

Sangakkara Quits as Lanka Captain

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His decision, revealed on Tuesday, comes only days after he led Sri Lanka to the World Cup final and they lost to India in the final, reports ESPNcricinfo.

Tillakaratne Dilshan and Angelo Mathews are among those tipped to take charge of the limited-over formats, while Thilan Samaraweera is being discussed as an option to lead the Test team.

Sangakkara was the third-highest scorer in the 2011 World Cup and scored 48 in their defeat to India in the final.

"I would like to announce that after careful consideration, I have concluded that it is in the best long-term interests of the team that I step down now as the national captain, so that a new leader can be properly groomed for the 2015 World Cup in Australia," a statement from Sangakkara said.

"This was a decision I made prior to the 2011 World Cup. I will be 37 by the next World Cup and I cannot therefore be sure of my place in the team. It is better that Sri Lanka is led now by a player who will be at the peak of his career during that tournament," he said.

The outgoing captain went on to add, "It has been a true honour and a great privilege to serve my country as captain in the past two years and, although bitterly disappointed that we could not win the final, I am very proud of the performances of the team."

"…I have offered to continue as the Test captain for the forthcoming series with England and possibly Australia if the selectors believe this would help the new captain and aid the transition.

"I have no plans of retirement from international cricket at this stage and subject to form and fitness I would like to be considered for selection in all three formats of the game for the foreseeable future," he said.

Source: bdnews24.com