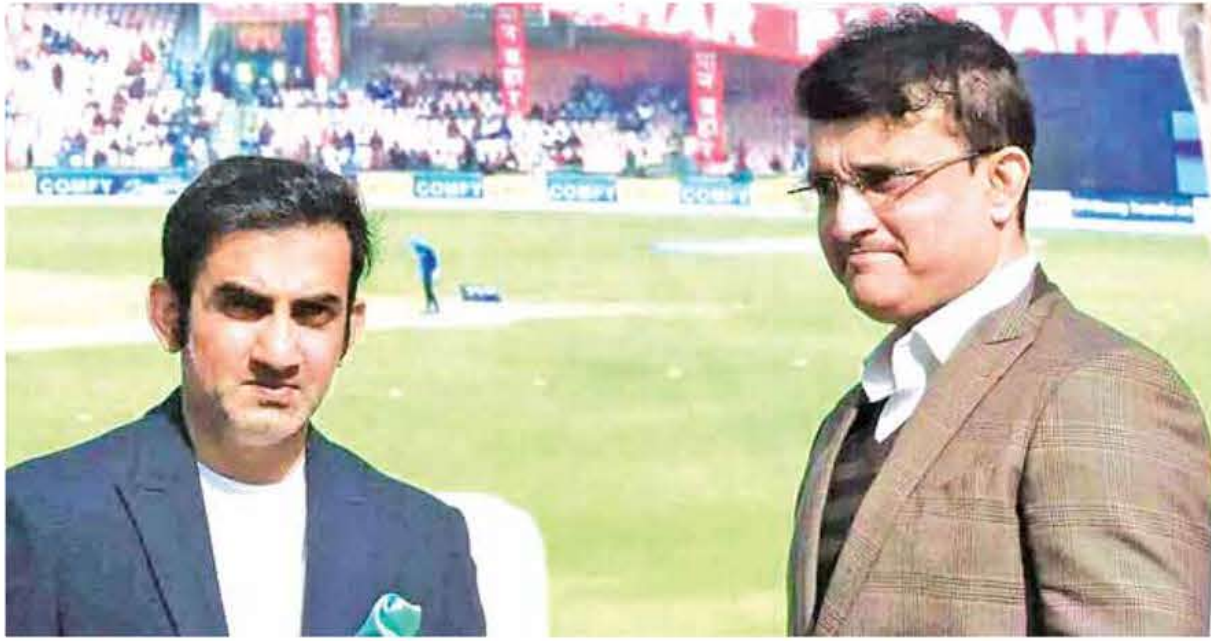


IF HE HAS APPLIED, GAMBHIR WOULD BE GOOD COACH FOR INDIA: GANGULY

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said Gautam Gambhir would be a "good coach" for the national cricket team if he has applied for the job as his "hunger and passion" was evident in the recently-concluded IPL.

perceived front-runner Gambhir would be suitable for the position, Ganguly had a query of his own at first. "Has he applied? I really don't know because first he has to apply and then only he will get the job...I think (May) 27th was the last date of application," Ganguly said.



campaign in the Americas. A few days ago, BCCI secretary Jay Shah also hinted that an Indian coach would be preferred.

cricket structure and have risen through the ranks," Shah had said. INDIA STRONG CONTENDERS FOR T20WC: Ganguly also said India's chances are "very good" in the T20 World Cup but the

team should play with "freedom". The event, to be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies, gets underway on Saturday. "...Play without fear and just keep hitting. There is enormous talent, (this is a

team which has (Virat) Kohli, Rohit (Sharma), Surya (Suryakumar Yadav), (Rishabh) Pant, (Shivam) Dube, (Hardik) Pandya, (Ravindra) Jadeja, Axar (Patel), (Jasprit) Bumrah, Sanju (Samson)," he said when

asked about India's chances. "That's why I say everyone is capable of winning it for India and the only way they will do it is (if they) just play with freedom. "Play with that extra batsman and hit from the first ball, hit till you have to defend (and) play like the last ball," he added. Ganguly backed the pair of Rohit and Kohli to open for India. "It is Virat and Rohit, both should open. Virat has been in tremendous touch in the IPL, he is a great player," he said. The former opener said the drop-in pitches brought from Adelaide in the USA leg of the World Cup should be batting-friendly. "I am very keen to see how the conditions are in the US. (The Nassau County Cricket Stadium is a) new ground, new stadium. I know there have been drop in pitches from Adelaide. "The ICC has spent a lot of money to bring in the drop-in pitches to America," he said. "(The) drop-in pitches are normally very good, very

batting friendly. And they don't change much over a period of time because they are different from natural pitches. So we are expecting the pitches to be very good," he added. Ganguly said India are superior to Pakistan but the arch-rivals will pose a tough challenge in the T20 format when the two sides clash on June 9. "Our record against Pakistan has been very, very good over a long period of time. In the T20 format, probably Pakistan is more dangerous compared to 50-overs (format). We beat them in Ahmedabad when they came to India and we beat them easily. "India is superior and if they play well, if they play freely and I keep saying the word 'freely' all the time because (in) the last World Cup in Australia, I don't think we played freely," he said. "Just put all the cobwebs behind. Don't worry about winning or losing. Don't think about winning the World Cup. Just go and play every game," he added.



I don't try to over-teach: Bumrah on mentoring India's young pacers

PTI ■ NEW YORK Considered a mentor for the new crop of Indian fast bowlers, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah says he never tries to "over-teach" the younger lot and instead tries to help only when asked, to avoid burdening them with information. The 30-year-old Bumrah would be a key player for India in the T20 World Cup, starting here on Saturday and he would also be expected to be a guiding force for India's pace battery, featuring the relatively younger and less experienced Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh. "You don't try to over-teach. That is something that I have learned," Bumrah told the ICC's official website for the T20 World Cup. "Because whenever people need help, I let them have their own questions... Because you don't want to give too much information," he said. Bumrah said it is important for youngsters to know their path without being burdened with an overkill of information. "It's not like they have just been lucky and they land here. So that is what I try to do. I do pass on certain information that I have gained over from my experience," he said. "But I don't try to burden them with (over) information. Because that is a part of the journey as well. That you have to find your own ways and solutions," he added. Bumrah has battled a nagging back injury for the past couple of years and it even kept him out of the 2022 T20 World Cup but he has managed to fight through and enjoyed a brilliant run in the 2023 ODI showpiece. He snared 20 wickets at an average of 18.65 with an economy of just about four in

that event. The reticent bowler said his focus since coming back has been to simply enjoy his game. "Because (certain) things will go my way. (Certain) things will not go my way," he said. "All of these things will be a part of my process. So I have just realised that I started playing this sport. Because I love this sport. And I will focus on that rather than the end result. "So in that aspect you reduce your pressure. And you enjoy the sport. When you focus on those things. Rather than the things you cannot control," he added. Bumrah has 74 T20 International wickets, which puts him third in India's all-time list. He is widely perceived to be the best among the current lot of international pacers when it comes to consistently bowling yorkers. Australian great Brett Lee has even gone to the extent of saying that Bumrah is the only pacer in the world who is executing the yorker correctly right now. Bumrah said his consistent yorkers are a result of years of practice. "So I played a lot of tennis-ball, rubber-ball cricket when I was growing up. I used to play a lot with my friends in summer camps," he said. "...I used to think that this is the only way to get wickets. Because I was a fan of fast bowling. I was really fascinated by what I saw on the television. So I tried to replicate that. Is it (tennis-ball cricket) a secret (to bowling yorkers) or not? I don't know," Bumrah wondered. "But repetition surely is. Because I have kept this delivery. I still practice it. I keep on practicing it. Because every skill that you develop,

you have to practice it and make it stronger. So I think a combination of both would be the answer." India are in Group A of the T20 World Cup, along with Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, and the USA. They will begin their campaign against Ireland on June 5.

some familiar names in former Mumbai and Rajasthan Royals left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh and ex-Delhi and Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter Milind Kumar. They also have Saurabh Netravalkar, the most capped USA player, Aaron Jones, and opener Steven Taylor, their highest run-scorer in international cricket. Tearaway quick Ali Khan is also fit for the tournament,

USA open against Canada



USA FAVOURITES VS CANADA: A team full of expatriates, tournament co-hosts USA, coached by former Australian batter Stuart Law, will promise some surprises when it kicks off the T20 World Cup taking on qualifiers Canada in a battle of debutants. The USA have proved that they will be no pushovers, having beaten the full-member side Bangladesh 2-1 in the build up to the tournament. They will also have the edge having beaten Canada 4-0 recently. The side will be boosted by former New Zealand player and 2015 World Cup finalist Corey Anderson. The hosts will be led by wicket-keeper batter Monank Patel. Born in Anand, Monank played for his home state at age-group level before making the US his home in 2016. He was the top-scorer in the World T20 Americas qualifier 2018 with 208 runs from six innings and made his T20I debut against UAE in 2019. The team will also feature

shaking off a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Canada series. Batting all-rounder Nitish Kumar, who played 18 T20Is for Canada from 2012 to 2019, has now switched sides and will be seen in the USA jersey. He made his T20I debut for the USA against Canada in April this year. Left-arm orthodox spinner Saad Bin Zafar brings a wealth of experience to the Canada team, with top-order batter Aaron Johnson and left-arm

seamer Kaleem Sana also expected to feature heavily in a side with just four players under the age of 30. TEAMS (FROM) USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones (vc), Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshush Kenjige, Saurabh Nethralvkar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor and Shayan Jahangir. Canada: Saad Bin Zafar (c), Aaron Johnson, Ravinderpal Singh, Navneet Dhalwal, Kaleem Sana, Dilon Heylgiger, Jeremy Gordon, Nikhil Dutta, Pargat Singh, Nicholas Kirton, Rayyankhan Pathan, Junaid Siddiqui, Dilpreet Bajwa, Shreyas Movva and Rishiv Joshi. Match starts: 6 am IST.

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