



Having scored a heart-breaking century in a losing cause against New Zealand in their last match, Carlos Brathwaite (C) seemingly had his spirits lifted after mingling with Universe Boss Chris Gayle in training yesterday. That duo will hope to wreak havoc against India today, but opposing skipper Virat Kohli will be aiming to keep his side unbeaten.

PHOTO: AFP

Disconsolate West Indies face India

ICC

India will aim to continue their winning streak and inch a step closer to a spot in the semifinals as they face West Indies in their sixth match of the World Cup.

West Indies come into this match after a heartbreaking five-run loss to New Zealand – a game that seemed all but over before Carlos Brathwaite almost produced an unimaginable result.

Such has been the story of the Jason Holder-led side in this tournament so far, as the little flashes of brilliance at different points haven't been enough to produce the desired results.

With mathematical permutations still giving them an outside chance for a semifinal berth, West Indies will aim to pull off a complete performance against an in-form Indian side.

The Indian bowlers once again proved their match-winning capabilities as they successfully defended a below-par score against Afghanistan on Saturday. Mohammed Shami, who picked up a hat-trick in

Southampton, is likely to retain his place in the playing XI as India are unlikely to risk playing Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who was sidelined due to a hamstring injury.

The Indian middle-order will look to add more stability to the batting and bat deep into the innings to give bowlers enough runs in the bank.



India captain Virat Kohli has scored fifties in each of his last three innings to give enough evidence of his batting form. Kohli, who already has 41 one-day international hundreds to his name and averages 70.77 against West Indies, will eye for another three digit score to guide his team to a position of strength.

Sheldon Cottrell, the tall left-arm pacer from Jamaica, has been a strike bowler for West Indies in this tournament, producing performances worthy of a 'salute.' Cottrell, who dismissed both the New Zealand openers in the first over and finished with figures of 4/56 against New Zealand, could be a key weapon for West Indies.

It will be a dry and mostly sunny day with warmth and humidity. Dryness might bring the spinners into play as the day progresses. Teams batting first have won each of the three matches played at Old Trafford in this tournament so far.

Andre Russell, who appeared to be in discomfort each time he stepped onto the field, has been ruled out of the tournament due to a knee injury.

India bowling coach Bharat Arun believes his side can tame the big hitters.

"They're an outstanding side and they play real positive cricket. We are aware of the challenges that exist in this game. And I think our plans are pretty much in place and we are up for the challenge," he said.

FACTS

India skipper Virat Kohli has scored 1,840 runs -- the most by any batsmen in the two sides -- in the 32 matches he played against the West Indies.

West Indies' wicket-keeper batsman Shai Hope has an average of 53.87 -- the most by any batsmen among the players of West Indies' current World Cup side -- in the 10 matches he played against India.

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has amassed 1241 runs -- most by any player in the current West Indies World Cup squad -- in the 37 matches he played against India.

Chris Gayle's 23 wickets against India is also the highest by any bowlers from West Indies' current World Cup squad.

INFO ZONE

HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUP

INDIA	WON	3
WEST INDIES	WON	5
INDIA	LOSS	5
WEST INDIES	LOSS	0
INDIA	TIE	0
WEST INDIES	NR	0

HEAD TO HEAD IN ODIS

INDIA	WON	62
WEST INDIES	WON	59
INDIA	LOSS	59
WEST INDIES	LOSS	2
INDIA	TIE	2
WEST INDIES	NR	3

LAST MEETING

November 1 2018 at Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.

India won by 9 wickets (with 211 balls remaining).

KEY PLAYERS



INDIA

VIRAT KOHLI	BAT/BOWL AVE	38.17/35.53
59.60/166.25	BAT/BOWL STRIKE RATE	87.38/44.5
93.14/160.2	BAT/BOWL STRIKE RATE	87.38/44.5
52	50S	53
41	100S	25
183	HS	215
6.22	ECON	4.78
1/15	BBM	5/46
11087/4	RUNS/WICKETS	10345/166
67	LAST MATCH	1/8, 87

WEST INDIES

CHRIS GAYLE	BAT/BOWL AVE	38.17/35.53
52	50S	53
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'I'm an all-time great, but it's not the end'

ICC

Chris Gayle has never lacked for confidence – how can you when your nickname is Universe Boss?

So when the West Indies opener was asked where he ranked in the pantheon of the greatest cricketers from the Caribbean, there was no false modesty.

Instead, Gayle took the opportunity to remind everyone of what he has achieved, while revealing that his planned international retirement after the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 will actually be pushed back by at

least a few months.

He said: "I'm definitely up there with the greats without a doubt.

"I enjoy each and every moment of playing for West Indies. It's still not the end. I still have a few games to go. Maybe another series to go who knows we'll see what happens.

"My plans for after the World Cup, maybe a Test match against India and then I'll definitely play the ODIs against India. I won't play the T20s. That's my plan after World Cup.

"In these three (remaining) games, I'd love to get a hundred as well. But if it doesn't happen, I

can't actually complain or be too hard on myself.

"I've achieved a lot. But what I really wanted was to be in that final four and then anything could have actually happened and then to be able to get my hands on the World Cup. We'll see what happens."

The Windies' hopes of lifting the trophy are slim – they will need to win their three remaining games, starting against India at Old Trafford on Thursday, while hoping that other results go their way to reach the semi-finals.

For Gayle, the clash with India gives him the opportunity to face

a number of players who he has seen close up in the Indian Premier League in recent seasons.

He added: "In the English conditions the new ball tends to have a say, earlier in the opening batting innings. But once you conquer that, the batting will tend to become a bit easier.

"Going up against India, it's always going to be a challenge. They've been playing good cricket. I'm actually looking forward to it. And everyone knows India's style of cricket and hopefully we can actually conquer that tomorrow and get the better of them."



The West Indies team gathered in a huddle knowing that anything less than a win against India today would see them exit the World Cup. However, even that might not be enough depending on other results.

MR EFFICIENT



Shaheen Shah Afridi was unplayable at times against New Zealand. The left armer dismantled the Kiwis top order and had New Zealand reeling on four for 46 in the 13th over. The 19-year old ended with impressive figures of three for 28 from his 10, including a maiden-wicket.

PHOTO: AFP