

India's T20 WC Squad: No fresh faces likely; Shivam vs Rinku, Gill vs Jaiswal shootout possible

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The national selection committee is unlikely to blood any rookie IPL performer during the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas but a couple of tried-and-tested faces might have to brace up for disappointment when the squad is finalised by the end of this month.

With the ICC making it mandatory to announce the provisional 15-member squad by May 1 cut-off date, Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues have some straightforward choices to make if every member of the team is fit.

"There would not be any experimentation or left-field selections. All those who have played for India and have done well consistently in T20 Internationals and the IPL will be rewarded," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

It is understood that one among Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal might miss out but in case both proven performers are selected in the final 15, then only one among two finishers -- Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh and Chennai Super Kings' Shivam Dube -- will get the nod.

The other close call could be for the second wicketkeeper's slot where Sanju Samson has competition from Jitesh Sharma, KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan.

Rahul and Kishan bat at the top of the order, and they haven't tried batting

in the middle order in this IPL so far, which makes it difficult for the selectors to analyse their impact down the order.

Although Hardik Pandya's bowling fitness remains a concern, there is no immediate doubt on his selection. Much like him, Virat Kohli's inclusion is also a formality.

The other automatic selections are skipper Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav. These 10 names, if fit, will definitely be on the flight across the Atlantic. It is understood that Siraj is being rested by RCB as he has been playing constantly and needed workload management.

In the choice between Gill and Jaiswal, the former has scored more runs but in case of Jaiswal, who has been a big find for Indian cricket, the selection committee might not give up easily on him merely for a few low IPL scores.

Also, being the only left-hander in inside the top four is a novelty and in a largely unidimensional top order. However, if Gill piles up enough runs, it will be a difficult choice unless the selectors accommodate both and drop one among Shivam and Rinku from the 15.

The reserve spinner's slot could also be a three-way battle between Axar Patel, a handy batter apart from being

an accurate left-arm spinner, Yuzvendra Chahal, who is yet to play a single T20 World Cup match in his nine-year international career; and Ravi Bishnoi, who plays for Lucknow Super Giants.

While Chahal is head and shoulders above the other two in terms of bowling skills, his repeated omissions from important squads leaves a big question mark about his inclusion showpiece in June.

A former international player, who is also a broadcaster, gave an interesting insight.

"The 'Impact Player' rule, which is basically a glorified '12-a-side' cricket contest has been good for IPL viewership but detrimental for Indian cricket. It has killed the concept of all-rounder and hence a half-fit Hardik Pandya also has premium value because he can bowl," he stated.

"Think about it, if there was no Impact Player rule, could MS Dhoni (not Ruturaj Gaikwad) as CSK skipper afford to not bowl Dube? Selectors don't know about Dube's bowling form. "Similarly, a guy like Rahul Tewatia is no longer in contention despite being a good finisher, who also used to be a handy leg-break bowler. He doesn't bowl now as he is an 'Impact Player'. Who is it hurting? The national team," he pointed out.

The likes of Riyan Parag, Mayank Yadav, Abhishek Sharma, and Harshit Rana have all performed well but it is understood that the selection committee would like to follow the process of easing them in via bilateral cricket instead of putting them to test in a high-stakes World T20 game.

There are two white-ball series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka and these young men would be in line for their India debuts at that time. Nitish Reddy, who is a seam bowling all-rounder and was part of India Emerging side that toured Sri Lanka last year, could also follow the same path.

It will be interesting to see if BCCI makes arrangements for the likes of Mayank Yadav, Harshit Rana or Akash Madhwal to be taken as net bowlers, which will also give them good exposure.

Specialist Batters (6): Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rinku Singh All-Rounders (4): Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel.

Specialist Spinners (3): Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi.

Wicketkeeper-batter (3): Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul and Sanju Samson.

Pacers(4): Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan.

Para-archer Sheetal claims silver in competition with able-bodied at Khelo India National meet



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Asian Para Games gold-winner Sheetal Devi grabbed a silver in the Khelo India NTPC National Ranking archery meet, finishing second behind Haryana's Ekta Rani, who is able-bodied and a junior world champion.

In the competition held at the DDA Yamuna Sports Complex, the 17-year-old Sheetal competed with able-bodied junior archers and lost 138-140 to Ekta in the individual compound event final.

Sheetal, who was bestowed the Arjuna award earlier this year for her two gold and a silver

medal winning performance in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, was born with a rare condition called phocomelia which makes her the first and the only international para-archery champion without arms. Sheetal believes her performance in the Khelo India event will help her prepare for the challenges ahead. "This result will help me more going ahead in the international platforms and the Olympics," Sheetal was quoted as saying in a media release from the Sports Authority of India.

Her coach Abhilasha said the competition was much-needed

for the teenager before the Paralympics.

"Taking part in the national ranking tournament, alongside able-bodied competitors, is giving training and competition exposure which is much-needed prior to the Olympics," said the archer's coach Abhilasha. "We have to go abroad for exposure but we are getting the same experience here itself. Domestic-level tournaments like these are helping the cause," Abhilasha added. On her part, Ekta said she felt inspired by Sheetal's presence in the competition. "I have faced-off with Sheetal previously so I had the match experience against her. We faced off in Patiala last December as well. It feels good to play against her because she is an armless archer and it gives a lot of motivation as well," Ekta said.

Ekta bagged the prize money of Rs 50,000 whereas Sheetal received Rs 40,000. The tournament was conducted in three categories -- senior, junior and sub-junior in recurve and compound. Eighty-seven archers competed in this event.

Flights to be halted for 5 hours on Apr 21 at airport for religious procession

STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Flight services from the international airport here will be suspended for five hours on April 21 for the smooth continuation of the holy 'Painkuni Arattu' pro-

cession of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple across the runway, TIAL said on Wednesday.

The Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Ltd (TIAL) said the flight services would be suspended

from 4 pm to 9 pm on April 21.

It said the updated timings of the flights are available with the respective airlines.

The airport has been pausing operations and rescheduling flights twice every year

for decades to enable the bi-annual centuries-old ceremonial procession of the shrine to pass through the runway.

The practice of the temple procession taking that path to reach the

Shangumugham beach for the holy bath of the idols began centuries ago and it has been continuing even after the establishment of the airport in 1932.

When the airport was constructed at the particu-

lar place, the then Travancore King Sree Chithira Thirunal had made it clear that facility would be open for public for 363 days in a year and for two days for Lord Padmanabha, the titular

deity of the royal family, according to historians.

The royal era ritual has been continuing even after the Adani Group took over management of the airport.

The airport issues a

NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) twice every year before the runway is closed during the bi-annual Alappi festival which falls in October-November and the Painkuni festival in March-April.

CRIME REPORT

Excise, police teams seize 25.5 litres of desi liquor, 140 kgs of Lahan; destroy working still

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/NEWSHERA: In order to curb menace of illicit distillation and sale of liquor during election of house of people and on dry day, Excise Team conducted raids in various areas falling in Sub Division Nowshera.

During search at Lam area, 15.5 litres of illicit liquor distilled and 100kgs of Lahan (Raw material used for illicit Liquor distillation), one working still, 1.2 bottles of IMFL meant for defence personnel was recovered. One person namely Raghbir Kumar, son of Bansil Lal, resident of Laroka who is habitual offender has been arrested under relevant sections of J&K Excise Act. Further investigation in this regard are being conducted to break the supply chain of illicit liquor in Rajouri Area. The raids are being conducted on the direction of Excise Commissioner J&K Pankaj Kumar (JKAS) and Deputy Excise Commissioner Executive Smt Kusum Sharma (JKAS) and under supervision of ETO Rajouri Poonch Narinder Singh Anthal by a team led by Insp. Mohd Arif



Police also recovered ten litres of Desi liquor and has destroyed over forty litres of Lahaan after recovering the same during search of two houses.

Over some specific information, a team of police headed by Incharge Police Post Lam, conducted search of two houses in the area of jurisdiction.

During search in the house of Anritpal son of Babu Ram resident of village Rajowa Lam, five litres of desi liquor was recovered and seized on the spot while twenty five litres of Lahaan was recovered at the site and destroyed.

Similarly, during search in the house of Sanjay Kumar son of Krishan Singh resident of Rajowa Lam, five litres of liquor was recovered from the spot while twenty seven litres of Lahaan was destroyed.

Police team has taken cognizance into the matter.

Illegal property worth Lakh of notorious drug peddler attached

STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: In continuation its unwavering efforts to eradicate the Menace of Drugs from the society, Police in Shopian under the supervision of SSP Shopian Tanushree attached property (Double story residential house worth Rs. 25 lacs) measuring 1769.635 Sqft belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Mahjabeen Banoo wife of Farooq Ahmad Najar resident of Stadium Colony Batapora Shopian constructed over Shamilat Section 5 land measuring 6.5 marlas (1769.63 sqft) falling under Survey No. 952/1 at village Batapora District Shopian.

The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No.21/2024 U/S 8/20 of NDPS Act of Police Station Shopian.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Shopian Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police.

4 drug peddlers arrested, contraband Substances recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 04 drug peddlers in Avantipora & Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Avantipora, a police party of Police Station Tral at a checkpoint established at Buchoo Tral arrested a drug peddler identified as Yawar Ahmad Wagay son of Abdul Rashid wagay resident of Saimoh Tral. During search, 20 grams of Cannabis like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

During the investigation of said case, one more person identified in backward linkage, namely Mohammad Amin Dar son of Ab Gaffar Dar resident of Kewi Pora Marhama Sangam was arrested. During search, 90 grams of cannabis like substance was recovered from his possession.

Meanwhile, a police party headed by Incharge PP Reshipora under the supervision of SDPO Avantipora at a checkpoint established at Duptora Avantipora arrested a drug peddler identified as Ghulam Mohammad Bhat son of Gh Qadir Bhat resident of Dogripora. During search, 1Kg 140gms of Charas Powder like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to PS where he remains in

custody.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Station Sherri headed by SHO PS Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Sheeri NHW near Eco Park, intercepted a person identified as Adil Nazir Sofi son of Nazir Ahmad resident of Bagna Salamabad A/P PWD Colony Kanthbagh Baramulla. During search, 10 grams of contraband Heroin like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective Police Stations and investigation have been initiated.

125 bovines rescued, 5 smugglers arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA/RAMBAN: intensifying its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has foiled two major bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and Police Station Samba, arrested bovine smuggler and rescued forty eight bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers.

Acting on reliable information regarding smuggling of bovines by foot via Malani area of Rajpura, Police teams of Police Station Ghagwal and Police Post Rajpura in a joint operation successfully foiled major bovine smuggling attempt and rescued forty bovines which were being smuggled by foot in a very cruel manner from Kathua side towards Samba side via border area. Police teams chased the bovine smugglers but they were successful in escaping while taking advantage of the darkness. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to safer place.

A case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

Likewise, a police party of Police Post Goran headed by Incharge PP Goran has successfully foiled another major bovine smuggling attempt, arrested bovine smuggler and rescued eight bovines which were being smuggled by foot via Dhaki area, Sumb.

The arrested bovine smuggler has been identified as Mohd Arshad, son of Mohd Kalu, resident of Chak Balunda tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua. A case FIR No.101/2024 U/S 188 IPC has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Ramban also foiled bovine smuggling attempts, arrested 04 bovine smugglers, rescued 77 bovines and seized four vehicles.

Police team of Police station Chanderkote headed by SHO Chanderkote while performing vehicle checking duty intercepted a vehicle bearing registration No. JK 03L 8185 held one person namely Feroz Ahmed Bhat son of Bashir Ahmed resident of Baranti, Bhatpura Tehsil and District Anantnag. During checking 25 bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally.

Police Party of PS Ramban headed by SHO Ramban foiled a bovine smuggling bid, intercepted a vehicle bearing registration No. JK02DD 795 and held one person namely Shabir Ahmed son of Mohd Qasim resident of Tatrsoo, Tehsil Banihal District Ramban. During checking 14 bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally.

Police team of Police Post Jawahar Tunnel headed by Incharge Police Post JT also foiled two bovine smuggling bids intercepted two vehicles bearing registration Nos JK 21J 3231 and JK 14E 4573 and held two persons namely Mohd Tariq son of Ayoub Khan resident of Jakhani Udhampur and Showket Ali son of Mohd Iqbal resident of Haneja Doda. During checking 38 bovines were found laden inside both the vehicles which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally towards Kashmir.

As a result, a total of 77 bovine animals were rescued under the operation "KAMD-HENU." Subsequently, FIR No. 50/2024 was registered at Police Station Chanderkote, FIR No. 83/2024 at PS Ramban, FIR No. 54/2024 and 55/2024 were registered at PS Banihal under Sections 188 IPC, and under the Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act. The investigation has been initiated into these cases. 04 persons arrested and 04 vehicle involved in the commission of offence have been Seized.

The successful rescue operation was conducted by Police parties led by SHO Police Station Chanderkote, SHO PS Ramban and IC PP Jawahar Tunnel under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Ramban, SDPO Banihal, Addl.SP Ramban, with the overall supervision by SSP Ramban.

Missing person traced, reunited with family

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Police on Wednesday reunited a missing person with his family whose missing report was lodged at Police Post RakhAmb/Tallifalling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba.

On Nov 7, 2023, a written report was lodged at Police Post RakhAmb/Talli by the father of missing person namely Sardari Lal, a resident of Kalibari tehsil and district Sambastating therein that his son went out from home and did not return. All efforts were made out by the family members but the whereabouts of the missing person could not be ascertained.

Acting on complaint, a missing report was entered at Police Post RakhAmb/Talli and search started to trace out the said missing person. With continuous strenuous efforts, a police team of Police PostRakhAmb/Talli has traced out the said missing person and handed over to his legal heirs after completing all legal formalities.

Notorious peddler nabbed with intoxicating capsules

STATE TIMES NEWS

THANAMANDI: Police on Wednesday arrested a notorious drug peddler along with a consignment of drugs.

A team of police headed by SHO Thanamandi under the supervision of SDPO Thanamandi was on routine naka duty at Nerojal when a vehicle was intercepted and person namely Mohd Shakoor son of Mohd Bashir resident of Dhanidar Rajouri was subjected to routine check.

During his personal search as well as search of vehicle JK11E 649, police team

recovered 40 tablets of Tapentadol and 75 tablets of Ultracet semi from his possession.

The said person was arrested from the spot and vehicle has been seized.

In this regard case FIR No. 43/2024 U/s 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered in police station Thanamandi. The arrested accused is a notorious drug peddler and has also remain booked under PSA.

Punjab based narcotics smuggler arrested, 17 kgs poppy straw recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Continuing its drive against the narcotics smugglers, Samba Police has arrested a narcotics smuggler and recovered approximately 17 Kgs of Poppy Straw for his possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba.

A Police Party of Police Station Samba headed by SHO PS Samba during vehicle checking at Naka Nud, intercepted a truck bearing registration No. HR65A-4255 for its checking. During checking, approximately 17 kilograms of Poppy Straw was recovered which was tactfully concealed inside the cavity behind the driver's seat of the truck.

The accused identified as Ravinder Singh, son of Raghunath Singh, resident of Sai Kullian Pathankot (Punjab) has been arrested and the contraband item along with vehicle was also seized.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 103/2024 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and further investigation started.

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its efforts to curb the menace of drugs from the society and tightening noose against drug peddlers under operation Sanjeevani, Nowabad Police arrested 01 drug peddler and recovered 5.9 gms heroin (chitta) like substance from him.

A police party of Police Post Canal led by PSI Darshan Singh under supervision of SHO Police Station Nowabad Inspector Deepak Pathania, DySP Headquarters Ashok Kumar and SP City North Shivam Siddharth-IPS established a naka near 4th bridge for vehicle checking.

During checking a pedestrian who was on his way from 4th bridge was signalled to stop near Bhagwati Nagar Chowk. Instead of stopping, he started running backwards towards 4th bridge, the said person was chased by the police party and apprehended accordingly.

During his search 5.9 grms of Heroin (chitta) like Psychotropic Substance was recovered from the possession of this pedestrian namely Sahil Kumar, son of Both Raj, resident of H.No.183, Gali No. 01, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 64/24 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at PS Nowabad. Further Investigation of the case is going on.

Two bootleggers nabbed, 63 bottles of illicit liquor recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR/RAMBAN: In a significant crackdown on illegal activities, District Police Kishtwar have recovered 27 bottles of illicit liquor from Shalimar area of Kishtwar town. A surprise checkpoint was established at Shalimar by the SHO PS Kishtwar Insp Firdous Ahmed assisted by IC PP Shalimar PSI Happy Choudhary along with team of SST under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta. During checking of vehicle and pedestrian, naka party stopped a suspicious person during checking naka party recovered 27 bottles of illicit liquor and arrest was made on spot. The arrested person disclosed his identification as Firdous Ahmed Bagwan, son of Ghulam Haider, resident of Semna Colony Kishtwar at present Wardha. In this regard case FIR No. 105/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kishtwar and investigation taken up.

Ramban Police has arrested one bootlegger and recovered illicit liquor 36 bottles of alcohol, in which 30 bottles 250/250mltrs & 06 of 750 mltr from his possession in the Jurisdiction of Police Station Batote.

The arrested accused persons have been identified as Leel Chand, son of Nathi Ram resident of Sana Tehsil Batote Distt. Ramban

A police party of Police Station Batote comprising of SHO PS Batote under the supervision of Dy. SP Hqrs Ramban and Addl. SP Ramban while on special Naka duty near Bhadervah Morh Batote arrested one bootlegger who was illegally selling liquor and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

A FIR No. 53/2024, pursuant to Section 48 (a) of the Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Batote and investigation set into motion.

