

2nd Test

Rohit Sharma to bat in middle order

ADELAIDE: India captain Rohit Sharma has confirmed that KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal will retain their opening roles for the pink-ball Test against Australia in Adelaide, starting today.

Rohit himself will take a position in the middle order, a strategic move to sustain India's momentum in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Rohit stated on Thursday, "He'll be not opening the batting; I'll bat somewhere in the middle."

This decision comes on the back of the pair's remarkable partnership in the

second innings of the Perth Test, where they put together 201 runs to set up India's victory.

KL Rahul, filling in for Rohit during his absence for the birth of his second child, showcased excellent form in Perth, scoring 26 and 77 against a challenging Australian bowling lineup.

Rahul faced 176 balls in the second innings alone, withstanding Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, and Nathan Lyon. Rohit praised Rahul's adaptability, saying, "Rahul stepped up brilliantly under pressure. His innings gave us the stabil-

ity we needed."

Jaiswal, though dismissed for a duck in the first innings, made a stunning comeback with a composed 161 in the second. Commenting on Jaiswal's performance, Rohit said, "Jaiswal's innings showed maturity beyond his years. His partnership with Rahul was the turning point."

The decision to alter Rohit's batting position stems from his recent form, with 133 runs in his last ten Test innings, and the need to capitalise on the effective Jaiswal-Rahul pairing.

With Shubman Gill recovering from an injury, the likely batting order

for India includes Jaiswal, Rahul, Gill, Virat Kohli, Rohit, and Rishabh Pant, followed by the allrounders and bowlers.

As India prepares for the day-night Test, Rohit emphasised the importance of adapting to conditions. "The pink ball adds another dimension to the game. We're focused on executing our plans and continuing the momentum from Perth," he said. India currently leads the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 1-0 and aims to consolidate their position in the ICC World Test Championship standings with another strong performance in Adelaide.

ICC reveals Player of Month contenders for Nov

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday named the outstanding cricketers that have been shortlisted for the ICC Player of the Month awards for November.

The nominees for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award feature three high-profile wicket-takers from across all formats of the game.

Jasprit Bumrah is nominated

thanks to a supreme bowling display in India's convincing opening Test victory over Australia in Perth, during which he regained top spot in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings.

Joining him on the shortlist is South Africa's Marco Jansen, who produced fireworks in the T20I series over India before dazzling with the ball in the Proteas' Test win against

Sri Lanka.

Completing the lineup is Haris Rauf of Pakistan, who inspired the visitors' first ODI series win in Australia since 2002.

The Women's Player of the Month contenders for November include two top-order run machines from Bangladesh and England, plus an all-round force from South Africa.

Shah visits Dubai headquarters

DUBAI: Newly elected ICC Chairman Jay Shah on Thursday visited the ICC Headquarters here for the first time in his role, where he met with the ICC Board Directors and staff.

"This visit provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with my colleagues on the ICC Board where we discussed the initial roadmap and strategies to shape the future of this incredible sport," Shah said, after his visit.


"I was equally delighted to meet with the dedicated ICC team working tirelessly behind the scenes

to propel cricket forward," he said.

Shah described his visit as "productive and inspiring", and acknowledged the long road ahead. "While I am encouraged by what I have seen, I recognize that this is just the beginning. The hard work to elevate cricket to unprecedented heights starts now, and I am confident that together, we will deliver on this vision."

ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khwaja also commended Shah for his ambitious vision for the sport, an ICC report said.


"On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome Jay Shah to the role and share our enthusiasm for his tenure," Khawaja said.




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