Kohli's pace bowling riches

It will be interesting to see how he marshals his resources against West Indies

WI IN INDIA

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

After the series win against Bangladesh in Nagpur last month, Rohit Sharma could not help but express his joy at the increasing number of options at India's disposal in the lead-up to the T20 World

"We can try a lot of things before we get on the flight to Australia," India's stand-in captain had said. "But if we keep performing the way we did today, it's going to be a big headache for Virat and the selectors."

Genuine asset

Perhaps, the most pleasing aspect of the 2-1 defeat of Bangladesh was the emergence of Deepak Chahar, in the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, as a genuine asset.

He had proven himself an able new-ball bowler in the IPL, but in Nagpur, Chahar showed he was capable of bowling at the death too, taking record figures of 6 for 7 to seal a series victory for India. He finished that series with an economy rate of 5.41. the best among the side's bowlers. Chahar has now made a good case for a place in India's first-choice eleven in Australia.

But Bhuvneshwar and Mohammed Shami have rejoined the Indian squad for this three-match T20I series against the West Indies, which begins here on Friday. It will be interesting to note how Kohli uses his pace bowlers over the three matches, given the choices he now has before him.

Not surprising

Shami's inclusion is not entirely surprising. The Bengal fast bowler has been in tremendous form in Test crick-



Options galore: Rohit is delighted at the healthy state of India's pace department. • K.V.S. GIRI

et, and has broken into the top 10 in the ICC rankings. His international T20 career, though, has been something of a non-starter. He has played seven matches in a span of three years, last turning out in a T20I in July 2017.

India seemed to have decided that he was not one for the shortest format, but his barnstorming success in Test cricket, not to forget his World Cup performances, appear to have prompted a rethink.

Bhuvneshwar is arguably India's best pace bowler in T20 cricket alongside Jasprit Bumrah.

But a side strain and a hamstring injury laid him low in the West Indies, and India will now hope he is able to remain fit leading into the T20 World Cup.

What the Bangladesh series also seems to have done is force the selectors to jettison Khaleel Ahmed, who provided variety as a leftarmer, but at a cost. Even without the Rajasthan pacer, though, Kohli has plenty of options to consider.

Bumrah will also return to fitness at some stage, at which point India will have to put some serious thought into what its best group of pace bowlers is. This series could offer some clues.

Monty Desai is Windies' batting coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The West Indies, on Wednesday, named Monty Desai as its batting coach ahead of the limited-over series against India beginning here on Friday.

Desai, who has been handed a two-year contract, has joined the team here. He has held coaching roles with Afghanistan, Nepal, Canada, Indian regional teams and Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Lions in a career spanning over 12 years. He was most recently the batting coach of UAE.

Kohli regains No. 1 spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Virat Kohli on Wednesday regained the top spot in the ICC Test rankings after Australian Steve Smith slipped a rung in the latest list.

Kohli (928 points) is now five clear after Smith slipped to 923 from 931.

Cheteshwar Pujara has held on to his fourth spot, while Ajinkya Rahane has come down a spot to sixth.

Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highestplaced Indian at fifth. Offspinner R. Ashwin was also static at ninth.



Willis passes away

Former England captain Bob Willis, who bowled his country to a famous Ashes Test victory in 1981, has died aged 70 after a short illness, his family said Wednesday

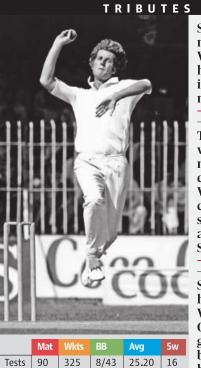
long, curving run-up and inspired spells of fast bowling, played in 90 Tests and 64 One-Day Internationals from 1971 to 1984.

Willis, known for his

"We are heartbroken to lose our beloved Bob, who was an incredible husband, father, brother and grand-

pact on everybody he knew and we will miss him terribly," a family statement broadcast on Sky Sports

Willis, who finished with 325 Test and 899 First Class wickets despite bowling with pain from 1975 after surgery on both knees, worked for the broadcaster as a cricket expert and was known for his blunt criticism of the England team delivered in a distinctive



Great cricketer .. even better bloke - NASSER HUSSAIN

4/11 24.60

ODIs 64 80

Warm, funny, generous - will miss Uncle Bob enormously

Had the pleasure of working with him for @SkyCricket and off air I just loved listening to his great stories on how they played the game back in the day - Allan Donald

Blunt criticism

deadpan style.



hear that Bob Willis has died. One of our greatest fast bowlers. Met him on many occasions and he was always great company with a sense of humour that was as sharp as his bowling

captain, who also claimed 899 First

Arthur to be Sri Lanka's next coach



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seasoned South African Mickey Arthur is set to take over as Sri Lanka's new national cricket coach on a two-year contract with Grant Flower and David Saker as his support staff.

According to a report in ESPNCricinfo, Flower will be batting coach for the limited-overs format, while Sekar will be their new bowling coach.

Australian Shane McDermott has already been roped in as team's new fielding coach.

"They will all be joining on two-year contracts,' said Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley De Silva. The 51year-old Arthur will be Sri Lanka's 11th coach in the last eight years.

Rehani is CAG nominee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The BCCI will have senior India Audit and Accounts Service officer Alka Rehani Bhardwaj as the CAG representative in its Apex Council as per the new constitution approved by the Supreme Court. Rehani Bhardwaj is currently serving as a Director of Regional Training Institute in

+ 'I don't think it's an opportunity to replace Hardik'

Shivam Dube stays focused on the series at hand and hopes to do well



V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

For someone who is widely believed to be a strong contender for an all-rounder's slot in Indian team in the ab sence of the injured Hardik Shivam Dube Pandya, doesn't think he is here to replace the former.

"I don't think it's an opportunity (to play the T20 Internationals against West Indies) to replace Hardik.

"But, I think I have got a chance and I will try to do well for my country. I have got a job for my country and I will try to do that better," Dube said during a media interaction here Wednesday.

I am preparing myself for any given situation and, more importantly, being a bowler completing the full quota

Dube, who played three T20Is against Bangladesh in the recently-concluded series and returned with his best bowling figures of 3/30 in one game, feels the shift from domestic to international cricket has been

"It is really difficult playing for your country. As an all-rounder, it is a difficult job and more importantly for me to have the kind of preparations on fitness. You

need to be good in all departments of the game," Dube said. "I have done something on fitness and have improved. I wish to move further," he added.

On the likelihood of donning the role of a frontline bowler with India likely to prefer a five-man attack, Dube said he is confident of his bowling coming good.

"In a T20 game every bowler gets a bad and a good game. I am preparing myself for any given situation and more importantly being a proper bowler completing the full quota of four overs," the all-rounder said.

GOLF

the late

Ballesteros.

Year on Monday.

award.

Spain.

ASHWIN ACHAL

A few weeks ago, Jon Rahm

clinched the Race To Dubai

title - a season-long compe-

tition to determine the top-

ranked player on the Euro-

pean Tour. Rahm became

only the second Spanish gol-

fer to win that honour, after

great

Rahm followed in Balles-

teros' footsteps once again,

when he was named the Eu-

ropean Tour Golfer of the

Rahm joined Ballesteros

and Sergio Garcia as the

third Spaniard to win the

Rahm takes great pride in

being mentioned in the same

breath as Ballesteros. For it

was Ballesteros – the excep-

tionally talented former

World No.1 – who helped the

sport gain popularity in

in the world of golf, especial-

ly so for a small country like

Spain. He was the biggest

"Seve is a huge reference

Seve

On his cricketing skills, he said that he is trying to improve with each game. "I am trying to learn from lots of people, have seen many international bowlers and am trying to pick a few new things watching them," Dube

said. On the atmosphere in the dressing room, he thanked captain Virat Kohli, his teammates and the support staff for making him feel confident, relaxed and happy.

Dube felt that the Kieron Pollard-led West Indian side is very good. "But, we have prepared nicely and India being the best team in world cricket, it is going to win the series," he said

Kapil laid the foundation, Kohli building on it: Bishop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former West Indies speedster Ian Bishop said the er level" fast bowling unit was laid by the likes of Kapil Dev and built on by current captain Virat Kohli, who believes in attack.

Bishop said Kohli's passion to put together a strong fast-bowling unit has made it easier to build on the foundation that Kapil laid.

"Let's remember that this group of bowlers did not emanate right now.

"The foundation was laid – if you go back to Kapil and down the line, Javagal Sri-



Kapil Dev... the one who started it all. •PTI

nath, Zaheer Khan, Munaf Patel, Sreesanth," Bishop

"Now it's been built on with a captain who likes fast bowlers, who believes in

But also the fact that you've found a generational talent in Jasprit Bumrah. Generational because he plays all formats of the game very well. And (Mohd.) Shami has taken his game to another level. Ishant (Sharma) has also gone up another level," he added.

The 52-year-old Bishop said he couldn't have predicted that India's fast bowlers would come to the Caribbean and do to the West Indians what they did to others so many decades ago.

India's domination continues

Clinches 15 gold medals on the third day

SAG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Track and field athletes led India's gold rush on the third day of competitions in the 13th South Asian Games as the country added 29 more medals on Wednesday.

India won 15 gold medals on the day, with athletics contributing five, as the country's medal tally stood at 32 gold, 26 silver and 13 bronze.

Athletics gave 10 medals (5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) while six each from came from table tennis (3 gold and 3 silver) and taekwondo (3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze), five from triathlon (2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) and two gold medals from kho kho.

Some of India's medals on day

Athletics: Women: 200m: Gold: Archana Suseendran 23.67s; Bronze: A. Chandra Lekha. Discus: Gold: Navieet Kaur Dhillon 49.87m: Silver: Survi Biswas. Long jump: Bronze: Sandra Babu.



Leaping to glory: S. Lokesh, the winner of the long jump event on Wednesday. • Special Arrangement

Men: 10,000m: Gold: Suresh Kumar 29m, 32s. Long jump: Gold: S. Lokesh 7.87m; Silver: Swamynathan. Discus: Gold: Kirpal Singh 57.88m; Silver: Gagandeep Singh.

Taekwondo: Gold: Laitika Bhandari (women's under 53kg), Jarnel Singh (men's under 74kg), Rudali Barua (women's over 73kg). Silver: Saurav (men's under 63kg) and (women's 62kg); Chaitnya Inamdar

(men's over 86kg). Table tennis: Gold & silver:

Men's doubles: Harmeet Desai & A. Amalraj bt Sanil Shetty & Sudhanshu Grover 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10.

Women's doubles: Madhurika Patkar & Sreeja Akula bt Sutirtha Mukherjee & Ayhika Mukheriee 2-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, 5-

Mixed doubles: Harmeet & Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Amalraj & Ayhika 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6,

Kho-kho: Gold: Men: India bt Bangladesh 16-9; Women: India bt Nepal 17-5.



Rahm following in Ballesteros' footsteps

A lot of what I do is trying to emulate him, says Race to Dubai title winner

name, and he came out of

"The Ryder Cup is what it is thanks to Seve. And as the first European to win the Masters (in 1980), Seve opened the gates for a lot of European players

"I read an article that before he started playing golf, there were about 10,000-15,000 licensed golfers in Spain, and when he retired, there were over 3,50,000.

"A massive number of golf courses were built thanks to him too.

"Golf in Spain is what it is thanks to him," Rahm said, on the eve of the Hero World Challenge here on Tuesday.

Tiger's mighty contribution

ASHWIN ACHAL

Hero World Challenge tournament host Tiger Woods leads the effort to help rehabilitate parts of Bahamas that were devastated by hurricane Dorian.

The ONE Bahamas Fund, comprising of Woods, pop star Justin Timberlake, NEXUS Luxury Collection, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and members from the Albany community, have pledged \$6 million for relief efforts. Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal announced that the Hero World Challenge tournament will make donations of \$500 for

each birdie, \$1,000 for

"A lot of what I do is trying

to emulate him. I want to

make my little mark in the

history of golf.

any hole-in-one made. The tournament, which commences at Albany, features Woods and 17 other elite golfers. The ONE Bahamas

"Hopefully I can do my

part to elevate the game not

and around the world,"

tournament will help rehabilitate parts of Bahamas that were devastated by hurricane Dorian. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT each eagle and \$2,500 for Fund and Munjal are hopeful that Bahamas will regain its spot as a top tourist nation, after a

Swinging for charity: The Hero World Challenge

hurricane. Rahm added.

recent dip in visitor

numbers due to the

only in Spain, but in Europe

(The writer is in Nassau on invitation from Hero MotoCorp)