

Rajkot women set to 'score' history vs England

Nov 05 2016 : The Times of India (Ahmedabad)

# Howzat? Rajkot women set to `score' history vs England

Vijaysinh Parmar

**Rajkot:**

The first Test match between India and England beginning here on November 9 is set to witness a historic partnership; an unbreakable one that would last till the match's final day! Rajkot women -Hemali Desai and Sejal Dave -will be the official scorers of this Test match. "This would be the first time ever in the history of Indian Test cricket that both women would be donning this extremely crucial role," Niranjana Shah, honorary secretary, Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA), told TOI.

SCA sources said that there are 8-10 women scorers in various state cricket associations but they hardly get chance to officiate in Test matches.

"We have covered other formats like first-class matches, one day internationals and IPL matches. But we are very excited to officiate in a Test match as BCCI scorers," said Hemali, 40, who has been associated with SCA as a scorer since 1994.

Hemali, a former cricket coach, is also the only woman DuckworthLewis method manager in BCCI. Both together have officiated in at least 150 matches till date. Their job may look glamorous but it's far from being a cushy one. For eight hours daily, they would require perfect coordination among themselves and the umpires as even a minute error could mess up records of players. Sejal, an MBA from city-based Christ College and an avid sportswoman, said, "We are rarely able to enjoy the matches. We have to watch every ball and movement of players and umpires' signals. All focus is on numbers and there is no scope for error."

A former hockey player, Sejal, had cleared the BCCI exam for scorers in the first attempt in 2004. "I was in class X when my school coach told me about avenues in cricket scoring. Then I met Hemali and decided to make a career as a scorer."

"The wicket at SCA stadium in Khandheri is a batting paradise and this would keep us even more busy," Sejal says with a giggle.

Talking about the women's achievement, Shah, said, "We are constantly encouraging women to take up jobs as scorers. Hemali and Sejal have become role models for others and we hope other women would be inspired."



For the first time in Indian Test cricket, both scorers, Hemali Desai and Sejal Dave, are women