



## Rehari Kings XI to Face Mulan CC in Jambu Lochan T-20 Final Thriller

After thrilling semis at M.A Stadium, both teams eye title clash

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Cricket fever is gripping Jammu as the stage is set for the grand finale of the 1st Jambu Lochan T-20 Cricket Tournament, with top local teams ready to battle it out on Thursday. Mulan Cricket Club will face Rehari Kings XI in what promises to be an exciting contest between two in-form sides. Organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association, the tournament has witnessed thrilling performances at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, drawing significant attention from cricket lovers across the region.

In the first semifinal, Rehari Kings XI defeated Apex Cricket Club in a nail-biting encounter. After winning the toss, Rehari Kings XI elected to bat first and posted 139 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs. Puneet Kumar top-scored with 43 runs off 27 balls, hitting five fours and two sixes, while Vikas Lakhotra contributed 30 runs off 18 balls. For Apex Cricket Club, Rahul delivered an impres-



sive bowling spell, claiming four wickets in four overs while conceding just 14 runs.

Chasing the target, Apex Cricket Club put up a strong fight, led by a brilliant innings from Sumit Kumar, who scored 76 runs off 50 balls with 11 fours and one six. The match went down to the final over, where Apex needed 20 runs to win. Sumit smashed 18 runs in the over, but with six runs required off the last ball, he managed only a boundary, as Rehari Kings XI secured a dramatic one-run victory. From the Rehari Kings XI side, Chahat Choudhary, Kewal, and Deepak Manhas took two wickets each, while Deep and Rahul picked up one wicket apiece. Deepak Manhas was declared Man

of the Match for his all-round performance but sportingly handed over the award to Sumit Kumar in appreciation of his outstanding batting. The award was presented by Ajay Sharma General Secretary of the All J&K Power lifting Association, Sanjay Puri former national handball player and Amit Gupta MD Friends Dancing Institute.

In the second semifinal, Mulan Cricket Club registered a comprehensive victory over Tantray Sports Club. Batting first, Tantray Sports Club were bowled out for 84 runs in 17.2 overs, with Kanav scoring 27 runs off 38 balls. Rahul Jamwal starred with the ball for Mulan Cricket Club, taking four wickets for 17 runs in four overs, while captain Anchal

Singh claimed three wickets for just 12 runs. In reply, Mulan Cricket Club chased down the target of 85 runs in just 9.2 overs, losing only one wicket. Akash Choudhary scored 40 runs off 26 balls, while Shaurya remained unbeaten on 40 off 24 balls to guide his team to an easy win. Vijay Dogra picked up the lone wicket for Tantray Sports Club. Rahul Jamwal was named Man of the Match, and the award was presented by Nariender Mahajan Former President of J&K Handball Association and Surjit Choudhary prominent sportsperson. With both teams in excellent form, an exciting final is on the cards as Mulan Cricket Club and Rehari Kings XI prepare to clash for the title.

## E-sports must register, real-money games face strict curbs under Gaming Rules 2026

NEW DELHI, APR 22:

In a move to tame the booming and controversial digital gaming sector, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Wednesday officially notified the Online Gaming (Promotion and Regulation) Rules, 2026.

Set to take effect on May 1, the new framework promises to overhaul how digital games are classified, monitored, and monetised in India, effectively drawing a hard line between legitimate e-sports, social gaming, and real-money wagering.

Industry experts say the next few months will see a flurry of activity as gaming unicorns and start-ups alike scramble to align their operations with the new legal reality before the May 1 deadline.

What changes from May 1 At the heart of the new regime is the creation of Online Gaming Authority of India, a powerful new watchdog headquartered in the National Capital Region (NCR). Designed as a modern, digital-first office, the Authority will rely heavily on techno-legal measures to conduct its proceedings. It will be steered by a top MeitY official and backed by an inter-ministerial panel featuring heavyweights from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Finance, Law, and Information and Broadcasting.



What will the panel do The new Authority will be mainly responsible for formal "determination" of what constitutes an online money game.

Under 2026 rules, gaming companies must open their platforms to scrutiny. The Authority will evaluate the games based on strict criteria, including whether players are required to pay fees or deposits, expectation of monetary wins and how in-game assets are traded outside the platform. Regulators are mandated to complete this determination process within a 90-day window. Games determined to be online money games will be subject to a distinct and stringent set of regulations under the Act, while others will be processed for standard registration.

Compulsory registration for e-sports

The government has moved to legitimise and monitor competitive gaming space. New rules require games claiming to be e-sports to register with the Authority. The Centre retains the power to mandate registration for specific online social games also if they pose a risk to the public, particularly children or if they involve high volumes of financial transactions. Approved platforms will receive a digital certificate of registration, valid for up to ten years, which must be prominently displayed to users.

Data localisation and financial scrutiny

Rules lay down strict compliance measures for service providers. Gaming platforms will now be legally required to retain user traffic data, metadata, and other related records on computer

servers located strictly within the borders of India. Additionally, banks and financial institutions have been roped into the compliance net. They are now required to verify the registration status of a game before facilitating any financial transactions, cutting off the oxygen supply to illegal or unregistered offshore betting apps.

Grievance appeals

The new framework allows for a strong appellate mechanism. Any gaming company or individual dissatisfied with the Authority's rulings — a decision about classification of the game, a cancelled registration, or a penalty — can challenge the order. Appeals must be filed within 30 days to the Appellate Authority, which is designated as the Secretary of MeitY. He must resolve disputes in 30 days.

## Struggling former champions Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings seek consistency in IPL clash

MUMBAI, APR 22:

Struggling former champions Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings will be eyeing consistency as they await the return of their former captains Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni, respectively, when they face off in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Rohit (hamstring) and Dhoni (calf strain) are on the comeback trail, but it remains to be seen whether either will take the field at Wankhede Stadium for what has historically been an iconic IPL clash.

Rohit missed training during the optional session on Tuesday, while Dhoni, yet to feature in this IPL, went through his drills, hinting at a possible comeback as an Impact Substitute.

However, the subplot goes beyond the two Indian stalwarts, with both teams - who share 10 IPL titles between them - still battling multiple issues on several fronts.

CSK began the tournament in search of form and the right combination, as most teams do, and just as they appeared to be settling, a hamstring injury to local talent Ayush Mhatre, who had scored 201 runs, dealt a major blow.

Once again, CSK find themselves back at the drawing board, looking to fill the gap in their batting reserves, with Gujarat wicketkeeper-batter Urvil Patel among the options.

CSK will be keen to see their batters fire collectively after a disappointing loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, a match they should have closed out comfortably while chasing 130 off 90 balls with eight wickets in hand, but a lack of initiative from the middle order allowed SRH to turn the tide in their favour.

While Sarfaraz has been consistent with 147 runs, he is yet to convert starts into a big innings despite holding a key batting role, especially with skipper Rituraj Gaik-



wad enduring a disappointing campaign with just 82 runs.

A lot will similarly ride on Sanju Samson (192 runs) as well, given that the India wicketkeeper-batter returns to the venue of his T20 World Cup semifinal heroics.

CSK will also be aiming to snap their two match losing streak, banking on their strong recent record against MI, having won four of the last five encounters.

With both teams on four points each, only net run rate separates seventh placed MI (0.067) and eighth placed CSK (-0.780), as in-form sides have already pulled ahead with eight or more points.

Tilak Varma's brilliance in Ahmedabad helped Mumbai Indians end their four match losing run, but the five-time champions remain in damage control mode. For MI, Tilak's century could well prove the spark they needed to reignite their campaign, given their proven ability to navigate such situations in the IPL.

However, the biggest concerns remain the form of India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and MI captain Hardik Pandya, with Suryakumar managing just one half century so far and Pandya yet to deliver the late fireworks or steady the innings when needed.

In both situations, Naman Dhir has been tasked with stepping up, and the Punjab batter has done so with some distinction.

Jasprit Bumrah's return among the wickets was a major boost for MI in their emphatic 99-run win, alongside Ashwani Kumar's four-wicket haul, easing concerns in the camp as neither Trent Boult, Deepak Chahar nor Hardik Pandya have provided consistent early breakthroughs.

For MI, English all-rounder Will Jacks has arrived in India, joined the camp ahead of Thursday's match, and has been training at the Wankhede Stadium, with expectations that he will further strengthen the lineup.

Teams:

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

Chennai Super Kings: Rituraj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Kartik Sharma (wk),

Dewald Brevis, Sarfaraz Khan, Urvil Patel (wk), Aman Khan, Shivam Dube, Zak Foulkes, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Anshul Kamboj, Jamie Overton, Matthew Short, Prashant Veer, Rahul Chahar, Shreyas Gopal, Gurjapneet Singh, Matt Henry, Akeal Hosein, Spencer Johnson, Mukesh Choudhary, Noor Ahmad.

## Ranking boost for Bangladesh players after Mirpur triumph against New Zealand

Dhaka [Bangladesh], April 22 (ANI): A host of Bangladesh's top performers have surged up the charts in the latest update to the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings after their strong showing against the New Zealand national cricket team.

Bangladesh levelled the three-match ODI series in Mirpur with an impressive six-wicket win, powered by standout contributions from several key players, as per the ICC website.

Leading the charge was Tanzid Hasan, who anchored the chase with a composed 76. His match-winning knock earned him a significant rise in the rankings, jumping 14 places to break into the top 40 ODI batters.



Teammate Towhid Hridoy (up five slots to equal 26th) is also rewarded for his unbeaten 30 from the same match, with New Zealander Daryl Mitchell still at the top of the charts for ODI batters even though the right-hander is sitting out the series in Bangladesh.

There are similar gains on the latest rankings for ODI

bowlers, with spinner Rishad Hossain (up 10 places to equal 58th) and pacer Nahid Rana (up 32 spots to 64th) the big eye-catchers after they shared six wickets between them from that Mirpur contest against the Black Caps.

Left-armed Shoriful Islam re-enters the bowler rankings in 39th following a pair of wickets in both of the

matches against New Zealand thus far, in what were the 24-year-old's first appearances in 50-over cricket since the end of 2024.

There were also some changes to the T20 rankings following the completion of Scotland's tour of Namibia, with a host of veterans rewarded for a string of strong performances across the three-match T20I series.

It was Scotland that claimed the series 2-1, and it was experienced opener George Munsey who was among the biggest improvers on the updated rankings as the left-hander moved up seven spots to equal 21st on the list for T20I batters following his brilliant century in the series finale.

## Abhishek's maturity unquestioned, high risk game needs leeway: SRH bowling coach Aaron

HYDERABAD, APR 22: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) bowling coach Varun Aaron brushed aside any lack of maturity on the part of Abhishek Sharma even when he was going through a lean patch and lauded his sharp cricketing mind during his unbeaten 135 against Delhi Capitals in the IPL match here.

Abhishek batted from start to finish in SRH's emphatic 47 run win over Delhi Capitals on Tuesday, unleashing his full range of strokes to hammer an unbeaten 135 off 68 deliveries, anchoring the side's fourth win in seven games this season.

The young opener had endured a disastrous start at the T20 World Cup co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka earlier this year but found his groove at the business end to help India lift the trophy. He has carried that form into the IPL.

"I think he's always had that maturity and that's been there over the last couple of years. You can't be the number one T20 batsman in the world without being mature. Obviously, he's somebody who sees the opposition, sees the surface and decides to play a certain way," said Aaron in the post-match press conference.

Aaron said Abhishek showed he has a sharp cricketing mind, shifting with caution early on before hitting gears and going hard at the bowling.

"Today (Tuesday), it wasn't the surface where you could just go hell for leather every single ball. So you have to respect the opponent, you have to respect the surface and he (Abhishek) did exactly that. "And I think he's shown glimpses of this in the past but obviously when you play a high risk, high reward kind of a game, sometimes it doesn't work out and you have to give a player like Abhishek that leeway," added Aaron.

While young pacer Sakib Hussain kept the Delhi Capitals batters in check and picked up a wicket, it was Sri Lankan right-arm quick Eshan

Malinga who ripped the heart out of the chase with figures of 4 for 32 after SRH set a target of 243.

Aaron said the variations bowled and incisiveness shown by the two bowlers were simply outstanding.

"They've got skills that set them apart from any other bowler. If we talk about Malinga, he gets the ball to reverse. We saw reverse from the 11th, 12th over today, which gets tough for the opponent because with the white ball, you really can't see where the shiny side is.

"And then he can execute his yorkers, has a brilliant slow ball and can ball 140 plus, 145 almost. And with Sakib, that slow ball is just brilliant. He's almost getting as much turn as an off spin on the slow ball, same arm speed, executes his yorkers, can ball 140 plus as well," explained Aaron.

He added that ahead of the IPL season, SRH focused on bowlers who would deliver irrespective of the surface on offer.

"So with the way the game is

headed and with the way IPL is going, you have to have that pace variance where you can go from 140-145 down to almost 107 because Sakib's one of his slow balls, 107.

"Going into this year, one of our plans were to have bowlers who can offer something to the captain irrespective of the surface. So, if you talk about Sakib and Malinga, they almost remove the surface from the equation with their skills. That stood out for me and for everybody," added Aaron.

Speaking highly of the 21-year-old Sakib, Aaron said what stands out is his variations, noting that a 140 kmph bowler can get clobbered in the IPL but the variety he brings to the table has done the trick.

"It's again that variance. I've seen Shakib for almost two years. He always had the pace, very quick arm action, very awkward. So as a batsman, especially at the Rajeev Gandhi Stadium, on our wicket, if you have a beautiful action and you bowl 140 plus.