



IPL 2026: Home form a concern as LSG bank on momentum against GT

LUCKNOW, APR 11: Lucknow Super Giants may have unearthed a new star in Mukul Choudhary, but their poor home record remains a major concern as they host Gujarat Titans in their Indian Premier League clash here on Sunday.

Both teams head into the contest on the back of morale-boosting away wins. GT sealed a thrilling one-run victory over Delhi Capitals for their first win of the season, while LSG registered two impressive wins on the road against Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders.

However, LSG have struggled to turn the Ekana Cricket Stadium into a fortress.

They lost six of their eight matches here last season, including five in a row, en route to a seventh-place finish, and overall, have managed just nine wins from 22 games at the venue.

This season too, they started with a batting collapse at home, getting bowled out for 141 in the six-wicket loss to DC.

With this being only their second home game this year, LSG will be desperate to set the record straight.

The team, though, will not be short on confidence after back-to-back away wins. The last outing against KKR was particularly special, marking the emergence of a new 'finisher' in Mukul.

The unheralded 21-year-old from Rajasthan lit up the stage with a stunning



six-hitting display, powered by lightning bat speed and a wide range of strokes, including the trademark helicopter shot of his idol, MS Dhoni, to emerge as the latest IPL sensation.

Another positive is the return to form of Ayush Badoni, who struck a half-century against KKR to set up the chase.

Badoni being among runs adds depth to an already formidable top-five featuring Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, skipper Rishabh Pant and Nicholas Pooran.

With this being an afternoon match, the contest against Gujarat's spin duo of Rashid Khan and Washington Sundar on a surface expected to be slow and offer variable bounce could prove decisive.

Rashid has been back to his best in the previous

game against DC, returning with Player-of-the-Match figures of 3/17 that made the difference in their one-run win.

Amid criticism that opposition batters had begun to decode his variations, Rashid responded strongly with a vintage display in the middle overs, with his wickets including that of Delhi's breakout star Sameer Rizvi for a golden duck after three successive fifties.

There has also been positive news on the batting front for GT, with England veteran Jos Buttler returning to form with a 27-ball 52, while skipper Shubman Gill marked his comeback from injury with a sparkling 70 at the top.

Teams:
Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (c), Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew

Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Nicholas Pooran, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahamad, Arshin Kulkarni, Ayush Badoni, Mohammed Shami, Avesh Khan, M. Siddharth, Digvesh Singh, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan.

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Abishek Porel, Karun Nair, KL Rahul, Nitish Rana, Sameer Rizvi, Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Madhav Tiwari, Dushmantha Chameera, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Tripurana Vijay, David Miller, Ben Duckett, Auqib Nabi Dar, Pathum Nissanka, Lungi Ngidi, Prithvi Shaw, Kyle Jamieson, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Sahil Parakh.

five matches have seen MI winning just two and RCB taking the other three.

Squads:
Royal Challengers Bengaluru Squad: Philip Salt, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar(c), Jitesh Sharma(w), Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Abhinandan Singh, Josh Hazlewood, Venkatesh Iyer, Suyash Sharma, Jacob Bethell, Rasikh Salam Dar, Kanishk Chouhan, Jacob Duffy, Mangesh Yadav, Swapnil Singh, Jordan Cox, Vicky Ostwal, Vihaan Malhotra, Satvik Deswal

Mumbai Indians Squad: Ryan Rickelton(w), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya(c), Naman Dhir, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Trent Boult, AM Ghazanfar, Jasprit Bumrah, Sherfane Rutherford, Corbin Bosch, Robin Minz, Raj Bawa, Ashwani Kumar, Mitchell Santner, Mayank Markande, Quinton de Kock, Will Jacks, Mayank Awarat, Raghu Sharma, Atharva Ankolekar, Danish Malewar, Mohammed Salahuddin Izhar. (ANI)



edly back their respective favourites religiously for the high-octane IPL clash at Wankhede, as it has been the case with the fan-war culture brought by the IPL.

In RCB vs MI matches during the IPL, it is Virat who enjoys an upper hand with 922 runs in 34 matches and 33 innings at an average of 31.79 and a strike rate of 128.77, with six fifties. On the other hand, Rohit, who also had battles with Virat during his days as a Deccan Chargers player, has represented MI in 26 matches against RCB, scoring 629 runs in 25 innings at an average of 27.34 and a strike rate of over 142, with four fifties and a best score of 94.

MI, however do not have anyone on this list, with Rohit (118 runs in three innings at an average of 39.33 and a strike rate of 168.57 with a fifty) being their top performer with the bat.

However, MI's bowling has been a matter of worry, as four of their bowlers, Shardul Thakur (12.88), Allah Ghazanfar (12.00), Mayank Markande (12.00) and Trent Boult (12.00) have economy rates of 12 or more after playing two or more games this season. Markande and Boult have been wicketless so far.

As per ESPNcricinfo, MI have had more success against RCB, with 21 wins and 14 losses, but the past

17. They have won just one, drawn two and lost four, earning just five points. East Bengal is at the fourth spot, with four wins, two draws and a loss, giving them 14 points.

With the team playing again after just four days, the big news came in attack, where head coach Clifford Miranda headed Vivek S's maiden Indian Super League start. The youngster led the line alongside Irfan Yadwad and Farukh Choud-

hary, while Elsinho, Alberto Nogueira, and Lalrinliana Hnamte formed the mid-field core as Chennaiyin FC looked to assert themselves early.

Chennaiyin began with intent, as Mohammad Nawaz made a strong early claim inside the opening minutes. However, the hosts were dealt a blow in the seventh minute when East Bengal took the lead under contentious circumstances. With Elsinho down

following a challenge and Chennaiyin expecting the ball to be put out of play, the visitors instead played on, releasing Edmund through on goal to score. Elsinho was subsequently stretched off, forcing an early reshuffle.

The Marina Machans responded positively, with Nogueira testing the goalkeeper from distance before Nawaz produced a sharp save at the other end to keep the deficit at one.

Ramgarh-A wins inter-Panchyat Volleyball tourney

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 11

Ramgarh-A won the Inter-Panchayat Volleyball Tournament of district Samba, which was organized by Border Sports Association under the aegis of Volleyball Association of J&K at Ramgarh, here today. In the final, Ramgarh-A defeated Khour Salarian 2-1. Earlier, in the semifinals, Ramgarh-A beat Jerda 2-1 and Khour Slarian trounced Swankha 2-1. Quarterfinals: Jerda beat Barota 2-0; Swankha beat Gho Brahmana 2-1; Ramgarh-A beat Paloor 2-0 and Khour Slarian beat Rahain 2-0.

In the final and prize distribution function, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Ayushi Soodan was chief guest, who presented the title trophies and other individual prizes.

Speaking to the gathering, she highlighted the Government resolve to eradicate drug menace in view of the 100 day programme launched by the LG, Manoj Sinha today.

Senior officers of the district administration including SDM Vijaypur, Sandeep Dubey, Tehsildar Ramgarh, Abhimanyu Kalsotra and Naib Tehsildar Nandpur, Jasmin Akhtar as also SHO Police Station, Ramgarh, Inspector Bhupinder Singh were present. Among other prominent present were Prem Pal, Om Parkash, Naveen Choudhary, Manjit Singh, Harbans Choudhary, Captain Subash Choudhary, Jaswant Singh, Balbir Singh and Jagir Singh.



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India U17 women go down to Russia in first Sochi friendly

NEW DELHI [INDIA], APRIL 11: The Indian U17 women's team lost 0-4 to Russia in the first of three friendly matches at the Matsesta Football Centre in Sochi, Russia, on Saturday.

According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) release, Valeria Menyailova put the hosts ahead in the 44th minute. Dana Dobrovitskaya and Alisa Klimova converted penalties in the 57th and 72nd minutes, respectively, before Angelina Gulyayeva rounded off the scoring in the 88th.

The Young Tigresses, coached by Italian Pamela Conti, are using these matches to prepare for next month's all-important AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026.

India started brightly, looking more eager on the ball, while the hosts remained cautious. Redima Devi Chingkhayam almost opened the scoring midway through the first half when she struck from 20 yards, but it was prevented from going into the bottom corner by a brilliant save from goalkeeper Daria Volodicheva.

Russia opened their tally in the 44th minute when Polina Frolova dispossessed Elizabed Lakra on the left flank and pushed forward to Valeria Menyailova, who



beat goalkeeper Munni with a crisp finish low at the near post.

As the Indians worked hard and did a lot of running to check the Russian moves and build up their own, Redima, skipper Bonfilia Shullai and Alva Devi Senjam excelled and pieced together a number of moves down the left corridor. But their final shots or crosses lacked the sting to cause any problems.

The Indians kept up the fight early in the second half, but conceded a penalty soon. Divyani Linda, Elizabed and Abhista Basnett all rushed in to check Dana Dobrovitskaya inside the box, and the Russian striker fell in a heap. The referee

pointed to the spot, and Dana made no mistake, placing low to Munni's left in the 57th minute. Soon after, Alisa Klimova, after being tripped by Abhista, converted another penalty to make it 3-0.

Substitute Anwita Raghuraman all but pulled one back for India when she tackled the Russian goalkeeper Voldicheva. The ball lobbed backwards and Anwita headed it towards the goal but Emelianova prevented it on the line. Redima then shook the crossbar from afar before the hosts bundled away the rebound to keep their clean sheet.

Russia made it 4-0 two minutes before close as Angelina Gulyayeva got to a lob

from Kuznetsova and rifled in a firm right-footer into the far post.

India and Russia will play two more friendlies on April 14 and 17. The matches will be streamed live on the Indian Football YouTube channel.

India U17 Women: Munni (GK), Elizabed Lakra, Divyani Linda, Anushka Kumari (Julan Nongmaithe 46'), Ritu Badaik, Pritika Barman (Valaina Fernandes 85'), Redima Devi Chingkhayam, Abhista Basnett, Alva Devi Senjam (Thandamoni Baskey 85'), Joya (Anwita Raghuraman 70'), Bonfilia Shullai (C) (Pearl Fernandes 70'). (ANI)

Blue Tigresses lose to Kenya in FIFA Series 2026 semi-final

NAIROBI, APRIL 11: The Indian women's national team suffered a 0-2 loss to hosts Kenya in the semi-final of the FIFA Series 2026 at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi on Saturday.

According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Martha Emedot (2') and Tereza Obunya (55') scored for the hosts.

Earlier in the day, Australia defeated Malawi 5-0 in the first semi-final. With this result, India will now face Malawi in the third-place play-off on April 15, while Kenya will meet Australia in the final.

Kenya dominated the contest, both physically and tactically, against the Blue Tigresses. The



Harambee Starlets seized control from the outset, using the width of the pitch effectively and imposing themselves physically across the park. India found it difficult to cope with the pace and intensity and failed to create clear attacking moves in the match. Kenya struck early in the second minute.

Fasila Omondi surged down the left flank and delivered a dangerous cross into the box. India goalkeeper Shreya Hooda made contact with the initial delivery, but couldn't clear the danger. Martha Emedot reacted quickest to the rebound and slotted home with her right to give the hosts an early advantage.

The home side nearly doubled their lead five minutes later. Once again, Omondi caused problems on the left, sending in another well-directed cross. Shalyne Opisa met it from point-blank range, but Shreya stood tall to deny her with a crucial save. Kenya continued to pile on the pressure, and Opisa had another opportunity soon after when Leah Andiemi delivered a cross. The Kenyan forward's header, however, drifted inches wide of the target.

India's troubles were compounded in the 14th minute when captain Pyari Xaxa sustained a head injury after colliding with Ruth Ingosi during an aerial tussle.

ISL 2026: Chennaiyin fall to 3-1 defeat against East Bengal

CHENNAI, APRIL 11 (ANI): Two late goals after the 80th minute saw Chennaiyin FC fall to a 3-1 defeat against East Bengal at home in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Saturday, despite an outstanding Irfan Yadwad goal and a promising second-half display, said a release.

The result leaves the Marina Machans 12th in the standings, and they will look to bounce back when they face Sporting Delhi on April

17. They have won just one, drawn two and lost four, earning just five points. East Bengal is at the fourth spot, with four wins, two draws and a loss, giving them 14 points.

With the team playing again after just four days, the big news came in attack, where head coach Clifford Miranda headed Vivek S's maiden Indian Super League start. The youngster led the line alongside Irfan Yadwad and Farukh Choud-

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