

# 'I control my emotions better than others'

Finding solutions rather than cribbing about the problems is what works for Dhoni

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Displaying emotions is not something that one associates with Mahendra Singh Dhoni, but the enigmatic former India skipper says he feels as strongly as anyone else, just that he is good at controlling the negative ones a lot better than most.

He has been the eternal Captain Cool of Indian cricket but the two-time World champion leader said he goes through a gamut of emotions during every triumph and debacle.

"I am like everyone else but I control my emotions better than some of the other individuals," Dhoni, who made his first commercial appearance since India's semifinal exit from the World Cup, said on Wednesday.

"I would say, I feel equally frustrated. I also feel angry at times, disappointed. But what is important is that none of these feelings are constructive," said Dhoni.

For the 38-year-old, finding solutions rather than cribbing about the problems is what works for him.

"What needs to be done right now is more important than any of these emotions. What is the next thing I can plan? Who is the next individual, whom I can use? Once I get into it, I am controlling my emotions in a much bet-



Masterplan: M.S. Dhoni spoke about how he fights adversity using constructive emotions. • PTI

ter way," he said.

### Process vs result

Dhoni once again asserted that the process is more important than the final result, a philosophy that he repeatedly stressed on during his captaincy tenure.

"If it's a Test match, you have two innings, you get slightly longer duration to plan out your next move. In T20s, everything happens very quickly, so demands are different."

"It might be an individual, who has committed a mistake or it might be the whole

team. May be we didn't execute the plan whatever the format may be."

Dhoni knows a thing or two about winning big tournaments and he feels it's more about team goals than individual performances.

He recalled how during the 2007 ICC World T20 in South Africa, the team strategised the famous 'Bowl Out' against Pakistan.

### The Bowl-Out

"There was something particular about that World Cup. The 'Bowl-Out' was one of the things. I remember we

would go for practice. Before every practice session, we would practice 'Bowl Out' before or after the warm-up.

"We said clearly it was for fun but at the same time, whoever hits the wicket most number of times, we will use him if the situation arises. It has got nothing to do with I am a bowler, this is my job.

"It's like a performance thing and we will keep doing it everyday and whoever has the best hit-ratio are the ones who will be used," said Dhoni during a promotional event of Mastercard.

## Will speak to selectors and Dhoni: Ganguly

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said he would speak to M.S. Dhoni and National selectors to get clarity about the future of the former India captain.

Ganguly, president-designate of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said: "We will have to see what Dhoni wants. I will also speak to him (about) what he wants to and does not want to. "Since I was not in the picture, maybe it's not clear for me. Now I will be in a position to find out and then we will decide on the way forward."

As the National team will be picked for the home series against Bangladesh on October 24, Ganguly said he would also speak to the selectors about the 38-year-old Dhoni who has taken a break from international cricket after the World Cup.

"My first selection committee meeting will be on October 24. I will ask the selectors and talk to the captain. Coach (Ravi Shastri) won't be there as per the new Constitution," he said.

# Want the focus to be on the bowlers too in T20: Kumble

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

Former India coach Anil Kumble on Wednesday unveiled the new jersey to be sported by Kings XI Punjab at the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League.

KXIP franchise CEO Satish Menon announced Ebix-Cash as the title sponsor for three years. On the occasion, Kumble shared his views with *The Hindu* on his appointment as the Director of Cricket Operations at KXIP. *Excerpts*

How do you look at this new association after being with Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians?

They haven't reached their potential over the last 12 years. All the eight teams in the IPL, in the last five years, have generally evened out. There is hardly anything to pick one from the other. But Kings XI have underperformed considering the talent they have possessed.

It's a great challenge to put together a proper structure and make sure the franchise has a new way of looking at the IPL in terms of developing the players, having a consistent squad and support staff too.

How are you going to pull the team from the bottom?

It's a roller-coaster ride. One thing critical is to make sure



New look: Anil Kumble and Satish Menon unveiling the KXIP jersey for IPL 2020. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that you don't celebrate too early. Kings XI, in the last few years, have been starting very well but have lost a couple of games and dropped off.

Peaking too early, celebrating too early and being down too early are not good. Players should stop worrying about the points table.

Can you peak by choice?

You can't. But it's important to start looking at every game as a knockout and not think that you have 14 matches to look at.

You need to have the right combination because you may have the best 11 on the field but not the combination for that particular opposition on that particular pitch and conditions. A championship is not won by an individual. All contributions have to come together

at the right time.

What can a bowler-turned-coach bring to the table in a T20 game?

In T20, the focus has always been on the batsmen. I would like the focus to be on the bowlers too. Not many realise that bowling combinations win you championships. I am trying to emphasise on that. There may be challenges when we may not have the players but you may have to build a structure and culture to find such players. That's my role.

One thing you like about Kings XI?

It's a young team and I have liked the contribution from the youngsters. You need senior pros to help you get out of tough situations and we have Chris Gayle, a great performer. It will be wonderful to work with Chris.

## Tendulkar welcomes Super Over rule change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Sachin Tendulkar, who was the first to recommend it, on Wednesday welcomed the ICC's decision to stop boundary count as a way to decide knockout games in its global tournaments like the World Cup.

The ICC on Monday changed the Super Over rule for all its major tournaments following the uproar over the outcome of the men's World Cup final in July when England was declared winner against New Zealand on boundary count.

After the board meetings in Dubai, the ICC decided that in semifinals and finals of future global tournaments, if the teams score the same number of runs in their Super Overs, the process will be repeated until one side wins.

"I felt this was important as it is a fair way to obtain a result



Sachin Tendulkar.

when nothing else separates the 2 teams," Tendulkar tweeted in favour of the move.

Tendulkar also congratulated Sourav Ganguly, who is to be appointed as next BCCI president.

"Congrats on being elected the @BCCI President, Dadi. I am sure you will continue to serve Indian Cricket like you always have! Best wishes to the new team that will take charge," the batting great wrote on the microblogging site.

### HAZARE TROPHY

N. SUDARSHAN  
BENGALURU

Yashasvi Jaiswal couldn't appear for the Class X exams two days ago, busy as he was dismantling a hapless Kerala attack in the Vijay Hazare Trophy en route to his second List-A century. On Wednesday, the 17-year-old went one step further, smashing a spectacular double century (203, 154b, 17x4, 12x6) in Mumbai's 38-run victory over Jharkhand and becoming the youngest-ever to score a double hundred in List-A cricket.

### No regret

Did he have any regret about missing the exams, Jaiswal was asked. "No. For me, cricket is everything," he replied. In fact, not until the match finished did he even realise that he had broken a record that had stood for close to 45 years (South African Alan Barrow, aged 20, had scored an unbeaten 202 for provincial side Natal in 1975).

It was perhaps reflective of the way he batted: pure, clutter-free hitting unmin-



Scaling new heights: The 17-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal is the youngest double centurion in List-A cricket. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

ful of pressures that accompany a must-win game. "I didn't think much. Just played on the merit of the ball and it happened. Even I didn't realise that it had happened. But it is just the start. God willing, I will continue to play well and work harder."

However, six years ago, Jaiswal would have had little inkling of the things to come. After moving to Mumbai

from Uttar Pradesh, he didn't have a place to stay and had to resort to selling savouries on the street to make ends meet.

"It made me mentally strong," the southpaw said. "Now if I am in a tough situation, I am confident of doing well. I don't pay the results much attention. Whatever is in my control I will do. The struggle is there even now

and it will be there always. I just play with a lot of heart and I will continue to do so."

### Jaffer's influence

Jwala Singh, a local coach who took Jaiswal under his wing, was a "god-like figure", he revealed. As far as cricketing idols went, Sachin Tendulkar and Wasim Jaffer rank the highest. The latter, whose autograph is prominently visible on his bat, has been instrumental in him learning to construct long innings, the kind of which he played against Jharkhand. It was also paced to perfection, with the first 100 taking 101 balls and the second just 49.

"I was with Wasim sir in the Vizzy Trophy where I was the man-of-the-series and he gave me a lot of tips because of which I am able to play long innings. I speak to him before matches and he guides me a lot."

"They say Mumbai batsmen are 'khadoos' and won't give away their wickets easily. Even I think like that. I won't give up my wicket easily. The bowlers should get me out." If the past week is anything to go by, the bowlers have a lot to figure out.

## Dabang dances into the final



Slippery customer: Naveen was too quick and smart for the Bulls. • VIJAY SONEJI

### PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR  
AHMEDABAD

Dabang Delhi waltzed its way into the final, dethroning Bengaluru Bulls 44-38 in the first semifinal of the Pro Kabaddi League at the EKA TransStadia on Wednesday.

Naveen Kumar's footwork and grace in the raid zone earned him 15 points, his 21st back-to-back Super 10. Chandran Ranjit showed his value with nine points (six from raids and three tackle points).

Bulls was playing catch-up right through, despite a game-high 18 from 20 raids by captain Pawan Sehrawat

(seven bonus points), who rued the absence of support from the defence in a crunch game. "I tried my best, but one player cannot win a match," he said. His impact even in a losing cause earned him respect from rival coach, Kishan Hooda. "Pawan and Naveen are the future Indian stars."

Delhi went about the task with machine-like efficiency, the raiders asserting themselves to force two all-outs in the first half and another one in the second. The Bulls defence was no match for Naveen, Chandran and Anil, who earned points at will.

In the other semifinal, Bengal Warriors pulled off a

thrilling 37-35 victory over U Mumba to reach its maiden final.

Raiders on both sides excelled before the experienced Suresh Hedge justified the Warriors' faith in him.

The final will be played on Saturday.

### The results (semifinals):

Dabang Delhi 44 (Naveen Kumar 15, Chandran Ranjit 9, Anil Kumar 4) bt Bengaluru Bulls 38 (Pawan Sehrawat 18, Sumit Singh 6, Rohit Kumar 5); Bengal Warriors 37 (Suresh Hedge 8, Mohammed Nabibaksh 5, R Prapanjan 4, Rinku Narwal 4) bt U Mumba 35 (Abhishek Singh 11, Sandeep Narwal 5, Surinder Singh 4, Arjun Deshwal 4).

## The legs weren't sharp enough: Stimac

'The result showed that there's still much work to be done'

### WC QUALIFIER

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

The Indian team faltered in its task of initiating effective build-ups from the back and that primarily foiled its aim of claiming a victory against visiting Bangladesh in the Group 'E' Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2022 at the Salt Lake Stadium on Tuesday, felt head coach Igor Stimac.

Analysing how his side came up short against an overtly defensive opponent, the Croatian World Cupper said in the post-match briefing that his players showed enough potential but their "legs weren't sharp enough" to effectuate the desired finishing.

Decoding the team's poor conversion record in the striking zone, Stimac said the players showed "poor decision making" owing to lack of experience and that further impaired their finishing ability.

"Our learning process consists of analysing the games after we play them. They (the players) will find out that their decision-mak-



Tough luck: India was left to rue the missed chances, like this one by Sunil Chhetri. • RAJEEV BHATT

ing was poor. The legs weren't sharp enough and we still don't have the needed experience," Stimac said.

"You could see the talent and potential they have. Let's be supportive. I think they'll be okay as they are improving with each game," as he put the development process in perspective.

The talk on mistakes stemmed from some glaring goof-ups committed by the defence, one of which was by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. The seasoned goalkeeper fluffed an easy clearance, thereby allowing Bangladesh forward Saaduddin to nod home the lead late in the first-half.

"We conceded a very silly goal and when you concede goals like that, you cannot expect to win the game," Stimac said. "You could see that India is playing different football which is about being more technical in approach. The result showed that there's still much work to be done."

"I told our players before the game that against a team like Bangladesh, who will defend with at least nine players, our passing should be quick from the back. For some reason, our defenders weren't doing that and they kept the ball for a long time and that isn't acceptable," Stimac said.

Feeling that a victory would have been the best offering, Stimac applauded the more than 60,000 crowd that came to support the national team.

"All the appreciation must be given to the crowd. This was an amazing day for Indian football. Many of these players won't forget this ambience and this support. I will remember it as one of the biggest games in my professional coaching career," he said.

## Srikanth and Saina crash out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ODENSE (DENMARK)

India's Saina Nehwal and K. Srikanth suffered first round losses in the Denmark Open badminton championships here on Wednesday.

Japan's Sayaka Takahashi defeated Saina 21-15, 23-21 in 37 minutes.

The 29-year-old Indian was the runner-up last year.

In the men's singles, former champion Srikanth lost to fourth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark 21-14, 21-18 in the match that lasted 43 minutes.

Sameer Verma, however, crossed the first hurdle when he beat Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan 21-11, 21-11 in 29 minutes.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy also made it to the second round with a 21-16, 21-11 win over the German duo of Marvin Seidel and Linda Efler.

**Other results: First round: Mixed doubles:** Wang Yi Liu & Huang Dong Ping w/o Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Ashwini Ponnappa.