

SC OKs BCCI draft charter with changes, reinstates voting rights of 4 legacy cricket bodies

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 /- The Supreme Court today approved BCCI's new draft constitution with some modifications, effectively diluting its earlier order on a tenure cap for office bearers and reinstating voting rights of four legacy cricket associations.

In a string of rulings in the long-running case involving the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the apex court, however, warned state associations that they face action if they don't adopt the new constitution in the next 30 days. While some associations have promised to adopt the charter - written in compliance with the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee - most continue to oppose it on the grounds that it puts a cap on the age and tenure of office bearers. The ruling, especially on the "cooling-off" norm as well as "one-state, one vote", comes as a relief to BCCI, which has questioned the

feasibility of the Lodha recommendations. The committee had recommended a cooling-off period after just one tenure, instead of two. It had also recommended the "one-state, one vote" policy, due to which some city and regional cricket associations like Mumbai and Saurashtra had lost their place in BCCI, which was allowed to give membership only to state associations. The Supreme Court, in its July 18, 2016 verdict, accepted most of the recommendations of the Lodha committee, which was formed in January 2015 under retired Justice R M Lodha's charge with the aim to reform the BCCI following charges of large-scale maladministration in the cash-rich cricket body. Today's ruling waters down key recommendations of the panel. Among them, the Supreme Court reinstated the memberships of Mumbai, Saurashtra, Vadodara and

Vidarbha, all associations with a rich history in domestic cricket whose voting rights were taken away by the Lodha committee. In approving the draft constitution, a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Mishra also asked the registrar general of Tamil Nadu Societies to bring on record the approved BCCI constitution within four weeks. The BCCI's constitution is registered in Tamil Nadu. The bench - also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud - restored permanent membership to Railways, Services and Universities, which are not full cricket associations but are "boards".

On July 5, the apex court had restrained all state cricket bodies from holding elections till it pronounced the verdict on finalisation of the draft constitution of the BCCI. The Lodha panel had recommended a slew of

structural reforms in BCCI which were approved by the apex court. The court had approved these recommendations, including 'one state, one vote', 'one member, one post' and fixing an age cap of 70 years on those occupying BCCI posts. In the earlier hearing, the counsel for Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) had opposed the cooling-off period for the office bearers suggested by the Lodha panel, and said there should be continuity of experience. The TNCA had also objected to the age cap of 70 years for office bearers as suggested by the panel. The top court had earlier asked state cricket associations and BCCI office-bearers to give suggestions on the draft constitution for the apex cricket body to the amicus, saying these have to be in tune with the Lodha panel recommendations and its verdict. (PTI)



RAIN FORCES EARLY LUNCH ON DAY 1



General view of spectators sheltering under umbrellas during a rain delay — Reuters

The toss has been delayed as rain dominated the opening day of the second Test between India and England at the Lord's Cricket Ground in London on Thursday, thus far. The rain also forced the lunch to be called-up early. Before that, the ground staff were seen walking over the covers, and inspecting the conditions, with the weather forecast suggesting the skies will clear up in due course. However, more updates are awaited on the same. Meanwhile, after a poor show in the opening Test match against England, India will face the hosts in the second match of the five-match series. In both the innings of the first Test which the tourists lost by 31 runs, all the batsmen, apart from skipper Virat Kohli, failed. No other batters supported Kohli, who at the other hand fought valiantly. Kohli scored 149 in the first innings while the other batsmen could only score 107 runs combined.

Aimar, Scaloni praise India U-20 team

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 /- Days after India U-20 defeated Argentina U-20 in the COTIF Cup, former Argentine great Pablo Aimar, who accompanied the Argentina U-20 team as the technical director, lavished praise on the Indian colts. Both Aimar and coach Lionel Scaloni had dropped into the Indian camp to have a chat with the Indian players.

"We would be happy and would like to play other Indian age group teams as well. The U-20 Indian National Team players played well with lot of passion and the players ran a lot during the matches," Aimar regarded by many as one of the most elegant Argentine players after Diego Maradona, said.

"We would be happy and would like to play matches against Indian National Teams in India or in Argentina in near future, he opined. Lionel Scaloni, who coached Argentina U-20 in the COTIF Cup singled out Amarjit Singh and Jeakson Singh for their performances. Indian Captain Amarjit Singh played very well against Argentina and Jeakson Singh was very impressive in the manner he played against Murcia, Scaloni, who has taken up as the head coach of the Argentina senior national team stated. "If India continue to play like this for three or four more years, the players have a bright future ahead. We are happy to meet these young players." The Indian Team were very well behaved in the team hotel and there was mutual respect between both the teams. (PTI)

IndiangirlsbeatSouthAmericancombined team at Jr NBA World Championships

ORLANDO (US), AUG 9 /- Indian girls produced a stellar show to beat a combined South American team 40-37 in their final pool match to register their maiden victory at the Under-14 Jr NBA World Championship here. After losing their first two pool matches of the international bracket against Asia-Pacific and Europe respectively, the Indian girls came up with a spirited effort to eke out a close win at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex situated inside the Walt Disney World Resort.

The Indians girls led their South American rivals in the first three periods 12-9 14-10 7-6 before losing the last period 9-9. For India, Sunishka Karik scored 17 points as against 19 of South America's Josefina Balatti. However, it turned out to

Man Utd aim to defy Mourinho's doubts in Premier League opener

MANCHESTER, AUG 9 /- Manchester United have to defy their own manager Jose Mourinho's fears of a season of doom and gloom when they kick off the Premier League campaign against Leicester City on Friday. Mourinho has repeatedly called for more backing in the transfer market if United are to close the record 19-point gap they trailed Manchester City by last season despite finishing second in the table. Instead, the Portuguese's mood has been further soured by seeing another fierce rival Liverpool steal a march with a £710-million (£220 million) spurge on new signings. "If we don't make our team better it will be a difficult season for us," Mourinho warned earlier this week, so far to no avail ahead of Thursday's transfer deadline. After securing the signatures of Brazilian international midfielder Fred and Portuguese teenage full-back Diogo Dalot early in the window, strengthening his centre-back options has been Mourinho's priority. Yet, United could end up facing one of Mourinho's top targets in Harry Maguire at Old Trafford, with Leicester reportedly holding out for a world-record fee for a defender to land one of England's heroes from a run to the World Cup semi-finals. Maguire and Leicester's



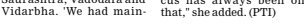
Manchester United's main goal threat, Jamie Vardy, may not start having just returned to pre-season training this week after their exertions in Russia. But United are even more short-handed by the quick turnaround between the World Cup and the start of the new season. Romelu Lukaku, Marcus Rashford, Phil Jones and Victor Lindelof were all praised by Mourinho for cutting short their holidays to return to training and be in the frame to play a part on Friday. Paul Pogba did not follow suit as the French World Cup winner's frosty relationship with Mourinho

COA chief Vinod Rai welcomes 'excellent' SC order on Lodha reforms

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 /- The Committee of Administrators chief Vinod Rai today welcomed the Supreme Court order on mandatory cooling-off period for BCCI office-bearers after two consecutive terms and for putting a cap on the number of years for mandatory cooling off but today's order allows office-bearers two consecutive terms and for putting a cap on the number of years for mandatory cooling off. The new judgement effectively means that current acting secretary Amitabh Chaudhary and acting treasurer Aniruddh Chaudhary can contest for another term. This is an excellent order by the Honourable Court. I have absolutely no problem with office-bearers having two consecutive terms. Even I had originally wanted a six year term be-

fore cooling off period but couldn't get consensus, Rai told PTI on what is being seen as the most significant aspect of today's order. Rai said another positive to come out today is the timeline set by the apex court for the adoption of the approved BCCI constitution, which will also pave the way for the Board's elections provided there is 100 per cent compliance by the state associations. The state units have been today warned by the SC to either comply or face action. Now we finally have a roadmap in place which will lead to adoption of the new constitution and subsequently elections. Now there is a time-line in place, Rai said. He also expressed satisfaction that all the original members have retained their voting rights. The SC bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Mishra, and comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y

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Only we know how we face people when we return without medal: Sakshi

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 /- Under the scanner for her below-par performance in the run-up to the Asian Games, Olympic medalist Sakshi Anand, who is competing in the 62kg category in Jakarta, also admitted that she needs to get stronger mentally.

"I had a bad start in the 100m race for a bronze at the Commonwealth Games in April and recently crashed out of the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul before reaching the medal round. She along with three other wrestlers (Vinesh Phogat, Sushil Kumar, Bajrang Punia) were exempted from the trials for the Asian Games but recently WFI officials told me that it was a cause of concern for them that both Sushil and Sakshi are not in form. "We want to win medals every time we step on the mat. Only we know how we face people when we return without medal. It becomes so tough to answer when people ask questions," Sakshi told PTI in an interaction after a training session in Lucknow. "We also want to perform well so that no one points fingers at us and that we face no questions for which we have no answer." Sakshi conceded that recent results are not according to expectations but asserted that it was not due to lack of effort. "After Rio, I have done well in many championships. There are always ups and downs in athletes' life

but we always try to give our 100 per cent and bring laurels for the country. There is no lack of effort during training," she said. Sakshi, who will compete in the 62kg category in Jakarta, also admitted that she needs to get stronger mentally.

tegi part, like I have to fight differently against wrestlers from different countries. "Few wrestlers are powerful and few are strong technically, so I am working on all these things. In the camp (in Lucknow) we are working on speed and technique. Talking about her own expectations at the Asian Games, Sakshi said, "I had set a target of gold medal for myself at the CWG also but now I am not thinking about the colour of medal. I just want to execute on the mat what I am doing while training. Rest is up to God." Is it lack of confidence in her own ability? "No it is not. Nobody will say that I will bring gold. I just expect myself to give 100 per cent." Sakshi took satisfaction from the fact that after her medal show at the Rio Games, more girls are inclined to take up the sport. "People know me now and expect more from me. It feels good and I feel proud. There are a few girls who have picked sport after my Rio showing. (PTI)



Yesterday's Answer: True, used in Stone-Age & still used today. Name: Shashank Reyya, Tyrlabad. We will publish your name, correct answer in this space. SMS the answers alongwith your name, address, correct answers to the following mobile number: 8334826380