

BRIEFLY

Short in for Abbot in Aus squad for India

Melbourne, Dec 30 (PTI) Australia on Monday called up D'Arcy Short in place of injured pacer Sean Abbott in their Aaron Finch-led ODI squad for the upcoming tour of India. Short has been included in the 14-man squad after a side strain during a Big Bash League game ruled out Abbott for four weeks. The India tour begins with the first One-day International in Mumbai on January 14. The second and third ODIs will be held in Rajkot and Bengaluru on January 17 and January 19 respectively. With fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Kane Richardson already in Australia's ODI squad, selectors have called in Short, a top-order batter who also bowls wrist spin, to replace pacer Abbott.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD: Aaron Finch (capt), D'Arcy Short, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

No MS in Wisden's T20I team of decade

London: India skipper Virat Kohli and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah were the only two Indians who found a place in Wisden's T20I team of the decade, which didn't feature Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Australia's limited overs captain Aaron Finch was named captain of the team, which has two more Australian in Shane Watson and Glenn Maxwell, two England cricketers -- Jos Buttler and David Willey, two Afghanistan all-rounders -- Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan, and New Zealand's Colin Munro and Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga. On Kohli, Wisden said: "While Kohli's record in domestic T20 cricket is patchy, the same cannot be said of T20Is. Kohli's average of 53 was the best in the decade, and while his consistency compromises his strike-rate slightly, he is still able to score at a good rate, even if not exceptional. Kohli is an ideal player at No.3, able to fight fires when an early wicket is lost and stabilise the innings, but also accelerate when a platform is set. Following a huge first-wicket partnership, Kohli will slide down the order in this XI," it said on its website. There was no representation from the West Indies in the team despite them winning two T20 titles in the 2010s, including the last one in India in 2016.

DDCA seeks time for president's election

New Delhi: The DDCA on Monday sought time till the state assembly polls in February to conduct election for the post of its president. The DDCA also made it clear that former India opener Gautam Gambhir, whose name was doing the rounds, will not be eligible to contest for the post. "Ombudsman Deepak Verma will be requested to give some extension to conduct election for president's post. Election is slated for January end but a request will be put that it is held after Delhi's assembly election in February," said DDCA general secretary Vinod Tihara.

AGENCIES

Oly, Asiad, CWG: IOA wants all and more

If bids are accepted, India will end up hosting five major sporting extravaganzas over nine years; Government non-committal so far

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

THE INDIAN Olympic Association (IOA) has prepared an extravagant wish list heading into the new decade. If things go the way IOA hopes, India would end up hosting the following five major sporting events over nine years: the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress; the 2026 Youth Olympics; the 2026 or 2030 Commonwealth Games; the 2030 Asian Games; and the most ambitious of them all — the 2032 Olympic Games.

Like a high school graduate who applies at multiple colleges hoping to get admission in at least one, the IOA too has set out to bid for all major multi-discipline events. Depending on how the bidding process goes, they might get all, they might get some, or — an unlikely scenario — they might get none.

This comes after the IOA, in its general body meeting on Monday, decided to throw its hat in the ring to bring the CWG to India in either 2026 or 2030. The bidding formalities will begin in 2020, exactly 10 years after Delhi hosted the controversial, scam-tainted CWG.

How it came to this, no one knows. For, in the last 18 months India had constantly threatened to boycott the 2022 Commonwealth Games because shooting was not included in the programme. The IOA president Narinder Batra even claimed that the CWG were a "waste of time and money" and suggested India should "withdraw from the Games altogether". The Olympic body's secretary-general Rajiv Mehta, at the same time, proposed that India should bid for the 2026 edition.

On Monday, the general body agreed that India should consider hosting the CWG again in either 2026 or 2030. And at the same time, the IOA confirmed that India will not pull out of the 2022 Games in Birmingham after the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said it would host a Commonwealth Shooting Championship in March 2022 at its own expense. Batra said they are also sending a proposal to host a Commonwealth Championship for archery, the other sport where India considers itself strong but is not included in the Games programme.

That means in the coming decade, India's tag of being a sports-hosting nation will be cemented. Apart from the multi-discipline Games, India is also hosting hockey and cricket World Cups in 2023. The All India Football Federation is keen to host the Asian under-23 championship and women's Asian Cup in 2022, a FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2024 and the Asian Cup 2027.

It is believed the national sports federations have been told to bid for their respective World and Asian Championships in 2022 to mark the country's 75th Independence Day.

Big ticket, bigger budget

All of this will come at a cost. The 2023 IOC session, which will be significant because the host of 2030 Winter Olympics is expected to be chosen during the meeting, is likely to cost around \$10 million (approximately Rs 71 crore). The estimated budget for 2018 Youth Olympics, which were held in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires, was \$200 million (roughly Rs 1,500 crore).

The 2018 Asian Games cost Indonesia approximately \$3.2 billion (about Rs 22, 810 crore) while Gold Coast hosted the CWG earlier that year cost the organisers \$1.2 billion (approximately Rs 8,551 crore). Japan, reportedly, could end up spending more than



India's last tryst with the Commonwealth Games — Delhi 2010 — was mired with corruption and mismanagement. Express file

A HOST OF EVENTS

In the coming decade, India will host:

- 2020 women's under-17 football World Cup
- 2021 men's boxing worlds
- 2021 World T20
- 2022 Commonwealth Shooting Championship
- 2023 ODI Cricket World Cup
- 2023 Hockey World Cup

...and likely to bid for:

- 2022 Asian under-23 football championship
- 2022 women's Asian Cup
- 2023 IOC Session
- 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup
- 2026 Youth Olympics
- 2026 or 2030 CWG
- 2027 Men's Asian Cup
- 2030 Asian Games
- 2032 Olympic Games

\$26 billion (around Rs 1 lakh 85 thousand crore) on the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics; considerably higher than the \$7.3 billion originally projected.

Each event that the IOA is bidding for will come with its own set of requirements. For instance, the programme for the Youth

Olympics will be vastly different to the CWG if they are both held in 2026. Similarly, the Asian Games is almost double the size of CWG, both in terms of events and participation, in case India hosts them in 2030. The Olympics, as all previous host cities will attest, will be a different beast altogether given its sheer size.

So far, the IOA has not indicated the host cities for these events. It is learnt that the Youth Olympics will either be held in either Delhi or Bhubaneswar. Batra, who has been involved in the initial talks, had recently virtually ruled out Mumbai — the third city in the running — since the infrastructure there will have to be constructed from scratch.

The government, so far, has not committed. Earlier this year, sports minister Kiren Rijiju said the country should be well prepared rather than creating an "embarrassing situation." It is learnt that the government is playing a wait-and-watch game, at least with respect to hosting the 2032 Olympics, and taking note of other bidders. In case the government feels that India's bid will be undermined by another strong player, they might hold off for the time being.

So far, the only confirmed bid has come from Australia, which have named Brisbane as the candidate city. The other likely contenders are Indonesia, Germany and a joint bid from North and South Korea. While the host for 2030 Asian Games and 2032 Olympics will be decided in the middle of the next decade, a decision on the host of 2026 CWG is likely to be taken in 2020.

No boycott, India to 'send strong contingent to Birmingham 2022'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30

DOUBTS OVER India's participation at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham have been cleared after the Indian Olympic Association on Monday

withdrew its "threat" to boycott the event over the exclusion of shooting. Another major decision that was taken during its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi was to bid for the 2026 or 2030 CWG. "After a lot of discussions, we have decided to withdraw the boycott threat and send a strong contingent to Birmingham. We will also bid for the 2026 or 2030 Commonwealth," IOA general secretary Rajiv Mehta told reporters.

The Commonwealth Games Federation welcomed India's assurance of participating in Birmingham 2022 and said it was "delighted" to see India express interest in organising another CWG. "The CGF and the entire Commonwealth Sports

Movement are delighted India has confirmed their intent to participate at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games during their Annual General Meeting in New Delhi," CWG federation president Dame Louise Martin said through a statement on their website.

"Our visit and collaboration have significantly strengthened our partnership with the Indian Commonwealth Games Association, under the leadership of President Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, and we are continuing to work closely. Finally, we are delighted that India has expressed an ambition to host another Commonwealth Games in the future," she added.

The IOA has also given a nod to the National Rifle Association of India's proposal to host a shooting championship prior to the main event slated to start on the 22nd of July. NRAI has volunteered to cover the expenses as well. IOA said it will forward NRAI's proposal in the first week of January itself to the CGF for their approval.

'We will also bid for the 2026 or 2030 Commonwealth Games,' said IOA general secy.

Faf downvotes 'Big 3 + 1' Super Series

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, DECEMBER 30

THE PROPOSED Super Series involving India, England, Australia and a fourth Test nation received disapproval from Faf du Plessis. The South Africa captain criticised the idea of creating a new annual ODI event, which, if it sees the light of day, would be controlled by the Big Three.

"The last year or so you can see what's going on in terms of the 'big three' countries. There's a lot of movement going towards that, a lot more matches being played against the top three, or big three. It's probably better if you include more teams, better to grow the game as much as you can," du Plessis said after South Africa beat England in the first Test at Centurion. "There are a lot of smaller nations not playing a lot of Test cricket, they are actually playing less," he added.

According to a BCCI functionary, at this moment in time, the four-nation tournament is only a proposal, not even a plan. A former cricket board official said the proposed tournament is basically an extension of a three-nation ODI event that had been mullied on by the late Jagmohan Dalmiya after he became the cricket board president in 2015. "The idea was to organise the tournament during the now-defunct Champions League window," the ex-official said.

About two years after Dalmiya's passing, the BCCI's May 7, 2017 general body meeting in Delhi had unanimously approved the proposal, as a countermeasure to the Indian board's reduced revenue from the ICC. "Mr Abhay Apte (former Maharashtra Cricket Association president) made a request to the house to implement the plans that Mr Dalmiya had proposed as the president. He had proposed that in the Champions League slot, BCCI can organise a bilateral or tri-series.

"The chairman assured to look into this proposal suggested by Dalmiyaji who had contributed to the development of BCCI as well as ICC," the minutes of the SGM noted. It is learnt that after the SGM, the matter



'It's probably better if you include more teams, better to grow the game as much as you can,' said Faf du Plessis on the proposed tournament. Reuters

was informally taken to ICC chairman Shashank Manohar and it received a positive response. During the Committee of Administrator's reign, however, the whole thing was on the back burner.

Earlier this month, when BCCI office-bearers — president Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Dhumal — met the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Colin Graves and his team at Lord's, Ganguly floated the idea of having a four-nation ODI tournament from 2021 onwards. With the ICC contemplating on having eight flagship tournaments in eight years during the next rights cycle commencing from 2023 — adding two Champions Trophy-like ODI events with six top teams is also on the global body's agenda — the idea of having a Super Series was deliberated upon, apparently to protect the revenue stream of the game's three biggest stakeholders. India, England and Australia are the chief contrib-

utors to the ICC coffers. India alone contributes to over 70 per cent of the ICC's revenue.

The ECB responded to Ganguly's proposal, saying they are "open" to more discussions with India and other ICC members, with an eye to developing the concept "further". The Cricket Australia chief executive Kevin Roberts termed the idea as "innovative". Ganguly has maintained that at this stage, it's only a "proposal" and that the idea is to have a "good, competitive tournament".

Some BCCI members, however, are excited at the prospect of having a Super Series in the near future. "I totally support the BCCI president and secretary. When the three (India, England and Australia) get together we don't need anyone. If the ICC opposes it, we should keep our options open to break away from the ICC. What is ICC without the BCCI," the Saurashtra Cricket Association president Jaydev Shah told this paper.

Cover-up at a body-building event for women in Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

DHAKA, DECEMBER 30

BANGLADESH'S FIRST women's bodybuilding championship was won by a 19-year-old student in a contest where most of her muscle was covered up to prevent controversy in the Muslim-majority nation.

While skimpy bikinis are the norm at international body-building contests, Awhona Rahman and her 29 rivals kept their brawn under wraps in front of the crowd of hundreds. Rahman and the other competitors struck poses on stage wearing tight leggings and body-hugging outfits during the three-day event that finished on Sunday and was held in the capital Dhaka.

"I am really happy, I really worked hard for this," Rahman told AFP.

"It never entered my mind that someone might criticise me for showing my body. My brother, who runs a fitness centre, has always encouraged me," she added.

"We were told there would be proper dress code and the outfit provided was perfect from a Bangladeshi perspective," Bangladesh Bodybuilding Federation general secretary Nazrul Islam said there had been a huge response to the landmark women's competition which aimed to encourage health and fitness.

"We were very careful about the dress code because of our religious and social culture. We selected long sleeve crop tops and leggings for the girls," he added.

Islam predicted the competition would help create jobs for women in the growing number of gymnasiums in Bangladesh where women now have memberships.

Nearly 90 per cent of Bangladesh's population is Muslim and women are making a growing impact in sport including cricket, football and archery.