



MY TIME: Telly stars give us their take on the Indian cricket team's performance and who they expect to win the World Cup

Oh! Those men in blue



ARSHAD KHAN

I'm a cricket crazy fan at all. With India's defeat was a letdown, I think it's part of the game. We should look at the players in true sportsman spirit. It's not right to vandalise the properties owned by cricketers. They're worshipped as demigods in our country and their performance sets the mood of the nation. But they're humans at the end. There's no feeling dejected because they tried their best. One team will lose. The action in the series is only just beginning. I expect Australia and South Africa to qualify for the finals.



MINI MATHUR

I'm dejected for sure. Our cricketers performed badly in all departments and we couldn't even make it to the Super Eight. The reaction of fans is justified to some extent but they should not overdo the hatred bit.

I think the team management should introspect to avoid such dismal performances in future. The biggest regret is that the likes of Sachin Tendulkar couldn't deliver on the crucial day.

But that's the game of cricket, full of surprises. I'm sure Australia will win the World Cup, though they should expect a tough time from the West Indies and South Africa.

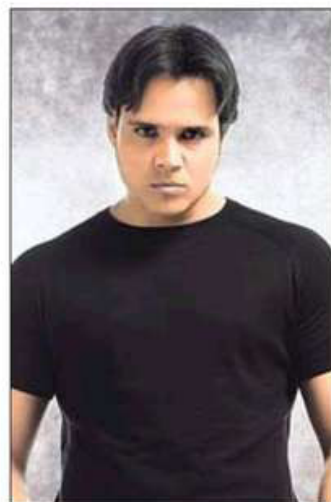


SALIL ANKOLA

It's one of my biggest disappointments. Though I'm out of the cricket scene for a decade now, I still feel humiliated thinking about the way India lost to Sri Lanka.

Disappointed fans across the world have to accept the harsh reality and support the team that plays good cricket.

My personal favourite is South Africa, who despite losing to Australia seem poised to win the World Cup. I salute their fighting spirit and consistency. I think our cricketers should take a lesson or two from them.



YASH TONK

I blame the coach Greig Chappell for the dismal performance. He kept experimenting with the players till the last moment and it affected the team's performance.

I have nothing against Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly. They tried their best. It was the coaches' whimsical demands that resulted in our being washed out of the series.

Since India's defeat, I've stopped watching the matches. I think South Africa and Australia are the favourites since they've a balanced mix of fresh talent and experience.



BOBBY DARLING

Ever since India lost, I've completely given up watching cricket. It's such a big disappointment. I think the coach deliberately didn't include Irfan Pathan in the game. He could've provided the much needed teeth to the bowling attack.

We hardly played against South Africa. And the defeat against Bangladesh killed the team's spirits. The fans have to accept the reality and control their emotions.

I think West Indies has a chance of winning.

As told to Ruhaiz