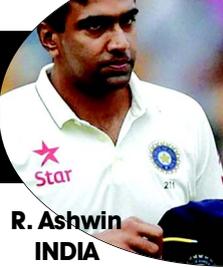


ICC TEST RANKINGS

<b>1</b>  <b>STEVEN SMITH</b> AUSTRALIA RATING : 941	<b>2</b>  <b>K. WILLIAMSON</b> NEW ZEALAND RATING : 880	<b>3</b>  <b>JOE ROOT</b> ENGLAND RATING : 848
<b>4</b>  <b>C. PUJARA</b> INDIA RATING : 846	<b>5</b>  <b>VIRAT KOHLI</b> INDIA RATING : 818	<b>11</b>  <b>LOKESH RAHUL</b> INDIA RATING : 739
<b>14</b>  <b>A. RAHANE</b> INDIA RATING : 726		

**Jadeja, Ashwin retain top two spots**  
ICC Rankings: KL Rahul climbs to career best 11th

<b>RANK 2</b>  <b>R. Ashwin</b> INDIA RATING : 865	<b>RANK 1</b>  <b>Ravindra Jadeja</b> INDIA RATING : 898
--	--

**DUBAI, MAR 30**—/ India opener Lokesh Rahul, who hit two half-centuries in the deciding Dharamsala Test against Australia, on Thursday jumped 11 places to a career-high rank of 11th in the latest ICC chart for Test batsmen.

The 24-year-old Karnataka batsman had started the series in the 57th position and has gained 46 places over four Tests following scores of 64, 10, 90, 51, 67, 60 and 51 not out.

Rahul is now India's third highest-ranked batsman after Cheteshwar Pujara (4) and Virat Kohli (5), who lost two and one place respectively. Rahul is ahead of Ajinkya Rahane (14th, up by three places) and Murali Vijay (34th, down by four places). In the bowling table, spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin have retained the top two bowling spots, while paceman Umesh Yadav has claimed a career-high 21st position following his player of the match performance in the fourth Test. Yadav took two for 69 and three for 29 in the match, earning him a rise of five places. In the all-rounders' list, Jadeja replaced Ashwin in the second position to be behind top-ranked Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan. Jadeja took four wickets and scored 63 runs in Dharamsala to walk away with the player of the series award. Australia captain Steve Smith has successfully defended his number-one position and is currently 61 points ahead of his New Zealand opposite number, Kane Williamson, who has moved up two places to second following his 176 in the Hamilton Test.

Smith had entered the series against India, leading Kohli by 38 points, and finished as the most successful batsman with 499 runs in eight innings.

**Sachin Tendulkar parts ways with Musafir, takes INR 20 crore home**

**NEW DELHI, MAR 30**—/ Batting great Sachin Tendulkar has ended association with travel portal Musafir.com after a period of five years. According to reports, the legend was being paid INR 1 crore every year for the past five years and was assured a minimum of INR 20 crore at the time of exit.

It's reported that the reason for an abrupt end to the association was the portal's rather poor valuation. Confirming the new development, Musafir CEO Gya Diwaan said that "the documentation is under process, and it is a cooling period." "We had a cordial commercial relationship with Sachin Tendulkar, like any celebrity deal, for the past five years. The documentation is under process, and it is a cooling period between us and his company. He came in 2013 as a brand endorser and no longer features in our ads. We have so far not sold Tendulkar's equity to any investor," Diwaan was quoted as saying by Business Line.

Tendulkar has been an investor in the company, and opted for a sweet equity of 7.5 per cent in exchange for appearing in the firm's ads.

**Kohli says friendship comment was 'blown out of proportion'**

**NEW DELHI, MAR 30**—/ Hours after Brad Hodge's tendered an unconditional apology to Virat Kohli and the people of India, the Indian captain released a statement on Thursday, saying his "post match conference" at Dharamsala "has been blown way out of proportion." Moments after India's eight-wicket victory at Dharamsala, Kohli said in the post-match press conference that after all the altercations on and off the field, he doesn't consider Australian cricketers as his friends. "No, it has changed for sure. As I said in the heat of the battle, you want to be competitive but yeah I have been proven wrong. "The thing I said before the first Test, I have certainly been proven wrong and you won't hear me say that ever again," Kohli said. Aussie legends Mark Taylor, Dean Jones and others took Kohli's comments as parting words, and shared their disappointment. Kohli, 28, took to Twitter to clarify his stand, and he wrote, "My answer at the post match conference has been blown way out of proportion. I did not categorically say the whole Australian team." "But only a couple of individuals I continue to be in good terms with the few guys I know & who I've played with at RCB & that doesn't change," he added. Interestingly, Kohli and RCB will rely heavily on the likes of Aussies Shane Watson, Travis Head and Billy Stanlake in their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign. And, it doesn't come as a surprise as the players from all around the world will once again mingle together, as team-mates, in possibly the biggest carnival of cricket when the 10th edition of IPL starts next week. It's worth noting that the India-Australia series was mired in an seemingly endless controversies, from start to the end. It all started when Australian captain Steve Smith took dressing room help in taking a DRS call and Kohli stopped short of calling him a cheat. It was followed by a relentless attack on Kohli by the rival players and Australian media. Aussie all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was caught mocking an injured Kohli by imitating the latter's gait. Kohli had injured his right shoulder on Day 1 of the Ranchi Test. It even threatened to spiral out of control with both cricket boards, BCCI and CA, coming out with strong words in defence of their respective captains.



**BCCI to felicitate Indian Cricket's Fab Five at IPL Opening**

**NEW DELHI, MAR 30**—/ The IPL Governing Council on Thursday decided to felicitate five legends - Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Virender Sehwag, during the opening ceremony of cash-rich league. "The decision was taken at the GC meeting today that five legends of Indian cricket - Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Virender Sehwag will be felicitated during the opening ceremony in Hyderabad on April 5," IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla told reporters after the completion of GC meet. Out of the five, four are former India captains. However it was not known why former captain and current national coach Anil Kumble, an equal contributor along with these five during Indian cricket's golden phase, has not been included in the felicitation list.

**No issues between Dhoni and myself : Smith**

**NEW DELHI, MAR 30**—/ Steve Smith on Thursday said there is no bad blood between him and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who was replaced by the Australian as skipper of the Pune Supergiant for the 10th edition of the Indian Premier League. "There are no issues between MS Dhoni and me. We have shared some messages. MS is very supportive and it doesn't change my professional relationship with him or anyone else," Smith said. The prolific batsman was in the capital along with India's Ajinkya Rahane and the season's biggest signing, Ben Stokes, to unveil the Pune Supergiant's jersey for IPL 2017 and formally welcome Stokes into the RPS family." The change in captaincy appeared to have been prompted by Pune's ordinary outing last year when they finished seventh in the points table after winning just five of their 14 matches. Also present on the occasion was Sanjiv Goenka, chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group. Looking ahead to the IPL, after a gruelling Test series, Smith said, "It will be great to have so many great legends from different countries. It's a big plus and not a hindrance."

**Attention : Central Excise & Service Tax Payers**

**COMMITTED TO TAXPAYER SERVICES**

**Your contribution nurtures the Nation's growth.**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 is the last date for payment of Central Excise Duty /Service Tax for the month /quarter ending March, 2017.**

The designated branches conducting government business of agency banks will remain open till 8 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

**e-payments can be made till midnight of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.**

Pay your Indirect Taxes correctly & on time.

A nation is made, when taxes are paid

Directorate General of Taxpayer Services  
**CENTRAL BOARD OF EXCISE & CUSTOMS**  
www.cbec.gov.in, www.aces.gov.in

Follow us on: @cbec\_india