

# SC appoints Vinod Rai, Ram Chandra Guha, Diana Edulji, Vikram Limaye as BCCI's new administrators



NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /- The names new administrators in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The apex court appointed four member panel of administrators to run the affairs of the BCCI. The apex court appointed former CAG Vinod Rai to head the Indian board along with Ram Chandra Guha, Vikram Limaye and Diana Edulji. While Vinod Rai is a former CAG himself,

**My role in BCCI is that of a night-watchman, says cricketing body's new boss Vinod Rai**

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /- Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Vinod Rai, who will head the Supreme Court appointed four member panel of administrators, today called himself a "night-watchman" whose only job will be to ensure a "smooth transition" to an elected body in BCCI. The Supreme Court today appointed a four-member committee of administrators to run the affairs of the BCCI and implement the court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha panel. Asked Rai about his new role, he said, "Any such honour from the Supreme Court, one will have to accept and try to put in his best of abilities. I am a true lover of the game of cricket. My role is that of a night-watchman in a sense that we need to put in place good governance, good system and structure in place to ensure a smooth transition to an elected body which in future will bring about good administration in BCCI", he said.

"The game deserves it (good governance), the players deserve it and public at large, who are so fond of the game." Besides Rai, other three members of the committee are famous historian and scholar Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye, Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and former Indian women's cricket captain Diana Edulji, who would interact with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri for supervision and smooth functioning of the cricket board (BCCI). Widely considered as symbol of the anti-corruption movement in India, Rai, said cricket needs good governance but he will be in a position to comment anything on BCCI only after resuming his duties. "It's too early to comment on anything at the moment because I am not familiar and have no exposure to the functions of BCCI. But any institution must conform to good governance. The game of cricket requires good governance so that we are able to deliver to the country at the public at large", Rai said. Asked how long it will take for him and his team to put BCCI's house in order and declare elections, Rai said: "I have no idea at all. I can only say something when I have some idea." (PTI)

## Would try to do justice to my role as BCCI administrator: Diana Edulji is the only player part of the new administration

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MUMBAI, JAN 30 /- Diana Edulji, who is a part of a four-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court to take charge of the administration of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday said she was honoured, adding that she would try to do justice to the responsibilities she has been entrusted upon. "I am very happy and honoured to be nominated on BCCI administrative committee by the Supreme Court. It is a huge responsibility. It is surprising to me that I am the only player in the committee. I respect the judgment and believe it is a victory for women's cricket." Edulji told ANI. Edulji, who is the only player part of the new ad-

ministration, added: "I only hope that I would be able to do justice. I thank the Supreme Court for having entrusted me with this responsibility." The 61-year-old, who represented India in 30 Tests and 34 One Day International matches between 1976 and 1999, is administrator of the BCCI along with former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Vinod Rai, noted historian Ramachandra Guha and managing director of IDFC Limited Vikram Limaye. Meanwhile, the top court also declined Centre's request to appoint secretary of sports ministry as member of the committee. The Supreme Court had on January 2 removed Anurag Thakur and Ajay Shirke from their respective posts of BCCI president and board secretary for their failure to bring transparency and accountability to the Indian cricket board and their non-compliance of the court's July 18, 2016 order. Earlier in a landmark judgment on July 18, 2016, the apex court appointed major recommendations of Justice Lodha panel on structural reforms in the BCCI and had given six months deadline to the board to implement the recommendations.

## Eoin Morgan to raise Joe Root's LBW decision with match referee

NAGPUR, JAN 30 /- Former England captain Eoin Morgan says the umpire's decision to rule Joe Root out LBW at a crucial juncture cost them the second Twenty20 against India and they will raise the issue with the ICC match referee. Umpire S Shamsuddin had adjudged well-set Root out before wicket off Jasprit Bumrah in the last over when the batsman had actually edged the ball.

"It's extreme frustration absolutely. It shifted momentum in the 20th over. Losing batsman who were faced 40 balls to the first ball on a wicket that's not that easy to time the ball on is quite a bit of a hammer blow," said Morgan. "I proved very costly and all things considered, a couple of decisions did not go our way. We still should have won the game, that's the big positive for us, but the fact we did not is really dis-



appointing. We have the opportunity to before the next game as feedback is given through the match referee on a report," he added. He also said that he would get out to a rash shot when well set. "No I don't think so. I really played well tonight. We produced a really good bowling performance on a wicket that suited India more than us. I think in the end it's not always in a reasonable position. We built partnerships till the end. We should have won the game," he said. "We will draw a line on it tomorrow and move on before Bangalore," he added. England needed 24 off last two overs, got 16 of those in the 19th bowled by Ashish Nehra. Before falling short of the target in the last over from Bumrah in which both Root and Jos Buttler got out to hand India a five-run lead. Asked it was disappointing that DRS is not present in T20 games, he said, "A little yeah. Even if it's only available for World Cup Games (it will be good). There's no reason why it should not be there." He also said a T20 game should strike a fine balance between batsmen and bowlers. "I think a good combination of both. High percentage of audience want balls to be hit for six and a high percentage want bowlers take wickets and put batsmen under pressure. It should be a 70:30 split." (PTI)

## Dushyant Chautala is new TTFI president

GURUGRAM, JAN 30 /- A new set of office-bearers, led by president Dushyant Chautala, today took charge of affairs at the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) following the Annual General Body meeting where they were elected unopposed.

The election to all posts, conducted and supervised by Justice Ranjit Singh (Retd.) of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was as smooth as it had been in these years, as they were returned unopposed. Chautala, incidentally, is the youngest president of the apex body and his term, and that of others, which is for four years, extends until 2021. Kuldip Vats, representing Indian Olympic As-

sociation and Ashwani Kumar, representing the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from the Sports Authority of India, were observers. All posts of the three main office-bearers, eight vice-presidents, four joint secretaries and five out of eight Executive Committee members, were nominated and filled after the TTFI constitution. The other three vacant slots in the Executive Committee were left to be chosen by the new TTFI chief. Soon after his election, the new president promised to carry forward the good work done by his predecessors. "Our endeavour will be to improve the standard of table tennis in the country and my team of office-bearers and state associations will lend their helping hand towards achieving our goals," he said addressing the general body. The office-bearers: Dushyant Chautala, President; M.P. Singh, Secretary General; Arun Kumar Banerjee, Treasurer; Vice Presidents: M.S. Siroha, Chiranjib Choudhary, P. Karunakar, Vero Nones, Sharad Shukla, R.K. Parida and Hareesh Manganti. Joint Secretaries: Manju Ghosh, Jayesh Acharya, Tridip Duvarah and Prakash Raju. Executive Members: Yatin K. Tinnia, Manjit Singh Dua, S. Halder, T.K. Vijaya Rangam, Ajay Sharma. (PTI)

## India can't take Aussies lightly: Tendulkar

MUMBAI, JAN 30 /- Barring legend Sachin Tendulkar today picked India as the favourites for the upcoming Test series against Australia but warned the hosts that it would be a mistake to take the team from Down Under lightly. India will play a four-Test series against Steve Smith's men starting February 23 in Pune.

Australia have been enduring mixed fortunes in a Test cricket of late, losing to South Africa before beating Pakistan. "The last thing one would like to do is underestimate your opposition and Australia is a strong side.

## Government announces 8-member task force for next 3 Olympics

**Abhinav Bindra, Pulella Gopichand included**

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /- Government start preparation for next three Olympics by announcing the 8-member panel today India's lone Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra and national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand today found a place in an eight-member Task Force of the Sports Ministry to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games.

Just days after the end of the Rio Olympics, where India won just two medals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the setting up of a task force which will help plan for the "effective participation" of Indian sports persons in the next three Olympics -- in 2020, 2024 and 2028. Bindra, Gopichand and former Indian hockey captain Viren Rasquinha were the only three former sports persons named in the task force. Other five members of the task force are School Sports Promotion Board head Om Prakash, hockey coach S Baldev Singh, who runs an academy in Shahabad, G.L Khanna (Professor and Dean



of Exercise and Physiology at Manav Rachna International University at Faridabad), journalist Rajesh Kalra and Sports Authority of Gujarat Director General Sandeep Pradhan. Announcing the task force here, Sports Minister Vijay Goel told reporters that "the tenure of the committee will be for three months or till the time it submits its report". He said the job of the chairman of the committee will be on rotational basis while Pradhan will be the convener. The main job of the task force will be to suggest a comprehensive action plan including short-term, medium-term and long-term measures for effective participation of Indian sports persons in the next three Olympic Games. Other points included in the terms of reference were to suggest effective methods to identify core probable/ medal prospects for 2020 Olympics, their coaches and support staff; to suggest effective talent identification system for 2024 and 2028 Olympics; to identify components of world class support system for elite sports persons and ways to significantly improve support staff; to suggest ways to create and upgrade sports infrastructure necessary to train top-level athletes and to make suggestion regarding foreign training and exposure of top-level athletes.

## Age is just a number, I need just one game to get going: Nehra

NAGPUR, JAN 30 /- After making another comeback to international cricket with aplomb, veteran pacer Ashish Nehra dismissed the age-related criticism, saying a practice match is all what he needs to get into the groove. Nehra scalped two batsmen in successive balls and added one more later in the second Twenty20 against England, which India won by 10 runs.

"Whether I'm playing 50 overs or T20 or I'm bowling in the nets with a short stump to aim at, I've never felt short of practice. It takes me only one game to get back into the groove," asserted the 37-year-old left-arm pacer. Nehra played in the World T20 championship hosted by India in early 2016 and then the subsequent Indian Premier League before taking a break from cricket to undergo a knee surgery. "I will play domestic cricket in the coming months 50 overs and T20 and then it's 10 or two months. I believe if you've been playing so much for so long, match practice is very important whether you're a bowler or batsman. People like me or MS Dhoni who are not playing Test cricket right now, we have to play domestic games and ultimately experience does matter," he said. Nehra dismissed the notion that age is just a number. "I know how old I am and he will keep playing as long as he's fit. Regarding age, unfortunately in India, if you keep performing well then people will praise you. And if the team loses couple of matches, then people won't criticize the rest of the 15 but will say Ashish Nehra should be dropped. It doesn't make a difference to me but age is just a number. I know how hard it is to stay fit because I'm a fast bowler and I bowl in the beginning and end both. But I'm enjoying my game and till my body is fit, I'll keep playing and playing." (PTI)



the last game after 7-8 months but I didn't feel I was short of practice or anything. When you are playing day in and day out, you get better with time but I personally don't feel that rusty or anything," he said. About last night's game that India won from a difficult position, Nehra said when a team was defending a small total early wickets were a must and did not them. "When you are defending a score like 146, it's important to pick up a wicket up front, which we got in my over. It puts pressure on the batsman. With the wicket set, if you take two-three wickets early then the batsman will be on the back-foot." If Amit Mishra had not bowled a no-ball, he could have been in the game earlier. When Ben Stokes hit two sixes and a four, they were ahead, "It keeps going up and down. You cannot say anything in a T20 till it's over," he said referring to Mishra dismissing Stokes but the ball being declared a no-ball. (PTI)

## No rush for Bale return, insists Zidane

MADRID, JAN 30 /- Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane believes he has no need to rush Gareth Bale back from a long-term ankle injury as the European champion extended their lead at the top of La Liga on Sunday.

Madrid saw off Real Sociedad 0-1 thanks to goals from Mateo Kovacic, Cristiano Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata to open up a four-point lead on Barcelona and Sevilla and with a game in hand over their title rivals to come. Bale has been out since suffering an ankle ligament damage in No-

vember and is not expected to return before March. However, Zidane is hopeful of having Luka Modric and James Rodriguez back for Real's next outing, Celta Vigo, on the weekend. "Our idea is to have Luka back next week. We will see (how he is) on Tuesday and the same goes for James," said Zidane. "Gareth will take a while longer. He is now on the training pitch in boots which is a good sign, but we have to take it slowly." Bale is expected to miss Real's Champions League last 16, first leg clash with Napoli on February 15 with the Whites possibly making a return in time for the return leg on March 7. Madrid had begun to miss the Welshman's goals as they won just one of their five previous games before Sociedad's visit. That run included elimination at the hands of Celta Vigo in the Copa del Rey quarter-finals, but Zidane admitted missing out on two more matches in the semi-finals over the next fortnight could ultimately prove a blessing for his injury hit squad.

## Aussies fall to NZ despite Stoinis heroics

AUCKLAND, JAN 30 /- New Zealand scrapped home in the first one-dayer against Australia today but only after rookie all-rounder Marcus Stoinis fell agonisingly short of dragging his team to victory with an unbeaten 146. In just his second ODI, Stoinis took three wickets then played the New Zealand attack close. The Australians chased a target of 267 runs at Auckland's Eden Park.

He came to the crease with Australia trailing at 47 for two and calmly set about rebuilding after his more experienced teammates had squandered their wickets. His 146 was a record ODI score for an Australian number seven batsman and included 11 sixes and nine fours. Remarkably, the 27-year-old's last partnership with Josh Hazlewood was worth 54, but Hazlewood did not face a single ball as Stoinis stayed on strike trying to guide Australia home. His heroics prevented a trouncing in the opening match of the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy, spar-



Stoinis celebrates scoring a century.

ing Australia's blushes after they rested their star batsman for the series. The tourists left David Warner and Usman Khawaja out of the squad to protect them for the upcoming Test series in India, then lost captain Steve Smith and wicket-keeper batsman Matthew Wade to injury. But the players expected to offer leadership in their absence failed to step up and the Australians crumbled before Stoinis' heroics. Their woes were largely caused by rash or careless shots, not demons in a pitch on which the New Zealanders had batted solidly. Relatively newcomers such as Travis Head (5) and Peter Hanscomb (4) could be forgiven for a rush of blood to the head at the sight of the short Eden Park boundaries. However, stand-in captain Aaron Finch (4), Shaun Marsh (16) and Glenn Maxwell (20) - all with 50-plus ODI's - are likely to face tough questions over the performance.