



Wisden awards

Deepti named women's cricketer, Abhishek T20 cricketer as 7 Indians bag honours

LONDON, APR 14: Indian cricketers dominated the Wisden Almanack 2026 honours, securing seven of the nine awards, with Deepti Sharma and Abhishek Sharma leading the way after being named Women's Cricketer of the Year and T20 Cricketer of the Year respectively.

Shubman Gill, Mohammed Siraj, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja were named among Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year, following their exploits in last year's Test series in England.

The only non-Indian winners were premier Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who was named Men's Cricketer in the World, and England batter Haseeb Hameed, who was also included among the Five Cricketers of the Year.

Deepti earned the honour after emerging as the top-wicket taker in last year's ICC Women's ODI World Cup with 22 wickets. The



all-rounder's effort helped India land their maiden global title, beating South Africa in the final in Mumbai. She also made 215 runs from nine matches with three fifties.

Abhishek had a breakout 2025 season, scoring 859 runs from 21 matches at an awesome strike-rate of 193

with a hundred and five fifties.

India's Test skipper Gill was in prolific form during the English summer, scoring 754 runs, which played a crucial role in India securing a 2-2 draw in the five-match series. Notably, he amassed 430 runs in the Edgbaston Test alone.

Pacer Siraj was the top wicket-taker in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series, taking 23 scalps. While Pant made 479 runs before an injury that he suffered in the fourth Test forced him to sit out of the fifth match. He braved a toe fracture to score a 54 in the second innings at Manchester.

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Action continued in the 1st Jambu Lochan T20 Cricket Tournament being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association at Maulana Azad Stadium, with Apex Cricket Club and Rehari Kings XI registering emphatic victories in their respective matches.

In the first match, Tigers 11 won the toss and chose to bat but were bowled out for 100 runs in 16.1 overs. Apex Cricket Club bowlers delivered a disciplined performance to restrict the opposition to a low total.

In response, Apex Cricket Club chased down the target of 101 runs in just 9.2 overs, losing only three wickets. Eshan Thakur played a splendid innings of 60 runs off 30 balls, hitting 10 fours and one six. Apex Cricket Club secured a comfortable 7-wicket win. Eshan Thakur was declared Man of the Match, and the award was



presented by Ashok Kumar, Executive Member of JK-MGA.

In another match, Rehari Kings XI faced Rajouri Titans. After winning the toss, Rehari Kings XI elected to bat first and posted a strong total of 183 runs for the loss of three wickets in 20 overs. Jatin was the standout performer, scoring a brilliant

106 runs off 57 balls, including 14 fours and two sixes.

Chasing the target, Rajouri Titans were bowled out for 105 runs in 15.5 overs, falling short by a big margin.

Jatin also made an impact with the ball, taking three wickets and completing a remarkable all-round performance. Rehari Kings

XI won the match by 78 runs.

Jatin was named Man of the Match, and the award was presented by Neete Kour, General Secretary of the JKMGGA, along with Geetanjali Agarwal. The tournament continues to showcase exciting cricket and outstanding individual performances.

Riyan Parag says Rajasthan Royals undone by 'mix of variables' against Sunrisers Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, APR 14: Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag said his team's first IPL defeat of the season was caused by a combination of factors, including his usually explosive batters' inability to read the pace of deliveries against Sunrisers Hyderabad here.

After an underwhelming display with the ball, it was a rare collective failure of Rajasthan's explosive top order, comprising Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel as SRH handed the Royals' a 57-run hammering here on Monday.

"I think it was a mix of everything. I felt we were a little surprised by what the pace of the ball was when it left the hand and how it came off the wicket," Parag said at the post match press conference.

"...I think Vaibhav expected it a little quicker, came a little stickier. Same for Dhruv, nipped back in. Jaiswal, he hits that 9 out of 10 times and that stopped."

"I got a really full ball, I couldn't hit that. I won't say we were unlucky, but then it was a mix of a lot of variables that came into play, hence we couldn't connect those shots," he added.

Parag, who has taken



over the RR captaincy this season, felt the bowlers also came up short in execution despite having the required quality.

"Initially, I think we were okay, but then in the middle overs, they were 30 runs over for sure. I think we could have found better options, used the wicket a little bit more, used more slower balls, maybe slower bouncers, wide yorkers or whatever it is."

"But I think just the execution lacked a bit, nothing about the quality of our bowlers. I don't doubt that at any time," he added.

Parag was full of praise for teenage sensation

Sooryavanshi, backing the youngster to go a long way.

"In 10 years' time, he's going to be my age, so I don't know how to look that far up ahead, but as far as now is concerned, I hope he is in a really good mental state."

"(He should) just win more games, bat as flamboyantly as he has been doing throughout the four or five games, whatever it is, and win us a title and hopefully he plays for India very soon." Sooryavanshi, who made his IPL debut last year, has played 12 matches in the league across two seasons.

"I feel one thing you gain every time you step onto a

cricket field is experience and regardless of his age, he might be 15 years old, but he has gained a lot of experience playing last year.

"From the sidelines, you do gain a little bit of experience, you do understand how the game works, how IPL works, but then him having played seven games and then keeping that momentum, playing the World Cup (Under-19), Asia Cups (age group) and he's scored runs everywhere he's gone."

"I think he has earned a lot of experience from those games, being in match situations, winning games, scoring a lot of runs, big runs, like daddy hundreds."

Army's women boxers shine at international meet in Mongolia

CHANDIGARH, APR 14: Recently inducted women boxers from the Indian Army have punched their way to top positions in the Asian Elite Boxing Championship - 2026, clinching two gold medals and a silver medal.

They were among the four Indian women gold medalists at the meet. The lone Indian male gold medalist was also from the Army.

The meet was held at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia from March 28 to April 10, in which 230 boxers from 25 nations participated.

Overall, the 20-member Indian squad, which fielded both male and female boxers, including civilians, secured second place.

The Army's women medalists were all from the Corps of Military Police (CMP) Center and School, Bengaluru. The CMP is the only arm in the Army to have inducted women personnel in the ranks and file, when recruitment began in 2022 under the Agnipath scheme.

Naib Subedar Preeti Pawar and Havildar Arundhati Chaudhary won gold in the 54-Kg and 70-Kg weight categories, respectively, while Naib Subedar Jaismine Lamboria won the silver in the 57-Kg weight category.



In fact, Naib Subedar Jaismine had made history at the World Boxing Championship -2025 by becoming the first female boxer in the Army to win a gold medal. She was awarded the Sena Medal in January 2026 for her performance. She hails from a family of boxers and joined the Army in 2022.

Naib Subedar Preeti, who hails from Bhiwani in Haryana and joined the Army last year, was the first woman athlete to be directly inducted as a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army and is a World Boxing Cup gold medalist. Hailing from Kota in Ra-

asthan, Havildar Arundhati had joined the Army in 2022 and is an international-level boxer, having become the Junior World Champion in 2021 and winning a gold medal in the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships.

In addition, the Army also has among its ranks other international women boxers such as Nupur Sheoran, a two-time gold medalist at the 2025 World Boxing Cup, and Sakshi Dhanda, who clinched a gold medal at the 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship in 2025. With the Army opening its ranks to women personnel and their

strength expected to increase significantly in the coming years, greater attention is being given to women in sports, recruiting meritorious female athletes and establishing the Army Sports Girls Company in Pune for this purpose.

Several disciplines such as shooting, archery, wrestling, rowing, fencing, and weightlifting have been identified for them. They are trained at the Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune, a premier training establishment under the Army's Mission Olympics programme, which is run in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India.

IPL 2026: RCB eye another batting firework against struggling LSG

BENGALURU, APR 14: Royal Challengers Bengaluru will rely on their fearsome batting unit to fire again as they look to dismantle an inconsistent Lucknow Super Giants and pull clear of the mid-table logjam in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

The Royal Challengers are currently third on the table with six points and four other teams are chasing the reigning champions with four points each.

The Bengaluru outfit is two points adrift of leaders Rajasthan Royals and a point behind Punjab Kings.

But in reality, no team in this edition of the IPL has driven fear into the hearts of bowlers more than RCB.

Rajasthan's aura has been built around Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's flashing blade while Punjab has been more solid than flamboyant, building their legacy around calculated chases.

But RCB have fired in unison. They have resembled a battering ram and it reflects in the strike-rates of their top

five. Virat Kohli (162), Phil Salt (178), Rajat Patidar (214), Tim David (221) and Devdutt Padikkal (201), have put all comers through the wringer in IPL 2026.

These five batters have combined to smash an astonishing 52 sixes across four matches, the most by any team in this IPL season, taking range-hitting to another level.

As a result, they have never scored less than 200 in this IPL so far—an apt reflection of their marauding batting ideology.

They will also want to cash in on the home stretch of three matches—the LSG match will be followed by fixtures against Delhi Capitals (April 18) and Gujarat Titans (April 24) -- before travelling to Raipur for two 'home' contests. Can Shami & Co. deliver?

But will they meet their match in the Super Giants bowling attack at the Chinnaswamy?

The LSG attack comprising veteran



India pacer Mohammed Shami, Prince Yadav and Digvesh Rathi has been impressive so far, finding a way to keep the opposition largely under check.

Shami's economy of 6.2 is best in the league among regular bowlers so far, but the trio will need to be on the money every ball against RCB batters on a placid Bengaluru pitch.

Despite bowlers coming up with

some lion-hearted efforts, LSG find themselves seventh on the table, and that is largely because of the uninspired outings of their batters.

The batting line-up led by Rishabh Pant has yet to live its strap, and the skipper's own form says it all -- 103 runs from four matches at a strike-rate of 130.

Other big guns like Mitchell Marsh,

Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran and younger names like Ayush Badoni and Abdul Samad have also gone cold.

Mukul Choudhary showed some spark, but he will have to do that more consistently going forward.

However, they have a chance to find some rhythm here against RCB bowlers—staying afloat on the mass of runs their batters colleagues have made.

Jacob Duffy made an impressive debut against Sunrisers Hyderabad taking three wickets but since then his runs giving rate has soared, touching 11.5. RCB will need heavier contributions from the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Krunal Pandya, and domestic names like Rasikh Salam and Suyash Sharma as the tournament is hurtling down towards a faster, crucial phase.

The Royal Challengers will hope that lead pacer Josh Hazlewood will find his lethal best at the earliest, having made a comeback at the match against Rajasthan.

Teams (from)

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

Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant ©, Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahamad, Arshin Kulkarni, Nainindu Hasaranga, Ayush Badoni, Mohammad Shami, Avesh Khan, M. Siddharth, Digvesh Singh, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan.