

## **Please don't put shortcomings of other Boards at BCCI's doorsteps**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Sunil Gavaskar

THE last week was a fantastic week for the Indian cricket team as it beat the Sri Lankans in the third Test to register a 2-0 win in the series and with that win also went to the ICC number one ranking in Test cricket. The Australians who have been number one for years also took a big step towards regaining their spot with a hard earned draw against a West Indies team that had been beaten in just three days in the previous Test.

Still further South, Pakistan beat New Zealand in the second Test to level the series. So there have been plenty of performers in the three Tests played at various venues around the world. India's number one position has unsurprisingly ranked a lot of people who till then had no issues about the methodology of the rankings. Now that India is number one they are questioning the system and in the process showing how jaundiced they are when it comes to India. The regular India bashers are as usual doing their thing but what takes the cake, nay, bakery is how blame is being put on BCCI for so called indifference to Test cricket when it is other Boards who too are not too keen on the game's longer format.



It was the South African Board who wanted a bit of rest for their international players and also has them available to play in their domestic T20 competition and thus preferred a limited overs series instead of a Test series. Hopefully now they will have a rethink but if that happens don't be surprised if the headlines are negative about BCCI and it's so called pressure tactics. The BCCI like other full members of the ICC has one vote. However whenever it has come to contentious issues in the ICC and the decision is against what the media in those countries want, then the blame is piled on to BCCI.

Take Zimbabwe for example. BCCI is always accused of soft pedaling that issue but pray tell what stops the other Boards from taking a stand that their media wants. Why blame BCCI when there is a consensus reached by all the Boards? Why are the representatives of other Boards not pilloried by their media for that? Yes BCCI is not a perfect body, no big organization ever is but please don't put the shortcomings of other Boards at BCCI's doorsteps.

Coming to on-field action, Virender Sehwag's superb batting saw India post a huge total and though he was unlucky to miss out another triple ton he has single-handedly lifted Test cricket's image and made it compelling watching whenever he is at the crease.

Mohammad Asif, Dwayne Bravo, Mitchell Johnson and company have all done brilliantly for their teams but Virender Sehwag easily beats them all to be the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week and even the regular churlish will not moan about that.