



Head coach Charlotte Edwards says England's depth makes T20 WC squad selection "Hardest Ever"

LONDON, APRIL 21: Charlotte Edwards admitted selecting England's squad for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup will be extremely difficult because there is now a strong depth of talent, with many players consistently performing at a high level.

Edwards noted that while this makes the selectors' job challenging, it is also a positive sight, as it reflects how much the team has improved over the years and said she would rather face tough selection decisions than have an obvious, weaker pool of players going into a World Cup.

The tenth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup is around the corner, with the expansion to 12 teams making it the biggest Women's T20 World Cup ever. The tournament kicks off on June 12, with the winner crowned at the July 5 Final.

Hosts England take on Sri Lanka at Edgbaston to kick off the tournament, with group stage action winding down on June 28. The first and second semi-finals will be played out at The Oval on June 30 and July 2, respectively, before the Final at Lord's.

"It's probably going to be one of the hardest teams, certainly, I'll have to pick, or



we'll have to pick as the selection group. But equally, what England have probably had to pick over the last sort of 10 years, there is a real depth of talent now and players performing week in, week out," Edwards said as per ESPNcricinfo.

"That's where we wanted to be coming into this. It certainly makes our jobs as selectors really, really hard. But I'd certainly rather it be like that than having easy calls to make going into a World Cup," she added.

Edwards explained that from the moment she took the job of England's head coach, the focus was on the home World Cup as a

unique and defining opportunity.

She emphasised that the players clearly recognise its significance and are driven by the excitement of playing such a special tournament on home soil.

"When I first took on this job, I knew exactly what was ahead of us. Home World Cup, and I've said it to the players: this comes once in your lifetime, in terms of career. You can really sense that from the players, that they know this is super special and something everyone wants to be a part of," she concluded.

Hosts, England were automatic qualifiers for the

tournament, alongside the five-highest finishers from the 2024 edition of the tournament: New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, India and the West Indies.

The next two spots were taken by the next two teams on the ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings in Pakistan, before the final four spots were decided at the 2026 T20 World Cup Qualifier.

Bangladesh, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Scotland were the four successful teams that prevailed in the competition, securing their spots for the Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales in June 2026. (ANI)

Jammu Gears Up for Thrilling T-20 Semi-Finals Showdown

Mulan rides winning streak as teams eye Jammu Lochan T-20 final

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21**

Cricket fever is gripping Jammu as the stage is set for the semi-finals of the 1st Jammu Lochan T-20 Cricket Tournament, with top local teams ready to battle it out on Wednesday. Apex Cricket Club will take on Rehari Kings XI, while Mulan Cricket Club faces Tantray Sports Club in what promises to be an exciting day of high-intensity cricket.

Organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association, the tournament has delivered thrilling performances at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, drawing significant attention from cricket enthusiasts across the region.

Among the standout teams, Mulan Cricket Club has emerged as a formidable contender, entering the semi-finals in commanding form after winning both their league matches convincingly.

In their first outing of the



day, Mulan secured a dominant eight-wicket victory over Shine Star Cricket Club. Opting to bowl first, Mulan's disciplined attack proved too strong, dismissing their opponents for just 74 runs in 16 overs. Rahul Mulan and skipper Anchal Singh led the bowling effort with four wickets each, showcasing remarkable precision and control.

Chasing a modest target, Mulan displayed their batting strength by wrapping up the match in just nine overs. Akash Chaudhary played a stellar unbeaten knock of 35, while Kannav Mahajan provided solid support. Anchal Singh was ad-

judged Man of the Match, with the award presented by P.P. Singh, Senior Vice President of JKRSA, Joint Secretary of Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey New Delhi, former national hockey umpire, and field hockey commentator.

Mulan continued their winning momentum in the final league match, registering a comprehensive 58-run victory over Rehari Kings XI. Batting first, they posted a competitive total of 172/6, thanks to Abishant's 48 and Yogesh Sikka's unbeaten 38. Their bowlers then delivered another strong performance, restricting Rehari Kings XI to 114 runs through a coordinated team effort.

Anuj Kumar's all-round brilliance earned him the Man of the Match award, which was presented by Amrinder Pal Singh, General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Kho-Kho Association, along with Pankaj Malhotra, Treasurer of the association.

With momentum on their side, Mulan Cricket Club will look to carry their winning form into the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Apex Cricket Club, Rehari Kings XI, and Tantray Sports Club will be equally determined to secure a place in the final, setting the stage for an electrifying showdown in Jammu's growing cricket scene.

DC throws open District Level Cricket Tournament at Budgam

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21**

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today threw open the District Level Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium Budgam amid enthusiastic participation of youth and sports lovers from across the district and Kashmir Division.

The tournament, organized by the local youth of Budgam, aims to promote sports culture, strengthen youth engagement, and provide a vibrant platform for budding cricketers to showcase their talent. A total of 31 cricket teams from across the Kashmir Division are participating in the tournament, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated the efforts of the local youth for organizing such a large-scale sporting event and termed the initiative as a positive step towards channelizing youthful energy into constructive activities. He emphasized that sports play a vital role in personality development, discipline, teamwork, and the overall well-being of young people.

Highlighting the significance of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the DC underscored the importance of



sports as a powerful tool in the fight against drug abuse. He urged the youth to actively participate in sports and constructive activities to stay away from substance abuse and lead a healthy, purposeful life.

He further emphasized that such initiatives not only promote physical fitness but also serve as an effective platform to spread awareness about the ill effects of drugs, encouraging young people to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

The DC lauded the organizers for taking the lead in

promoting sports at the grassroots level and encouraged them to continue organizing similar events in future. He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to supporting youth-oriented initiatives that foster healthy competition, community participation, and contribute towards realizing the vision of a drug-free society.

The DC also interacted with the players of the opening match, extended his best wishes to all participating teams, and encouraged them to uphold the spirit of

sportsmanship and fair play throughout the tournament.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of sports enthusiasts, local youth, organizers, and officials, who welcomed the commencement of the tournament with great enthusiasm.

The tournament is expected to continue over the coming days, providing an opportunity for young cricketers from different parts of the Kashmir Division to compete, learn, and build sportsmanship through sports.

IPL: Abhishek Sharma's record-breaking 135* powers SRH to 242/2 against DC

HYDERABAD, APRIL 21:

Abhishek Sharma's explosive second Indian Premier League (IPL) century, supported by a quick-fire cameo from Heinrich Klaasen, powered Sunrisers Hyderabad to a commanding 242/2 against Delhi Capitals on Tuesday in Hyderabad.

Sharma remained unbeaten on 135, his second-highest score in the tournament, hammering 10 towering sixes and carrying his bat through a dominant innings.

While Klaasen played a vital and fiery hand, smashing 37 off just 13 balls, including 3 sixes and four fours each.

After being put in to bat, Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head gave Sunrisers Hyderabad a flying start, scoring nine runs in the opening over.

Nitish Rana responded with a tight second over, conceding just six runs, but the momentum quickly shifted back as both openers struck a boundary each off Mukesh Kumar in the next over.

Lungi Ngidi came into the attack in the fourth over but was taken for 10 runs. The pressure mounted in the following over when Sharma and Head took on the charge



against Rana, scoring 20 runs to bring up a brisk 50-run opening partnership.

Sharma capped off an impressive power play by smashing a six on the final ball, guiding SRH to a commanding 67 without loss at the end of the field restrictions.

DC skipper Axar Patel, featuring in his 100th match for the franchise, delivered a tight over immediately after the powerplay, conceding just seven runs. He was well supported by Kuldeep Yadav, who followed up with another disciplined over, giving away only eight runs.

In Patel's second over, Sharma and Head slammed him for a six each before the DC skipper got the better of Head for 37, bringing SRH

skipper Ishan Kishan to the crease.

In the same over, Sharma brought up his fifty in 25 balls. This marked the slowest fifty for Abhishek Sharma's six IPL 50s in Hyderabad.

Sharma also completed 2000 IPL runs for SRH, joining David Warner, Shikhar Dhawan and Kane Williamson in the elite list. Sharma and Kishan launched an attack on Yadav as the duo slammed 22 runs in the 11th over. Taking on the DC's bowlers, Sharma, in the 15th over, brought up his second IPL hundred.

In the same over, SRH's skipper Kishan got run out for 25; however, Sharma thumped Rana in the 15th over for 23 runs to take

SRH's total to 183-2.

Sharma blazed his way to his second IPL century in 47 balls. It is the 25-year-old's ninth T20 century overall, thus equalling the record held by Virat Kohli for most centuries by an Indian in men's T20s.

This also marked the second instance of Abhishek Sharma smashing 10 sixes in an IPL innings, making him only the second batter to achieve the feat multiple times after Chris Gayle, who has done it four times.

Sunrisers Hyderabad surged past the 200-run mark by the end of the 17th over, with Sharma and Heinrich Klaasen at the crease.

Klaasen then continued the onslaught, smashing two sixes off Lungi Ngidi in the 18th over to add another 14 runs to SRH's total. Klaasen also became the third fastest to 100 sixes in IPL in terms of innings (52) behind Gayle (37) and Andre Russell (47), and seventh fastest in terms of balls faced (1072 balls).

Natarajan bowled an outstanding 19th over, conceding just 6 runs. SRH finished their innings on 242-2, with Klaasen and Sharma collecting 20 runs in the final over. (ANI)

AIPA players win 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals at WPC Series in Penang Malaysia

NEW DELHI [INDIA], APRIL 21 (ANI): The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) contingent delivered a strong performance at the WPC Series held in Penang, Malaysia, bringing home multiple medals across categories and showcasing India's growing dominance in international pickleball.

In the Men's Doubles 19+ category, the duo of Mayur Patil and Vanshik Kapadia clinched the Gold Medal, displaying coordination and skill. Meanwhile, Kuldip Mahajan, paired with

Nicholas Maleganeas, secured a commendable Bronze Medal, according to a press release.

The Men's Singles 19+ Open category saw Vanshika Kapadia emerge victorious with a Gold Medal, while Kuldip Mahajan added another podium finish to his campaign with a Bronze Medal.

Continuing the winning streak, in the Mixed Doubles 19+ Open, Vrushali Thakare and Vanshika Kapadia claimed the Gold Medal, while Aalyka Ebrahim and Willy Chung secured the Silver

Medal after a strong showing.

In the Women's Doubles 19+ Advanced Plus category, Aalyka Ebrahim teamed up with Ariana Muralidharan to win the Silver Medal. Aalyka further excelled in the Women's Singles 19+ Advanced Plus, where she clinched the Gold Medal, marking a stellar individual performance.

Speaking on this remarkable achievement, Arvind Prabhoo, President of AIPA, said, "Our players have once again demonstrated their dedication.

"Win against Gujarat Titans very important for Mumbai Indians": Aditya Tare

MUMBAI, APRIL 21: Former Mumbai Indians (MI) batter Aditya Tare highlighted that MI's win over the Gujarat Titans could be a turning point in their season. Despite a poor start, losing four of their first five matches, he pointed out that Mumbai has a strong history of bouncing back.

He recalled the 2014 Indian Premier League (IPL), when they lost their first five games but still reached the playoffs, and in the following season, when they recovered from a similar slump to win the title by defeating Chennai Super Kings in the final.

MI registered a commanding 99-run victory over GT after an all-round

performance, with Tilak Varma's maiden IPL century powering them to a strong total before the bowlers dismantled the opposition's batting lineup in the IPL 2026 clash on Monday night.

"This win against Gujarat Titans is very important for Mumbai Indians. They had lost four of their first five matches this season and were at the bottom of the table. But Mumbai Indians have a history of making comebacks after poor starts. Take the example of the 2014 season, they lost their first five matches but still reached the playoffs. Then in 2015, they were in a similar position. They

made an incredible comeback in the second half of the season and went on to win the trophy for the second time, beating Chennai Super Kings in the final. This team knows how to fight back. They will definitely take inspiration from those past seasons," Aditya Tare said on JioHotstar.

The result helped MI end a four-game losing streak and rise from the bottom of the points table.

One of the biggest talking points was the decision to hand the new ball to Jasprit Bumrah, a move that paid off instantly as he struck with his very first delivery to dismiss Sai Sudharsan.