

# India's No. 1 Test Cricket Team Aims To Conquer Final Frontier In South Africa

Jasprit Bumrah will be essential to India's opportunities in South Africa. (Photo by Lee Warren/Gallo ... [+] Images/Getty Images)

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This isn't precisely Australia in the early 2000s when their almighty Test group identified the hard surface of India as the 'last frontier' having actually devitalized all challengers worldwide.

Quick history lesson prior to we enter into India's quote for history. Steve Waugh's guys rode a record 15- Test streak into the 2001 trip of India after an unbeaten house summertime in all formats versus meek challengers West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Australia, who had not won a series in India for over 3 years, whipped the hosts in the very first Test and a comparable outcome was taking place in the next match. That was prior to among the fantastic collaborations in between VVS Laxman – in an innings ranked the 2nd finest by cricket bible Wisden – and Rahul Dravid sustained among the most exceptional turn-arounds in Test history as India in some way won a series for the ages.

Three years later on, Australia – with their core undamaged although the Waugh twins had actually retired – lastly attained their last piece of the puzzle with a 2-1 triumph over India to dominate the totality of the Test landscape.

Australia took pleasure in a sweet accomplishment in India in 2004 (Photo by ROB ELLIOTT/AFP by means of Getty Images)

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Right now, it's No. 1 ranked Test group India who have actually been branded with Waugh's popular lexicon as they look for a very first Test victory in South Africa – a website which has actually typically shown hard due to additional rate and bounce.

"We have actually worked actually difficult to win series far from India," stated vice captain KL Rahul ahead of the very first Test beginning in Centurion on December 26 "We've won series in England and Australia, which offers us a great deal of self-confidence. We have not won a series in South Africa, which provides us additional inspiration to do our finest."

India has had the odd success however been not able to do it enough time versus the continually difficult South Africa. Times have actually altered and the constantly competitive South Africa, maybe the most constant Test group of the last 3 years, are in a downturn having actually lost 5 of their last 8 house Tests. The instability has actually raised off-field in the middle of a bigotry legend threatening to trigger turmoil for South Africa's cricket governing body.

Usually blessed with a tank of skill, the Proteas lack indefatigable stars who have actually been the fulcrum of the group for so long – AB de Villiers, Faf du Plessis and Hashim Amla. Their batting – usually so unflinching and hard to split – therefore looks delicate and now reliant on brand-new skipper Dean Elgar, who is a throwback to the hard-bitten South African batter of the past.

They do have Aiden Markram and 'keeper-batter Quinton de Kock, who include some much-needed dynamism however India's talent-laden bowling attack led by talisman Jasprit Bumrah will elegant their opportunities.

Their vaunted attack is likewise shorthanded without speedster Anrich Nortje however star Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Duanne Olivier must posture India's batters – who generally have actually struggled in South Africa – a lot of concerns.

Without being too simple, it seems like this possibly special series will depend upon India captain Virat Kohli, who is under substantial pressure after being unceremoniously discarded as skipper of the ODI group and the master batter has actually withstood an odd two-year dry spell without a worldwide century.

Virat Kohli has a great deal of pressure heading into the series. (Photo by PHILL MAGAKOE/AFP through Getty ... [+] Images)

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The ever combative Kohli will no doubt be steeling himself for a go back to his fantastic finest in a quote to spearhead another tradition shaping victory for India. He does have assistance through a knowledgeable batting order and the mercurial skill of Rishabh Pant, who will make his Tets launching in South Africa.

India's well-rounded group, which has actually seen them take pleasure in landmark victories in Australia and England in the last few years, has them well poised to lastly end their curse in South Africa and they deservedly begin as favorites for the three-match series played behind closed doors. It likewise declares a brand-new age with Dravid having actually changed prominent Ravi Shastri as head coach.

But till they are knocked off, South Africa still has history on their side and have actually advised India of their jinx in a fight of the mind video games. "India are primary worldwide for a factor however the reality that we are playing in our own backyard offers us a benefit," Elgar stated.

India aren't as unstoppable as that excellent Australia group remained in the early 2000 s and can never ever rather really claim control the whole landscape offered they unfortunately do not play Pakistan in Tests due to political factors.

Still, last frontier or not, Kohli's males understand a series success will even more seal their standing as India's biggest Test side of all-time.

If that takes place then certainly Kohli will be sporting a large smile which has actually ended up being significantly uncommon throughout this duration of tumult.

Source: [India's No. 1 Test Cricket Team Aims To Conquer Final Frontier In South Africa](#)