

IND vs SA ODI Series: India's Playing XI for 1st ODI in Ranchi – Predicted; Yashasvi Jaiswal or Ruturaj Gaikwad?



As India gears up for the highly anticipated **IND vs SA ODI Series**, all eyes are on the opening encounter at Ranchi. With multiple young talents pushing for a place in the XI, the biggest question ahead of the 1st ODI is clear: **Who should open with Rohit Sharma – Yashasvi Jaiswal or Ruturaj Gaikwad?** Both players have performed impressively in recent months, making the selection dilemma even more intriguing.

Opening Dilemma: Jaiswal or Gaikwad?

In ODI cricket, consistency and adaptability are crucial. **Yashasvi Jaiswal** brings explosive starts, fearless stroke play, and the ability to take on pace attacks right from the first over. His aggressive approach can give India early momentum, especially on a flat Ranchi surface.

On the other hand, **Ruturaj Gaikwad** provides calmness and stability at the top. Known for his timing and classical technique, Gaikwad has shown he can anchor an innings while

accelerating when needed. His form in recent domestic and franchise cricket campaigns makes him a strong contender for the opening slot.

Considering the Ranchi pitch's batting-friendly nature, India may lean towards Jaiswal's attacking style. However, Gaikwad's reliability cannot be overlooked, making this selection one of the most discussed points ahead of the match.

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Predicted India Playing XI for 1st ODI in Ranchi

1. **Rohit Sharma (C)** – The experienced skipper will anchor the top order.
2. **Yashasvi Jaiswal / Ruturaj Gaikwad** – One of the two will partner Rohit.
3. **Shreyas Iyer** – Solid at No. 3 with the ability to rotate strike and play long innings.
4. **Virat Kohli** – The backbone of India's ODI setup.
5. **KL Rahul (WK)** – Expected to handle the wicketkeeping duties and strengthen the middle order.
6. **Suryakumar Yadav** – Provides finishing firepower and excellent spin-hitting.
7. **Ravindra Jadeja** – A crucial all-rounder offering balance to the side.
8. **Shardul Thakur** – A handy bowler and lower-order hitter.
9. **Kuldeep Yadav** – Key spinner with wicket-taking abilities in the middle overs.
10. **Jasprit Bumrah** – India's strike bowler and death-overs specialist.
11. **Mohammed Siraj** – Expected to share the new ball with Bumrah.

Final Thoughts

The **IND vs SA 1st ODI in Ranchi** promises an exciting start to the series, with India's playing XI looking strong and balanced. The biggest talking point remains the opening-choice battle between **Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad**, both capable of making an immediate impact. Regardless of the final selection, India's lineup appears well-equipped to challenge South Africa and begin the series on a winning note.

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