

Chakravarthy added to ODI squad for England series

PTI, NAGPUR: In-form mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy was on Tuesday included in the Indian ODI squad after his heroics in the just-concluded T20I series against England as the team management wants the KKR mystery spinner to "keep up the momentum".

There is a fair chance that Chakravarthy might just

In-form mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been drafted into India's ODI squad following his stellar performances in the recent T20I series against England, where he bagged 14 wickets and was named 'Player of the Series'

replace one of the four specialist spinners in the Champions Trophy squad. It could be one among Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar, who could be axed to accommodate Chakravarthy before the final squad is announced. A lot will depend on how he fares in the ODIs.

Chakravarthy, who got 14 wickets in five T20Is against England and was adjudged the 'Player of the Series', wasn't initially picked for the three ODIs against England and the Champions Trophy later this month. Chakravarthy was seen training and bowling in the nets on Tuesday.

"Yes, Varun Chakravarthy is part of the squad," India vice-captain Shubman Gill confirmed in a media interaction after the team's training. Later in the evening, the BCCI too said the in-form spinner has been added to the squad.

"The Men's Selection Committee has added Varun Chakravarthy to India's squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against England," the BCCI said in a statement.

It is understood that head coach Gautam Gambhir wants Chakravarthy

to remain in rhythm and bowl to the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant.

With the deadline for squad changes for the Champions Trophy set for February 12, he remains a strong candidate for selection. However, it is unlikely that he will be added to the CT squad without playing a single ODI.

India have got three finger spinners -- two left-armers (Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel) and one right-arm off-spinner in Washington Sundar. Kuldeep Yadav, who is returning to the Indian team after undergoing a sports hernia surgery in October 2024, is the lone wrist spinner in the squad.

"As of now, the team management wanted Varun to bowl in ODI squad nets ahead of England series. Varun doesn't play red-ball cricket," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"With domestic white ball season already concluded, he doesn't have any assignments till start of IPL end March. He is in good rhythm and they want him to continue that," he added.

When asked if there is a possibility of him being selected for the ODI series and subsequent Champions Trophy based on current form, the source replied: "The selectors have already picked four spinners and you only have three ODI games.

One series does not define the form of whole team: Gill

PTI, NAGPUR: India's vice-captain Shubman Gill on Tuesday defended their performance in the Test rubber loss in Australia, in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, saying that one poor series does not define a team and that it is unfair to criticise a side after a rare bad outing.

"One series does not define the form of the whole team. There are a lot of players who, in the past, have performed consistently in a lot of series and tournaments," Gill told reporters here ahead of the first ODI against England.

"Definitely, we did not play as per our expectations in the Australian series, but still we played some good cricket. We were unfortunate not to have (Jasprit) Bumrah on the last day and we would have won the match and the series would have been a draw and this talk wouldn't have happened.

Virat, Rohit's form will be key to India's success: Raina

PTI, NEW DELHI: They may have struggled in recent times but the form of skipper Rohit Sharma and his longtime colleague Virat Kohli will be key to India's success in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, reckoned former batter Suresh Raina on Tuesday.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

The Champions Trophy starts in Pakistan from February 19 and will conclude on March 9 but India will play all their matches in Dubai as per the hybrid model agreement signed by the concerned parties.

Speaking to broadcaster Star Sports, Raina said, "Rohit Sharma's strike rate has improved significantly after the ODI World Cup in 2023. Since then, he has scored runs at a strike

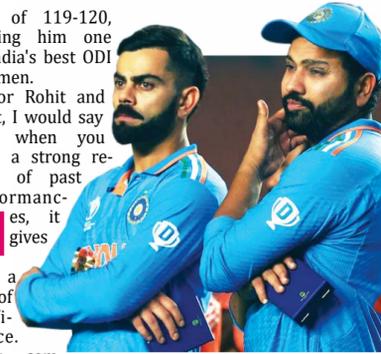
rate of 119-120, making him one of India's best ODI batsmen.

"For Rohit and Virat, I would say that when you have a strong record of past performances, it gives

you a lot of confidence.

They complement each other well, and both have the skill to score big runs. If they perform well, India's Champions Trophy campaign will benefit immensely."

India have been clubbed with arch-rivals Pakistan, New Zealand and Bangladesh in the group stage of the tournament.



Man City move for Gonzalez, Tel joins Spurs on deadline day

AFP, MANCHESTER: Manchester City signed Nico Gonzalez from Porto in the biggest move from Premier League clubs on Monday's transfer deadline day, while Bayern Munich's Mathys Tel headed to Tottenham on loan.

City's midfield frailties without Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, who is out for the season due to a serious knee injury, were exposed in a 5-1 thrashing at Arsenal on Sunday. Pep Guardiola's men find themselves in a battle just to qualify for next season's Champions League, with the defending champions sitting fifth in the Premier League, 15 points behind leaders Liverpool.

Former Barcelona midfielder Gonzalez, 23, arrives for a reported fee of \$62 million. City have already splashed out more than £120 million in January on Egypt forward Omar Marmoush and young defenders Vitor Reis and Abdulkodir Khusanov. Tottenham were busy in the final hours of the window as they bolstered Ange Postecoglou's injury-ravaged squad. Tel reportedly turned down the opportunity to join Spurs earlier in the window after a £50 million deal was

agreed with the German giants. Chelsea's Axel Disasi joined Aston Villa, with the move only confirmed two hours after the window shut.

Villa also added more firepower with the signing of Marco Asensio on loan from Paris Saint-Germain.

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Nico Gonzalez



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