

## RR 2026 IPL Auction Strategy

I will be adopting a 2 steps approach to solve this challenge

1. Listing all the players RR must have
2. Deciding max bid amount for each player based on the player's priority (how bad we need him)

So, let us start

### Step 1: Listing Players

Where we stand after retentions and trade

Compostition after Retention and Trades			
Batters	All Rounders	Wicket Keeper	Bowlers
Yashaswi Jaiswal	Riyan Parag	Dhruv Jurel	Jofra Archer
Vaibhav Suryavanshi	Ravindra Jadeja	Lhuan-Dre Pretorius	Sandeep Sharma
Shimron Hetmyer	Sam Curran		Tushar Deshpande
Shubham Dubey	Donovan Ferreira		Nandre Burger
			Kwena Maphaka
			Yudhvir Charak

**NOTE 1:** South Africa has 5 T20s scheduled against New Zealand from March 15-25, therefore Lhuan-Dre Pretorius, Donovan Ferreira, Nandre Burger, Kwena Maphaka might not be available for those 10 days at the start of IPL. But most probably they will return after 25<sup>th</sup> of march and be available for the remaining IPL

Let us first have a look at the bowlers, because batters can win us matches but bowlers win us tournaments.

### **Bowling Department**

- Pace  
As of now we have 7 pacers (including Sam Curran) and don't have to worry about buying one at the auction initially. Of course, we can consider it if we have funds to

spare at the end after filling the necessary gaps. Keeping NOTE 1 into consideration, I don't think that will be an issue because initially RR will be playing the 4 pacers only i.e. Jofra Archer, Sandeep Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Sam Curran. If we later want any of the SAF quicks I think they will be available.

- Spin

We need at least 1 specialist Spinner along with Jadeja, Ferreira and Parag.

Player	Spinner Type
<b>Ravindra Jadeja</b>	Slow left-arm orthodox
<b>Donovan Ferreira</b>	Right-arm offbreak
<b>Riyan Parag</b>	Right-arm offbreak

Parag is a part-timer and considering the impact player nuance, he will hardly bowl. We need a Right Arm Legbreaker to accompany Jadeja and lead the spin attack. Jadeja is known for his consistency and good economy. Jadeja will contain the batsmen, we need a leggie who can hunt the batsmen.

Here are leggies which we can target:

Player	Overs	Wickets	Runs	Dot Balls	StrikeRate	Multiwicket %	Dot/Wicket	Dot Ball %	Economy in 0 Wicket games
Kartik Chadha	20	13	144	50	9.23	50%	3.85	42%	16
Ravi Bishnoi	54	14	533	107	23.14	25%	7.64	33%	9.68
Mohammad Rishad Hossain	119.2	45	1026	267	15.91	39%	5.93	37%	8.85
Shubham Shubham Agarwal	34	7	251	90	29.14	10%	12.86	44%	9.44
Praveen Dubey	31.3	5	283	68	37.8	9%	13.60	36%	9.27
Murugan Ashwin	22	5	178	59	26.4	14%	11.80	45%	7.67
Shreyash Chavan	22	4	184	41	33	17%	10.25	31%	9.64
Wanindu Hasaranga	103.1	33	768	212	18.76	33%	6.42	34%	7.81
Yuvraj Chudasama	21.5	5	193	45	26.2	13%	9.00	34%	9.33
KC Cariappa	39.1	16	266	96	14.69	55%	6.00	41%	9.17
Liam Livingstone	31.2	10	287	42	18.8	27%	4.20	22%	10.15
Adam Zampa	99.2	40	827	205	14.9	54%	5.13	34%	7.86
Karn Sharma	65.3	19	559	130	20.68	21%	6.84	33%	9.73
Prashant Solanki	43	19	339	92	13.58	33%	4.84	36%	8.8
Sudhesan Midhun	27.1	10	209	52	16.3	27%	5.20	32%	10.86

(All data is for 2025 for bowlers with at least 20 t20 overs)

Explanation for the metrics in the picture:

- Multiwicket %: We need a bowler who can take not just one but multiple wickets and breaks the opponent's lineup. The formulae for this is:  $\frac{\text{Matches where wickets} > 1}{\text{Matches}}$
- Dot/Wicket Ratio: self-explanatory
- DotBall%: self-explanatory
- Economy in 0 wicket games: Everybody has a bad game. I am just analyzing how bad is the leggie on his off day, by considering the economy when he is wicketless.

After considering these metrics here are the shortlisted 4 leggies with amazing metrics performance:

Player	StrikeRate	Multiwicket %	Dot/Wicket	Dot Ball %	Economy in 0 Wicket games
Adam Zampa	14.9	54%	5.13	34%	7.86
Prashant Solanki	13.58	33%	4.84	36%	8.8
Mohammad Rishad Hossain	15.91	39%	5.93	37%	8.85
KC Cariappa	14.69	55%	6.00	41%	9.17

And here are their base price with past year's auction details:

Player	Base Price 2026 in Cr	Category	Base Price 2025	Final Price 2025	Sold to 2025
Adam Zampa	1	Overseas	2,00,00,000	2,40,00,000	SRH
Prashant Solanki	0.3	Indian	30,00,000	-	UNSOLD
Mohammad Rishad Hossain	0.5	Overseas	75,00,000	-	UNSOLD
KC Cariappa	0.3	Indian	30,00,000	-	UNSOLD

Considering Adam Zampa's reputation he will surely trigger a bidding war. Our priority will be Rishad Hossain as he can bat as well and given that we have 16.05Cr in purse, we will most probably be able to bag him. Our priority of buying:

- i) Rishad Hossain
- ii) Prashant Solanki
- iii) KC Cariappa

### Wicket Keeping Department

Q) The first question that we have to answer here is can Lhuan Pretorius be backup keeper and fit into the side if Dhruv Jurel is unavailable for a match?

### Scenario 1: We were able to bag Rishad Hossain

Let us look at probable 11 after our signing Rishad Hossain

Probable Playing 11

<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">1</div> <div style="color: white;">Yashaswi Jaiswal</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <div style="color: white;">Vaibhav Suryavanshi</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <div style="color: white;">Riyan Parag</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">4</div> <div style="color: white;">Ravindra Jadeja</div>
<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <div style="color: white;">Dhruv Jurel WK</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <div style="color: white;">Shimron Hetmyer</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">7</div> <div style="color: white;">Sam Curran</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">8</div> <div style="color: white;">Rishad Hossain Auction Buy</div>
<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">9</div> <div style="color: white;">Jofra Archer</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">10</div> <div style="color: white;">Tushar Deshpande</div>	<div style="font-size: 3em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">11</div> <div style="color: white;">Sandeep Sharma</div>	<div style="color: white; font-size: 0.8em; margin-bottom: 5px;">Reserves</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shubham Dubey</li> <li>Lhuan-Dre Pretorius</li> <li>Donovan Ferreira</li> <li>Nandre Burger</li> <li>Yudhvir Charak</li> <li>Kwena Maphaka</li> </ul> <div style="color: white; font-size: 0.8em; margin-bottom: 5px;">Auction Buys</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prashant Solanki</li> <li>KC Cariappa</li> </ul>

**NOTE 2:** The positions of some players can be changed depending on the match situation

- Lhuan Pretorius can keep as a backup he has kept in 17 international matches this year.
- But, if Dhruv Jurel is unavailable we can't directly play him in place of Dhruv Jurel because that will take our overseas count to 5 which is not allowed. In order to play Pretorius we will have to drop an overseas player one of Archer, Curran or Rishad and considering the skillset these players bring it will be a poor decision to play Pretorius in place of any of these international giants.

So, now we have to look for a backup Indian keeper who can bat as well after losing Sanju and Nitish which are huge shoes to fill. Therefore, we need to find a player who can bat at no 3,4,5 and as an impact player if needed and can also keep as a backup when Jurel is unable to keep.

The players satisfying the specific condition:

Player	Handed	Matches	Runs	Balls	SR	Impact Innings %	Boundary %	SR where batter scored>=30 runs	Non Boundary SR
Aaradhya Yadav	R	11	407	324	126	9%	16%	135.82	59.41
Akhil Rawat	R	6	174	119	146	17%	18%	168.83	69.39
Aryan Juyal	R	5	138	118	117	0%	15%	138.46	52
Baba Indrajith	R	7	118	87	136	14%	17%	169.77	66.67
BR Sharath	R	13	406	251	162	31%	26%	178.85	55.91
Hardik Tamore	R	9	296	167	177	22%	28%	186.4	60
Harvik Desai	R	7	209	150	139	14%	21%	148.96	56.78
KL Shrijith	L	9	288	238	121	11%	13%	128.9	65.7
Krish Yadav	R	11	390	269	145	18%	22%	150.23	58.1
Luvnith Sisodia	L	11	240	125	192	18%	31%	256.76	55.81
Maruthungal Ajinas	R	11	287	256	112	9%	15%	135.1	45.41
Mohammed Azharuddeen	R	8	253	180	141	13%	18%	148.12	65.99
Narayan Jagadeesan	R	5	97	60	162	20%	20%	200	81.25
Rithik S	L	7	104	79	132	14%	18%	162.5	55.38
Salil Arora	R	6	191	114	168	50%	24%	205.88	72.41
Saurav Chauhan	L	5	196	129	152	40%	21%	155.17	64.71
Shivam Gupta	R	10	277	189	147	30%	21%	150.59	60.67
Srikar Bharat	R	6	207	113	183	50%	27%	189.72	68.67
Tejasvi Dahiya	R	10	339	178	190	40%	28%	216.8	65.89
Tushar Raheja	L	8	460	250	184	75%	29%	185.48	62.15
Upendra Yadav	R	9	196	129	152	22%	21%	182.43	64.71

(All data is for 2025 for batters with at least 10 t20 innings)

Explanation for the metrics in the picture:

- Impact Innings %: If I want to use him as an impact player I want to access in how many innings he has made an impact i.e runs scored>=30 and strikerate>=150
- Non-Boundary SR: SR on balls he couldn't score a boundary. Making sure a batter does uses a lot of balls.

(Rest are self-explanatory)

After considering these metrics here are the shortlisted 3 Indian Keepers who can bat with amazing metrics performance:

Player	Age	Handed	Matches	Stumpings	Catches	Runs	Balls	SR	Impact Innings %	Boundary %	SR where batter scored>=30 runs	Non Boundary SR
Tushar Raheja	24	L	8	2	11	460	250	184	75%	29%	185.48	62.15
Tejasvi Dahiya	23	R	10	1	6	339	178	190.45	40%	28%	216.8	65.89
Salil Arora	23	R	6	1	1	191	114	167.54	50%	24%	205.88	72.41

All are young who when nurtured can be made into t20 beasts which can become international sensations.

Their auction base price and last year's auction details:

Player	Base Price 2026	Base Price 2025	Final Price 2025	Sold to 2025
Tushar Raheja	30,00,000	30,00,000		UNSOLD
Tejasvi Dahiya	30,00,000	30,00,000	-	UNSOLD
Salil Arora	30,00,000	30,00,000	-	UNSOLD

They were unsold in 2025 which is good news we can probably get these players without burning our pocket. Our priority should be:

- i) Tushar Raheja (can surely keep as well)
- ii) Tejasvi Dahiya
- iii) Salil Arora

## Scenario 2: We weren't able to bag Rishad Hossain

In this case we have to play with Prashant Solanki as our leggie and then we can play Lhuan Pretorius at no 3 as an aggressor.

Lhuan Pretorius' numbers when he bats at 1,2 or 3:

	Lhuan-Dre Pretorius			
	International 2025	SA20 2025	T20 Blast 2025	Overall
Strikerate	134.15	166.81	141.03	155.03
Average	13.75	33.08	36.67	26.83
Boundary %	23%	26%	22%	25%
No of Innings with SR<120 and Balls faced>5	1	0	1	2
Non Boundary SR	47.62	64.57	55.74	59.2
Innings with Runs>=25 and SR>=150	1	5	1	7

In just few matches in 2025 he has pretty good stats and has also earned a reputation for himself.

## All Rounder Department

With Impact player all-rounders are hardly able to make 2 dimensional impact on a game. It more of a specialist's game now. But, we have got the likes of Jadeja and Curran who are best in the business along with Donovan Ferreira who looks promising. We have got this department covered.

## Batting Department

With Samson and Rana going out we need a versatile batter who can play at 3 if Lhuan Pretorius is not in 11. I don't want to play Parag at 3 we need a more promising and consistent no3. We need an established righty here, as our side already has a lot of lefties.

## Only Scenario: We couldn't bag Rishad Hossain

This is the only scenario because if we are able to bag Rishad Hossain then he will be in the 11 and there is no room for an overseas batter, only looking for an overseas batter because our batting lacks international firepower.

This makes room for another overseas player. Which we can play if we don't want to play Lhuan Pretorious because of low sample size or mediocre International stats.

Following are those overseas batters which can replace Sanju:

Player	Matches	Avg	Runs	Balls	SR	Boundary %	Impact Innings %	Non Boundary SR
Daryl Joseph Mitchell	20	30.5294	519	344	150.87	18%	25%	83.04
Finn Allen	17	31.5625	505	284	177.82	29%	35%	46.04
Harry Brook	13	35.2	352	203	173.4	23%	46%	82.05
Jonny Bairstow	21	31.8824	542	357	151.82	23%	29%	58.7
Shai Hope	31	36.3077	944	607	155.52	21%	32%	65.28
Tim Seifert	21	38.6667	696	458	151.97	23%	29%	57.63

(The data is for 2024 and 25 IPL and International matches for righty top order batters with avg>30 and sr>150)

These players rarely fail and will impact the game most of the times.

The chosen ones:

Player	Matches	Avg	Runs	Balls	SR	Boundary %	Impact Innings %	Non Boundary SR
Daryl Joseph Mitchell	20	30.5294	519	344	150.87	18%	25%	83.04
Shai Hope	31	36.3077	944	607	155.52	21%	32%	65.28

Their auction details:

Player	Base Price 2026	Base Price 2025	Final Price 2025	Sold to 2025
Daryl Joseph Mitchell	1,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	-	UNSOLD
Shai Hope	1,00,00,000	1,25,00,000	-	UNSOLD

Our priority:

- i) Daryl Mitchell
- ii) Shai Hope (WK)

## **Step 2: Deciding Maximum bidding amount**

Players that we want in priority order:

- a) Rishad Hossain or Daryl Mitchell or Shai Hope
- b) Prashant Solanki
- c) Tushar Raheja
- d) KC Cariappa
- e) Tejasvi Dahiya
- f) Salil Arora

The following are my max bids and strategy:

Player	Base	Max Bid	Strategy
<b>Mohammad Rishad Hossain</b>	50,00,000	9,00,00,000	We need him badly
<b>Daryl Joseph Mitchell</b>	1,00,00,000	9,00,00,000	if Rishad goes over then this is our option
<b>Shai Hope</b>	1,00,00,000	9,00,00,000	if Daryl goes over then this is our option we must get 1 of these 3
<b>Prashant Solanki</b>	30,00,000	4,00,00,000	this is our backup leggie CSK might bid for him
<b>Tushar Raheja</b>	30,00,000	1,50,00,000	had a v good TNPL we must have him PBKS or DC might bid
<b>KC Cariappa</b>	30,00,000	50,00,000	if Rishad goes he will give Prashant company as a leggie
<b>Tejasvi Dahiya</b>	30,00,000	40,00,000	We might get him at base
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,40,00,000</b>	

**NOTE:** The Sum of max bid amount will not exceed our purse as we can only have one among Rishad, Daryl or Shai.