

All eyes on Rohit Sharma in ODI series decider at Lord’s

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n London

All eyes of the cricketing world will be trained on Rohit Sharma when the India white-ball great takes the field for the series-deciding third ODI against England here on Sunday with speculation rife on his future.

Amid the intense speculation, the BCCI has asserted that the match will not be Rohit's last in international cricket but the former India captain surely has a point to prove having struggled in the first two games.

Vintage Rohit is all about effortlessly executing his front foot pull shots off the

pacers and manoeuvring the spinners but the 39-year-old has not been been able to find any fluency thus far in the series, fuelling conversations about lasting till the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

The two-paced pitch in Cardiff made life tougher for Rohit who consumed as many as nine consecutive dot balls before getting out. A true batting surface at the "Home of Cricket" may just allow Rohit to regain his rhythm for a statement knock in the series decider.

As captain of the side, Rohit had led from the front by playing the high risk role of an enforcer in the power-play. His fans would want to



see that same Rohit turn up on Sunday.

The express pace of Jofra Archer would pose the biggest challenge for the veteran opener in the first 10 overs.

Current captain Shubman Gill has looked the part in the batting department and would be itching to get a big hundred after his soft dismissal at Sophia Gardens.

In contrast to Rohit's struggles, another ageing superstar Virat Kohli continues to boss the ODI format. He was on course for another hundred on Thursday but fell to Archer, triggering a middle order collapse that cost India the game. The team would be

wiser from that experience going into the series decider.

Playing in place of an ill KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan succumbed to the short ball alongside a few other batters, showing that the visitors remain uncomfortable against rising deliveries.

Shreyas Iyer has played well in the middle order and the standout aspect of his batting has been his confident play against Adil Rashid and Co.

On the bowling front, the team may finally give Kuldeep Yadav an opportunity following a hamstring injury to Washington Sundar. The team manage-

ment wants batting till number eight but in the light of Washington's on field injury at Cardiff, it might be forced to change their plans. In the absence of Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel has excelled in the role of a spin all-rounder.

The Indian bowlers will have to find a way to stop Joe Root, who like Kohli keeps piling on the runs.

Barring Root, England batters have not done much to write home about and would be looking to change that on Sunday.

England played an extra seamer in place of Liam Dawson in the second ODI. He may come back to the side if conditions demand.

A tap on Gavaskar’s shoulder for luck: Doshi recalls Sobers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n New Delhi

Sir Garfield Sobers could dominate a cricket field like few others, but the West Indies legend also had a deeply superstitious side.

Commentator Sushil Doshi recalled how Sobers believed touching Sunil Gavaskar's shoulder before batting would bring him fortune

Doshi, who had the privilege of sharing the commentary box with the West Indies great, spoke to PTI a day after Sobers' death, recalling the man behind the cricketing genius. He was 89.

Among the many memories Doshi shared was an amusing anecdote from India's famous 1971 tour of the West Indies, the series in which a young Gavaskar amassed 774 runs.

"Despite all his greatness, there were some things that showed Sobers was only human. And I remember a story that India was playing against West Indies. It was 1971. West Indies was behind 0-1 in the series and it was the last test match.

"West Indies had to make 262 runs to win. And it was not a difficult task for Gary Sobers. Such a big player he was." Sobers, according to Doshi, was convinced Gavaskar was a lucky charm. He believed that a gentle tap on the Indian opener's shoulder before batting would somehow bring him a century and win West Indies the match. "Having said that, Sobers used to believe that if he touched



Gavaskar's shoulder, he would go on to score a century and win the game for his team. He thought Gavaskar was a very lucky man." However, Sobers was not able to locate Gavaskar and ended up getting out cheaply. Behind the unlocatable Gavaskar was India captain Ajit Wadekar, who locked the opener in the bathroom to prevent Sobers from his sight. "This (Sobers' superstition) was not hidden from the Indian captain Ajit Wadekar. Gary Sobers was coming from the middle of the field to the Indian dressing room," recalled Doshi.

"He immediately said, 'Where is Sunny? Where is Sunny?' So someone said, he is in the bathroom. He is taking a bath. So he immediately closed the bathroom door and locked it and kept the key in his pocket. That was Ajit Wadekar.

"So without touching Gavaskar's shoulder, Sobers left. And look at the game of fate. That day on the first ball Abid Ali bowled, Sobers got out on 0. This shows no matter how great a player you are, there are still some weaknesses," Doshi said.

Mandaviya unveils Peacko, marking 30-day countdown to BWF World Championships

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Sports is not simply about winning medals; it is about nurturing talent, building a vibrant sporting culture and strengthening the ecosystem that enables athletes to thrive. Echoing this vision, the countdown to the BWF World Championships 2026 officially commenced with the unveiling of the tournament's official mascot and official anthem on Saturday July 18 2026 at New Delhi.

The championship, scheduled to be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23, 2026, will bring together the world's finest shuttlers and mark the first time India will host badminton's premier event.

The launch was attended by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh



Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Badminton Association of India General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, and other dignitaries present during launch of official mascot and anthem for 30th BWF World Championships 2026 in Delhi, Saturday. PIONEER PHOTO

Mandaviya, Badminton Association of India (BAI) President and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BAI General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, DG, SAI, Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, Indian badminton legend Pullela Gopichand, senior officials and members of the badminton fraternity, officially sig-

nalling the final phase of preparations for the Championships.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of "Peacko," the official mascot of the championship. Inspired by India's national bird, the peafowl, Peacko blends elements of Indian heritage with the dynamism of the sport,

giving a distinctive visual identity to the tournament. The official anthem, featuring PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and India's entire 16-member World Championships contingent, captures the energy, ambition and unity of Indian badminton as it heads into its biggest stage.

Addressing the event, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted how India has emerged as a global sporting nation, and hosting the BWF World Championships 2026 in New Delhi reflects the country's growing stature in badminton, world-class sporting infrastructure, and commitment to creating greater opportunities for athletes.

The event marks one of the final milestones before New Delhi hosts the global badminton.

PV Sindhu enters Japan Open final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Tokyo

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu entered her first final in more than two years after Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yufei of China retired midway through their women's singles semifinal at the Japan Open here on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Indian was leading 21-19, 15-10 when world No. 4 Chen was forced to pull out with a hamstring injury.

It will be Sindhu's first final



since winning the Syed Modi International in Lucknow in 2024. She had also finished runner-up at the Malaysia Open Super 500 earlier that year. Her last major title came at the Singapore Open Super 500 in 2022. "I'm very

happy that I've gone to the final," Sindhu said after the match.

"For me every match mattered a lot from the first match, especially today's match. It was important from the beginning to be focused because when you play with the top-ranked players it's important that every point matters so winning that first game really mattered a lot." In Sunday's summit clash, Sindhu will take on Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

Yamaguchi enjoys a 14-10 head-to-head advantage over

Sindhu, having won 14 of their 24 meetings. While the two former world champions have shared one of women's badminton's most compelling rivalries, the Japanese star has dominated the recent contests, winning five of their last six clashes.

World No. 12 Sindhu had entered the contest trailing 6-8 in her head-to-head record against the fourth-seeded Chen, who had won each of their previous four meetings, including a straight-games victory at this year's Indonesia Masters.

Plunkett giving baseball a try with Oakland’s minor league team



JANIE MCCAULEY n Oakland

Liam Plunkett leaned over the dugout rail at Raimondi Park with his arms crossed, looking every bit like a professional baseball player as he waited for his first chance to hit as a member of the Oakland Ballers.

Formerly a fast bowler for England's cricket team, the 41-year-old Plunkett made his pitching debut in June. He faced one batter, striking out Yuba-Sutter's Josh Duarte on five pitches - one of the best hitters in the independent Pioneer League.

Plunkett topped out at 77 mph and spun a breaking ball clocked at 63. "At first I wanted to be respectful and put it down the middle so he could

hit it, not throw something wild," Plunkett said. "Then I realized I could throw in some skills. I expected to give up a hit."

His career ERA stands at 0.00 - at least for now. The appearance was part of a bigger effort by the 6-foot-4 cricketer to raise awareness for his own sport. Plunkett has been dabbling in America's pastime while visiting the Bay Area to broadcast Major League Cricket's latest stop in Oakland, which includes the championship match for the fourth-year league Saturday at the Coliseum. The former San Francisco Unicorns player signed with the Ballers through a marketing exception. He has made two appearances so far, and that

might be it. "When he said, Shall I do it?" I was like, Why not, what have you got to lose?" Major League Cricket CEO Johnny Grave said. "I think he surprised himself." Plunkett hopes his endeavor can help grow baseball and cricket. Cricket will return to the Olympics for the first time in 100 years at the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

It is not a marquee sport in the U.S., but Grave is trying to generate interest beginning at the youth level with events leading up to those Olympics.

Plunkett is nearing the end of his competitive cricket career but will continue to stay involved as an ambassador, in the Bay Area and beyond. He is hosting four youth clinics this summer in Canada.

Sobers was the most complete cricketer: Farokh Engineer

SUMAN RAY n New Delhi

Sir Garfield Sobers was "the greatest and most complete cricketer" the game has ever seen, capable of doing virtually everything on a cricket field better than almost anyone else, said former India wicketkeeper-batsman Farokh Engineer. Sobers, whose remarkable versatility made him a once-in-a-generation cricketer, died on Friday, leaving behind a legacy that has inspired generations of players across the world. "He was most complete living cricketer of all time until this sad day. The cricketing world will mourn a genius," Engineer said.

"He was a good friend and he'll be very, very sadly missed, not only by the cricketing world but by

everyone who knew him. I spoke to Wes Hall a little while ago. I spoke to Mrs Sobers and the mood is very sombre in Barbados. "He was a great human being, an ambassador for Barbados and the greatest, the most complete cricketer the world has produced or I have seen or played against."

A left-handed batter, who also could also bowl left-arm pace, wrist spin and orthodox spin, Sobers claimed 235 wickets in Test cricket. He played in a solitary ODI, taking one wicket. He was also a splendid fielder or Engineer, who kept wickets to Sobers in the World XI and shared countless moments with him, there was simply no comparison came to Barbadian's all-round abilities.

Chola
Enter a better life

Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032.,
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, JJ Tower, 59-Rajpur Road, Adjoining Ram Tirath Ashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun-248001
Contact No: MR. BHUPINDER SINGH BAGNAL, 8477000713, 8360772826

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** the same shall be referred herein after as **Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com>

Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co- Borrower, Mortgagors	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Descriptions of the Property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (in Rs.)	E-Auction Date & Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan Account No - HE01DDN00000026628 & HE01DDN00000028148 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Ravinder Singh Rawat S/o Gana Singh Rawat 2. Anita W/o Ravinder Singh Rawat 3. M/s A. R. Motors Services Through Its Proprietor (Ravinder Singh Rawat) R/o: Ratanpur, Nayagaon, Shimla Bye Pass Road, Dehradun 248007, Uttarakhand.	14/11/2025, Rs. 38,92,303/- As on 14/11/2025 With Further Interest And Charges Thereon.	All the property bearing khata no 2371 & khasra no 1519 area 285 sqr mtr at Majua East Hope Town Pargana Pachwadoon Tehsil Vikasnagar Distt Dehradun registered under Sub Registrar 1 Vikasnagar as bahi no 1 jild no 1608 pages 165 to 194 serial no 1343 dated 17.03.2011, Bounded as: East : Land of Gauna Singh, West: Land of other, North: Land of other, South: Shimla Road. (SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)	Rs. 1,85,00,000/- Rs. 18,50,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	21-08-2026 at 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. 20-08-2026, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. As Per Appointment

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>.
2. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **Mr. Muhammed Rahees - 8124000030 / 6374845616**, Email id: CholaAuctionLAP@chola.murugappa.com. For eAuction training alone, contact **M/s. Procure247; Vasu Patel- 9510974587**.
3. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.
Date : 19-07-2026, Place: Dehradun / Uttarakhand

Authorised Officer :
M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited