

# Ajit Agarkar Hints at Sanju Samson's Possible Exclusion from India's Playing XI at Asia Cup 2025

The build-up to the **Asia Cup 2025** has already begun, and discussions about India's probable playing XI are heating up. Chief selector **Ajit Agarkar** recently dropped hints that **Sanju Samson** might not feature in India's starting lineup, sparking debate among fans and experts alike.



## Agarkar's Subtle Remark

In a media interaction, [Agarkar](#) emphasized the importance of balance in India's squad. He suggested that while Samson remains a part of the larger setup, the team could lean towards players who offer greater stability in the middle order or dual skills with the bat and gloves. This has led many to believe that [Samson](#) may have to sit out, at least in the initial games.

## The Competition for Places

India's current batting lineup is stacked with talent. With [Shubman Gill](#), [Rohit Sharma](#), [Virat Kohli](#), and [Suryakumar Yadav](#) almost certain starters, the remaining spots are fiercely contested. For the wicketkeeper's role, [Rishabh Pant](#) has made a strong comeback, while [KL Rahul](#) offers flexibility as both a batter and keeper. This intense competition puts Samson at a disadvantage despite his proven finishing skills in white-ball cricket.

## Samson's Case

[Sanju Samson](#) has often been seen as one of the most talented yet underutilized cricketers in India. Known for his explosive batting and ability to change games quickly, Samson has, however, struggled with consistency at the international level. While his IPL heroics keep him in the limelight, selectors continue to prioritize players with steadier records in pressure situations.

## Impact on Team Strategy

Excluding Samson could mean India prioritizes experience and versatility over flair. The Asia Cup, being a crucial tournament ahead of the Champions Trophy, demands a tried-and-tested combination, which might explain Agarkar's cautious stance. Still, Samson's supporters argue that his X-factor could be vital in crunch matches.

## Final Word

Ajit Agarkar's subtle hint has left fans divided. While it appears that **Sanju Samson may not start in India's XI**, the tournament is long, and opportunities could still open up. For now, the big question remains: will India take the safe route, or will they give Samson the chance to prove his worth on one of the biggest stages?

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