override principal judgement dated July 18, 2016 and August 9, 2018.'

■ The CoA in its submission

states that SC's order is

being "erroneously

council could disqualified. The CoA has apprehen-

sion that this misinterpretation could lead to the following situation:

1. A non-Indian citizen could come into the managing committee or governing council. This apprehension has been specifically raised as a former office-bearer who is now disqualified is controlling a State unit from abroad; 2. Persons above 70 vears of age (not allowed in BCCI) will be entering various committees; 3. Someone with unsound mind could be elected in the committees; 4. Ministers or government servants could also come back into the fray; 5. Administrators involved with other sporting disciplines could also come in; 6. Doors could open for all

Trump adds buzz to NBA India debut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"Am I invited Mr. Prime Minister?" With that question to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump put the spotlight firmly on NBA's India debut next month where the organisers are expecting a full house.

Speaking at the 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston, Texas, Trump mentioned his interest in the high-profile basketball league, which will be making its India debut on October 4 and 5 with a couple of pre-season games between Sacramento Kings and the Indiana Pacers.

Trump said NBA will be one of America's best ex-

ports to India. ...very soon, India will have access to another world class American product - NBA basketball. Wow, sounds good. Next week, thousands of people will gather in Mumbai to watch the first ever, NBA basketball game in India," Trump said.

"I may come, be careful, I may come," he quipped as Prime Minster Modi laughed.

A difficult task ahead for India

Has strong opponents — Japan, South Korea and Chinese Taipei — in its group

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL

India has a tough task ahead in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament, which commences at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

India (World No. 45) has three strong opponents defending champion Japan (World No. 10), South Korea (World No. 18) and Chinese Taipei (World No. 39) - in Group-A of Division-A.

India had qualified for the elite Division-A by winning the lower Division-B title in the previous edition held at the same venue in 2017.

The host begins its campaign against Japan on the opening day. With Japan and South Korea appearing to be a cut above a rest, India will hope to defeat a comparatively weaker Chinese Taipei in order to avoid relegation. Australia, China, New Zea-

land and Philippines are in Group-B. The top team in each group will progress to the semifinal, while the second- and third-placed sides will battle for the remaining two last-four slots.

India skipper R. Rajapriyadarshini wore a confident



The action begins... Japan, hoping to become the third nation to complete a four-peat, will count on two-time Women's Asia Cup MVP Ramu Tokashiki to come good. • K. MURALI KUMAR

look on the eve of the championship. "Our preparation has been very good," Rajapriyadarshini said. "Winning and losing is secondary. Our aim is to give our very best on the court."

Coach Zoran Visic stated:

"We cannot afford to play be-

low our full potential. We will try to use the crowd support to the maximum." Fans can look forward to

seeing world-class players in action. Japan, hoping to become the third nation to complete a four-peat (after South Korea and China), will

count on two-time Women's Asia Cup MVP Ramu Tokashiki to come good.

Japan coach and former NBA player Tom Hovasse said that while his side will miss the services of electric guard Asami Yoshida, there are plenty of other quality players on the roster.

Speed, precision passing The trademark Japanese speed and precision passing will be on full display here,

Hovasse added. "Playing with speed is the only way we can win. We can't beat physically bigger teams like Australia and China in a half-court game. We have to run, use the entire court and open things up.

Entry is free.

That's a big part of our game," he said. Championship. The powerhouse Australian unit boasts of six players from the team that finished runner-up to USA in the 2018 Women's Basketball World Cup. The physical Chinese side will be led by Shao Ting and Han Xu, both of whom played in the WNBA this season. Star forward Kelli top seed Andy Cruz Gomez. Hayes, fresh from a four-year "I am very proud of stint for UCLA Bruins in the

NCAA, will make her Asia Cup debut with Philippines.

Cash awards for Panghal and Kaushik

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday felicitated boxers Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik with cash awards for their medalwinning performances in the World Championships

in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

While Panghal was handed a cash award of ₹14 lakh for winning silver in the 52kg category, Kaushik received ₹8 lakh for winning bronze in the 63kg section.

Panghal, who was the second seed, created history as he became the first male Indian boxer to reach the final of the World

The 23 year-old Kaushik had an impressive run in the tournament as he knocked out fourth seed and Asian Games silver medallist Baatarsukhin Chinzorig in the roundof-16, before seeing his campaign end in the semifinals at the hands of

India's best-ever performance at the men's



Amit Panghal. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ Panghal was given ₹14 lakh for winning silver

■ Kaushik received ₹8 lakh for his bronze

boxing World Championship.

"I feel India has a great future in boxing. In fact, even those who reached the quarterfinal stage need to be congratulated for their performances," Rijiju said.

"This is the Olympic year and these medals are a sign that India is prepared to put up a good show at Tokyo 2020.

"I want to assure all athletes, across all sporting disciplines, that we will extend all support."

Bulls roar back to share honours

those with criminal records.

PKL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bengaluru Bulls and Dabang Delhi played out a thrilling 39-39 tie in a Pro-Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Monday.

Dabang was in the lead for most part, but a late comeback by Bulls, courtesy Pawan Sehrawat, saw the sides finish level. Dabang's Naveen Kumar

scored 14 raid points – his 15th consecutive Super 10 - but will rue missing out on a chance to put in a successful raid in the final move of the contest. Despite the tie, Dabang remained on top of the table.

Steelers beat Pirates

In the opening match of the day, Vikas Kandola turned out to be the star performer for Haryana Steelers as it beat threetime champion Patna Pirates 39-34.

Vikas's Super 10 (13 raid points) saw Steelers come up with a complete performance. The victory helped Steelers consolidate their third position in the table.