



## IPL 2024: Kohli, Jacks power Royal Challengers Bengaluru to comfortable win, chasing huge total

**AHMEDABAD, APRIL 28:** Will Jacks slammed a sensational hundred while Virat Kohli upped his game in the middle overs as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) outplayed Gujarat Titans by nine wickets in the IPL here on Sunday.

Kohli (70 not out off 44), whose approach in the middle overs was questioned in the previous game, employed the sweep shot against the spinners to make a statement before Jacks (100 not out off 41) cut loose to gun down the 201-run target with as many 24 balls to spare.

Jacks went berserk in what turned out to be the final over of the game, hammering as many as four sixes and four off Rashid Khan to close out the game much sooner than expected. The Englishman plundered as many as 10 sixes in his breathtaking effort.

Put in to bat, Shahruxh Khan (58 off 30) had made full use of his promotion in the batting order while Sai Sudharsan (84 not out off 49) stayed till the end to guide Gujarat Titans to 200 for three.

Titans introduced spin very early and Kohli was up to the task, collecting back to back sixes off left-



arm spinner Ravi Sai Kishore to make his intent crystal clear.

He was particularly harsh towards another Afghan spinner Noor Ahmed, sweeping him at will before bringing up his 50 off 32 balls.

Thereafter, Kohli did not need to do much as Jacks put the Titans bowlers to sword.

RCB, who are enduring another tough season, picked up their third win in 10 games while Titans suffered their sixth loss in 10 matches. The Faf du

Plessis-led team seemed to have finally found some momentum, having picked a back-to-back win on Sunday.

Earlier, batting at number four, Shahruxh teamed up with Sudharsan to give Gujarat Titans a much needed push after a tepid start. The duo shared an 86-run stand off 45 balls.

RCB came out to bat in the scorching Ahmedabad heat with Glenn Maxwell returning to their playing eleven from a 'mental and physical health' break.

Saha (5 off 4) was dismissed early as the first over bowled by left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh. The former India wicket-keeper tried to make room for an aerial hit over extra cover but ended up mistiming to Karn Sharma at third man.

Skipper Shubman Gill (16) was undone by the on-field brilliance from Cameron Green who ran towards his left to take a stunning catch at long-on off Maxwell.

With Sudharsan at the other end, Titans decided to do something different and sent Shahruxh ahead of the likes of Azmatullah Omarzai and David Miller.

The move worked as Shahruxh milked the spinners mainly in the cow corner region, hammering five sixes and three fours. He completed the half-century with a maximum over long-on off Green before Mohammed Siraj cleaned him up with a sharp yorker.

Miller (26 not out off 19) joined Sudharsan in the middle and two shared an unbeaten 69 run stand off 36 balls to push the team to a par score.

Sudharsan's second straight fifty plus score comprised eight fours and four sixes.

## Iran Wrestler Mirza lifts Kundorian Arli Dangal



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 28**

Wrestler Mirza of Iran lifted 42nd International Kundorian Arli (Katra) dangal title defeating Monu Dhainya in the main bout that took place at Kundorian Arli.

Wrestler Mirza awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1,25,000 while runners-up Monu Dhainya got Rs. 75,000.

In the second main bout Devinder of Kohali (Amritsar) outplayed Benia Min of J&K Police to be awarded with Rs 90,000. Runners-up, Benia got Rs 60,000 as cash prize.

Another second bout between Hedo of Georgia and Kalu of Barobal in Chandigarh ended in a draw resulting into both the wrestlers shared Rs 1,25,000 cash prize.

In fourth interesting bout, Mohammed of Iran (Rs 60,000) trounced Major (Rs 50,000) of Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab).

Surinder Singh Billoria (DySP) Katra was chief guest, who gave away cash prizes worth Rs. 9,15,000 to the winner and runners-up wrestlers. Shiv Kumar Sharma, former joint secretary of J&K State Sports Council and president J&K Indian Style wrestling Association presided over the function.

Nishant Gupta (SHO Katra), Nishant Gupta (BJP district president), Rohit Dubey (former Katra Municipal Committee), Chairman Ambrish Magotra, retired SP Prithvi, Raj Sharma and former BDC chairman, Chander Mohan Singh were the guests of honour.

Prominent among others present included former

BDC chairman Balwan Singh, Varinder Badyal, Ram Paul Sharma, Sher Singh, Partap Krishan Samotra, Avtar Krishan (Bobby), Ajay Khajuria, Vikram Singh, Lochan Singh, wrestling promoter Ram Paul Sharma, Deepak Wazir, and Rajinder Kumar Ramotra.

Dangal was organized by Kundorian Arli Dangal Committee with the active support of public Katra under the overall supervision of Karnail Singh, Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri), former Sarpanch Mangal Singh, former Sarpanch Jugal (Bablu), Krishan Singh and Vijay Kumar.

Proceeding of the dangal conducted by Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri) and Kulbir. In all, 28 bouts played in this day-long dangal.

Shiv Kumar Sharma, president Senior Citizens

Welfare Forum Katra (Regd.) honoured four prominent social activists and most senior citizens of the area including Bodh Raj, Dhani Ram, Perma Nand and Titru.

The bouts officiated by Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri), Om Parkash Verma, Sat Paul Verma, Deepak Wazir, Tulinder Kumar, Raj Singh, Sahil Sharma, Sunny Sharma. Members of Kalka Mandir Dangal Committee Kundorian Arli who helped for smooth conduct of dangal included Karnail Singh (president), Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri), Mangal Singh, Jugal (Bablu) Vijay Kumar, Ram Krishan, Krishan Singh, Mohan Lal, Kaku, Om Parkash, Ram Chand, Vikram Singh, Bindu Sanmotra, Rashid Mohd., Girdhari Lal, and Nasib Chand.

## India beat Bangladesh by 44 runs in first women's T20I

**Five-match T20I series is a dress rehearsal for upcoming T20I World Cup slated in Bangladesh later this year**



**SYLHET (BANGLADESH), APRIL 28:** Pace duo of Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar shared five wickets as India produced a clinical bowling display to outclass Bangladesh by 44 runs in the opening women's T20I here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia provided solidity in the middle order but India missed the late flourish to manage 145 for seven.

The hosts must have fancied their chances of chasing down the total but Indian bowlers led by Renuka delivered the goods to limit Bangladesh to 101 for 8.

Skipper Nigar Sultana waged a lonely battle with a 51 off 48 but didn't get any support from the other end.

For India, Renuka was the leader of the bowling unit as she trapped Dilara Akter (4) in her third ball before cleaning up Sobhana Mostary (6) in 5th over.

Experienced spinner Deepti Sharma then removed Murshida Khatun (13) LBW, while Vastrakar rapped Fahima Khatun (1) on the pads in 7th over to leave the hosts at 30 for 4.

Radha Yadav too tossed one up to deceive Shorna Akter (11), while Renuka returned to get rid of Rabeya Khan (2). Shreyanka Patil too joined the party, sending back Nahida Akter (9), before Sultana fell to Vastrakar in the final over.

Earlier, opener Smriti Mandhana departed for just nine runs but Shafali Verma put up a gritty display to score a 22-ball 31.

Bhatia (36 off 29 balls) and Harmappreet (30 off 22) then came up with a 45-run partnership, as India batters overcame the challenges on a slow wicket. Bangladesh leg-spinner Rabeya Khan was the most successful bowler for the hosts, returning figures of 3/23 in four overs.

Mandhana started in right earnest dispatching Sultan Khatun's consecutive deliveries in the second over to the ropes.

The India vice-captain first danced down the track to heave the ball over the extra cover fielder before swatting a short-pitched delivery through the square leg region. But Mandhana's stay was cut short as she tried to play a Fariha Trisna (1/23) ball across the line, only to find a thick inside edge uproot-

ing her leg stump.

That blow kept the Indian batters silent for a good one over before Shafali declared her intention by heaving a tossed up delivery over the long on fence for a big six off Khatun.

Shafali and Yastika continued to score at a reasonable rate, picking up loose deliveries from Fariha and Nahida Akter to hit boundaries.

But Shafali departed in the ninth over, trying to play a Rabeya Khan delivery across the line only to end up giving an easy catch to Fahima at extra cover.

With Harmanpreet joining Yastika at the crease, runs came freely. She chose Rabiya for special treatment in the 11th over, scoring 13 runs with the help of two boundaries.

Yastika too showed superb technique and timing, playing some exquisite boundaries off left-arm pacer Fariha Trisna in the 13th over as India crossed the 100-run mark.

But both the well-set batters departed in quick succession, with Harmanpreet declared plumb leg-before in front off a Fahima delivery in the 14th over and Rabeya getting the prized wicket of Yastika, caught in the point region by Sultana.

Earlier, Harmanpreet won the toss and elected to bat. The five-match T20I series is a dress rehearsal for the upcoming T20I World Cup slated in Bangladesh later this year.

## Indian men's team upsets South Korea to bag gold at Archery World Cup after 14 years

**SHANGHAI, APRIL 28:** Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions South Korea in a historic win to land an Archery World Cup gold medal after 14 years, here on Sunday.

This is Indian men's recurve team's maiden triumph over the archery powerhouse in a World Cup final, and it will boost their chances of securing a berth in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

The trio of Dhiraj, Tarundeep and Pravin showed ice-cool composure to get the better of the mighty Koreans without dropping a set.

The 40-year-old Army man Tarundeep was also a part of the gold medal-winning team in Shanghai World Cup Stage 4 in August 2010. Then the recurve team comprising Rahul Banerjee, Tarundeep and Jayanta defeated Japan.

In a battle between the top-two seeds of the competition, India won 5-1



(57-57, 57-55, 55-53), taking their gold medal count to five in the season-opening Stage 1 World Cup.

The success also rubbed on the mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj who trounced Alejandra Valencia and Matias Grande of Mexico 6-0 (35-31, 38-35, 39-37) to win bronze.

Overall, India have five gold, one silver and a bronze so far, while former world No. 1 Deepika Kumari is in the hunt for another medal, playing her women's recurve individual semifinal later in the day.

In the men's team final, India were up against

their nemesis South Korea, who featured two members of the Tokyo Olympics gold medal winning team in Kim Woonjin and Kim Je Deok. Lee Woo Seok was the third member.

But the Indian troika put up a brave front and drilled in three 10s that included two X (closer to the centre) and three 9s to match their rivals (57-all) in the opening set.

It put the pressure back on the Koreans who slipped twice into the 8-ring, while the Indian shot four perfect 10s including three Xs from six arrows to take the second set 57-55 and take 3-1 lead.

In the next set, the Koreans faltered and managed just 53 as the Indians held their nerve to close out the game with a 55 en route to clinch a first men's team World Cup gold since 2010.

Before this victory, the women's team had previously beaten the Koreans twice in the 2013 World Cup -- Medellin Stage 3 in July and Wroclaw Stage 4 in August.

"The nerves always kick in when Korea is in the final. But now, no one can doubt our ability to defeat them," declared former Commonwealth Games gold medalist Rahul Banerjee, a member of the Shanghai 2010 triumph.

"They have been showing perfect rhythm right from the qualifying round and it's definitely one of the biggest wins in archery. They will now have to hold on to this momentum till Paris," he added.

So far, India have a solitary Olympic berth which was earned by Dhiraj in the men's individual section.

## Sanju Samson sends message to national selectors with blistering knock against LSG

**CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28:** Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson did his chances of making it to the Indian team for the T20 World Cup no harm with a blistering knock against Lucknow Super Giants in an Indian Premier League match on Saturday.

Samson, who was named the Player of the Match for his unbeaten 71 off 33 balls while chasing 197, sent a 'roaring' mes-

sage to the selectors with a match-winning show.

The fight for the wicket-keeper's slot for the T20 World Cup 2024 is intense with KL Rahul believed to be slightly ahead of Samson in the race.

The national selection panel is expected to announce the 15-member squad for the WT20 in Americas on May 1, the cut-off date for the ICC event.

Meanwhile, Samson

feels mistakes are part and parcel of T20 cricket and they will have to stick to their process despite enjoying a dream run in the ongoing IPL.

Rajasthan beat LSG on Saturday by seven wickets to take their points tally to 16 from nine matches.

"We have been a little lucky as well. We have to stick to the right processes. Mistakes are supposed to happen in

T20 cricket, and we reiterate to stick to the process. The results are coming our way, so it is clear that we are doing something right," said Samson in the post-match presentation ceremony.

Samson also praised Dhruv Jurel for his unbeaten 52 off 34 balls as the wicketkeeper-batter finally regained form. They shared an unbeaten 121-run partnership.