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MEDIA RELEASE
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ICC World XI challenge looms over Australia as ICC Super Series squads are unveiled

Final 20 probables announced!!!

MAX to air live all 3 ODIs and 1 Super Test in October

The inaugural ICC Super Series, which will see a Team of Champions comprising the best of the Rest of the World take on the world's top Test and ODI team, Australia, promises to be the best and most eagerly awaited Cricket Series of the year. The ultimate challenge to Australia's cricketing supremacy has come a step closer with the announcement of the ICC World XI squads of 20 players for the ICC Super Series in Australia this October. Heading a star cast of batsmen are our great India cricketers - Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, who all average above 50 in Tests against Australia. Steve Harmison, Shoaib Akhtar, Muttiah Muralitharan and Makhaya Ntini are included among a potent squad of bowlers, while Andrew Flintoff and Shaun Pollock lead a clutch of world class all rounders. MAX will air all four matches of the series live and exclusive in India.

Speaking on the upcoming ICC Super Series to be aired live on **MAX, Albert Almeida, Executive Vice President and Business Head, MAX** said, "MAX has over the years partnered the ICC in presenting cricket to millions of viewers across India in a truly unique and inimitable way. The channel's presentation of the ICC Super Series would be yet another initiative which will live true to its promise of *Deewana bana de*. MAX's good wishes are with the shortlisted Indian players and we are sure that they will make it to the final squads of 14 to be announced in August 2005."

Of the 26 players selected, 14 are named in both the Test and ODI squads, six are included in the Test squad alone and there are six players nominated as ODI specialists.

<u>FINAL 20 PROBABLES</u>		
<u>TEST & ODI SQUAD</u>	<u>TEST SQUAD</u>	<u>ODI SQUAD</u>
<u>INDIA</u>		
RAHUL DRAVID VIRENDER SEHWAG SACHIN TENDULKAR	ANIL KUMBLE	
<u>ENGLAND</u>		
ANREW FLINTOFF STEVE HARMISON	MICHAEL VAUGHAN	KEVIN PIETERSEN
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>		
BRENDON MCCULLUM DANIEL VETTORI		
<u>PAKISTAN</u>		
SHOAIB AKHTAR INZAMAM UL HAQ	YOUNIS KHAN	SHAHID AFRIDI ABDUL RAZZAQ
<u>SOUTH AFRICA</u>		
MAKHAYA NTINI JACQUES KALLIS SHAUN POLLOCK	MARK BOUCHER GRAEME SMITH	HERSCHELLE GIBBS
<u>SRI LANKA</u>		
MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN		KUMAR SANGAKKARA
<u>WEST INDIES</u>		
BRIAN LARA	SHIVNARINE	CHRIS GAYLE

The final squads of 14 for the ICC World XI ODI team and 13 for the Test squad will be selected and announced in August, when a captain, or captains, will also be named. A World XI coach and management team will also be appointed.

The schedule for the matches is as follows: ODI #1 on 5th October; ODI #2 on 7th October, and ODI #3 on 9th October at Telstra Dome in Melbourne. The 6-day Super Test will be played starting the 14th of October, at Sydney Cricket Ground.

Ever since it acquired the biggest and best of ICC Cricket from 2002 all the way till the ICC Cricket World Cup to be played in 2007, MAX has revolutionized cricket viewing for millions of viewers including diehard cricket fans, women and children alike, with its extremely innovative and inimitable presentation format of great entertaining content spiced with glamour, fun and the lighter side of the game. With each ICC ODI tournament it has aired so far, MAX has raised the bar further and set viewership records in the process. MAX has been closely associated with the ICC in all its big-ticket Limited Overs Cricket tournaments, and was also proud to partner the ICC in the Tsunami Relief Match, which it aired live in India.

About MAX

MAX, India's premium Movies and Special Events channel, backed by Sony Pictures Television International (SPTI), provides its viewers with the biggest and best of Hindi Movies and Special Events including the best limited overs ICC Cricket tournaments all the way till 2007 ending with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. With Extraaa Innings, MAX changed the rules of cricket presentation in India during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003, and made it an entertaining affair that set viewership records. Thanks to pioneering concepts like Extraaa Innings and Extraaa Shots, combined with its innovative Programming and Marketing initiatives, MAX has been widely acclaimed and recognized in the media marketplace with several top awards. Launched in 1999, MAX is today the fastest growing channel in its category, reaching out to over 32 million people in India. MAX is part of the bouquet of channels distributed by the TheOneAlliance, which is a joint venture between SET India Pvt Ltd and Discovery Communications India. Other channels in TheOneAlliance bouquet are SET, Discovery, MTV, Animal Planet, AXN, ANIMAX, NDTV 24X7, NDTV India, NDTV Profit, Ten Sports, SABTV and NICK.

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