



Spain's FIFA WC-winning star Simon, Arsenal's Raya, Argentina's Martinez headline 'Yashin Trophy' nominees for best goalkeepers



PARIS [FRANCE], SEPTEMBER 8 (ANI): FIFA World Cup-winning goalkeepers Unai Simon and David Raya, and Argentina veteran Emiliano Martínez, headlined the list of goalkeepers nominated for the Yashin Trophy to be given at the annual Ballon d'Or ceremony in October.

The official X handle of Ballon d'Or, the highest individual honour in football, started rolling out the nominations for the main Ballon d'Or award and other special trophies to be given during a ceremony in London to be held on October 26 this year.

Spain's World Cup-winning main goalie, Unai headlined the list with 62 matches, 76 goals conceded, 22 clean sheets, 1 yellow card, 0 red card, playing a crucial role in Spain's second FIFA World Cup win and success of his club Atletico Madrid. He helped

Spain become the first team ever to have six successive clean sheets in FIFA WC history, winning the 'Golden Glove' honours. In the tournament, he returned with a clean sheet in seven out of eight outings, as per Ballon d'Or's official website. Raya, who was instrumental in Arsenal's first Premier League title win in 22 years, conceded 32 goals in 53 matches, delivering 29 clean sheets, getting one yellow card and zero red cards.

Matvey Safonov was Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)'s wall in their four-trophy-winning season in 2025-26, returning with 12 clean sheets in 31 matches, conceding just 31 goals. He was handed just one yellow card and zero red cards. He won back-to-back UEFA Champions League titles with PSG and also the FIFA Intercontinental Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Ligue 1 with the French giants.

FIFA World Cup debutants Cabo Verde also made

their presence felt in the nominations through their 40-year-old star Vozinha, who became a sensation on and off the field for his impressive showing on the field and for his humility. In 30 matches, he returned with 13 clean sheets, conceded 35 goals and did not get any cards.

Emiliano, playing for Argentina in the FIFA World Cup in their runners-up finish and winning the UEFA Europa League with Aston Villa in the 2025-26 season, returned with 20 clean sheets in 58 matches, conceded 59 goals and faced three yellow cards.

Edouard Mendy, turning up in for Senegal in their round of 32 finish at the World Cup and for Al-Ahli in Saudi Pro League, returned with 28 clean sheets in 56 matches, conceded 47 goals, while also facing six yellow cards. He won the Asian Champions League and the Saudi Super Cup with Al-Ahli.

Morocco's Yassine

Bounou starred in his national side's quarterfinal run where they lost to France, and did well for Al-Hilal in Saudi too, returning with 30 clean sheets in 58 matches, conceding 41 goals and one yellow card.

Belgium and Real Madrid veteran Thibaut Courtois was also nominated, returning with 23 clean sheets in 57 matches, conceding 51 goals and facing one yellow card.

Another Spain's FIFA World Cup winning goalie, Joan Garcia was also nominated for returning with 19 clean sheets in 47 games, conceding 43 goals and facing one yellow card. The previous season saw him win the FIFA World Cup, Spain's top-flight league La Liga and the Spanish Super Cup with FC Barcelona.

Lastly, Switzerland and Borussia Dortmund's Gregor Kobel also finds a nomination, with 70 goals conceded in 61 matches, 24 clean sheets and 3 yellow cards.

Indian kabaddi player fails dope test, stripped of Asian Beach Games silver medal

NEW DELHI, SEP 08: Indian kabaddi player Brijendra Singh Choudhary, who was a part of the silver-winning men's team in the Asian Beach Games earlier this year, was on Tuesday stripped of his medal after failing an in-competition dope test.

Choudhary tested positive for prohibited diuretic (masking agent) brinzolamide on April 27 and has accepted the sanction, the International Testing Agency (ITA) said. The Asian Beach Games were held in Sanya, China from April 22 to 30. The Indian men's kabaddi team won a silver, while the women had claimed a gold in the event.

"The International Testing Agency (ITA), on behalf of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), reports that Indian Kabaddi player Brijendra Singh Choudhary has been sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV)," it stated.

Brinzolamide is a specified substance and is prohibited at all times (in and out-of-competition) by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

"The athlete accepted the consequences of his ADRV under the OCA anti-doping



rules, namely the finding of the ADRV and the disqualification of his individual results obtained at the 6th Asian Beach Games Sanya 2026 which include his second place in the Men's Beach Kabaddi event," ITA stated.

As per the ITA statement, only Choudhary's individual result has been impacted by the dope failure.

Choudhary is an all-rounder and has also appeared in the Pro-Kabaddi League, playing for the Dabang Delhi franchise in the 2024 season.

As he has already been sanctioned by ITA, there won't be any fresh disciplinary proceedings against him in India and further suspension or ban on him would be decided by the International Kabaddi Federation.

ITA issued the sanction on behalf of OCA in accordance with article 8.3.3 of OCA anti-doping rules and equivalent provision in the World Anti-Doping Code.

The article empowers anti-doping organisations to impose sanctions like disqualification of event re-

sults without holding a formal hearing when an athlete does not challenge a violation.

"The matter is considered as resolved from the perspective of OCA and will now be transferred to International Kabaddi Federation for a determination of further consequences under the International Kabaddi Federation rules," ITA stated.

"Parties with a right of appeal may challenge the decision before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)," it added.

Cricket Australia approves Big Bash League privatisation, Melbourne Renegades up for sale

MELBOURNE, SEP 08: Big Bash League team Melbourne Renegades is up for sale in full as Cricket Australia on Tuesday approved "self-determination" privatisation model in its T20 league.

CA announced that it would invite bids from private owners for a 100 per cent stake in Melbourne Renegades.

The new ownership in the franchise will be in place for the 2027-28 Big Bash League and Women's Big Bash League seasons, and the sale process will have no impact on the upcoming seasons of the BBL and the WBBL this Australian summer, reported cricket.com.au.

The Melbourne Renegades is being run in a caretaker mode by the Australian cricket governing body, with the WBL side having recently signed West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews.

CA will also consider putting the other clubs for sale under the "self-determination" model, "which allows each state to make its own decision if and when to sell stakes in their BBL clubs", the report added.

Hobart Hurricanes, Perth Scorchers and Melbourne Stars are the other clubs believed to be interested in private investment.

But other teams such as



Sydney Sixers, Sydney Thunder, Brisbane Heat, and Adelaide Strikers, are not interested in private investment at the moment. The option of going for sale would remain open for these teams in future.

Cricket Australia chairman Mike Baird informed in a statement that the governing body will continue to have control over international scheduling, availability of the players, salary caps as well as media rights.

While CA will retain power to approve or veto investors and set reserve price, any changes to club names, colours and branding would need approvals. In case of Melbourne Renegades, CA will be the approving party while for other teams, the same would be the relevant state body.

"Cricket Australia and its State members are united in our commitment to investing in and growing the BBL and WBBL, and to advancing

the interests of cricket at every level," Baird was quoted as saying.

"By opening the door to private investment in the Big Bash Leagues, Cricket Australia is taking a deliberate step to strengthen and secure the long-term future of the game, accelerate growth and ensuring we can keep investing in community cricket and grassroots participation, domestic and international pathways and the elite level," he added.

Japan announce squad for historic T20I against India in Sano

Sano, September 8 (ANI): Japan have announced their squad for their historic men's T20I against reigning T20 World Cup champions and world No.1 India, with Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming set to lead the side in the landmark clash at the Sano International Cricket Ground on September 22.

The squad features the same group selected for Japan's home Asian Games campaign, which begins in Nagoya two days after the India fixture, reported ICC.

Kadowaki-Fleming, Japan's all-time leading T20I run-scorer, will captain the side and will be joined by Ibrahim Takahashi and Declan Suzuki-Mc-

Comb, the other two members of the squad with more than 50 T20I appearances.

Japan have selected their squad with their Asian Games campaign in mind and have therefore left out players who meet ICC eligibility requirements for T20Is but are not eligible under Asian Games regulations.

That has opened the door for emerging spin-bowling all-rounder Jake Kusuda-Nairn, who earned his place after impressing in domestic cricket. Veteran Tsuyoshi Takada also returns to the squad, having first represented Japan at the ICC East Asia-Pacific Twenty20 Championship in 2013.

The squad includes Wataru

Miyauchi and Makoto Taniyama, both products of Japanese schools that have cricket Bukatsu programmes. Taniyama, a leg-spinner who developed his bowling action after watching videos of Australia great Shane Warne, wears jersey number 23 in honour of his idol and is Japan's leading wicket-taker across pathway and international cricket.

Charlie Hara-Hinze, who was part of Japan's Under-19 World Cup side that defeated Tanzania, has also been included, while spinner Benjamin Ito-Davis returns after a hand injury ended his participation in Japan's East Asia-Pacific T20 World Cup 2028 Sub-Regional Qualifier campaign.

Aryan Savsani, Tanmay Baloda added to India U19 squads for Australia series

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8 : Saurashtra's Aryan Savsani and Haryana's Tanmay Baloda have been added to India's Under-19 squads for the upcoming home series against Australia U19, replacing Rohit Yadav in the One-Day and Multi-Day squads, respectively.

BCCI's Junior Cricket Committee named Savsani as Rohit's replacement in the One-Day squad, while Baloda has been included in the Multi-Day squad after Rohit was withdrawn from both teams due to age discrepancies, according to a media release from BCCI.

Rohit had initially been selected in India's U19 squads for the series, which will feature three One-Day matches and two Multi-Day fixtures across Rajkot and Ahmedabad.

Rohit has been handed a two-year ban for an age discrepancy after the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) uncovered irregularities during its pre-season documentation drive.

He was part of India's Under-19 tour of Sri Lanka in July. The 19-year-old, who has represented Bengal in age-group cricket, was found to have an age discrepancy of 27 months, according to the CAB.

The One-Day leg will be played in Rajkot from September 18 to 23, with the



first Multi-Day fixture also scheduled at the same venue. The second Multi-Day match will be held in Ahmedabad, with the longer-format leg running from September 27 to October 8.

India Under-19 men's cricket team recently won the two-match Youth Test series 1-0 and lost the three-match Youth ODI series 1-2 during their tour of Sri Lanka in July 2026.

India's updated One-Day squad will be led by Lakshya Raichandani, with Yashbardhan Chauhan as vice-captain. The squad also includes Aaryavir Se-

hwag and Anvay Dravid, sons of former India batting greats Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid respectively.

Aaryavir was part of the West Delhi Lions in the Delhi Premier League, where he scored 24 runs across two innings. Anvay, meanwhile, already has two youth ODIs for India to his name and has scored 101 runs, including a best of 87 against Sri Lanka in Hambantota.

India U19's updated squad for One-Day matches: Lakshya Raichandani (C), Yashbardhan Chauhan (VC), Rajat Baghel (WK), Aaryavir Se-

hwag, V.K. Vineet, Kushagra Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid (WK), V. Yashveer, Shavin Vinodh, Mohit Ulva, Chigurupati Venkata, Kavya Patel, Aryan Savsani.

India U19's updated squad for Multi-Day fixtures: Yashbardhan Chauhan (C), Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Sagar Virk, Kushagra Ojha, Manal Chauhan, Kush Patel, Manav Krishna (WK), Abhipray Biswas (WK), Ishan Om, Ayaan Akram, Pranav Ragavendra, Priyanshu Singh, Mohit Ulva, Aryan Yadav, Tanmay Baloda. (ANI)