

Under-19 World Cup: An opportunity like never before



India captain Prithvi Shaw, centre, with teammates at the ICC U-19 World Cup

CHRISTCHURCH, JAN 12 -- It's considered the stepping stone for the stars of the future and 16 teams, including three-time champions India, would be aiming to discover their Virat Kohlis and Steve Smiths when the ICC Under-19 World Cup starts off on Saturday. From Kohli to Smith, most modern-day greats have learned the ropes in the biennial event, which has gained significance with every passing edition. The boys not only become men here, they also become household names with millions following the live broadcast of the competition. The event begins on Saturday with Pakistan taking on Afghanistan, and hosts New Zealand facing reigning champions West Indies. India, eager to prove themselves after their disastrous showing in the Asia Cup, open their campaign against Australia at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui. The tournament's stature has risen to such an extent that a great like Rahul Dravid, the current India U-19 coach, would love to have been part of it back in the day. "We never played this tournament in my life. After 1988 they didn't hold the tournament for 10 years, so I've no exposure of playing and being part of this tournament. It is a lot of these boys that I think it's a terrific opportunity for to be a part of this tournament," Dravid had said in the lead up to the event. Countless number of U-19 players have gone on to represent their countries at the highest level. Each edition uncovers oodles of talent and makes them overnight stars, be it Rishabh Pant or Alzarri Joseph from the previous edition in 2016 when three-time champions India lost the final to the West Indies. This edition too has created high expectations with a selected bunch already proving themselves at the international level. The likes of India captain Prithvi Shaw, teammate Shubham Gill, Australia

SQUADS

- **India:** Prithvi Shaw (C), Shubman Gill, Aryan Juyal, Abhishek Sharma, Arshdeep Singh, Harvik Desai, Manoj Katra, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Pankaj Yadav, Riyan Parag, Ishan Porel, Himanshu Rana, Anukul Roy, Shivam Mavi, Shiva Singh.
- **Pakistan:** Hasan Khan (C), Rohail Nazir, Mohammad Ali Khan, Ali Zaryab, Ammad Alam, Arshad Iqbal, Imran Shah, Mohammad Taha, Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Muhammad Muz, Muhammad Zaid, Munir Rizq, Saad Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Suleman Shaqat.
- **Bangladesh:** Saif Hassan (C), Afif Hossain, Aminul Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Mahidul Islam Ankon, Mohammad Naim, Mohammad Rakib, Nayeem Hasan, Pinak Ghosh, Akai Onik, Rabihul Haque, Roni Hossen, Shakil Hossain, Tipu Sultan, Towhid Hridoy.
- **Sri Lanka:** Kamindu Mendis (C), Jehan Daniel, Krishan Sanjula, Ashen Bandara, Hareen Buddha, Hasitha Bogayadna, Punan Nanayaka, Thisaru Rashmika, Nawandith Fernando, Sanithush Gunathilaka, Praveen Jayawickrama, Dhnanajaya Lakshan, Nishan Madushka, Nipun Malinga, Kalana Perera.
- **Afghanistan:** Naveen-ul-Haq (C), Azmatullah Omarzai, Baheer Shah, Darwish Rasooli, Ikram Ali Khil, Mohammad Ibrahim, Mujeeb Zadran, Nisar Wahdati, Gais Ahmad, Rahmanullah, Tariq Stanikzai, Wafadar, Waqarullah Ishaq, Yousof Zazai, Zahir Khan.
- **Australia:** Jason Sangha (C), Will Sutherland, Xavier Bartlett, Max Bryant, Jack Edwards, Zak Evans, Jarrod Freeman, Ryan Hadley, Baxter Holt, Nathan McSweeney, Jonathan Merlo, Lloyd Pope, Jason Rainston, Parray Uppal, Austin Waugh.
- **New Zealand:** Kaylum Boshier (C), Finn Allen, Jakob Bhula, Max Chu, Katene Clarke, Matthew Fisher, Luke Georgeson, Ben Lockrose, Callum McCachlan, Felix Murray, Dale Phillips, Rachee Ravindra, Sandeep Patel, Connor Sullivan, Todd Watson.
- **Canada:** Arslan Khan (C), Akash Gill, Ashtan Desammai, Emanuel Khokhar, Kavran Naress, Kevin Singh, Pranav Sharma, Randhir Sandhu, Krishen Samuel, Faisal Jamkhandi, Arshdeep Dhaliwal, Rishiv Joshi, Aran Pathmanathan, Pieter Pretorius, Rommel Shazad.
- **England:** Harry Brook (C), Ethan Bamber, Liam Banks, Tom Banton, Jack Davies, Adam Finch, Luke Hollman, Will Jacks, Tom Lammonby, Dillon Pennington, Savin Perera, Tom Scriven, Prem Sisodiya, Fin Trenoull, Roman Walker.
- **Ireland:** Harry Tector (C), Ian Anders, Aaron Cawley, Varun Chopra, Mark Donegan, JJ Garth, Jamie Grassi, Reece Kelly, Graham Kennedy, Joshua Little, Sam Murphy, Max Neville, Neil Rock, Morgan Topping, Andrew Vincent.
- **Kenya:** Sachin Bhudha (C), Maxwell Ager, Abhishek Chidambaram, Avel Desai, Jay Doshi, Aman Gandhi, Ankit Hirani, Jasraj Kundu, Jayant Pevani, Gerard Mwendwa, Dennis Musyoka, Thomas Ochieng, Sukhdeep Singh, Siddharth Vasudev, Rene Were.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Sema Kamea (C), Eisa Eka, James Tau, Tau Tou Nou, Nou Rarua, Igo Mahuru, Simon Atai, Leke Morea, Vagi Karaho, Kevau Tau, Heagi Toua, Daure Aiga, Ovia Sam, Sinaka Arua, Boge Arua.
- **Namibia:** Lohan Louwrens (C), Henry Brink, Petrus Burger, Jan

- **South Africa:** Raynard van Tonder (C), Matthew Breetzke, Gerald Coetzee, Jade de Klerk, Jean du Plessis, Fraser Jones, Wandile Makwetu, Akhona Mnyaka, Andile Mdogakane, Kgauiso Molele, Jason Niemand, Thando Nini, Jiveshan Pillay, Hernani Rolles, Kenan Smith.
- **West Indies:** Emmanuel Stewart (C), Kirstan Kalicharan, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Alick Athanaze, Cephas Cooper, Jarion Healy, Kimani Melius, Ashmed Noor, Kian Pemberton, Raymond Pezari, Joshua Persaud, Jeavor Royal, Keagan Simmons, Bhaskar Yadram, Nyeem Young.
- **Zimbabwe:** Liam Roche (C), Robert Chimhinya, Jonathan Connolly, Gregory Dolla, Alistair Frost, Taun Harrison, Wesley Madhevere, Tanunura Makoni, Donald Miamo, Dion Myers, Tinashe Nhenzhu, Nkosiatu Nunu, Kieran Robinson, Jayden Schodendorf, Milton Shumba.

Guardiola and Kane win Dec Premier League awards

LONDON, JAN 12 -- Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola was named December's Premier League manager of the month for a record fourth consecutive time, while Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane equalled Steven Gerrard's tally with his sixth player of the month award. Guardiola's team remain unbeaten and 15 points clear at the top of the league standings. Chelsea boss Antonio Conte had been the only previous coach to win the award three times in a row during Chelsea's title-winning campaign last season. In the December prize, Guardiola topped a six-man shortlist that also included Conte, Everton's Sam Allardyce, Roy Hodgson of Crystal Palace, Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp and Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino. Kane scored eight goals in six matches last month, including back-to-back hat-tricks against Burnley and Southampton, to finish 2017 with a record tally of 39 Premier League goals.

GAME NOTES

BCCI invites expressions of interest for IPL partner rights

MUMBAI, JAN 12 -- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has invited 'expressions of interest' for the Indian Premier League (IPL) partner rights. The BCCI invites third parties to indicate their interest in acquiring any of the following rights: IPL Official Partner Rights, IPL Strategic Time Out Partner Rights and IPL 'Umpire Partner Rights', a media release said on Friday. The rights are available for a minimum three-year term. "No more than one third party will be granted rights in relation to each Product Category," it said.

Yuki inches closer to Australian Open main draw

MELBOURNE, JAN 12 -- Putting up a dominating show, Yuki Bhambri ousted class Spaniard Carlos Taberner to reach the third and final qualifying round of the Australian Open. Here today, Bhambri, who is in good nick, routed the world number 183 to 6-2 in the second round of the men's singles qualifiers. The 25-year-old Indian, ranked 122, won 54 points in the 57-minute contest, breaking his rival six times in the match. Bhambri will now fight it out with Canadian Peter Polansky for a place in the main draw. If Bhambri clears the final hurdle, it will be his third appearance in the Australian men's singles main draw.

Chennaiyin, Pune grapple with coach suspension

CHENNAI, JAN 12 -- FC Pune City got four points from their last two matches while coach Ranko Popovic was serving a four-match ban. However, the visitors will now have to overcome the absence of not just their coach, but also their talisman Marcelinho for a crucial Hero Indian Super League encounter against Chennaiyin FC at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, on Saturday. The Brazilian is Pune City's leading goalscorer with six strikes, including a hat-trick, and has four assists to boot. He will, however, remain suspended for the next clash after accumulating four bookings. He missed a match before - against Bengaluru FC - when he was not fully fit and was left on the bench, and it showed as Bengaluru FC walked away with full points. "Marcelinho is one of the best players in the league. We miss him surely but I know our team has quality. If a team cannot play without one player, it's no team. We know his im-

portance, he is a strong player but we know how good is our team," Pune City Assistant Coach Vladica Grujic said during the pre-match media interaction. With 16 points from nine matches, Pune City are placed third, just below Chennaiyin FC who have an extra point. This puts them in a good position to push for a play-off place, though the assistant coach warned that they still have plenty to do. "We have achieved nothing yet because you can be first, fourth or last. Now it's time to try to win points to come as close as possible to first four. This is our aim to come in the first four teams," he said. Chennaiyin FC are among the more impressive teams in the edition of ISL and are second only to Bengaluru FC. The home team, however, must shake off the absence of their coach John Gregory, who curiously also remains suspended, just like their rivals. "Both of them are really good coaches and they are working here for the betterment of the game. I hope to see both of them back in the dugout soon," said Grujic. Gregory's absence should not impact Chennaiyin FC on the field and they should be encouraged with the return of their captain Henrique Soreno who completed serving a one-match suspension of his own. "We know Pune is strong in attack. They look threatening. We know they are a good attacking side and I'll come hard at us. We are lucky that our best player, captain (Soreno) is behind. It will be a good contest," said Assistant Coach Syed Sahir Pasha. Chennaiyin FC have conceded goals at the death in their last two matches at home against Delhi Dynamos (2-2) and Kerala Blasters (1-1). That has cost them dearly and Pasha called for focus till the final whistle. "It hurts us, hurts the players. It's just lack of focus. We have to play as a team in those last moments. Players also understand that. It will not happen in the matches to come," assures Pasha.

TENDER

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AUCTION NOTICE

Public auction of unserviceable Mahindra & Mahindra Diesel Jeep WB-72/1993 'As is where is' basis will be held in Siliguri on 22/01/2018 at 11:30 AM. For details please contact the Assistant Engineer, Jalpaiguri Central Sub-division, CPWD, Jalpaiguri, for spot inspection on all working days from 12/01/2018 to 20/01/2018 between 12 Noon to 3.00 PM. Reserve price of vehicle Rs.40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand) only. Note: The details of Auction Notice is also available www.cpwd.gov.in & www.eprocurement.gov.in

- **India seek 'intent' to combat South Africa speed kings**
- **We can't afford to take India lightly**

See page-8

MCG gets official ICG warning for 'poor' Ashes pitch

MELBOURNE, JAN 12 -- The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) has received an official warning after the pitch for the fourth Ashes Test was rated 'poor' by the International Cricket Council (ICC) earlier this month. The track drew criticism from both teams after the drawn clash between Australia and England saw only 24 wickets fall over five days, the only stalemate in a series dominated 4-0 by the hosts as they regained the urn. Australia scored 327 and 263 for four declared, while England scored 491 in their only innings, with match referee Ranjan Madugalle saying in his report that the surface did not allow for an even contest between bat and ball. "The Australian (A) did not contest the rating given by Madugalle, the governing body said in a statement. "The report highlighted that the ground is frequently used venue that has no history of preparing pitches for international cricket," the ICC said.

AMWAY DARJEELING POLICE MARATHON



(From right) Anesh Thapa, 1st prize winner in male category and Kanchi Maya Kazzo, 1st prize winner in female category of Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon-EOI Pkms

Darjeeling Police & Amway (I) present 5th edition

EOI CORRESPONDENT
SILIGURI, JAN 12 -- Darjeeling Police and Amway India presented the fifth edition of Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon 2018 today. The marathon was held in Darjeeling in collaboration with GTA, to celebrate the 55th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The objective behind organizing the Amway Darjeeling Police marathon was to spread awareness about health and fitness amongst people in Darjeeling and North Bengal. The sporting event was also dedicated to establish peace and harmony between people of Hills and plains. Anju Bobby George, noted athlete, flagged off the Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon at Sukhika Pokhri at 7.30 am. Chandra Chakraborty, Regional Manager, Eastern Region, Amway India, Siddh Nath Gupta, I.P.S. ADG - North Bengal, Manoj Kumar Verma, I.P.S. IG - Darjeeling, Ajay K. Nandi, I.P.S. IG - CIP, Dr. Himayun Kabir, I.P.S. DIG - Darjeeling, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, I.P.S. SP - Darjeeling and Amarnath K. I.P.S. Superintendent of Police (Operations), Darjeeling will also be present on the occasion. Darjeeling Police also felicitated 10 sports personalities from the hills, including former Indian Hockey team captain Bhrat Chetri. Speaking on the occasion Mr Chaturvedi said, "Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon has become an international among sports and fitness enthusiasts. We hope this marathon will become an international marathon in the years to come."

Mr Chakraborty said, "The event has become bigger with each passing year. We hope that this marathon will inspire more people to live and adopt a healthy lifestyle." The top rankers in all the categories were rewarded with a cash prize, a medal and a certificate. There was a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh for the winner, Rs. 75,000 for the first runner-up and Rs 50,000 for second runners up. In addition, there were more prizes as well as special gift hampers sponsored by Amway India for the top finishers.