

Gambhir makes huge Sanju Samson admission after World Cup glory

NEW DELHI: Head coach Gautam Gambhir showered rich praise on Sanju Samson following India's successful campaign at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, describing the wicketkeeper-batter's performances as "special" and a true reflection of his character under immense pressure. Samson emerged as one of the biggest heroes of the tournament, producing three successive match-winning performances that ultimately earned him the Player of the Tournament award. His standout contribution came in the final against New Zealand national cricket team, where he struck a brilliant 89 to guide India to the title.



Cricket World Cup. However, the India head coach was quick to distance the two achievements, insisting that comparisons between players were unfair.

"Look, it's not fair to compare two people. I think Sanju, what he's done... see, again, Sanju did that three in a row, three in a row doing it and especially after coming back from the kind of form that he was in. You know, it takes so much of character and courage

where you know that maybe your career is on the line," Gambhir said. The former India opener stressed that Samson's journey in the tournament made his success even more remarkable. The Kerala batter had entered the World Cup under scrutiny after a poor series against New Zealand national cricket team and also spent the early part of the competition out of the playing XI. According to Gambhir, overcoming those

challenges and delivering such impactful performances required extraordinary mental strength. "Even if the captain and I can show as much faith, trust, everything in him, deep inside you know that obviously you didn't have a great series against New Zealand before the start of the World Cup, and then you didn't start on the playing level during the World Cup. Then making a comeback like that and playing those kinds of innings with that kind of, what, strike rate or with that kind of flamboyance... You need to have a special player, you need to be a special talent," he noted. Gambhir added that the team management never doubted Samson's ability and only wanted him to play with freedom when the opportunity came. "It was never about doubting his talent.

Samson, Bumrah among 4 Indians on ICC T20 WC team of tournament

CHENNAI: Player of the tournament Sanju Samson and Boom Boom Jasprit Bumrah are among the four members of the victorious Indian team, figure in the ICC T20 World Cup Team of the tournament led by South African skipper Aiden Markram. An ICC release said Sanju Samson leads the winning quartet, after the opener's 321 runs from just five innings. Samson started the tournament outside of the Indian XI but shone with Player of the Match performances against the West Indies and England before making the highest individual score in a Men's T20 World Cup final with 89 against New Zealand on Sunday. He is joined by teammates Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah as India's impressive victory on home soil is recognised. Kishan hit 317 runs – the fourth most of any player – as his performances across the top of the order anchored India's batting performances with a huge strike rate of 193.29.

Fans invade pitch, create riot-like scenes during Old Firm derby in Scottish Cup

NEW DELHI: The Old Firm derby between Celtic vs Rangers in the Scottish Cup at Ibrox in Glasgow turned ugly and disgusting on Sunday (Mar 8) after penalties decide the winner. Celtic beat Rangers 4-2 on the penalties after the quarter-final ended at 0-0 post 120 minutes of dogfight. The real melee, however, started as soon as Celtic won the match as their fans spilled on the pitch and then the chaos ensued. The fans threw flares and were armed with 'intend to harm' according to the local police. Later on, arrests were made while the Scottish Football Association announcing an investigation 'immediately.'



The Celtic vs Rangers rivalry is well known and established in the Scottish football folklore. The teams, based in Glasgow, and the fans as well, do not look each other in eye. When the match at Rangers' home in Ibrox ended at 0-0 after 120 minutes on Sunday (Mar 8), it proceeded to the penalties to decide the winner.

The Celtic won the match 4-2 on the penalties and their fans, who were occupying the full Broomloan Road Stand since being reduced to a 1,000 in 2018 from what was traditionally 7,500, ran onto the pitch to celebrate. The Rangers followed and clashed with them with flares going up in the air. The whole situation was brought under control by stewards and police who called the incident 'shameful' and said that the "extreme hostility and violence over a sustained period."

Female para ice hockey players eye 2030 Paralympic inclusion

MILAN: The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and leading female para ice hockey players has expressed hope that the sport will be included in the 2030 Winter Paralympics.

"If you ask me what I would dream for, it's 2030 for sure. I think we can make it work," said Michelle Laflamme, senior manager of World Para Ice Hockey, at a press conference for International Women's Day during the Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympics on Sunday.

Laflamme said the journey to make women's para ice hockey a Winter Paralympic event began as early as 2022. "We are working day-to-day, trying to advance women in sport," she said, adding that women around the world are organizing themselves in an effort to reach the Winter Paralympics, according to Xinhua.

Their efforts have significantly increased female representation in the sport, which has grown from one percent to over 20 percent of the athlete population. The growth made it possible to organize the first Women's Para Ice Hockey World Championship in Slovakia in 2025.

However, according to the IPC, the sport must stage at least two editions of the world championship and have eight teams from three continents to meet the criteria for Paralympic inclusion. It still needs one more world championship and three additional teams ahead of the 2027 application deadline.

Laflamme said countries including India, Kazakhstan, Mexico and China are preparing related programs. "We're determined to have another championship in 2026. Still, as of today, we don't have a secured host for the event," Laflamme said.

To encourage more female players to learn and participate in the sport, para ice hockey at the Winter Paralympics has allowed teams to expand their rosters beyond 15 players to include additional female athletes.

Before the Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympics, only three female players had participated in para ice hockey at the Paralympics: the Norwegian pair of Brit Mjaasund Oeyen in 1994 and Lena Schroeder in 2018, and Yu Jing of China at Beijing 2022.

Akari Fukunishi, a player on Japan's para ice hockey team competing at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympics, shared her experiences on the ice.

Suryakumar calls India's T20 WC campaign 'wonderful journey'

AHMEDABAD: Suryakumar Yadav described India's title-winning campaign in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 as a "wonderful journey", saying the team's transformation after 2024 and adoption of a new brand of cricket played a key role in their historic triumph.

Speaking at the post-final press conference, the India skipper said the month-long campaign had been special despite not beginning exactly as the team had hoped.

"Obviously, it has been a wonderful journey in the last one month, though it didn't start the way we wanted it to start, but then it's part of the sport. Throughout the journey till today, it has been very special and collectively as a team what we've achieved is right in front of you, so very happy with that," he said.

He added that the team would now set its sights on future global tournaments, including the Olympics and the next T20 World Cup cycle.

"Definitely the next goal is the Olympics and also the T20 World Cup that year. Don't forget," Suryakumar said.

Reflecting on the team's evolution over the past two

years, he said India had changed its approach after the 2024 title win.

"Everything changed post-2024. We played a different brand of cricket in 2024 and from there, we understood how this team needs to move forward and play going ahead. It has been a wonderful journey since then," he said.

He noted that India also lifted the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 during the period and wanted to produce something special in front of home fans in the 2026 tournament.

"We won an ICC Champions Trophy in 2025 and now in 2026 we wanted to do something special in front of a home crowd right here. We want to continue doing that in the coming years as well," he added.

India, led by Suryakumar Yadav, defeated New Zealand, captained by Mitchell Santner by a massive 96-run margin to successfully defend their title in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final.

India posted a record 255/5, the highest total in a T20 World Cup final. Abhishek Sharma smashed 52 off 21 balls with six fours and three sixes and shared a 98-run stand with Sanju Samson.

China beat DPRK to claim top spot in Group B at Women's Asian Cup

SYDNEY: Defending champion China came back from a goal down to beat the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) 2-1 here on Monday night and secure first place in Group B at the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup. After falling behind to a Kim Kyong Yong counter-attack goal in the 32nd minute, defender Chen Qiaozhu drew China level two minutes later. Chen, who was a standout in the middle of China's defense, received the ball on the edge of area from Shao Ziqin and fired a powerful shot into the bottom right corner. Wang Shuang gave China a 2-1 lead

before the interval when her goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time was awarded upon review. The goal was initially ruled out, but the video assistant referee found that Zhang Chengxue was on side before she played the ball across the penalty area to set up a simple finish for Wang.

It means that China will play the Group C runner-up, most likely Chinese Taipei or Vietnam, in the quarterfinal at the Perth Rectangular Stadium in Western Australia on Saturday afternoon, while DPRK will play host Australia at the same venue in the quarterfinal on Friday night.

The Hidden Technology That Could Finally Make Fusion Power Work

Scientists say the path to commercial fusion power may hinge on better ways to measure the behavior of superheated plasma. A new DOE-backed report highlights advanced diagnostics, AI tools, and tougher sensors as key technologies that could accelerate the fusion energy race.

Running a fusion reactor safely and consistently requires scientists to carefully track the behavior of its fuel. Inside these systems, extremely hot plasma must be monitored for properties such as temperature and density, since these factors determine whether fusion reactions can occur and remain stable. To collect this information, researchers rely on specialized instruments called diagnostics, which are designed to measure conditions inside the reactor.

A new report supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommends expanding investment in the United States' ability to develop and use these diagnostic technologies. According to the report, improved measurement tools could provide DOE and Congress with critical information that helps speed the development of commercial fusion power plants.

The report was created following the DOE's 2024 Basic Research Needs Workshop on Measurement Innovation. The event was organized through the Office of Science's Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program. Luis Delgado-Aparicio, head of advanced projects at the DOE's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), served as chair, while Sean Regan, a distinguished scientist and director of the Experimental Division at the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics, acted as co-chair.

Experts from universities, private companies, and national laboratories including PPPL participated in the workshop. Their goal was to determine which diagnostic and measurement technologies are most important for strengthening U.S. leadership in fusion energy and plasma science. The discussions also supported the goals of the DOE's Fusion Science & Technology Roadmap, which "targets actions and milestones out to the mid-2030s, providing the scientific and technological foundation to support a competitive U.S. fusion energy industry."

Measurement innovations have led and will continue to lead to scientific and engineering breakthroughs in plasma science and technology activities supported by the DOE's FES, especially fusion energy sciences," said Delgado-Aparicio. "This new report provides substantive findings across seven key areas of plasma and fusion science and technology. We believe it will

impact both the public and private fusion communities in a meaningful way." "The findings in this report are a testament to the critical role of diagnostics in driving fusion energy science forward," said Regan. "By investing in innovative measurement technologies, we can accelerate progress toward commercial fusion energy and strengthen America's leadership in plasma science."

Seventy researchers contributed to the report, examining seven topics in plasma physics supported by the DOE's FES program. These areas span both fundamental plasma science and the development of future fusion energy systems.

- Low-temperature plasma.
- High-energy-density plasma.
- Plasma-material interaction.
- Burning plasma created through magnetic-confinement fusion (MCF).

Physical AI is having its moment—and everyone wants a piece of it

There is a particular kind of momentum in the technology industry that announces itself not through a single breakthrough, but through the simultaneous convergence of many. Physical AI is having that moment right now—and paying attention to where it is coming from, and why, tells you more than any single product launch can.



The term itself—physical AI—is simple enough. It describes AI systems that don't just process data or generate content, but perceive, reason, and act in the real world—robots, autonomous vehicles, machines that adapt. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang called it "the ChatGPT moment for robotics" at CES in January—a deliberate framing, and a useful one.

The ChatGPT comparison isn't about hype. It signals that a technology once confined to research environments is being adopted for mainstream commercial deployment. That crossing is exactly what we are watching unfold from factory floors in Silicon Valley to stages in Shanghai."

On the Western side, the physical AI push is fundamentally a platform race.

The companies investing most aggressively aren't primarily robotics companies—they're infrastructure companies that see robotics as the next surface on which AI gets monetised.

Nvidia has released new Cosmos and GR00T open models for robot learning and reasoning, alongside the Blackwell-powered Jetson T4000 module, which delivers 4x greater energy efficiency for robotics computing. Arm has carved out an entirely new Physical AI business unit focused on semiconductor design for robotics and intelligent vehicles.

Siemens and Nvidia announced plans to build what they're calling an Industrial AI Operating System, with

ambitions to create the world's first fully AI-driven adaptive manufacturing site. Then there's Google, which last week brought its robotics software unit Intrinsic fully in-house—out of Alphabet's "Other Bets" and into Google's core.

The move positions Google to offer manufacturers a vertically integrated stack: AI models from DeepMind, deployment software from Intrinsic, and cloud infrastructure from Google Cloud.

The Android analogy being floated internally is instructive. Android didn't win smartphones by building the best phone. It won by becoming the layer everything else ran on.

That is precisely what

Google is attempting with physical AI.

The enterprise implications are significant. A Deloitte survey of more than 3,200 global business leaders found that 58% are already using physical AI in some capacity, rising to 80% with plans over the next two years. The demand is there. The question has shifted from whether to adopt to how fast and on whose platform.

Boston Dynamics' humanoid robot Boston Dynamics Atlas has begun operating fully on its own inside Hyundai's manufacturing facility in Georgia.

China's physical AI story is different in character—and arguably more visceral. At this year's Spring Festival Gala, humanoid robots from multiple Chinese startups performed kung fu routines, aerial flips, and choreographed dances before hundreds of millions of viewers—a sharp contrast from the stumbling prototypes that drew scepticism just a year prior.

It was a spectacle, yes. It was also a statement. China accounted for over 80% of global humanoid robot installations in 2025 and over half of the world's industrial robots.

Jai Mata Di

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