

Pandey needs to hit bigger knocks

THE selection of R Vinay Kumar in the Indian team for the ICC World T20 is a well deserved one and good news for domestic performers who often feel that their deeds in the first-class game in India do not get recognition from the powers that be.

Yes, the fact is that apart from the odd selector not too many selectors go to watch the Ranji and Duleep or the limited overs tournaments unless they happen to be played in the cities where they live. So many a performers hardly gets noticed unless the local media highlights his achievements and brings it into the public domain.

Vinay Kumar has been a consistent performer for some time now and all that experience should stand him in good stead in his international career. His teammates Robin Uthappa and Manish Pandey will be disappointed at having missed the plane to the Caribbean isles but that should spur them on to do better than they did this season.



As the old saying goes, if the selectors don't hear your knock on the door then break the door down with such deeds that they will not only hear you but also see you. What Manish Pandey also needs to do is to show that he values his wicket with his life and not be casual about running between the wickets trying to get in with his foot than dragging the bat as he has been in the current IPL.

There is no doubt that he is India potential and a few more big knocks instead of the lovely cameos he is playing will push his case further for selection. In this week's run in for being the CEAT International Cricketer we have seen the likes of Raina, Hayden, Irfan Pathan and Andrew Symonds. They have all scored runs at a fast clip and have also taken wickets and run out opposition players and taken some fine catches.

However all that has not quite helped their teams as they struggle to get into the top half of the rankings. Of course there are plenty more games to be played and so there is an opportunity to get into the knockout stage of the tournament but what it shows is that unless others also contribute the teams do not always win.

The teams at the top have one player contributing the bulk but also with good support from the others. Sachin Tendulkar has shown that it is not necessary to hammer and tongs at the bowling to get a good scoring rate but that can be done through normal strokes too. So one does not see the 'Dil' scoop or the tickle past the wicketkeeper; he instead is showing the full face of the bat and only his change of bat speed makes the ball go in a direction where the fielder cannot anticipate the ball.

His team is currently on top of the points table and is looking good to qualify for the semis to make up for the disappointment of the first two years. Suresh Raina who has blasted some huge sixes and fielded brilliantly is the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.