



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi can revive Test cricket if he succeeds in longer format: Srikanth

CHENNAI, JUNE 19: Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could trigger a "revival of Test cricket" if he fulfils his potential in the longest format, said former India captain Krishnamachari Srikanth, urging fans and experts to stop over-analysing the youngster's performances.

Riding on his IPL exploits, Sooryavanshi has earned his maiden call-up in the Indian T20 set-up. The teenager has been picked for the seven-match tour of Ireland and England, comprising two games against Ireland and five against England, beginning in Belfast on June 26.

Srikanth said the 15-year-old possesses a rare ability to attract audiences and should be allowed to develop naturally without being burdened by expectations.

"What I like about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is he has an appetite to score runs and an appetite to dominate. At the same time, he could stay there and play also," Srikanth told PTI at his residence here on Thursday.

"If he progresses beyond T20 cricket to one-day cricket, and then to Test cricket, and if he clicks in Test cricket, which he will, I am sure then you will see a revival of Test cricket."

"You need that kind of cricketer today. People switch on the TV just to watch Sooryavanshi. I switch on the TV to watch Sooryavanshi. That is the aura he has created around himself. And he is something amazing."

Srikanth cautioned against "too much assessment, scrutiny and advice" after the youngster's modest returns on the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka.

"Vaibhav, don't worry about what people talk about you, just play your natural game," the former selection committee chairman said.

"In one series, you don't judge a person. Come on. That happens. Poor boy. It doesn't matter. You just give him time. Don't be in a hurry. In the IPL,



he was just amazing. In his second year in the IPL, he won all the awards beating all the top cricketers in the world.

"I think he is amazing. He has amazing shot making capability, an amazing eye, and amazing reflexes. I think that boy is tremendous for India's future." He is the future of Indian cricket, let's mould him beautifully. Srikanth said Sooryavanshi should be nurtured carefully rather than burdened with expectations.

"That boy needs a lot of time. You give him lot of encouragement. He is a guy who can win matches single-handed. So, I believe that he should be given a very, very, very long rope," the former India opener said.

"And I don't think you should mess up with him. Let's mould him beautifully and if you give him ample chances and if you mould him well, he will be simply outstanding for Indian cricket." Srikanth also welcomed Sooryavanshi's exposure to the senior Indian set-up.

"For the England series, let him be in the reserves. Let him understand this is international cricket. I believe that he should remain with the team, even if he doesn't have a place in the XI because Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma are playing, they

are the certainties," he said. "I don't think you should look at lesser teams or bigger teams. End of the day, it's trial by fire. If he has to play against England, let him play against England. Against Ireland, let him play against Ireland. You don't need to push him hard. Let him get chances to play his natural game."

Asked if he saw similarities between Sooryavanshi and Sachin Tendulkar, who made his international debut under his captaincy, Srikanth ruled out any comparison. "Let's not compare Sachin and Sooryavanshi. Sachin is God of cricket and this boy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, I believe is the son of God. Let's put it that way. Just leave Sachin alone. Nobody can come near him."

Praising Sooryavanshi, Srikanth said: "He has been simply amazing in under-19 cricket. His shot-making is astonishing. The way he hits those shots, hitting all the top bowlers for a six on the first ball, and his ability, his wrist speed, his bat speed, his bat swing. "I think he has a very stable mind. If you see the last IPL matches, against Gujarat Titans, RCB were 9 for 2 and he stayed back and scored," he noted.

Kohli should have given him a royal send-off in Test cricket. Srikanth said Virat Kohli should have played the England series as he deserved a royal send-off from Test cricket.

"Virat Kohli is a different level. He has the passion, the aggression, and the commitment. He is simply amazing... he has been one of the best captains India has ever produced, especially in Test cricket. But his luck is just that he has not been lucky enough to win an ICC trophy."

"Kohli should have played the Test series against England last year... for a guy like Kohli who has done so much for Indian cricket, I think they should have given him a royal send-off in Test cricket. But unfortunately, it didn't happen."

"I think you should let him be. Let Virat decide what to do, like what Sachin did. See, Virat is that great. He is King of Kings Kohli..."

On Rohit Sharma, Srikanth said: "I still believe he is one of the best one-day cricketers the world has produced in modern day. One of the best ODI openers the world has produced."

"I think if he is scoring runs and if he is fit enough, why not? He should play the 2027 World Cup."

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DC XI lifts Kathua Admin Cup after defeating DIC XI by 25 runs

KATHUA, JUNE 19: DC XI (Deputy Commissioner Kathua XI) defeated DIC XI (District Industries Centre XI) by 25 runs in the final of the Kathua Admin Cup today.

Batting first, DC XI posted 170/6 in 20 overs. Rajinder Diga contributed 33 off 25 balls with five boundaries and a six, Dr Gotam Singh scored 28, DC Rajesh Sharma made 20 off 16 balls including a six and a four, and Sandeep Singh finished unbeaten on 31 off 16 balls with three fours and a six. DIC XI skipper Mush-taq Chowdhary took two wickets.

Chasing the target, DIC XI were anchored by Gagan-deep Singh's 47 off 47 balls but were restricted to 145/9. Rajesh Sharma took four wickets, while Dr Gotam Singh and Amir Khan took two each.

At the closing ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma said the tournament was played in the true spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork, and that its purpose was to channel the energies of youth positively through sports. He announced that the District Administration Kathua will organise a



cricket tournament for youth aged 18-35 years under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

Chief Planning Officer Kathua Ranjeet Thakur, Captain of DC XI, said the victory was a collective team effort and thanked the

Deputy Commissioner for encouraging officers and officials to participate.

DC XI and DIC XI were awarded winner and runners-up trophies; players received gold and silver medals respectively.

Amir Khan of DC XI was

declared Player of the Tournament for scoring 327 runs and taking eight wickets across the competition, and was also awarded Top Batter of the Tournament. DC Rajesh Sharma won Top Bowler of the Tournament with 12 wickets.

DC Kishtwar inaugurates mega inter-zonal tournament under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 19

The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) Kishtwar today organised the inaugural ceremony of the Inter-Zonal District-Level Tournament for AAG Boys under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and the Youth Engagement Programme.

The tournament is being conducted in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Wushu at the Historic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar, Government Higher Secondary School Boys Kishtwar and Government Higher Secondary School Girls Kishtwar.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who attended as Chief Guest, formally inaugurated the tournament. The activities are being conducted under the directions of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta, under the supervision of the DC and under the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The Deputy Commissioner administered the Nasha Mukta pledge to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to build-



ing a drug-free society through sports and discipline.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said the tournament has brought together students from six zones of the district, with 23 sports events to be organised over more than a month, with overall winners determined after the completion of all scheduled competitions. He

appreciated the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar for actively conducting activities under the Abhiyan to steer young people away from drug abuse. The DC urged youth to adopt sports as a way of life, noting that sports improve physical fitness while inculcating discipline, teamwork, leadership and self-confidence.

Welcoming the Chief Guest and participants, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Sheikh emphasised the department's efforts to promote a sports culture and channel the energy of youth towards constructive activities.

Hundreds of players from different zones participated in the opening-day competitions.

Yoga session organised at SDH Bheaderwah ahead of IDY 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 19

A yoga session was organised today at Sub-District Hospital Bheaderwah in collaboration with the AYUSH Department ahead of the International Day of Yoga 2026.

The session was led by Block Medical Officer Bheaderwah Dr Versha Sharma. Participants performed the Common Yoga Protocol, including Tadasana, Vrikshasana, Bhujangasana, Pranayama and Dhyana, under the guidance of Yoga Instructor Faizan-ul-Haq.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Versha Sharma said, "Yoga is a powerful tool for physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Regular practice helps



prevent lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and stress. We must adopt yoga in

our daily lives and motivate the community to do the same."

The programme was or-

ganised as part of preparations for the International Day of Yoga on June 21.

Macau Open 2026: Ashmita Chaliha registers comfortable win to reach semis



MACAU, JUNE 19: Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha continued her strong run in the Macau Open Badminton World Tour (BWF) World Tour Super 300 with a convincing win over Korea's Kim Min Sun to reach the women's singles semi-final here on Friday.

Ashmita defeated Kim 21-16, 21-18 in just 37 min-

utes to set up a last-four clash against another Korean Park Ga Eun, who received a walkover in the quarterfinals from second seed Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand, as per a press release from the Badminton Association of India (BAI). The opening game between Ashmita and Kim was a neck-and-neck affair till 14-14. The Indian

then clinched four straight points to open up a sizeable lead and then maintained the advantage. The second game saw Kim taking the initiative and led Ashmita 11-5 at the mid-game interval. But the left-handed Indian kept the pressure on her opponent and won five consecutive points from 16-18 to clinch the match.

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NEW DELHI, JUNE 19: Former white-ball stalwart Yuvraj Singh is all set to join Delhi Capitals as its batting coach for the 2027 season, IPL sources tracking the development said on Friday.

Yuvraj, India's player of the tournament in both 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup, has worked as a personal mentor for current India skipper Shubman Gill and world's No. 1 ranked T20 batter Abhishek Sharma in recent years.

Even Rishabh Pant had sought Yuvraj's advice when he underwent a slump in form. The assignment with Delhi Capitals will be Yuvraj's first coaching assignment in the cash-rich league.

Yuvraj played last of his 132 IPL matches in 2019 for Mumbai Indians before calling time on his competitive career.

"There will be complete overhaul of coaching staff in Delhi Capitals as JSW will be running the management for the 2027-28 sea-

sons as per agreement. The trio comprising Venugopal Rao, Hemang Badani and Munaf Patel, who were appointed by co-owners GMR, will make way for new support staff."

"Souv Ganguly will take over as Director of Cricket and Yuvraj will join as the batting coach," the IPL source told PTI. As per the agreement, co-owners GMR and JSW take turns in managing the affairs of the men's team for two years. DC could not qualify for

the play-offs in last two seasons and their planning, strategy and choice of players at the auction left a lot to be desired.

It is understood that Ganguly, who has had a big influence on Yuvraj as his first international captain, wanted the flamboyant southpaw on board.

While Ganguly as the Director of Cricket also looked after JSW's SA20 franchise Pretoria Capitals and also DC Women, Yuvraj will only have to look after the DC men's team.