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India and South Africa both look to young talent

Both India and South Africa are setting on a new path of finding young talent to take their teams forward. India started the process after the 2019 World Cup from the West Indies tour and have a few youngsters in the mix already, whom the selectors believe should be given a proper break, keeping in mind the big target. The most important thing for India is to not look at the World T20 next year. Before the last World Cup there was too much noise about it and that sometimes is not good. What they need to do is pick the best possible players and give them consistent opportunities, as there is some serious talent in the domestic circuit.

Virat, Rohit, Shikhar, Hardik and Jadeja have made a mark already and the young firepower needs to come in to take this team to the next level. The bowling department has some bright prospects. Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini look promising and India need to look after them so that they develop the way Bumrah has. These guys, with time and maturity, will see Bumrah, Bhuvni, Shami as their role models and this will be a healthy sign for Indian fast bowling. Spinners like Rahul Chahar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep, Chahal will also keep everyone on their toes.

The batting department also has some exciting faces. All that they need is the freedom to express themselves. Shreyas Iyer finds a place in the T20 squad, a reward for his good show in the 50 over game in West Indies. With Rohit and Shikhar at the top as the best possible - opening pair, K L Rahul will be pushed. He has lost his place in test cricket due to indifferent form and the likes of Shreyas, Manish Pandey will keep him on his toes for the number four slot. Hardik makes a comeback and will look to consolidate his place as the prime all-rounder in every format.

South Africa is in rebuilding mode. They are one team which needs to look at the system. Not very long ago they boasted of enormous talent but like many teams have dropped a few levels down. That has been very disheartening for world cricket. The time has come for them to take a leaf out of Australia's book and complete the rebuilding. They can't lag behind for too long. Many big names have bid adieu and I think putting De Cock at the helm is looking at a long-term goal. This tour will help people like De Cock, Rabada to come forward and take over the mantle of seniors in the side. Their batting has suffered the most in recent times and the challenge will be to find quality batsman to set up big totals. For this young South African team, it will be a real test of character to take on India in India.

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India missing happy results, young batsmen and wrist spinners need encouragement

India last played against Australia at home in T20 games and now against South Africa and the results have not been a happy one for them but that can happen in sport. One has to give credit to South Africa for their fight back to level the series in the third ODI.

The T20 World Cup is in Australia next year and it is quite natural that a lot of so-called interested parties in cricket will jump up and down, passing their opinions and judgments about all that can happen. The key person amidst all this will be Virat Kohli and it will be important for him to stay calm for a long period of time.

I know that the talks about the middle-order which stalled with the conclusion of the World Cup has re-opened again and I don't think Virat Kohli should take much note of it. He has a young batting unit under him and all of them will need a lot of support from the captain, at the top of the list will be Rishab Pant. His entry into international cricket has been brilliant and for me, he is India's solution for all the formats. There has been talk about Pant's shot selection and rightly so but all must understand that he will learn and only get better. He is a match-winner and a long-term bet for India. Amidst all criticism, Virat's guidance will see him through and that ultimately matters. Let's not make T20 cricket a platform to judge shot selection.

Other than the middle-order this is a good team but Virat needs to bring back the wrist spinners into this format. I hope Yuzvendra Chahal has only been rested to give opportunity to others or else he is a must for India in the T20 format. India doesn't need two left-arm spinners. The test series will start soon and hopefully India will play on good pitches and not rank turners, as it has been in the last series because India is very good team on any surface.