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India will start their campaign against the West Indies with the T20 series, a format in which they are probably at their strongest. Florida has become a regular venue for this format of the game and it's good to see how the game has taken to this part of the world.

India, after the World Cup, will start their campaign with the coaching staff on their last assignment, so, as much as cricket will be at the centre stage, the reappointment and future will be at the back of their minds. Nonetheless, India on paper is much stronger and T20 will probably be the only format where they will be challenged the most.

This will be an opportunity for the new faces like Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant and other youngsters who would want to cement their places in the squad. Every side needs to rebuild after a World Cup and very rightly so, young players are given opportunities. The time has come for India to pick the right people and back them.

There is some of world tournament every year and the prudent idea will not be to play cricket by just looking at the World Cup. It should be about winning every series, performing well and going forward.

There will be a Test series to follow and India should not take West Indies lightly. West Indies played extremely well against England a few months ago on helpful pitches and India will be put to test on similar conditions.

I am very excited to look at Rahul Chahar and how he takes steps to the next level as he looked very good in the IPL this year and has been rightly rewarded for his performance.

I insist, once again, that the time has come of not putting any particular tag on a particular player for any particular format. Rhythm is very important in sports and the more consistently they play, the better they will get. The way forward is to give opportunities to the younger players in all formats. Once you spot enough talent, play them over a period of time and then decide what format they are good at. Our tendency is to pre-empt this sometimes, and that is not the right thing to do.

Gameplan

SOURAV GANGULY

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The Indian domination over West Indies continues and it has for some period now. The performance in the World Cup and also in this home series just goes on to prove that whatever little hope West Indies had raised after the English tour of West Indies was just a one-off. That tour was eye-catching because of quality of Gayle's batsmanship and power hitting. But along with inconsistent form of Gayle in the World cup and in the current series it is not surprising that a strong Indian team has dominated so far and will continue doing so in the Test matches.

When you look at this West Indies there is huge amount of talk about the young talents they have and very rightly so. They have the likes of Lewis, Pooran, Hetmyer, Hope and you can't say that these boys can't play. Yes, they can but the difference between 'able to play' and 'putting up performance to create an impact' are two different things. The bridge between this two is enormous.

West Indies culture has always been different from rest of the world. They are carefree, music-lovers and believe in freedom in everything they do in life. But inspite of that the success in cricket was enormous in the past. When I look at these boys and their captain Holder you realise that they hugely lack game awareness and reacting to tough situations with solidity.

This is the difference between India and them. The value of every situation of a game and their reaction to it are far superior. Firstly, Virat Kohli. I stayed up till 3 am watching him get those hundreds and that sums up his world class stature, which is getting better every day. I have a strong feeling that he will leave everyone behind.

For me, some of the young boys have been brilliant and topping the list is Shreyas Iyer. I saw him closely playing for Delhi Capitals but what I saw in these two innings is lot better. The quality is hugely noticeable and hopefully as he will watch his champion captain more, he will start converting those good knocks into hundreds. He has shown glimpses of a No.4 but now it is up to him as to how long he will continue to bat at 4 because he must understand that it is a position which the greats of Indian cricket and World cricket have made their own with big performances over the time and that is what the Indian public will start expecting from him.

SOURAV GANGULY

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It's a new beginning for Virat Kohli and his boys. Not only is this a fresh start after the wins in T-20 and ODI series, they kick-start India's campaign in the ICC Test Championship, an effort by the authorities of the game to create that extra competitive punch in the best format of the game. Why is test cricket still considered to be the best format of the game? One needs to cast a glance at the ongoing Ashes series to clear all doubts.

West Indies are no longer the force they were once and it was once again on display in the World Cup and in the India series so far. It is a rebuilding phase currently in the Caribbean and they really have some serious talent on the plate. But I surely agree with Brian Lara, that it is not just about talent and hardwork but more so about the mindset to apply oneself for a purpose. Looking at the talent available for West Indies, one feels excited but it will be important how they approach the game against the Indians on their home turf. They surprised England but have a long way to go to prove that it wasn't a 'one off' situation.

For India, the most important aspect will team composition. After his impressive showing in test cricket in Australia and England, Rishabh Pant should be starting ahead of Wriddhiman. The absence of Hardik Pandya provides an opportunity to Ravinder Jadeja to fill in a slot where he can be a useful batter and the second spinner, which the management seem inclined towards. Ishant and Bumrah are certain and I would prefer Shami over Bhubaneswar, simply because of his superior ability in test cricket. As for the specialist spinner, it should be the experienced Ashwin first and that would bring back the old pair of Jadeja and Ashwin together.

But, for India the major decision is whether they want to play Rohit or Rahane. It was a similar situation in South Africa. Rohit was in blistering form in the recent World Cup but in tests in South Africa and Australia he was 'on-n-off'. Rahane played a major innings in the last test in South Africa but in Australia, he was not his own self. My suggestion would be to let Rohit carry on his good form from the World Cup and settle in the openers slot while Rahane continues his good work of lending stability to the middle-order.

SOURAV GANGULY

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India continue their dominance over West Indies and are all set for a total 'White Wash' of the series. This will indeed be an achievement as dominating over an opponent in all forms of the game surely needs certain amount of excellence.

After the One Day Internationals and the T-20 series, the test series have been no different so far. It was really heartening to see Indian seamers all fired up in an opponent's den which has had the reputation of producing world class quick.

JaspritBumrah has been the prime quick for India some time now but it was also nice to see Mohamed Shami and IshantSharma being the perfect foil. IshantSharma has indeed improved as a test bowler and his nagging line and length along with his variation with the old ball has made him much more effective.

One has to also talk about RavindraJadeja. He didn't lose belief in himself even though he hasn't been a regular in the side lately – be it in one day international or test cricket. He came out and played a terrific knock in the World Cup and now in this test also he delivered when India really needed it to establish dominance.

It was also nice to see Rahane get back amongst runs in a big way. He was his usual gritty and dependable self and I am sure that his first test performance will appease his mind that and prove that he is still very good to go long for India.

For West Indies, once again it was a matter of application. Talent is always best expressed through performance and that is the area where the current crop of West Indies players need to focus. Overall it was not the right call at the toss as they needed to bat first and put runs on the board to test ViratKohliand his boys. The fast bowling force except for Roach and Gabriel did not bother the Indians much and I don't think that is going to change much in the second test also.

SOURAV GANGULY

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India completed a convincing victory over West Indies with a two zero win in the test series. With the ODI and T20 series win also under their belt, it can be rightly termed as an annihilation on the Caribbean tour. West Indies failed to put up any fight against the mighty Indians and that leaves their management with a lot of soul searching to be done.

The talent may be there but the application is a long way off, as has been clearly evident in every form of the contest. How they manage to resurrect from here on will define the future of West Indies cricket.

After the World Cup, India embarked on the tour of West Indies with few areas to be figured out and also the role of few cricketers. The opening still remains an area to work on. Mayank Agarwal looks good and will need a few more opportunities to thrash out his game. But his partner is the area to be looked into. K L Rahul has deceived to flatter and has not come off and that leaves with an opening at the top.

I had suggested earlier about trying Rohit Sharma as an opener in test cricket and still believe that he needs to be given an opportunity because he is too good a player to be left out in the cold. After a fantastic World Cup, I believe he will be itching to grab the opportunity to open in test cricket. With Rahane and HanumaVihari nicely settled in there is not much chance to tamper with the middle-order.

The revelation has been India's fast bowling department and especially JaspritBumrah. The rapid strides he has made and the way he is improving, he is sure to dominate world cricket for some time. Not only his speed, his variation and control of line-n-length is worth noticing. He is a threat in all forms of the game and so needs to be carefully handled so that injury remains away from him. Ishant and Shami have been a good foil for him and with Bhuvaneshwar, Umesh, Navdeep Saini waiting in the wings, the Indian pace bowling department currently has the riches to manage everyone's workload without affecting the balance of the team. With the current crop of fast bowlers available India can think of playing on pitches with bounce and pace at home also.

The spin department has Ashwin, Kuldeep and Jadeja waiting to play their role in test cricket and Virat will be definitely hard pressed to make the right choice for the right moment.