

Two-time World Cup winner Lisa Keightley appointed Head Coach of Mumbai Indians Women

MUMBAI, SEP 25: Mumbai Indians today announced the appointment of former Australia cricketer and two-time World Cup winner Lisa Keightley as the Head Coach of its women's team. Keightley, part of Australia's World Cup-winning squads in 1997 and 2005, is one of the most respected coaches in the women's game. With a stellar playing career and a coaching résumé spanning Australia, England, and top global leagues, she brings unmatched experience and vision to the Mumbai Indians setup. Mumbai Indians Women are already the most successful team in the history of the WPL, winning two championships in just three seasons — the



inaugural edition in 2023 and again in 2025. Mrs. Nita M. Ambani said, "We are thrilled to welcome Lisa Keightley to the Mumbai Indians family. A trailblazer in women's

cricket, Lisa has inspired generations with her passion, expertise and pioneering spirit. Her arrival marks an exciting new chapter for Mumbai Indians as we look to scale even greater heights

and build on our legacy of excellence." Ms. Lisa Keightley said, "It's an honour to join the Mumbai Indians, a team that has set the benchmark in the WPL. The culture of

excellence and care is something I deeply admire. I look forward to working with this talented group to build on our success and continue inspiring on and off the field." Keightley holds the unique distinction of having coached both the Australian and England women's teams, and was the first woman to serve as full-time head coach of England. She also has rich franchise coaching experience across the WBBL, The Hundred, and the WPL, most recently guiding the Northern Superchargers to the women's title in The Hundred last month. A stylish opening batter in her playing days, Keightley represented Australia in 9 Tests, 82 ODIs, and 1 T20I.

Dinesh Karthik reveals Kuldeep Yadav's practice at beaches on sand to improve: 'He had to work to get that much harder...getting speed through his run up'

MUMBAI, SEP 25: Kuldeep Yadav, before his reinvention of becoming his current version, was quite reliant on his ability to toss up the ball in the air and beat the batters through his flight and the different angles he could create through his left-arm wrist spin, but after a certain point, batters started to pick him and he became predictable, and he altered something in his bowling. This was achieved by adding a few yards of pace to his bowling, and hence the current version. Behind Kuldeep 2.0, apart from just sheer hard work, there was also a lot of smart work that was done. "I was speaking to Abhishek Nayar



who was the Assistant coach of India and he was telling me how Kuldeep had to go back...he practised a lot in the beach and he had to work to get that much harder to the

crease and quite a bit he worked in the sands of any beach that was nearby getting speed through his run up and he could follow through with the ground," said.

Big Bash League: Ravichandran Ashwin joins Sydney Thunder to make history as 1st male Indian cricketer in BBL



MUMBAI, SEP 25: Ravichandran Ashwin will become the first male Indian cricketer to play in the Big Bash League after the Sydney Thunder announced that they had snapped up the spinner.

The franchise called Ashwin its "biggest overseas signing since the League's inception" in a statement. The Thunders had missed out on the title last season after losing in the final to Hobart Hurricanes.

"Thunder were crystal clear about how they'd use me and brave enough to back it," Ashwin said in a statement. "My conversations with the leadership were excellent, and we're fully aligned on my role. I love how Dave Warner plays the game, and it's always better when your leader shares your mindset. I can't wait to perform for the Thunder Nation." "From the first time we spoke, Ashwin impressed everyone at the Thunder with his passion, desire to win and understanding of what makes our club special," said Trent Copeland, Sydney Thunder General Manager. "I am so proud that Ashwin has chosen Sydney Thunder. He will bring an injection of fresh energy and world-class bowling mid-tournament, while his presence as a leader and mentor will be invaluable for our young players.

Karun Nair, the one-hit wonder who offers multiple lessons to Devdutt Padikkal, Sai Sudharshan and Sarfaraz Khan



NEW DELHI, SEP 25: There was little sympathy in Ajit Agarkar's tone when he explained Karun Nair's snub from the squad against West Indies. He put it bluntly: "We expected more from him (in England). He played four Tests, and there was just one fifty." His words smack of pragmatism. This is the hard reality of Indian cricket. Every

innings is a final trial. Karun might be forever condemned to the wilderness. That one fifty was the 57 at the Oval. The knock was valuable in arresting a collapse, but in the broader scheme his returns were meagre when most of India's batsmen piled a mountain of runs on flatter than usual decks in England. Other scores read: 0, 20, 31, 26, 40,

14, 57, 17. Barring his first outing in Headingley, he got a start in every innings of his in England. Almost every time, he looked composed, essayed sumptuous drives off either feet, judged the lengths impressively and left the balls outside the off-stump without fuss. But one loose stroke, or a rare error in judgement would bring his downfall. And in the cut-throat competitive circuit of Indian cricket, unless a cricketer seizes the day, his days would be numbered. Agarkar hinted at this: "We would like to give 15-20 chances to everyone, but unfortunately it does not work that way." The implication was the competition, especially amongst batsmen, is stiff. Devdutt Padikkal, his former Karnataka teammate, displaced him in the squad, but it could have been Sarfaraz Khan had his quadriceps injury healed, or Shreyas Iyer if his back could endure the toils of five-day cricket.

Mohammad Kaif points out stark difference between how Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav use Jasprit Bumrah in T20Is: 'This could hurt India'

NEW DELHI, SEP 25: Former India player Mohammad Kaif on Thursday pointed out the stark differences between Jasprit Bumrah playing under former India T20I skipper Rohit Sharma and under current captain Suryakumar Yadav in the ongoing Asia Cup. Kaif said that during Rohit's time, Bumrah would spread out his overs in the innings but now, he bowls 3 overs in the start, leaving just 1 over of the remaining 14 which Kaif says is likely to hurt India in the upcoming T20 World Cup. "Bumrah under Rohit would generally bowl overs 1, 13, 17, 19. Under Surya, in Asia cup, he bowled a three-overs spell at the start. To avoid injury, Bumrah these days, prefers to bowl while his body is warmed up. 1 over of Bumrah in the remaining 14 overs is a huge relief for batters, against stronger teams at World Cup, this could hurt india," Kaif posted on X.



Bumrah hasn't had the best of time in this Asia Cup with the bowler especially struggling against Pakistan in the Super 4 match where he gave away 45 runs without taking a wicket at an economy rate of 11.20. He has taken 5 wickets in the tournament and is currently 12th in the leading wicket-takers' list with teammate Kuldeep Yadav ruling the roost with 12 scalps.

Bumrah was selected for India's 2-match Test series at home against the West Indies, scheduled to take place from October 2. There were doubts lingering about his workload management, however, with Bumrah coming into the series straight after playing in the Asia Cup final but ultimately the selectors decided to go with him.

BCCI lodges complaint with ICC about Pakistan players Sahibzada Farhan and fast bowler Haris Rauf; PCB complains about Suryakumar Yadav

MUMBAI, SEP 25: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Pakistan Cricket Board have filed complaints with the International Cricket Council, a face-off that will add to the simmering tensions between the two arch-rival teams at the on-going Asia Cup. The BCCI has complained about the on-field gestures of opener Sahibzada Farhan and fast bowler Haris Rauf. Farhan performed a 'gun celebration' with his bat after reaching his fifty in the Super Fours match against India on Sunday, while Rauf was seen in a video gesturing to fans while fielding on the boundary line. Rauf was also involved in a verbal exchange that involved India openers Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma. "The BCCI has filed a complaint with the ICC related to Farhan's and Rauf's on-field gestures and behaviour," a source told.



The PCB has complained about India captain Suryakumar Yadav's post-match comments after the team's seven-wicket win over Pakistan on September 14. Suryakumar had dedicated the win to the 'bravery of the armed forces' and also said that the team 'stood with the families of victims of the Pahalgam attack'. The matches at the Asia Cup are the first between India and Pakistan since the Pahalgam terror

attack in April. India launched Operation Sindoor against terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan in May, following which both countries launched retaliatory strikes at each other for three days before suspension of hostilities. Both captains, Suryakumar and Salman Agha have not shook hands before the toss during both the India versus Pakistan matches.

Lionel Messi scores two goals, Inter Miami clinches playoff spot with 4-0 win over New York City FC

NEW YORK, SEP 25: Lionel Messi had two goals and an assist to reach 37 goal contributions this season and Inter Miami clinched a playoff spot with a 4-0 victory over New York City FC on Wednesday night. Miam (16-6-7), which won its third straight game, extended its league-leading goal total to 64 this season. Five of Miami's last six MLS matches have featured at least three goals, most recently a 3-2 victory over D.C. United. After his first-half assist, Messi became the first player in MLS history to record at least 35 goal contributions in consecutive seasons. After two second-half goals, Messi became the fourth player in MLS history to record eight multi-goal games in a single season. Messi made it 2-0 in the 74th minute when he chipped it over Matt Freese, who had come out of his area on a breakaway. Luis Suárez, coming off a suspension, converted a penalty kick in the 83rd and Messi added another goal three minutes later. Óscar Ustari recorded his sixth clean sheet of the season. New York City (16-10-5) had its three-game winning streak come to an end. New York City had two good scoring chances in the first half. Thiago Martins was left alone at the far post on a corner kick but his header went right at Ustari. Nicolás Fernández cut back his defender in the box and got Ustari to dive the wrong way, but his shot went just wide off the post.

'It might have long-term ramifications': Aakash Chopra weighs in on Shreyas Iyer's decision to take 6-month break from red-ball cricket

MUMBAI, SEP 25: Former India opening batter Aakash Chopra has said that Shreyas Iyer's decision to take a long-term break from red-ball cricket could have bigger ramifications and longer repercussions in the future. The 49-year-old felt that the Punjab Kings (PBKS) skipper could be demoted to a lower category on the contract list if he wasn't available for all three formats, which may not be a good look for a player of his calibre. The squads for India A's white-ball series against Australia A and the Rest of India squad for the Irani Cup match also had a statement that said that Iyer had asked the board for a six-month break from red-ball cricket. The right-handed batter had started to experience recurring back spasms and stiffness while playing the longer format, forcing him to make that call. "It is actually (whether Shreyas Iyer taking a break from red-ball cricket is a significant development), especially for Shreyas Iyer, because there was a lot of



noise about Shreyas Iyer's non-inclusion in the Asia Cup. Everybody felt that he deserved a chance, and he was not a part of this, but he was made captain of India's multi-day games against Australia A and with an eye on two back-to-back home Test series, he's already a regular in the ODI format, he's still not there in the T20 format but there is one format where he scored a century on his debut. He also gave

an audition. He went and played Ranji Trophy, making himself available for red-ball cricket." "Karun Nair going out of favour, I actually thought that Shreyas Iyer might find a place in the 15 for the West Indies series. But now with his decision, it might just have slightly longer repercussions and might not just be limited to these two matches or the two series. It might have long-

term ramifications", Chopra told. "Karun Nair is someone who is now unfortunate to miss out because he had a tough tour of England, but seems to be slightly out of favour, but Shreyas Iyer now falls in that list right at the bottom, or maybe not in the list anymore. Even the central contract, that will have a slightly different look to it as well. If he was a multi-format player, you go up the ladder, if you are not, then your category actually goes slightly B category kind of place, which doesn't suit Shreyas Iyer the player. He's too good a player," he added. Iyer played the first multi-day format match for India A against Australia A at Lucknow before pulling out of the second fixture, which started. Former India pacer Varun Aaron said that he was surprised by the timing of Shreyas Iyer's decision to take a break from red-ball cricket. However, he admitted that one had to support the player if he was facing issues with his body and believe what he said.

ICC Women's World Cup, England team quick guide: Nat Sciver-Brunt's thoughts on team, fixtures list, recent form and more

NEW DELHI, SEP 25: As the winners and finalists of the last two editions, it's hard not to count Nat Sciver-Brunt's England as one of the contenders for the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 in India and Sri Lanka. They have the history, they have the star quality, and they have one of the best domestic setups in place. But recent form hasn't been encouraging. In the last 12 months, England have won six and lost six of the 12 ODIs they have played. They have lost a three-match series against Australia (as part of the multi-format Ashes series) and more recently, were largely second best at home against Harmanpreet Kaur's India, losing the home series 1-2. In April 2025, the ECB appointed Nat Sciver-Brunt as the new captain, as they ushered in a new era with coach Charlotte Edwards. Former captain Heather Knight is still a part of the squad though, and her return for the World Cup lends solidity to the batting unit.



"I've had a taste of the job with the West Indies and India series this summer, and it was really enjoyable to work alongside Lottie and to begin to shape how we want our team to play. There are a number of important things for us as we set about building our team for this competition and for next summer's ICC Women's T20 World Cup on home soil but ultimately it comes back to winning. That's

our job, that's our focus," Sciver-Brunt wrote in her column for ICC. "We made the final last time out in New Zealand, in a tournament that was still affected by COVID-19, and obviously last year we lifted the trophy, so our recent record gives us something to be excited about," the all-rounder added. "I believe we've got a good mix of players who've been there and done it before and

players for whom this is all very new and exciting. There's a huge amount of talent in this group and we've got a coach who knows exactly what it takes to win a World Cup. The job now is to put that all together on the pitch, to win the big moments and to step up when the pressure's on to take us as far as we can possibly go." World No 1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone is bound to have an impact on the World Cup with her metronomic and world-class left-arm spin, especially in subcontinental conditions. But it's hard to look beyond captain Nat Sciver-Brunt, one of the foremost all-rounders in the game. Her sensational 148 off 121 balls in the last World Cup final kept England's hope of a miracle win alive. While Sciver-Brunt hasn't bowled recently, she is expected to return with the ball in hand during the tournament. But it is her form with bat that would be critical for England's chances, armed with her experience of piling on the runs for Mumbai Indians in the WPL.