



Virat Kohli will forever be the icon and hero of RCB: Mo Bobat

BENGALURU, MAR 02: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's director of cricket Mo Bobat expressed his awe at Virat Kohli's "ridiculous" record over 18 years, stating that providing a championship-winning side was the least he could do for the superstar who has given his youth and prime to the IPL team.

RCB will enter the upcoming IPL as defending champions, having won their maiden title last season after a long wait of 18 years.

Speaking about Kohli's stature within the franchise, Bobat said on RCB Podcast, "Virat Kohli, obviously, I think he'll forever be the icon and the hero of this team. I don't think that's going to go away, and he deserves that. His track record is incredible."

"I remember at one point last season seeing his stats when he got to however many runs it was close to 9,000 runs-18 years wearing just one shirt. That's 500 runs a season. It's actually ridiculous. For seven years or something like that, some players would be happy with a 500-run season. He averages 500 runs a season for 18 years. It's actually ridiculous. So, you can't ignore that."

Kohli has been the cornerstone of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru since 2008, establishing himself as the IPL's highest scorer with over 9,000 runs for a single team, including eight centuries.

His standout performance was in 2016, setting a record of 973 runs in a single season.

On building a champion team around Kohli, Bobat said, "The best thing Andy and I can do for him is give him a championship win-



ning team. And he's certainly at the stage of that career where he wants to keep winning things.

"So it didn't take much buy-in from someone like him. He wants good players around him because he wants to win. He's a winner."

RCB won the title under Rajat Patidar's captaincy, who took over the responsibility from Faf du Plessis before the start of IPL 2025.

Detailing the thought process behind the leadership call, Bobat said: "We spent a lot of time thinking about that captaincy decision. I don't mind saying in my career there aren't that many decisions that I've thought about as long and as deeply as that one. And (the) thinking started in the season before."

"We were very blessed to have someone like Faf (du Plessis) as our captain. Everybody knows what a champion person Faf is. He was still a player doing the business at that stage as well. We could have easily just rolled him over and continued with Faf, having

built a strong connection and relationship and trust with him.

"But sport is pretty ruthless. You've got to look at the reality of his age and stage. And again, I mentioned earlier, the big auction gave us a chance to do a bit of a reset."

"We felt like (having) an Indian captain was really important. It's an Indian competition, so having an Indian captain I think is really important." Speaking about the upcoming season, Bobat said RCB are chasing back-to-back titles.

"We're not defending champions. We're not defending anything. We might be current champions, but I don't want us to have a mindset of us defending anything."

"We're attacking. We're chasing something else. We're chasing back to back wins."

When the discussion turned to long-term leadership vision, Bobat hinted at Patidar continuing as captain in the near future, adding that both him and head coach Andy Flower

have taken the former RCB skipper Kohli into confidence.

"Andy and I met him (Kohli) in London not long after the 2024 season and talked about that. He's always ready to step forward and lead. He doesn't need a second invitation."

"But we spoke at that stage about how this decision is not just about us three as people. It's about RCB more broadly as a franchise. Its leadership maybe even beyond us. We might not be here and Rajat might be continuing as captain. So it's a moment in time where we have to take that responsibility quite seriously." "The easy thing would have been to say, 'Virat, do you mind filling in and doing captaincy?' But then you're just kicking a decision down the road. At some point we can't be dependent on Virat all the time."

"Virat's a bright guy. He got it really quickly. He said, 'Let's think about some of these other individuals. But if you need someone, then obviously I can do it.'"

'League of Classics' concludes at Doda

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

The District Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Doda successfully concluded the prestigious 'League of Classics' held amid vibrant participation of the youth from across the district.

The mega sporting championship witnessed thrilling competitions in Cricket, Volleyball and Football, showcasing exceptional talent, electrifying performances and exemplary sportsmanship by participating teams. The event turned into a grand celebration of youth engagement and sporting excellence, with players displaying remarkable teamwork, discipline and competitive spirit throughout the tournament.

The energetic atmosphere across all venues reflected the growing passion for organized sports among the youth of District Doda.

The championship was organized under the guidance of the Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta, Joint Director Jammu, Vinakshi Koul and



Deputy Director Activities, Megha Baogia.

The competitions were conducted under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Doda, Jaffar H. Sheikh, along with all concerned Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs), ensuring smooth coordination and maintenance of high standards throughout the event.

Heartiest congratulations were extended to all winners, runners-up and participants for contributing to the grand success of this prestigious sporting event.

Special appreciation was also conveyed to the dedicated organizing team of DYSS Doda for their commendable efforts in promoting sports, fitness and a healthy sporting culture among the youth.

The initiative provided an important platform for budding players to showcase their talent while encouraging discipline, teamwork and healthy lifestyles.

Enthusiastic participation at all venues highlighted the positive impact of such grassroots-level competitions in nurturing sportsmanship and strengthening youth engagement through sports.

76 Bn CRPF organises Volleyball Tournament

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

A Volleyball Tournament under Civic Action Programme-2026 was organized today by 76 Bn, CRPF at M.A. Stadium Jammu.

Five local teams participated in the tournament.

Volleyball Team - Panjal Club Sanjay Nagar Jammu secured the first position (WINNER) and team of Rathua Panchayat Jammu secured the second position (Runner-up). T-shirts and caps were also distributed among players.

Commandant-76 Bn



Vezoto Tinyi graced the occasion and motivated

the participants to stay healthy and have a posi-

tive attitude for the betterment of society.

Big wins for Chardi Kala, Hari Singh XI in SCPL



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

Chardi Kala Strikers and Hari Singh Nalwa XI made it one-sided contests in the league round of the ongoing 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League at University of Jammu grounds, here today.

In the first match of the morning session, Chardi Kala Strikers made it a one-sided contest beating Nanak Nagar Cricket Club

by 167 runs. Batting first, Chardi Kala set a huge target of 200 runs for nine wickets, which, in reply, Nanak Nagar Club could not achieve and bowled out for just 33 runs in 10.1 overs.

Raman Dutta was declared player of the match and also best bowler for taking five wickets in 3.1 overs while Gurdeep Singh named best batter for his 27-ball 56 runs studded with four six boundaries and three sixes. The first

match of the day was witnessed by chief guest, Member Parliament, Sat Sharma, who was accompanied by special guest, Legislator, Vikram Randhawa.

In other match of the day, Hari Singh Nalwa Club trounced BFN XI Nagar Club by 99 runs. Hari Singh, batting first, made 198 runs losing nine wickets, which, in reply, BFN could not chase and the whole side bowled out for 99 in 17 overs.

Rohan Koul was ad-

judged player of the match for his all round performance of 60 (off 30 ball, 4x6, 6x4) runs and three wickets. Anchal Singh named best bowler for three wickets while Jehanveer Singh declared best batter for his 43-ball 67 runs. In this match, SSP Traffic Jammu, Amit Bhasin was the chief guest, who interacted with the teams. Later player of the match title presented by Irshad Hussain Rather, SP Headquarters.

The event is being organised jointly by All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club with the slogan, "Strike out Drugs: Let's Play Cricket for a Brighter Future."

FIXTURES: Nalwa XI to take on Shaheed Sheetal Singh Cricket Club at 9 am and Shaheed Jasjit XI Tral to face Dashmesh Cricket Club at 1.30 pm tomorrow.

Badminton veteran Som Raj hails BAJK for seniors event



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

Veteran Badminton player and many times J&K champion, Som Raj Gupta today complimented the winners and appreciated the Badminton Association of J&K (BAJK) for holding exclusive event for the seniors.

Som Raj, who started playing Badminton at the age of 40 and then dominated the veteran events for years together while delivering equally good performances in other state and open championships along side youngsters, was the

chief guest. He later presented winners and runners-up trophies at the closing of two-day long Yonex-Sunrise J&K UT Masters (Veteran) Badminton Championship at J&K Police Badminton Hall, here.

Dr OD Sharma (chairman BAJK) presided while other prominent present were DV Sharma (president BAJK), Dushyant Sharma (treasurer BAJK), Balbir Jamwal, Basanti Bhat, Pawanjit Singh, Sukhdev Pawan Singh and Rahul Sharma (chief referee).

The Final Standings: MEN SINGLES: Above 35: Winner: Akshey Behl

and Runners up: Lokesh Sharma. Above 40: Winner: Rohan Slathia and Runners up: Uzair Ahmad (Srinagar). Above 45: Winner: Puran Chand and Runners up: Mohit Jain. Above 50: Winner: Vivek Mehta and Runners up: Sandeep Samyal (Samba). Above 55: Winner: Sanjeev Arora (Srinagar) and Runners up: Sukhdev Singh. Above 60: Winner: Daljit Singh and Runner ups: Romesh Sharma.

MEN DOUBLES: Above 35: Winner: Abhishek and Sourab.

Runners up: Mudasir and Lokesh. Above 40: Mohit Jain and Vipen Sharma.

Runners up: Uzair and Shakoor (Srinagar). Above 45: Winner: Vishal Dogra and Vikash Sharma. Runners up: Sunit and Rajesh (Reasi). Above 50: Winner: Vivek Mehta and Vikas Verma.

Runners up: Sandeep and Ajatshatru (Samba). Above 55: Winner: Sukhdev Singh and RK Dubey

Runners up: Nasir Hakim and Sanjeev Arora. Above 60: Winner: Romesh Sharma and Daljit Singh. Runners up: JP Sharma and Vivek Slathia.

WOMEN SINGLES: Above 40: Winner: Shivali Bhat and Runners up: Sunita.

T20 WC: Bumrah picks Dube's boundaries

KOLKATA, MARCH 2 (ANI): Indian seam bowler Jasprit Bumrah picked Shivam Dube's two boundaries in the 19th over as his favourite moment from the match after India successfully chased down a mammoth target of 196 runs in a must-win game against the West Indies at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Reacting to a question about his

favourite moment from the match, Bumrah said, "The two fours that Dube hit. Nobody will really appreciate that. But the people who really know cricket know that two fours really released the pressure from us. Because sometimes, 9-8 runs in the last over, it can get tricky sometimes," according to a video posted by ICC.

In the match, West Indies posted 195/4 after opting to bat, powered by contributions from Roston Chase (40), Hope (32), Shimron Hetmyer (27), and an unbeaten 76-run partnership between Jason Holder (37*) and Rovman Powell (34*). India's bowlers were led by Jasprit Bumrah, who returned figures of 2/36.