



# Current Affairs

MODULE

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## **FOREWORD**

My best wishes to all these student contributors, for their future endeavours. My best wishes and assurance to the readers, that reading this compilation will add a lot to their knowledge. It's not just for the legal fraternity but for anyone who is preparing for any competitive exams.

**By Vrinda Khanna, Associate,**

**All India Legal Forum**



## **PREFACE**

May there be Peace in Heaven, May there be Peace in the Sky, May there be Peace in the Earth, May there be Peace in the Water, May there be Peace in the Plants, May there be Peace in the Trees, May there be Peace in the Gods in the various Worlds, May there be Peace in all the human beings, May there be Peace in All,

**PEACE, PEACE, PEACE.**

Our age-old culture prays for peace and happiness for one and all. Family is the first and oldest social group. It has played an important role in the stability and prosperity of the civilization. Almost everything of lasting value in humanity has its roots in the family. Peace and harmony in the family are important for the all-round development of children. This Compilation by All India Legal Forum is aimed to enhance the command of students over different important issues from the point of view of different competitive exams. We're glad to be a part of the All India Forum. Here's an introduction to my team:

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## **DISCLAIMER**

Team AILF India has made all the efforts to compile the important political, sports and miscellaneous affairs of January. Knowledge of this is very important for the students from the point of view of any competitive exam especially related to law.



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## Miscellaneous News

### **Wanted to create awareness’: Baba Sehgal on latest rap on plant-based diet**

In an interaction with indianexpress.com, the rapper said while "there are ups and downs in every journey", it is "up to us to decide when to walk, stumble and run"

“*Khaalo khaalo plant ko tum planet nahi, jo bhi bolta hoon dil se bilkul sahi,*” raps Baba Sehgal in his latest song *Eat the Plant, Not the Planet*, conceptualised for FIAPO, India to promote plant-based diets. In the catchy song, Baba goes on to list the many health and nutritional benefits of the diet. But it is not only this one. The rapper has been extremely busy during the lockdown, releasing songs on various topics.

In an email interview, the *Thanda Thanda Pani* singer talks about his latest music video, rap in Bollywood, and his lockdown experiences.

#### **Excerpts:**

**You recently created a rap number on the importance of consuming a plant-based diet.**

**Can you tell us about it?**

The song, which I have written, composed, and sung for FIAPO’s campaign, is actually to create awareness on the importance of a plant-based diet. The content has been created in a simple and funny manner for people to enjoy and yet get the real gist.

**You often create songs on newsy/trending topics; was it challenging penning lyrics for this number?**

Initially, I felt it would be difficult to write something like this but, when I got down to my instruments and arrangement, everything went off smoothly. I am a vegetarian and do not consume any milk products, so there was a direct connection between the lyrics and me. I’m happy that people are loving the song and the video.

**What goes behind creating rap? Any dos and don’ts?**

There are no dos and don’ts for me when I create rap. FIAPO’s campaign title ‘Eat the Plant, Not the Planet’ itself was a huge idea and so, it was easy for me to develop the soundtrack.

**You have been synonymous with India’s rap scene since the ’90s, and are still going strong. How has your journey been?**

There are ups and downs in every journey but then it’s up to us to decide when to walk, when to stumble and when to run. I have always been my own believer and rest my Lord above does everything.

**But you did take a backseat from the mainstream sometime in the 2000s. What kept you busy then?**

There was no backseat as such, but as I recall, the entire music scene back then was evolving, so I waited for the right moment.

**The Indian music scene has undergone a massive change, with independent artistes now having access to more channels to showcase their talent. What do you think of this phenomenon?**

Today, we are our own “music channel” because of social media. We need to constantly come out with content every week to stay relevant and I have worked extremely hard to do that. I’m proud that my work pleases audiences of all age groups particularly from 16-year-olds to 26-year-olds. My overall views from all my social media handles during this pandemic has risen up to 25 million!

**Rap is a unique art form, but with it becoming common in Bollywood, do you think the style has been losing out on the original idea in a bid to increase its mass appeal?**

According to me, there is no rap in Bollywood, and adding few lines in a film song does not make it a rap number. It’s misleading. Rap is rhythm and poetry. It has a beginning and an end and that’s what I follow.

**How do you decide on the subjects for your songs?**

I deliberately pick up topics that are extremely popular with the public, and only then I write and compose my songs.

**You created quite a few songs during the lockdown, all of which garnered a massive response. Was it a conscious decision to release songs during that period to entertain your fans? How would you describe your lockdown experience?**

My lockdown experience was amazing as I was busy creating songs like *Kela Khao*, *Namaste*, *Adrak Wali Chai*, *Biryani*, *Dil Ko Na Peeto*, *Corona Go*, and plenty more. All of them actually went viral and got massive coverage on all the leading newspapers and media handles. I made a million more fans during this time. God has been kind to me.

## **Political International**

### **1. Will Biden's Repeal of Trump's Travel Ban Reverse Its Impact?**

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- Joe Biden takes office on Wednesday with a promise to overturn on 'day one' the so – called Muslim Ban – the executive order that outgoing president Donald Trump put in place restricting citizens from several Muslim – majority countries from entering the United States. Rights groups have welcomed Biden's promise, but question whether it will do enough to address the harm it has caused.
- The ban, which fulfilled a central Trump campaign promise, had immediate and far-reaching consequences. It stranded refugees in third countries, divided families and denied critical healthcare to ill people. It prevented American citizens from being joined by friends and relatives for weddings, funerals and graduations and kept couples from getting married.

#### JOE BIDENS ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

- Prohibiting Muslims from entering the country is morally wrong. The statement was welcomed by Rights Advocates and Muslim American groups.

#### WHAT IS THE ISSUE NOW?

- Whether it can do enough to address the harm it has caused to families over the past four years.

#### HISTORY BEHIND THE NEWS.

- On January 27, 2017 trump abruptly announced the first travel ban. The decision sent shockwaves across the world and causes chaos in dozen of US airports hundreds of travelers who were in midair when the announcement was made, were suddenly in possession of invalid UC visas. Many were detained and sent home.
- In the US it caused outrage among rights groups who challenged the measure in court, arguing that it is discriminatory and unconstitutional.
- But in June 2018, the US Supreme Court upheld the third version which primarily affected nationals from Iran, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and Chad. Because those particulars countries are especially problematic for American intelligence and law enforcement to vet for security.

But now it was **‘just a dream’**. In July, Democrats passed the No Ban Act in congress which would repeal the travel ban and prevent the US president from imposing future immigration restrictions based on religion or ethnicity. At the time, the bill did not advance to the republican – controlled senate.

## **2. Iran Holds Fifth Military Drill In Two Weeks Amid Tension With Us:**

- Iran showcase Special Forces, helicopters and tanks after the US files B-52 bombers over the Middle East again. The drill came days after the US once more flew B-52 bombers over the region, the fifth time in the past two months.
- Iran’s army has conducted another drill along the country’s southern coasts days after the United States flew nuclear – capable B-52 bombers. In what is the fifth military show of force in two weeks, the army’s ground held land, air and sea war games along the coast of Makran and the sea of Oman.
- State broadcasters aired dramatic footage of dozens of Iranian soldiers parachuting out of aero planes. The army also said it is deploying rapid response forces to test out “a variety of creative indigenous tactics” and is using divers to complete predefined scenarios.

### ISSUE BETWEEN TEHRAN AND US:

- The outgoing Donald Trump administration, which has pursued a “maximum pressure” policy accompanied with harsh economic sanctions on Iran, first slew the bombers in the run-up to the January 3 anniversary of Iran’s to General Qassem Soleimani.
- Soleimani was killed in a Trump-ordered drone strike in Baghdad last year. In response to the increased US military presence, Iran’s army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Groups (IRGC) have organised several military shows in the New Year.
- The army conducted a drill for locally made drones and fired torpedoes from locally made submarines, while the IRGC unveiled a huge background missile base and tested long-range missiles that it said could take out enemy vessels and aircraft carriers more than 1,800 km away.
- US President elect Joe Biden, who will replace Trump on Wednesday, has promised to ease tensions with Tehran by revitalizing the 2015 nuclear deal from which Trump unilaterally withdrew in 2018. Biden, however signaled that Washington looks for broader negotiations over Iran’s missiles programme and its regional influence.

### 3. INDIA - SRILANKA

#### Why in News:

Recently, the Government of Srilanka decided to rebuild a demolished memorial at Jaffna University after the High Commissioner of India's concerns. The demolition of a memorial paying tribute to Tamil civilians killed during the civil war between LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army in 2009 has brought attention to unaddressed issues of minority rights of Tamilians in Srilanka again in the India-Srilanka relations.

#### Key Points:

##### Issues of Tamilians in Srilanka:

**Denial of Citizenship:** The problem of the Srilankan Tamils began earlier than the 1950s. After independence in 1948 the Srilankan government felt that the Tamils were not Srilankan because they had Indian ancestry. The majority of the Tamils were denied Srilankan citizenship due to which most of the Tamils continued to live in poverty in the tea estates of Srilanka.

**Linguistic Discrimination:** The conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka started in 1956 when Sinhala was made the official language by the country's President and large scale discrimination began against the Tamils.

**Religious Discrimination:** The discrimination against the Tamil population continued throughout the 1960s as Buddhism was given the primary place in the state and the number of Tamils employed by the state and admitted into institutions of higher learning was greatly restricted.

**Intensified Movements:** During this period the Tamils responded to their oppression largely through a political and a non-violent protest movement. In the 1970s, however, there was an increased trend towards Tamil separatism and militancy that gave rise to a terrorist organization called LTTE.

**Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE):** It was formed in 1976 as the self-styled "national freedom movement of the people of Tamil Eelam" and began a guerilla war on the government and administration. It undertook numerous terrorist activities in Srilanka especially against the Sinhalese and executed the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi (the ex-Prime Minister of India). After a long

strife, and millions of casualties, the civil war with LTTE ended in 2009. India played an important role in helping Srilankan to uproot terrorism from its homeland.

Concerns for India:

- **Rehabilitation of Refugees:** A lot of Srilankan Tamils who evaded from Srilankan civil war (2009) are seeking refuge in Tamil Nadu. They are not returning in fear of being targeted again. It is a challenge for India to rehabilitate them.
- **Sentiments of Indian Tamils:** A number of protests and criticism is drawn at the end of Indian Government for overlooking the plight of Srilankan Tamils to maintain good relationship with Srilanka.
- **Strategic interests vs. Tamil question:** Often India has to trade off on the question of Tamilian minority rights over strategic issues to protect its economic interests in its neighborhood and to counter Chinese influence in Indian Ocean.

India – Srilanka confidence building measures:

- **Currency Swap Agreements:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had signed an agreement for extending a USD 400 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka to boost the foreign reserves and ensure financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by Covid-19 pandemic.
- **High Level Exchanges:** Political relations between India and Sri Lanka have been marked by high-level exchanges of visits at regular intervals.
- **India's Support against Terrorism:** During the course of the civil war, India supported the right of the Government of Sri Lanka to act against terrorist forces.
- **The Indian Housing Project:** It is Government of India's flagship project of developmental assistance to Sri Lanka. Its initial commitment is to build 50,000 houses for those affected by the civil war as well as for the estate workers in the plantation areas.
- **Addressing Fishermen Issue:** Given the proximity of the territorial waters of both countries, especially in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar, incidents of straying of fishermen are common. Both countries have agreed on certain practical arrangements to deal with the issue of bona fide fishermen of either side crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.
- **Joint Exercises:** India and Sri Lanka conduct joint Military (Mitra Shakti) and Naval exercise (SLINEX).

- **Participation in Groupings:** Sri Lanka is also a member of regional groupings like BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) and SAARC in which India plays a leading role.
- **SAGAR:** Srilanka supports India's concern for the security of Indian ocean with its 'Neighborhood First' policy and SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region).
- **Line of Credit:** India has extended a \$400 million line of credit to Sri Lanka to help strengthen its infrastructure and economy. An additional \$50 million to help Sri Lanka combat terrorism.

#### **4. INDIA – NEPAL JOINT COMMISSION MEET:**

##### Why in News:

Recently, the 6th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting was held where in Nepal raised the Kalapani boundary dispute with India. The two sides also discussed cooperation in a range of areas, including power, oil and gas, water resources, capacity building and tourism among others. India distanced itself from discussing the matter at the Joint Commission level as there is a dedicated Foreign Secretary-level mechanism to discuss boundary disputes.

##### Key Points:

- Nepal's requirement for vaccines to fight the Covid-19 pandemic was discussed as it has approved Serum Institute of India's (SII) Covishield vaccine. Both the delegations reviewed the development partnership and discussed the benefit of the Integrated Check Posts (ICP) at Birgunj and Biratnagar (Nepal). The Posts have helped in seamless movement of people and trade between the two countries.
- Third and Fourth ICP at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa respectively to be started. India to build two cultural heritage projects in Nepal on the 'Pashupatinath Riverfront Development' and the 'Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration in Patan Durbar' through grant assistance. Nepal's Foreign Minister also delivered a speech in Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
- The Indian Council of World Affairs was established in 1943 as a think tank. It is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA.

##### India - Nepal Relations

##### **Historical Ties:**

- Nepal is an important neighbour of India and occupies special significance in its foreign policy because of the geographic, historical, cultural and economic linkages/ties that span centuries. India and Nepal share similar ties in terms of Hinduism and Buddhism with Buddha's birthplace Lumbini located in present day Nepal. The two countries not only share an open border and unhindered movement of people, but they also have close bonds through marriages and familial ties, popularly known as Roti-Beti ka Rishta.
- The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- Importance for India can be studied from two different angles: a) their strategic importance for India's national security; and b) their place in India's role perception in international politics. Rivers originating in Nepal feed the perennial river systems of India in terms of ecology and hydropower potential.

#### **Trade and Economy:**

- India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal.

#### **Connectivity:**

- Nepal being a landlocked country, it is surrounded by India from three sides and one side is open towards Tibet which has very limited vehicular access.
- India-Nepal has undertaken various connectivity programs to enhance people-to-people linkages and promote economic growth and development. MOUs have been signed between both the governments for laying electric rail track linking Kathmandu with Raxaul in India.
- India is looking to develop the inland waterways for the movement of cargo, within the framework of trade and transit arrangements, providing additional access to sea for Nepal calling it linking Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) with Sagar (Indian Ocean).

#### **Defence Cooperation**

- Bilateral defence cooperation includes assistance to Nepalese Army in its modernization through provision of equipment and training. The Gorkha Regiments of the Indian Army are raised partly by recruitment from hill districts of

Nepal. India from 2011, every year undertakes joint military exercise with Nepal known as Surya Kiran.

### **Cultural**

- There have been initiatives to promote people-to-people contacts in the area of art & culture, academics and media with different local bodies of Nepal.
- India has signed three sister-city agreements for twinning of Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya and Janakpur-Ayodhya.

### **Humanitarian Assistance**

- Nepal lies in a sensitive ecological fragile zone which is prone to earthquakes, floods causing massive damage to both life and money, whereby it remains the biggest recipient of India's humanitarian assistance.

### **Multilateral Partnership**

- India and Nepal share multiple multilateral forums such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Non Aligned Movement, and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) etc.

### Issues & Challenges

#### **China's Intervention:**

- As a landlocked nation, Nepal depended for many years on Indian imports, and India played an active role in Nepal's affairs.
- However, in recent years, Nepal has drifted away from India's influence, and China has gradually filled the space with investments, aid and loans.
- China considers Nepal a key partner in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and wants to invest in Nepal's infrastructure as part of its grand plans to boost global trade.
- Rising Nepal and China cooperation can undermine Nepal's distinction of buffer state between India and China.
- China on the other hand wants to avoid the formation of any Anti-China stance by the Tibetans living in Nepal.

#### **Border Dispute:**

- The issue erupted in November 2019 when Nepal had released a new political map that claims Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of Nepal's territory. The area of Susta (West Champaran district, Bihar) can also be noted in the new map.

#### Way Forward

- India should negotiate diplomatically to resolve the boundary dispute with Nepal under the aegis of International law on Trans-boundary Water Disputes. In this case, boundary dispute resolution between India and Bangladesh should serve as a model.
- India should engage more proactively with Nepal in terms of people to people engagement, bureaucratic engagement as well as political interactions.
- Mere differences shall not turn into disputes and both the countries should resolve the issues peacefully.

#### **5. CHABAHAR PORT, IRAN:**

- Government of India is strengthening cargo handling capacity of Chabahar port.
- Chabahar port is jointly being developed by **India, Iran and Afghanistan** for multi-modal transport of goods and passengers.
- It is located in the **Gulf of Oman**.
- It gives India a sea – land **access route into Afghanistan and Central Asia** through Iran's eastern borders.
- It is **seen as a counter to Pakistan's Gawdar Port**, which is being developed with Chinese investment and is located at a distance of around 80-km from Chabahar.

### **Political National**

(1) Ruling BJP in Assam targets to garner at least 1 crore votes in the 2021 assembly polls

Guwahati: The ruling BJP in Assam is targeting to garner at least 1 crore votes in the 2021 assembly polls. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Assam had a total electorate of nearly 2.18 crore. After revision of the electoral roll ahead of the assembly polls this

year, this number is likely to increase. While devising its strategy for the elections, the party has set a target of winning 100-plus seats in the 126-member assembly. The BJP currently has 61 members in the house, while its allies Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front have 14 and 12 seats, respectively.

Opposition parties including the Congress and All India United Democratic Front have ridiculed the target set by the BJP, and called it highly unattainable. However, the saffron party has worked out arithmetic for achieving this ambitious target.

(2) Shiv Sena to contest Assembly elections in West Bengal: Sanjay Raut.

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena has decided to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, party MP Sanjay Raut said on Sunday. He said the decision to contest the polls has been taken after holding discussions with Maharashtra Chief Minister and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray.

“So, here is the much-awaited update. After discussions with Party Chief Shri Uddhav Thackeray, Shiv Sena has decided to contest the West Bengal Assembly Elections. We are reaching Kolkata soon...!! Jai Hind, Jai Bangla!” Raut tweeted.

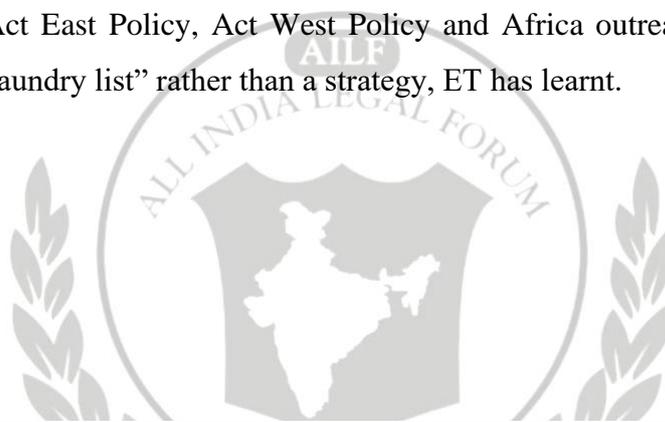
(3)Farmer unions say they will go ahead with tractor march in Delhi on Republic Day. NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lokshakti) has written to the Delhi Police Commissioner seeking permission to continue the agitation at Ramlila Ground in the National Capital so that citizens do not face any difficulties. BKU (L) union has been protesting at Delhi-Noida border with at least 50 farmers from western UP.

At the same time, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, a group of 41 farmers' unions, announced on Sunday that a Kisan Gantantra Parade will be organised on the outer Ring Road of Delhi on Republic Day. The farmers will carry out a tractor march on the outer Ring Road without disrupting the Rajpath parade, the farmers' leaders said after a meeting on Sunday where they discussed their future roadmap. Some farmer leaders also met opposition leaders who could make their voice of protest heard in Parliament and outside.

(4)Rahul Gandhi questions India's foreign policy approach, EAM S Jaishankar offers explanation

NEW DELHI: After Rahul Gandhi insisted on the bipolar world order and questioned India's foreign policy approach at the MEA's consultative committee meeting, external affairs minister S Jaishankar offered to explain New Delhi's global strategy to the Congress leader by drawing sketches/graphics comprising concentric circles, according to sources aware of the development.

Following foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's presentation at the Saturday meet that focussed on India's Covid-19 diplomacy, multipolar foreign policy approach based on ties with the US, Russia, Japan, Germany and EU, neighbourhood approach, Act East Policy, Act West Policy and Africa outreach, Gandhi described them as a "laundry list" rather than a strategy, ET has learnt.



## **Sports International**

### **Mesut Ozil joins Fenerbahce from Arsenal as he vows to be a 'Gunner for life'**

The long-running saga between Mesut Ozil and Arsenal came to an end on Sunday as it was announced that the midfielder has joined Fenerbahce on a three-and-a-half-year deal.

Ozil, who scored 44 goals in 254 appearances for the Gunners, has been frozen out of Mikel Arteta's squad in recent months with his final appearance coming in March last year.

"7.5 years. Nearly 3,000 days. It feels strange to be writing this message after such a long time here in London," Ozil wrote on social media.

### **Dustin Poirier defeats Conor McGregor with a knockout in the 2nd round**

American mixed martial arts fighter Dustin Poirier defeated Conor McGregor early Sunday in a much-anticipated Ultimate Fighting Championship re-match that left McGregor down for the count in the second round.

"I just wasn't as comfortable as I needed to be. It's the inactivity," McGregor, of Ireland, said in an interview posted on Twitter following the fight.

But he vowed to continue fighting this year.

### **Australian Open organizers schedule new warm-up event to benefit quarantining players**

Organizers of the Australian Open have scheduled a new warm-up tournament for players who have been unable to train during the quarantine.

The additional women's event, which will be held at Melbourne Park from February 3-7, has been scheduled alongside two other WTA tournaments and three men's tournaments before the grand slam itself get underway on February 8.



### **Arsenal knocked out of FA Cup with defeat by Southampton**

Arsenal's FA Cup title defense came to an end with a 1-0 defeat by Southampton in the fourth round.

After a poor start to the season, the Gunners appeared to have turned a corner ahead of Saturday's game, having gone six matches without defeat and five without conceding.

But a first-half own goal from defender Gabriel ended that run and helped the Saints progress to the next round.

### **Maya Weug becomes the first female driver to earn a spot in the Ferrari Driver Academy**

Maya Weug has made history by becoming the first female driver to join the Ferrari Driver Academy.

Weug, 16, was selected from the final stage of the Girls on Track - Rising Stars initiative, a program run jointly by Ferrari and motorsport governing body the FIA.

The evaluation camp took place at Ferrari's headquarters in Maranello, Italy, and saw Weug beat competition from 17-year-old Doriane Pin, 14-year-old Antonella Bassani and 15-year-old Julia Ayoub.

It means Weug, who started karting at the age of seven, earns a place in the Academy which seeks to prepare talented young drivers for a potential career in motorsport.

## Sports National

### **Ashwin was standing up to bouncers because couldn't bend, his back was gone: Hanuma Vihari**

- Hanuma Vihari and Ravichandran Ashwin batted together for 259 balls
- Ashwin was standing up to bouncers because he could not bend: Vihari
- The dup partnered together for 62 unbeaten runs

India middle-order batsman Hanuma Vihari has revealed the reason why Ravichandran Ashwin, his batting partner in the now iconic Sydney Test match, did not duck while facing the bouncers thrown at him by Australian bowlers.

In an exclusive interview with Sports Today, the 27-year-old described the incident as "funny" saying that the back injury of the off-spinner was not allowing him to bend.

"Funny thing happened, I asked Ashwin if he could flex his knees a little so that he could bend. And he said 'if I bend my knees, I can't bat because my back is gone'. That's why he was standing up to the bouncers.

"On a serious note, the way he batted out was superb. Because of his spasm, he couldn't sit down, he stood throughout the innings. While he was starting to bat on Day 5, he was always standing in the dressing room as well. So that was his situation and to bat out for 4 hours is a compliment to his grit and determination," Hanuma Vihari told India Today's consulting Editor (Sports) Boria Majumdar.

After the departure of Rishabh Pant and Cheteshwar Pujara, Ravichandran Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari battled all kinds of odds to partner together for unbeaten 62 off 259 balls. While Vihari incurred severe hamstring injury during his innings, Ashwin had a back pain which did not allow him to sit even during the lunch and tea break.

It was later learnt that the two players also took heavy doses of painkillers to continue the rescue act. India pulled off an very unlikely draw because of the grit shown by the two India cricketers.

### **Basics helped in navigating through the second new-ball**

Further, Hanuma Vihari stated that his basic defensive technique and the communication from Ashwin helped him navigate through the second new-ball which Australia took when around 17 overs were left on the final day.

"The only thing that helped us was they bowled a lot of overs. But I wouldn't say they were tired. The close-in fielders don't help as well. You're always under pressure. Only a small mistake and you're gone. But like I said, as I was not able to run, I will play as close to the body as possible. I am not looking for runs. So the basics helped there. The technique which I developed over the years helped me. That defensive technique helped me.

"Ashwin was also communicating in different languages, if you could hear. Like he was talking to me in Tamil, Telugu, trying to make sure we survive. It's important to communicate as well. Sometimes, we are scoring runs, you'll be in your own zone. But when you're looking to survive, that's where the help came. Ash did that brilliantly with all his experience," he said

### **Thailand Open: PV Sindhu defeats Malaysia's Kisona Selvaduray in straight games, sails into quarter-finals**

- PV Sindhu sailed through to the quarter-finals of Thailand Open
- She defeated Malaysia's Kisona Selvaduray 21-10, 21-12
- PV Sindhu defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan 21-17, 21-13 in first round

India's PV Sindhu sailed through to the quarter-finals of Thailand Open after defeating Malaysia's Kisona Selvaduray 21-10, 21-12 in straight sets on Thursday.

Sindhu defeated her Malaysian opponent in a match that lasted 35 minutes. She had defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan on Tuesday in her first round match.

With the win, she has advanced to the quarter-finals of the Toyota Thailand Open.

In other results on Thursday, India's HS Prannoy crashed out after losing 17-21, 18-21 in straight games to Malaysia's Daren Liew in the second round.

Just a day earlier, Prannoy braved an injury scare and fought back brilliantly after being a game down to beat the Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie 18-21, 21-16, 23-21 in the Toyota Thailand Open.

In that match, Prannoy fell to the ground while attempting a return shot and felt a dislocation in his left shoulder. A physio was called to take a look, but to everyone's surprise Prannoy continued to play and went on to win the game after being two match points down.

In other matches on the day, World No. 31 Sameer Verma continued his impressive run as the Indian shuttler defeated Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in straight games to ease into the quarter-final.

Verma needed just 39 minutes to outclass his lower-ranked opponent 21-12, 21-9 in the men's singles second round. Verma will next face 3rd seed Anders Antonsen in the men's singles quarter-final.

Meanwhile, mixed doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa won their 2nd round match, defeating Germany's Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Hertrich 22-20, 14-21, 21-16 to move into the quarter-final.

Satwik will be in men's doubles action later in the day as he partners Chirag Shetty in their 2nd round match against 7th seeds Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae of Korea.

### **Ravi Shastri never made us feel we lost Adelaide Test very badly: Hanuma Vihari heaps praise on India coach**

- Hanuma Vihari credited Ravi Shastri's positivity for keeping the team morale high
- Ravi Shastri never made us feel we lost in Adelaide very badly: Vihari
- India came back from behind to script a heroic 2-1 series win in Australia

India batsman Hanuma Vihari said head coach Ravi Shastri never let the team morale dip even after India were hammered in the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. India were bundled out for 36, their lowest-ever Test score, after dominating the first 2 days of the Pink-ball Test.

**India were written off** after the crushing defeat as they were staring at an uphill task of coming back from behind on Australian soil. To add to the woes, India were set to be without their captain Virat Kohli who headed home on paternity leave after the 1st Test. Mohammed Shami was ruled out with a broken wrist after the first Test.

However, India roared back in Melbourne, beating Australia by 8 wickets to level the series after the 2nd Test. Ajinkya Rahane, the stand-in captain, led from the front with a match-winning hundred. In the 3rd Test, it was a collective effort as India managed to seal a draw when chasing 408 in Sydney. Hanuma Vihari and R Ashwin batted out 258 balls on the final day as the duo kept Australia's top-quality attack away.

In the series decider, India rallied against odds as they were left without even one of their first-choice bowlers due to a series of injuries. They **breached Australia's Gabba** fortress, gunning down a record total of 328 on the final day of the 4th Test.

**Speaking to Sports Today**, Hanuma Vihari shared a glimpse of the dressing room atmosphere after the defeat in Adelaide, saying Ravi Shastri and Ajinkya Rahane made sure India never put their heads down.

"After the first Test, the way Ravi sir handled the tea... At any point, we didn't feel like we were smashed in 3 days. If you look at the first Test, we dominated the first two days but in one session, we got blown away. But he never made us feel that we lost it very badly," Vihari said.

"He said we dominated the two days, that's a positive in a Test match. That's the positive thinking of the man he is. He gives us courage and strength with the way he talks in the huddle or the team meetings, he is always positive. He always tells us to go and express ourselves, not to think too much about the result and stuff.

"No credit is enough (for Shastri). To have faith in the young side and he always said 'it's Team India going into the ground, no matter how many games you played, whether you played 80 games or whether you're playing your first game. It's always Team India that is going into the ground'.

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### **Ajinkya Rahane greeted by wife, daughter upon arrival in Mumbai, receives hero 's welcome with dhol and flowers**

- Ajinkya Rahane was greeted by supporters upon arrival in Mumbai
- Rahane's wife and daughter were also spotted during the celebration
- Under Rahane, India bounced back from defeat and won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy

As expected, it was a hero's welcome for Ajinkya Rahane as the India captain landed in Mumbai on Thursday, following the heroic Test series win in Australia. Rahane along with

the likes of Rohit Sharma, head coach Ravi Shatri, opener Prithvi Shaw among others landed in Mumbai earlier in the morning.

**Ajinkya Rahane** was greeted by his wife and daughter and there were plenty of dhols and flowers that welcomed the skipper, who stepped in after Virat Kohli headed home on paternity leave to inspire India to a remarkable 2-1 series win in Australia. India came back from losing the 1st Test in Adelaide to beat the home team 2-1 as they retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in style, breaching fortress Gabba on Tuesday.

There were hundreds of supporters, with their masks on, cheering on Ajinkay Rahana as he met his wife and daughter in the city. Rahane's 2-year-old daughter did not want to leave her father as she cracked up the gathering by clinging on to the India cricketer.

Flowers were showered on the India vice-captain, who **led the team in Australia**, as dhol and trumpets made it a carnival-like atmosphere. Rahane greeted his supporters and acknowledged the love and support that came his way.

According to reports, all India cricketers and support staff members who have arrived in Mumbai are set to be in-home quarantine for 3 days. Earlier in the day, India's Gabba Test hero Rishabh Pant landed in New Delhi while the rest of the contingent will head to their respective cities.

Most of the Indian players were in strict bio-bubble environments since the start of the Indian Premier League in September. The members of the team left for Australia directly from the UAE after the IPL 2020 final on November 10.

The players will not have much time to spend with their families as they will be regrouping in Chennai which will host the first 2 matches of a 4-Test series, starting February 5 against England.

Virat Kohli, who is with his wife and Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma and their newborn baby, will rejoin the squad for the England Tests. Kohli was named as the captain of an 18-member squad which will be without the likes of Mohammed Shami, Hanuma Vihari, Umesh Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja due to injuries.

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#### **Watch: Ajinkya Rahane greeted with carnival-like welcome in Mumbai**

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## **Afghanistan vs Ireland: Rahmanullah Gurbaz becomes 1st player from Afghanistan to score ODI hundred on debut**

- Gurbaz also created the record of hitting the most number of sixes in a debut innings in ODI cricket
- Navjot Singh Sidhu had previously held the record with 5 sixes against Australia in the 1987 World Cup
- Because of Gurbaz's knock Afghanistan went on to score a formidable 287/9 in their 50 overs

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who was given the opportunity to open the innings for Afghanistan in the first ODI against Ireland on Thursday, became the first player from Afghanistan to score an ODI hundred on debut.

He played a brilliant knock of 127 runs off 127 balls with 8 fours and 9 sixes and announced himself on the international stage in style.

Apart from becoming the first Afghan to hit an ODI century on debut, he also broke India's Navjot Singh Sidhu's record of hitting the most number of sixes in a debut innings in ODI cricket.

Sidhu had previously held the record with 5 sixes against Australia on his debut in the 1987 World Cup. Gurbaz on Thursday went on to hit 9 sixes in his incredible knock.

He also went on to hit the second highest score by a debutant in ODI cricket on the day. The highest score on debut is 148 runs by the West Indian batsman Desmond Haynes. He scored it against Australia at St John's in Antigua in 1978.

Because of Gurbaz's knock Afghanistan went on to score a formidable 287/9 in their 50 overs against Ireland on Thursday

# ABOUT ALL INDIA LEGAL FORUM

All India Legal Forum (AILF), the brainchild of several legal luminaries and eminent personalities across the country and the globe, is a dream online platform which aims at proliferating legal knowledge and providing an ingenious understanding and cognizance of various fields of law, simultaneously aiming to generate diverse social, political, legal and constitutional discourse on law-related topics, making sure that legal knowledge penetrates to every nook and corner of the ever-growing legal fraternity. AILF also houses a blog that addresses contemporary issues in any field of law. We at AILF don't just publish blogs but we also guide the authors when their research paper is not up to the mark.

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Legal Education is regarded central in providing access to justice by ensuring equality before the law, the right to counsel and the right to a fair trial. All India legal Forum aims to bring out a platform to provide resourceful insight on law-related topics for the ever-growing legal fraternity. Through ambitious and studious legal brains across the country, AILF aims at providing valuable contributions on developments in the legal field and contemporary assessment of issues, putting forward quality legal content for the masses. We provide constant legal updates and make quality law notes available for law students across the country.

## PEOPLE BEHIND AILF

The biggest asset of AILF is our team of more than 400 law students across the country to tackle basic problems which a legal researcher encounters in day to day life. Putting forward the basic tools and ideas needed for researching and drafting, AILF seeks to help and encourage people to write research papers efficiently and effectively. AILF is not just a blog but a platform to make legal research effortless and undemanding. We at AILF consider dedication and determination as ultimate requisition to be a good researcher and we thrive to instill these values.



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