

Awareness key in must-win clash

OUR BUREAU

Being rigid in ultra-aggression is anything but a positive approach. That's what Team India need to understand going into the fourth T20I versus England in Bristol on Thursday.

After the loss to Ireland, this is another series which India will not be able to win as England lead 2-0 with the opener being a no-result due to rain. However, to avoid yet another series defeat, India must brush up and win in Bristol, which would keep alive the prospect of a 2-2 scoreline.

Having just a day in between to regroup for the next game following a humiliating defeat is never easy for any side. But Shreyas Iyer and Co. were just as responsible for that 76 all out at Trent Bridge as were the England quicks' extra pace and incisive bowling.

The Trent Bridge track did have a wee bit in it for the bowlers if they hit the right areas, which India's Prince Yadav and England duo of Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue had shown. But overall, it was a pretty good wicket for strokeplay. Unfortunately, none of the Indian batsmen were ready to grind it out for a few deliveries at



A dejected Harshit Rana (from left), Ishan Kishan, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Tilak Varma following India's 125-run defeat at Trent Bridge on Tuesday. (Reuters)

least, which Phil Salt did for the hosts.

Most of India's specialist batters, including captain Shreyas, tried to blast the English bowling attack and perished in the deep. Even if it's T20Is, not every ball can be hit for a boundary is what India's illustrious six-hitting group needs to understand.

The pressure thus is very much on India, and terms such as "atrocious" and

"awful" from Shreyas while talking about the hiding his team got in Nottingham further reflect so. Since Shreyas' appointment as the T20I captain, India are yet to win any game.

In head coach Gautam Gambhir's words, the team has hit reset mode after its dominant run and so should be given some time. Now, isn't shot selection and game awareness among the control-

lables for these players, particularly with most of them being a part of this year's T20 World Cup-winning squad?

Gambhir, though, acknowledged that his players' game awareness and adaptability need improvement.

TODAY'S MATCH

● India vs England, 4th T20I.
Live on Sony Sports Network
& JioHotstar, 10pm IST