

# Gill misses out on India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad, Axar Appointed Vice-Captain

Mumbai, (UNI) Defending champions and co-hosts India have named their squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, set to begin on February 7.

The hosts enter the tournament aiming to clinch a record third title. Suryakumar Yadav is set to lead India in his first-ever ICC tournament as captain, with Axar Patel named as his deputy in the absence of star batter Shubman Gill, who was dropped after lean performances upon his return to the T20I setup in September.

Along with Gill, Jitesh Sharma, who had featured in the recent T20Is against South Africa, also missed



out. Fiery opener Abhishek Sharma, who has a strike rate of 188.02 in the format, is expected to open the side, with Sanju Samson expected to partner him. Ishan Kishan, who last

played a T20I for India in 2023, has been brought in as the backup opener and wicket-keeper.

Kishan has been rewarded for his sterling campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, India's

domestic T20 tournament, where he led Jharkhand to the title while top-scoring with 517 runs in 10 matches at an average of 57.44 and a whirlwind strike rate of 197.32.

The biggest news coming out of the announcement was the omission of Gill, who was named the T20I vice-captain for the Asia Cup. However, since his return to the T20I setup in September, Gill had scored just 291 runs at an average of 24.25. On the other hand, since the 2024 T20 World Cup, Sanju Samson has often featured at the top and averages 32.90 with a strike rate closing in on 160.

Besides Gill's form, the

selectors also took into consideration the combinations they were looking for in the T20 World Cup.

"You're looking at combinations at the moment," Agarkar said. "If your keeper (Sanju Samson) is going to bat at the top, our thought was to have another keeper [Ishan Kishan], just in case."

"At the moment, Jitesh was there, and hadn't done too much wrong. We know what a quality player he is, perhaps out of runs at the moment. Unfortunate to miss out on the last World Cup as well, because we went with a different combination. But it's the combination more than anything else," he said.

# Lyon rips through England as chase falters on Day 4



Adelaide, (UNI)

Nathan Lyon turned the tide decisively in Australia's favour on Day 4 of the third Test against England, producing a telling spell of off-spin that all but extinguished hopes of a dramatic chase and left the visitors needing an improbable 228 runs with only four wickets in hand at stumps.

While the day began with Australia building on their commanding position through Travis Head's monumental century, it was Lyon's intervention in the final session that truly defined the day's narrative.

As England showed signs of belief during their pursuit, the experienced off-spinner stepped in with trademark control, guile and accuracy to wrest momentum back for the hosts.

England's chase had gathered substance through Zak Crawley (85) and Joe Root (39), who negotiated the Australian pace attack with growing assurance.

Crawley, in particular, looked settled, mixing patience with calculated aggression, while Root played fluently against both spin and seam. With runs flowing and wickets in hand, England briefly dared

to imagine an extraordinary turnaround.

Lyon ended that optimism with a series of decisive strikes. He first removed Harry Brook (30), who once again perished attempting a reverse sweep, missing a straight one that crashed into the stumps. The dismissal was a psychological blow, halting England's momentum just as the partnership was taking shape.

Moments later, Lyon produced the ball of the day to dismiss England captain Ben Stokes. Tossed up invitingly, the delivery drifted, dipped and then spun sharply past Stokes' tentative defence to rattle the stumps, leaving the England skipper staring in disbelief. The wicket sparked jubilant celebrations among the Australia players and shifted the balance of the match firmly back towards the hosts. Lyon was not finished. He then claimed the prized scalp of Crawley, drawing him out of the crease before Alex Carey completed a lightning-quick stumping. Crawley's dismissal for a well-made 85 broke England's backbone and underlined Lyon's enduring value as Australia's go-to bowler in pressure situations.

# Dortmund delivers disciplined display against Monchengladbach with 2-0 win



Berlin, (UNI)

Borussia Dortmund kicked off the Bundesliga's 15th round by beating Borussia Monchengladbach 2-0 at Signal Iduna Park.

Dortmund controlled the early phases and was ahead inside 10 minutes when Julian Brandt volleyed in at the far post from Niklas Sule's cross.

The opener was contentious, with Gladbach appealing for a foul as Serhou Guirassy appeared to pull Philipp Sander to the ground, but referee Sven Jablonski and his team allowed the goal to stand.

The hosts continued to dictate play against a compact visiting block. Guirassy headed wide, and Karim Adeyemi then forced goalkeeper Moritz Nicolas into a sharp save in the 29th minute as Dortmund pushed for a second.

Gladbach improved late in the first half, with Florian Neuhaus and Giovanni Reyna both seeing deflected efforts drift off target, but Dortmund went into the break 1-0 up. The visitors began the second half with more intent and Neuhaus was

denied when Emre Can threw himself in front of his shot, taking a heavy follow-through in the process. Dortmund

thought they had doubled the lead when Guirassy scored, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside.

Chances then came at both ends without either side finding a cutting edge. Gregor Kobel reacted sharply to keep out Wael Mohya's drive in the 80th minute, while at the other end Nicolas continued to frustrate Dortmund, denying substitute Maximilian Beier before watching him miss a clear opening in the 89th minute. Beier, however, had the final say, finishing Fabio Silva's pass in the seventh minute of stoppage time to seal the 2-0 win. "It was a hard-fought game, and we are happy to take the win at the end of a long year," Brandt said. The result extended Dortmund's home winning run against Gladbach to a club-record 12 straight matches and consolidated its second place in the Bundesliga with 32 points from 15 games, six behind leader Bayern Munich, while Gladbach remains 11th on 16 points.

# Brazil schedule France, Croatia friendlies ahead of World Cup

Rio de Janeiro (UNI)

Brazil will step up preparations for next year's FIFA World Cup with international friendlies against France and Croatia in the United States, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) announced.

The five-time world champions will face France in Boston on March 26, followed by a match against Croatia in Orlando on March 31, according to the CBF statement.

The fixtures will provide Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti his final opportunity to assess players before naming the World Cup squad. The tournament will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexi-



co, and Canada from June 11 to July 19. Brazil secured qualification for the World Cup by finishing fifth in the 10-team South American qualifying standings. Ancelotti's side will open its Group C campaign against Morocco on June 13, before taking on Haiti on June 19 and Scotland on June 24.

# New Zealand names 15-member squad for under-19 World Cup

Auckland, (UNI)

Five players with domestic experience have been named in New Zealand's 15-member squad for the 2026 ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, to be hosted jointly by Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Otago opener Tom Jones has been appointed captain of the side, which will depart for Africa on January 2. Jones, who will feature in his second Under-19 World Cup, recently underlined his promise by scoring 119 on his first-class debut for Otago last month, as per the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) website.

Joining Jones among those with domestic caps are Northern Districts batter Snehith Reddy and wicketkeeper Aryan Mann, Otago fast bowler Mason Clarke, and Auckland bowling all-rounder Jaskaran Sandhu.

Reddy and Clarke made their



List A debuts earlier this year and were part of the previous Under-19 World Cup in South Africa, where Reddy struck the tournament's highest individual score of 147 not out against Nepal, and Clarke claimed figures of 4 for 62 against

runners-up India. Seventeen-year-old batter Hugo Bogue earned selection following an impressive performance for Otago at the National Under-19 Men's Tournament in Lincoln, where he finished as the third-

highest run-scorer, averaging 72 and registering a top score of 169 against Northern Districts.

The batting line-up is further strengthened by Auckland trio Brandon Matzopoulos, Marco Alpe, and Jacob Cotter, who finished fourth, fifth, and sixth respectively on the tournament's run charts. Northern Districts all-rounders Harry Burns and Flynn Morey add depth to the pace attack after each claimed a five-wicket haul at the national tournament, finishing with 10 wickets apiece.

Former BLACKCAP and Northern Districts stalwart Anton Devcich will lead the coaching staff, supported by NZC High Performance coaches Paul Wiseman and Graeme Aldridge.

Congratulating the squad, Devcich said selection had been challenging due to the depth of talent available.

## BUSINESS

# NMDC Bags 7 Prestigious Awards at PRSI National Conference 2025

Hyderabad: NMDC, India's largest iron ore producer and a responsible miner, has won seven prestigious accolades at the 47th All India Public Relations Conference 2025, organised by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI). Held over three days on the theme "Empowering Growth, Preserving Roots", the conference celebrated excellence in public relations and strategic communication. NMDC's achievements were recognised for their wide-ranging impact across skill development, women empowerment initiatives, corporate social responsibility, research and development, healthcare outreach, and corporate communications, reflecting



the organisation's integrated approach to sustainable growth and nation-building. The event was graced by a distinguished gathering of dignitaries including, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister Uttarakhand, Shri Subodh Uniyal, Minister of Forest of Uttarakhand, Shri Ganesh Joshi, Minister for Bio Technology of Uttarak-

hand, Shri Naresh Bansal Member of Parliament, and Swami Chidanand ji Saraswati Maharaj.

The awards were presented by the Chief Guest Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister Uttarakhand with Minister of Forest of Uttarakhand Subodh Uniyal, and other events honoured figures like Dr.

Prasad Gourineni and industry leaders. Representing NMDC, Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Deputy General Manager (Corporate Communications), received the honours on behalf of the organisation. NMDC was conferred awards for Best Skill Development Programmes by a PSU, Annual Report, and House Journal (Hindi) with first prizes, along with recognitions for Best R&D Efforts for Promoting Science & Technology and Best CSR Project for Women Development with second prizes, and accolades for Best PSU Implementing CSR Projects and Outstanding Initiatives for Promoting Medical & Health with third prizes.

# Oriental University, Indore Enters into Strategic Collaboration with HCL Techs

Indore: Oriental University, Indore (OUJ) has entered into a strategic collaboration with HCL Technologies, a leading global technology company, to introduce industry-focused specializations at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This collaboration is aimed at addressing the evolving demands of today's job market and strengthening the employability of students through industry-aligned education. The initiative is designed to empower learners with skills that are directly aligned with current and emerging industry requirements.

# Signify to illuminate 100 Indo-Nepal border villages, enhancing safety & livelihoods

In line with its BrighterLivesBetterWorld vision, Signify, the world leader in lighting, announces the streetLEDification of 100 villages along the Indo-Nepal border, in collaboration with Tarq Foundation. This transformative initiative is being undertaken under the guidance of Shri Rajnath Singh Ji, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, whose vision for safer, empowered, and better-connected border communities



anchors this effort. Stretching across 1700 km, the Indo-Nepal border is home to resilient and vibrant communities whose daily lives often unfold against infrastructural and safety-related constraints. Limited street lighting has long impacted mobility, economic activity, and community safety after dusk. The introduction of energy-efficient LED streetlights across these villages marks a

significant step towards addressing these ground realities, creating safer evenings, supporting local livelihoods, and promoting stronger community networks. Nikhil Gupta, Head of Marketing, Strategy, Govt. Affairs & CSR - Signify, Greater India said, "At Signify, we believe in bringing the best of innovations to the communities across India, through our Har Gaon Roshan CSR initiative.

# Indore to Host First-Ever West Zone French Teachers' Congress

Indore will make history on 10-11 January 2026 as Delhi Public School Rau, in collaboration with IATF West Zone and the French Institute in India (Embassy of France), hosts the first West Zone Congress of French Teachers in Madhya Pradesh. French educators from Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and the host state will take part in two days of workshops, training sessions, and collaborative exchanges to strengthen the teaching of French language and culture in India. The event will conclude with the national finale of "Idole Indienne", a French singing competition featuring talented finalists from across the country. This milestone initiative positions Indore as a growing centre for French language education and Indo-French cultural collaboration.

# Nestlé India collaborates with Ricon Panels



Bhopal: Furthering its sustainability journey, NestléIndia is making an investment in plastic circularity through a collaboration with Ricon Panels. NestléIndia supported Ricon Panels set up its washing line, which would in turn help them with better quality of 'recyclate' - the raw material for the recycled panels. The collaboration will lead to a reduction of 100,000 tonnes of Carbon diox-

idemissions over next five years and aid plastic circularity.

As a part of the partnership Ricon will collect, segregate, and upcycle the post-consumer plastic waste on behalf of NestléIndia. Each ton of Ricon upcycled product saves 4.15 tonnes of Carbon dioxide emission.

Talking about the initiative, Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing

Director, Nestlé India said "At Nestlé, we are continuously trying to ensure that our packaging doesn't end up as waste in landfills. Ricon Panel's strategy aligns with our mission of advancing circular economy solutions and extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives.

Hence, we are happy to support Ricon Panels in their endeavour to elevate the quality of the recycled products and lower emissions in the process." Established in 2014, Ricon is a government authorized re-cycler who is engaged in collecting, segregating, and upcycling difficult to recycle multilayer plastic waste.

# NSE and Mumbai Climate Week Launch MCW 2026 Innovation Challenge to Spotlight Climate Solutions from the Global South

Mumbai: In a significant step towards strengthening India's climate innovation ecosystem, Mumbai Climate Week (MCW), in partnership with National Stock Exchange (NSE), today announces the launch of the MCW 2026 Innovation Challenge - a flagship platform designed to identify, evaluate, and accelerate high-impact climate solutions aligned with India's sustainable development priorities. The Innovation Challenge invites early-stage, growth-ready, and sector-focused innovators from startups, civil society, academia, and the wider climate ecosystem from across the Global South to apply with breakthrough solutions aligned to MCW's three core themes: Food Systems, Urban Resilience, and Energy Transition. The Challenge aims to surface scalable, equitable, and investment-ready innovations that address climate vulnerabilities while contributing to India's long-term vision of inclusive and sustainable



growth. Shortlisted innovators will progress through a structured and rigorous evaluation journey, including application screening, expert jury rounds, mentorship and acceleration clinics with thematic partners, and final-stage presentations during Mumbai Climate Week 2026, scheduled to be held from 17-19 February 2026. Selected innovators will also benefit from enhanced visibility through exchange-supported platforms and access to MCW's curated Investor "Speed-Seeding" sessions, connecting them with investors, ecosystem partners, and enablers. Speaking on the launch, Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE, said: "NSE, in collaboration with Mumbai Climate Week, has launched the Climate Innovation Program: our call to action for new-age climate startups to bring forward transformative ideas that can shape India's green future and become capital market-ready enterprises of tomorrow."

