THE Hans India

Sometimes it's difficult as a head coach and a team management where you will have to sometimes leave out players. I don't like using this word, dropping players because you don't drop players, you only select players

-Gautam Gambhir,

India's Mathew wins bronze in Para Powerlifting World C'ships

NEW DELHI: India's veteran para powerlifter Joby Mathew clinched a bronze medal at the Para Powerlifting World Championships in Cairo, Egypt. Mathew won bronze in Legend (Masters) category on Monday.

After his opening lift of 147kg was declared invalid, he took it as a personal challenge, increasing the weight to 148kg on his second attempt and executing it flawlessly. Building on that momentum, he raised the bar further to 152kg, successfully completing the lift to surpass his previous personal best of 150kg achieved two months ago in the Beijing World Cup.

The gold was won by Thailand's Phongsakon Chumchai who lifted 162kg, followed by Peru's Neil Gracia who lifted 161kg. This was Mathew's second World Championship medal, following his bronze in Dubai 2023, where he competed in the 59kg weight category. (PTI)

India complete clean sweep

Rahul hits unbeaten 58 in seven-wicket over WI in 2nd Test of 2-match series

NEW DELHI: India needed exactly an hour on day five to complete a seven-wicket win over West Indies and seal a 2-0 series sweep at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. KL Rahul anchored the chase with an unbeaten 58 off 108 balls, hitting six fours and two sixes to help India easily hunt down 121.

The victory marks India's first Test series win under Shubman Gill's captaincy, following the drawn 2-2 result in England earlier this year. Though the margin suggests an easy victory, India were to earn it in New Delhi and defeat West Indies for the tenth straight time in Tests.

West Indies, asked to follow on, refused to fold easily, thanks to John Campbell and Shai Hope's twin centuries and a defiant last-wicket 79-run stand which led to the contest stretching to day five. But once play resumed, India made quick work of the chase despite an early wobble and earn 12 valuable points to their World Test Championship tally, where they are still at number three and their points percentage now at 61.9.

It was a brave fight from the West Indies, who showed grit and character after a heavy innings defeat in Ahmedabad. Yet, in the end, India's depth and composure, despite spending 200 overs on the field, proved to be decisive, as Rahul, Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal were amongst the run-makers, while Kuldeep Yadav picked eight wickets on a pitch which was slow and docile.

The day began with KL Rahul and B Sai Sudharsan playing out four maidens before the latter broke the shackles by dancing down the pitch to loft Jomel Warrican through the line over mid-off for four.

Though it was followed by a bit of prodding and defending against Warrican and Khary Pierre, Rahul kept India steady by dancing down the pitch again – this time off Pierre – and loft over long-on for six, before whipping the spinner off his wrists through mid-wicket for four more. (IANS)

BRIEF SCORES: India 518/5 dec and 124/3 in 35.2 overs (KL Rahul 58 not out, B Sai Sudharsan 39; Roston Chase 2-36, Jomel Warrican 1-39) beat West Indies 248 and 390 in 118.5 overs (John Campbell 115, Shai Hope 103; Jasprit Bumrah 3-44, Kuldeep Yadav 3-104) by seven wickets

Gambhir on Rohit, Kohli's future

'ODI WC is still 2.5 yrs away, need to stay in present'

Kushan Sarkar
New Delhi

VIRAT KOHLI and Rohit Sharma are keen on playing the 2027 ODI World Cup but India head coach Gautam Gambhir was non-committal over the star duo's future on Tuesday, saying the ODI World Cup is still more than two years away and "it is important to stay in the present".

With Shubman Gill's appointment as the ODI skipper, the national selectors have already hit the transition button in ODI cricket and there is a lot of doubt over the future of the ageing stalwarts who will be 39 (Kohli) and 40 (Rohit) respectively in 2027.

"The 50-over World Cup is still two and a half years away. It is very important to stay in the present. Obviously they are quality players. They are coming back. Their experience is going to be valuable in Australia.

"Hopefully those two guys can have a successful tour, and more importantly, as a team we can have a successful series," Gambhir said when asked about the future of the two former skippers.

It is believed that a lot will depend on how the duo plays in the nine ODIs in the next couple of months (3 vs Australia, 3 vs SA and 3 vs NZ).

In the past one year, the Indian team has undergone transition across all formats under Gambhir's coaching.

When asked what are the attributes he is looking for when he wants to blood a player in the national team, Gambhir presented his checklist. "First and foremost, you look at talent. Then you look at the work ethic. You look at the characters in that dressing room, especially in red-ball cricket.

"You look at what they bring on the table, apart from the amount of runs and wickets they do, I think how hungry they are. And if you've got all those attributes, you will definitely have a successful Test career."

With so much of competition for slots, Gambhir feels that international cricket is an "insecure environment".

"For me, giving them a longer run is very, very important because as we all know that international cricket is a very insecure environment because only 15 players can go on to represent the country and there are so many people waiting for their opportunity.

"So make sure first you pick the right characters and then if you see that, try and give them a longer run so that they themselves should be content and happy that they've got a longer run rather than just chopping and changing as well."

Personally, Gambhir has an aversion towards the word "dropping" and he feels emotional when a worthy player misses out on a national team berth.

"Sometimes it's difficult as a head coach and a team management where you will have to sometimes leave out players. I don't like using this word, dropping players because you don't drop players, you only select players."

"When a player is left out, the least a coach can do is be empathetic and not ruthless." (PTI)

str8bat launches str8bat Pro in Hyderabad: Next-gen smart tech for batting

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

BUDDING young cricketers or professional cricketers, improve your cricketing skills and correct flaws in your batting with the help of India's leading sports tech innovator str8bat which has come up with first of its kind AI powered str8bat Pro, next-gen smart tech for batting.

Embedded with cutting-edge sensor technology and designed for elite-level precision, the product marks a breakthrough in how batting data is captured, interpreted, and applied—without altering the bat's feel or form. The ultra-thin, ultra-light product in the form of a bat sticker is str8bat's proprietary Gen-AI technology that delivers real-time insights on bat speed, swing angles, impact zones, and more in a form that is invisible, intuitive, and fully customizable.

Budding cricketers such as Yashaswai Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Riyan Parag have being playing with using this technology, as seen taking the popular "PowerShot Challenge," while at Rajasthan Royals (source), showcasing how str8bat pro is being used to scout for talent by analysing data and not leaving it to guesswork.

Coinciding with its launch, str8bat announced its official expansion into 10 countries, focusing on emerging cricket markets including India, Canada, New Zealand, the United States, Australia, South Africa, the UK, and Trinidad & Tobago, among others. Through this expansion, Str8bat aims to empower young athletes worldwide.

Madhu Sudan, Co-Founder of str8bat, said, "Our goal has always been to democratise elite-level cricket analytics to make world-class insights accessible to every player. With the launch of the str8bat Classic and the next-generation str8bat Pro sticker, we've achieved just that. The Pro's ultra-light sensor, engineered over months, perfectly blends with the shape and weight of the bat that delivers unmatched accuracy without changing how the bat feels. From helping players at Rajasthan Royals refine their power-hitting to being recognised by Cricket Australia as a benchmark for batting analysis, str8bat is changing how the game is understood. With over 20,000 units sold and our footprint now expanding globally, starting from our earliest success here in Hyderabad, this is just the beginning of how we're helping cricketers get better, faster, wherever they play."

The ultra-thin, ultra-light str8bat pro, available with an annual subscription also includes access to Masterclasses with Julian Wood, National Batting Coach for Sri Lanka and Nandan Phadnis, High Performance Coach at India's Centre of Excellence. The str8bat classic cost Rs 6,499 and Pro version cost Rs 7,999.

WOMEN'S WC: SL, NZ SPLIT POINTS AFTER RAIN WASHES OUT MATCH

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka and New Zealand shared points as their Women's World Cup match was abandoned due to persistent rain after strong batting performance by the hosts here on Tuesday. Opting to bat, Nilakshika De Silva's belligerent fifty was the perfect antithesis to skipper Chamari Athapaththu's graceful half-century as Sri Lanka posted a challenging 258 for 6.

However, rain lashed the R Premadasa Stadium just before New Zealand began their chase and the match could not resume from that point. After the washout, Sri Lanka continued to stay at the seventh place, having collected 2 points from four games while New Zealand, who now have 3 points, were static at number five on the table. This is the second World Cup game that has been washed out with Sri Lanka's fixture against Australia also abandoned last week because of rain.

What sort of friendship is this?: Cong jabs PM after Trump's praise of Munir

New Delhi

THE Congress on Tuesday attacked the government over US President Donald Trump's praise for Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, saying what kind of signal is the American leader sending to India, in spite of PM Narendra Modi's "desperate attempts" to ingratiate himself with him.

What sort of friendship is this between Trump and Modi, the opposition party asked, citing instances of Trump's praise for Munir and past meetings between the two.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said Prime Minister Modi keeps calling President Trump his good friend and to be fair the American leader also keeps calling Modi his good friend.

"But what sort of friendship is this? President Trump hosted Field Marshal Asim Munir to an unprecedented lunch in the White House on June 18, 2025. This was the Field Marshal whose inflammatory and communally poisonous remarks provided the backdrop to the Pahalgam terror attacks orchestrated by Pakistan on April 22, 2025," Ramesh said on X.

Then President Trump met with the Field Marshal a second time in the White House on September 26, 2025, when the Field Marshal presented President Trump with a box of rare earths, he said.

"Now in Egypt yesterday, President Trump calls Asim Munir as 'my favourite Field Marshal' and gives special place to the PM of Pakistan. What kind of signal is President Trump sending to India, in spite of Mr. Modi's desperate attempts to ingratiate himself with the US President?" Ramesh said.

What sort of friendship is this, Ramesh asked.

Noting that Trump has called Munir his 'favourite', Congress MP Manickam Tagore said the same Munir has overseen terror plots and cross-border attacks against India.

"Under Modi's watch, the world is not standing with India, it's now praising those who target India. This is not diplomacy — this is disaster. For years, Modi claimed 'India has never been stronger globally'. Yet today, even leaders like Trump are openly glorifying those responsible for terror against our nation — without a single word of protest from Modi," the Congress MP said.

"Where is the 56-inch diplomacy now? Where is the 'strong leader' who said he would isolate Pakistan internationally? When India's enemies are being endorsed and our PM remains silent, it's clear — Modi's foreign policy has collapsed. Loud on propaganda, mute on national pride," he said.

India deserves leadership that earns respect through principles, not photo-ops, Tagore said.

"Foreign policy isn't about hugs -- it's about standing firm for the nation's dignity," he said. (PTI)

Shameful! WHO issues alert against Indian cough syrups

New Delhi

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert against three "substandard" oral cough syrups identified in India -- Coldrif, Respifresh TR and ReLife -- and urged national regulatory authorities worldwide to immediately notify it if these are detected in their country.

It has also advised healthcare professionals to report the detection of these substandard products and any incident of adverse effects, or lack of expected effects to their national regulatory authorities or National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

The alert comes after at least 22 children, mostly under the age of five, have died due to suspected kidney failure after being administered Coldrif in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, at least three children have allegedly died in Rajasthan after consuming cough syrup in different districts of the state.

The WHO has further called for increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products.

"Increased surveillance of the informal/unregulated market is also advised," the alert issued on Monday said. The affected products are oral liquid medicines containing active ingredients commonly used to relieve symptoms of common cold, flu, or cough According to the alert, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of India reported to WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three oral liquid medicines in October 8.

This followed information identified by WHO on September 30 of localised clusters of acute illness and child fatalities in India. The CDSCO informed WHO that the contaminated products were reportedly consumed by the affected children and confirmed that relevant state authorities have ordered an immediate halt to production at implicated manufacturing sites and have suspended product authorisations. In addition, a recall of the contaminated products has been initiated by relevant state authorities. (PTI)

Bihar polls: JD(U) MP Mandal to resign over ticket distribution

PATNA: JD(U)'s Bhagalpur MP Ajay Kumar Mandal sought to resign on Tuesday, stating that he was not consulted over the distribution of tickets for the Bihar assembly elections in his region. The Nitish Kumar-led party is yet to comment on the letter, which Mandal shared on X.

"Despite being a member of parliament from Bhagalpur, the party has not reached out to me for advice regarding ticket distribution in the region. In that case, there is no point holding the MP post," he said in the letter, addressed to Kumar.

He said in his 20-25 years of service to the Bhagalpur region, as an MP and MLA, he has considered JD(U) as his family, but "decisions made in the past few months" do not augur well for the future of the party.

He alleged that the "prioritising outsiders" has "weakened the roots" of the JD(U), adding that "party workers are feeling sidelined".

This, he said, reflects poorly on the leadership of the chief minister. (PTI)

Husband murders wife for insurance money

HAZARIBAGH: A man was arrested for murdering his newly married wife and making it appear like an accident to claim insurance money in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, police said on Tuesday.

Padama Out Post (OP) in charge, Sanchit Kumar Dubey told PTI on Tuesday, that 30-year-old Mukesh Kumar Mehta had murdered his wife Sevanti Kumari (23), whom he had married four months back, on October 9 night and staged it as a road mishap to claim the insurance money of Rs 30 lakh.

"We received a complaint from passersby on October 9 about a couple lying injured due to a road mishap along Padama-Itkhori stretch of NH-33. We rushed to the spot and brought the deceased Sevanti Kumari and her husband, who pretended to be unconscious to Sadar Hospital.

"While the wife was declared dead and the body was sent for post-mortem, the husband, who had sustained superficial injury, underwent treatment," the police officer said. However, locals suspected the husband's behaviour during the last rites of the wife.

"We received complaints from locals about the suspicious behaviour of the husband during the last rites of the wife. We started an investigation and found that he had applied for an accident insurance claim of Rs 30 lakh. We became suspicious and started interrogating the accused," added the police officer.

"During intense interrogation, he confessed to the crime for insurance money and said that on October 9 night he had brought his wife for treatment of stomach pain and beat her up with helmets leading to bleeding and then strangled her. He also laid the body on the road after inflicting damage to the bike and also to himself and lied on the road to make it appear like an accident," the police officer said.

The officer said the bike did not have damage as could have happened due to the impact of a mishap. Even his injuries were minor.

"We arrested him and sent him to judicial custody on Monday evening," said the police officer. (PTI)

Govind Pansare murder

Bombay HC grants bail to key accused, 2 others

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to three persons, including prime accused Virendrasinh Tawade, arrested in connection with the killing of rationalist and author Govind Pansare in 2015.

Besides Tawade, Justice S G Dige of the HC's Kolhapur bench also granted bail to two other accused -- Sharad Kalaskar and Amol Kale.

While Tawade and Kale will walk out of prison, Kalaskar will continue to remain in jail as he had been convicted in the 2013 case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar's murder. His appeal against conviction is pending before the HC.

Justice Dige on Tuesday said he was granting bail to the three accused, and would pass a detailed order later. "The applications (filed by the accused for bail) are allowed. I will pass a detailed order later," he said. The bench refused to stay its order at the request of a lawyer appearing for Pansare's family.

Pansare was shot at on February 16, 2015, in Maharashtra's Kolhapur and succumbed to his injuries a few days later on February 20.

In January this year, six other accused - Sachin Andure, Ganesh Miskin, Amit Degvekar, Amit Baddi, Bharat Kurane and Vasudev Suryavanshi - were granted bail on the grounds of long incarceration and the fact that the trial is not likely to be completed in the near future.

Pansare and his wife were returning home from their morning walk in the Samrat Nagar area of Kolhapur when two motorbike-borne men fired multiple rounds at them before fleeing.