

# IND vs NZ: 3 Indian Players Part of South Africa ODI Series Who Are Dropped for New Zealand ODIs



The **India vs New Zealand ODI series** has brought a few surprises with the squad selection, as the selectors made some bold calls while finalizing the team. Despite being part of the recent **South Africa ODI series**, three Indian players have been **dropped from the ODI squad against New Zealand**. The decision highlights India's focus on form, balance, and long-term planning as they continue preparations for upcoming ICC tournaments.

Here's a detailed look at the **three Indian players omitted from the IND vs NZ ODIs**, and the possible reasons behind their exclusion.

## 1. Ruturaj Gaikwad

**Ruturaj Gaikwad**, who featured in the South Africa ODI series, has been left out of the New Zealand ODIs. Despite his technical soundness and strong domestic record, Gaikwad struggled to make a significant impact at the international level in recent outings.

With intense competition at the top of the order, the selectors have opted to back other batters who offer either explosive starts or added versatility. Gaikwad's omission appears to be more about squad balance rather than a long-term setback, and he remains a strong contender for future opportunities.

## 2. Washington Sundar

Another notable name missing from the **IND vs NZ ODI squad** is **Washington Sundar**. The all-rounder was part of the South Africa series but has been overlooked this time as India fine-tuned their spin-bowling combination.

With conditions expected to favor specialist spinners and pace-bowling all-rounders, the team management may have felt Sundar's role overlapped with other options. While his batting depth is valuable, the selectors seem to have prioritized players offering clearer match-up advantages.

Know More: [India vs New Zealand ODI 2026 squad Announcement](#)

## 3. Mukesh Kumar

**Mukesh Kumar**, who gained experience during the South Africa ODI tour, has also been dropped for the New Zealand series. The pacer showed promise but lacked consistency in pressure situations, especially during the death overs.

India's fast-bowling pool is highly competitive, and the management has chosen bowlers with either express pace or proven wicket-taking ability in home conditions. Mukesh's exclusion reflects India's desire to sharpen their bowling attack against a strong New Zealand batting lineup.

## Why These Changes Matter for IND vs NZ ODIs

The decision to drop players from the **South Africa ODI series** underlines India's evolving strategy. The selectors are clearly emphasizing **current form, adaptability, and role clarity** rather than continuity alone. Against New Zealand, a team known for discipline and balance, India need players who can deliver in crunch moments.

## Final Thoughts

The omission of **Ruturaj Gaikwad, Washington Sundar, and Mukesh Kumar** from the [IND vs NZ ODI squad](#) may disappoint some fans, but it reflects India's competitive depth and forward-thinking approach. With every series serving as preparation for bigger challenges ahead, squad rotation and tough calls are inevitable in modern cricket.

