

Publication : The Times of India  
 Date : Monday, November 19, 2007  
 Edition : Mumbai  
 Page : 27 (Times Sport)

# The Chappell way continues for Greg

**Shashank Shekhar | TNN**

**Jaipur:** There he was, all business and purpose. Sitting upright as ever at a press conference, with the trademark demeanour of bemused sternness never leaving his face. Greg Chappell was one of the highlights on Saturday in Jaipur, the eve of the final ODI between India and Pakistan.

The Aussie, who left the job of India coach on a very discordant note earlier this year, has yet again been pitchforked into controversy after he was quoted by the media with stinging observations about Indian society and cricket in a doc-

**SECOND INNINGS**  
 GREG CHAPPELL

umentary made in Australia. However, on Saturday, Chappell was only available to talk on the cricket talent search he is part of, in association with the Rajasthan Cricket Association's Future Cricket Academy. The media was told beforehand that he would not speak on anything but the 'Cricket Star T20' programme.

Still, the 30-minute interaction drew some typical 'gems' out of Chappell. The feeling one was left with was that there was a distinct link between what he tried to do with the Indian team but failed and what he was trying to achieve with youngsters at the Jaipur academy. Chappell had a tenuous relationship with many seniors in the Indian team and his efforts to bring about a 'paradigm shift' created a major rift in the side. And while he stressed that "the past has nothing to do with what I'm going to do in the future," some of his strategies for the

young trainees sounded similar to those he wanted Team India to work on.

Elaborating on his training plan for the youngsters who will train at the academy,



Chappell said that with the advent of Twenty20 and the upcoming IPL, cricket was going through a very exciting phase. He said that this also put greater demands on the players and his idea was to prepare young ones for that grind. "The mental and physical stress on the players will be much greater and a coach has to take care of that."

Chappell stressed that unless a player was mentally strong, if he had not conquered fear, he would not succeed in cricket of the future. Chappell said there was no dearth of talent in India. He, interestingly, also observed that Indians were quite athletic. "The only issue is to train them properly for the future."

The Aussie batting great said T20 was not just slam-bang stuff. "It has a lot of cricket in it. Only good players will be able to do well. It will not destroy cricket as some fear. When One-day cricket came, people said it would adversely affect Test cricket. That did not happen. Twenty20 will impact the 50-over game as the 50-over game impacted Tests."

When asked which assignment was more challenging — coaching the Indian team or 15-year-olds — Chappell said that both were challenging tasks.