

NEW FORMAT IN PLACE

The event reverts to the 2011 format. Each team will play those in the group and the ones on the exact horizontal side of the other group twice and the rest of the teams once, keeping the number of matches for each team at 14.

QUALITY OF CONTEST

With the tournament having ten teams playing in as many as 74 games, the highest so far, the quality of contest between the franchises is something that needs to be looked at through the course of the league.

ON YOUR MARKS

As the latest edition of the T20 carnival gets underway, a look at some of the key factors to keep an eye on through the course of the tournament....

NINE

Out of the 14 editions, Chennai (four) and Mumbai (five) have won nine between them.

GROUPING

Table with 2 columns: Group A, Group B. Group A includes MI, KKR, RR, DC, LSG. Group B includes CSK, SRH, RCB, PBKS, GT.

FOUR-VENUE TOURNAMENT

For the third year in a row, the league is restricted to bio-secure environments and limited venues. This year, all the matches will be played across four grounds in Maharashtra — Wankhede, Brabourne, DY Patil, & MCA Stadium, Pune.



KOHLI, THE BATTER, IN SPOTLIGHT

After stepping down as the captain of Bangalore, Kohli, the batter, will be in focus. With Faf du Plessis taking over, the former skipper would want to turn back the clock, and score runs for fun, like he used to for the franchise.

YOUNG INDIA CAPTAINS

Six of the ten teams will have new captains, and apart from Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, the other eight teams will have Indian captains. It would be interesting to see how the young Indian skippers fare this season.

AUDITION FOR T20 WORLD CUP

With the T20 World Cup in September, the fringe players as well as the young names will be on the radar. Players like Mayank Agarwal, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson, Shahrukh Khan, Washington Sundar & T Natarajan would want to make an impact for the respective teams.

UNAVAILABILITY OF BIG NAMES

Due to the upcoming Pakistan-Australia ODIs, Aaron Finch, Mitchell Marsh, Marcus Stonis will not be able to play in the early stages of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Pat Cummins and David Warner are rested and will be a part of their contingent and Glenn Maxwell will join late because of his marriage.

Sindhu, Prannoy enter Swiss Open semifinals



PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy stormed into the semifinals of the Swiss Open badminton tournament with straight-game victories in their respective women and men singles events on Friday. Sindhu will meet unseeded Supanida Katethong of Thailand in the semifinals on Saturday.

Boxers Amit & Manish set to return in April

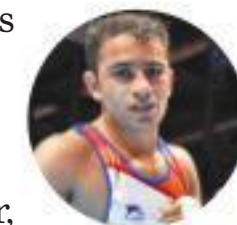
ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

AFTER being in the back-ground for almost eight months, senior boxers Amit Panghal, Manish Kaushik and Ashish Kumar, who were part of the Tokyo Olympics, are set to return to competitive action next month. The trio have been named alongside 17 other boxers (12 men, 8 women in all) for the Thailand Open Boxing Tournament, an event that is scheduled to be held from April 1 to 10 in Phuket. The trip has been approved by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

their weight categories had upped their game to take their spot.

Having been part of the national camp in Patiala for some time now, the Thailand meet is a big opportunity for them to try and get some positive returns ahead of bigger challenges later this year.

Given that this is an open championship, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) wanted to give an opportunity to everyone. The event will also witness Ashish in a different weight category. Formerly a 75kg contestant, Ashish will be competing in the 81kg category in Phuket.



"The Olympians are in top shape now, both physically and mentally. We don't want to dwell on the past. We have made it a point to forget about all the negatives and look ahead. We are striving to give our best during the CWG, Asiad and all the other major competitions in the future," Narendra Rana, India men's national chief coach, told this daily.

In the women's corner, World Championships-bound Manisha Moun (57kg) and Jasmine (60kg) will be participating in the meet. The BFI felt it would be prudent to send the two youngsters ahead of the marquee event, which will be held in May.

ROCKSTAR, SIR, CAPTAIN

All eyes on Jadeja, the skipper, as Chennai take on Kolkata today

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

IN 2013 as Ravindra Jadeja shouldered his arms to James Pattinson's delivery and lost his off-stump, one could hear giggles ringing aloud at Chepak. These were still the early days of Jadeja and the MA Chidambaram Stadium hadn't really seen much of the all-rounder, who had joined the Chennai Super Kings for the 2012 season. In a team that had MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Mike Hussey, Dwayne Bravo, R Ashwin, Faf du Plessis, and Doug Bollinger, Jadeja didn't really walk into whistles every time he stepped out to bat.

For a venue that usually welcomes those who wear the yellow jersey with arms spread wide open, there was a bit of reluctance towards Jadeja. It was the period where despite scoring three triple centuries in Ranji Trophy, people were yet to take him seriously. Adding to it were the series of tweets from Dhoni, in which the tag "Sir" was prefixed before Jadeja more as a troll quo-

tient than anything. With Thala himself making fun of Jadeja, it was quite natural that the rest of his kingdom joined in too.

But, it was in total contrast to what was going on in the franchise the year before. Ahead of the 2012 auction, Dhoni's wish-list had only one player: Ravindra Jadeja. And the franchise would spend Rs 9.8 crore to acquire his services. Ten years later, here he is as Dhoni's successor. And just like 2013, not everyone is convinced about the Chosen One. There are reasons for it because at no stage of his career has Jadeja captained any side. And despite being part of the national team set up since 2009 and being an all-format regular, the all-rounder has never been part of the leadership group. So, to say that Chennai have punted with Jadeja would be a massive understatement.

As reported by this daily, although Jadeja was formally anointed to the throne only on Thursday, he has been preparing for the role since at least

December. For a franchise that puts a lot of emphasis on continuity, that they went with a player who is familiar to their style of operation isn't surprising. And that they have left it to the outgoing captain to decide on the successor too doesn't raise eyebrows as well for everyone knows the sort of authority that Dhoni enjoys.

But all said and done, this is a major punt that the franchise has taken. Like it was in 2012, there is a perception that Jadeja isn't really a captaincy material. Will he be cool like Dhoni or aggressive, in-your-face like Virat Kohli or astute like Rohit Sharma? Nobody knows it. Because nobody has seen him captain. "He is someone who is going to give players the space and freedom. He is that sort of player who tries to keep everything simple," R Sridhar, the fielding coach of Indian team from 2014-2021 says. As Jadeja prepares to lead CSK in the IPL, there are questions if he is the right choice. Over to Jadeja to change the perception.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

IPL GC proposes full-fledged women's T20 league from 2023

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THE IPL Governing Council has proposed to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to explore the possibilities of holding a full-fledged franchise model women's T20 league from 2023. It is understood that a private firm will be given the task to work out the business model as the IPL GC members, which met on Friday, believe the time is ideal to start a new league.

To start with, the BCCI is planning to involve the IPL franchises in discussions to know if they would be inter-

ested to be part of the women's league. According to a member who attended the meeting, even if IPL franchises show interest, they too will have to submit a formal bid. At present, at least three IPL franchises have shown interest. A fourth is exploring the market. Once the business model is ready, it is likely to be presented at the AGM in September, where the formalities will be decided.

In the past, Kolkata Knight Riders CEO, Venky Mysore, had revealed the franchise's interest to be involved with the women's league.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Osaka advances in Miami as Kerber downed

MIAMI: Naomi Osaka's impressive return to form continued as she took just an hour to dispatch Angelique Kerber in straight sets and head into the third round of the Miami Open. The Japanese star looked in great shape as Kerber was beaten 6-2, 6-3.

Australia win third Test against Pak, seal series

LAHORE: Australia claimed a historic victory against Pakistan, taking the three-Test series 1-0 with a 115-run win on the fifth day of the last match in Lahore. Nathan Lyon finished with 5-83 and was ably supported by skipper Pat Cummins (3-23).

Sarma re-elected as BAI chief, Mishra secretary

GUWAHATI: Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as president of Badminton Association of India for a second term during its General Body Meeting. Sanjay Mishra will be general secretary with Ajay Kumar Singhania as vice president.

Comply with order: CIC directs Hockey India

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission has directed Hockey India to comply with its order to disclose the purpose behind funds transferred by it to foreign accounts and its cash withdrawals, after Delhi High Court rejected the plea to stay it.

EXPRESS READ

Union Bank of India advertisement including notice to customers regarding branch relocation and locker operations.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. advertisement regarding a loan agreement and security interest.

Change of Name, Public Notice, and Passport Lost advertisements.

Bank of Baroda advertisement including possession notice and branch details.

IKF Finance Limited advertisement regarding a sale notice for immovable properties.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited advertisement regarding an auction cum sale notice.