



RCB secure playoffs berth as PBKS slump to 6th straight defeat

DHARAMSALA, MAY 17: Royal Challengers Bengaluru held their nerve and survived a late onslaught to edge out Punjab Kings by 23 runs to become the first team to secure an IPL playoff's berth with an all-round performance here on Sunday.

Venkatesh Iyer blasted a spectacular 40-ball 73 not out and powered RCB to 222 for four. Virat Kohli (58 off 37 balls), Devdutt Padikkal (45 off 25 balls) and Tim David (28 off 12) were the other significant contributors for RCB after they were asked to bat first.

In reply, PBKS were stopped at 199 for eight after Shashank Singh's valiant 56 off 27 balls, the home team suffering its sixth consecutive defeat after a great start to the season.

In a daunting chase of 223, Punjab Kings endured a nervy start as RCB's pace attack kept the batters under pressure in the first 10 overs.

PBKS were jolted early when veteran seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed Priyansh Arya in the opening over, forcing the hosts on to the back foot immediately.

With the required rate hovering around 11-an-over from the outset, Punjab's batters were compelled to attack but RCB's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding denied the home side the momentum they were looking for.

Cooper Connolly and Prabhsimran Singh looked to counterattack with a few boundaries, but the visitors continued to chip away with timely breakthroughs.

Prabhsimran threw his bat at a Bhuvneshwar delivery way outside off and the



edge flew to Devdutt in the slips. Skipper Shreyas Iyer too bit the dust inside the Power Play.

After reaching 35 off 22 balls, Suryansh Shedge hit an innocuous Suyash Sharma delivery to long-off, where Kohli completed a neat, flat catch.

However, Shashank kept up the fight with his bold hits, including three sixes in one over against Suyash, even as Jacob Bethell dropped Marcus Stoinis on 22, who too found the boundaries at will to keep PKBS in the hunt.

But Josh Hazlewood returned to dismiss Stoinis (37 off 25) with a full toss which the batter failed to put away.

Shashank continued to battle for PBKS as Bhuvneshwar, who gave away just eight runs in his first spell, leaked 30 runs in his last two overs.

However, Shashank's innings came to an end in the final over in which PBKS needed 33 runs.

Earlier, in a game that

PBKS needed to win to keep their playoff qualification hopes alive, Venkatesh hogged the limelight with his scintillating innings after Kohli and Devdutt did the initial groundwork with an authoritative 76-run partnership for the second wicket.

After losing Jacob Bethell early to Harpreet Brar, RCB recovered strongly through Kohli and Devdutt, who kept the scoreboard ticking with a flurry of boundaries and smart rotation of strike on a batting-friendly surface.

Kohli looked in sublime touch, using the pace of Arshdeep Singh and Lockie Ferguson effectively, while Devdutt counterattacked against both pace and spin to ensure that Punjab's bowlers never settled into any sort of rhythm.

Kohli's trademark wristy flicks and Devdutt's lofted hits kept the run-rate above 10 an over through the first half of the innings.

At 101 for two, RCB were well placed at the halfway

stage of their innings with Kohli holding one end firmly and Venkatesh joining the talisman after Devdutt's dismissal.

Kohli, who reached his 67th IPL half-century in 31 balls, was caught out in the deep after failing to get elevation against Yuzvendra Chahal (1/42), who leaked 21 runs in his opening over.

Venkatesh, who batted aggressively through the middle overs to tighten their grip on the contest, smashed Lockie Ferguson for sixes over long-off and long-on to take RCB to 187 for three in 17 overs.

Taking the attacking route against both pace and spin, Venkatesh peppered the HPCA ground with boundaries, while the burly Tim David too attacked from the word go in his trademark style.

Punjab managed to slow the run flow marginally after the strategic timeout, but RCB remained in command heading into the death overs with plenty of wickets in hand.

KL Rahul, Abishek Porel fifties and Axar Patel cameo guide DC to crucial victory against RR

NEW DELHI, MAY 17: Fluent half-centuries from Abishek Porel and KL Rahul, followed by a blistering late cameo from Axar Patel, powered Delhi Capitals to a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League clash in New Delhi on Sunday.

Porel struck a brisk 51 off 31 balls, studded with seven fours and a six, while Rahul anchored the chase with a composed 56 from 42 deliveries, including a four and three sixes.

DC skipper Axar then applied the finishing touches with an explosive 34 off just 18 balls, smashing two fours and two sixes.

Chasing 194, Abishek Porel and KL Rahul gave the Delhi Capitals a flying start with an aggressive opening stand. The duo hammered 14 runs in the first over and followed it up with another 13 in the next to put immediate pressure on the bowlers.

DC raced to their fifty in just four overs, with Porel and Rahul continuing their attacking approach to propel the hosts to a commanding 72/0 at the end of the powerplay. The duo slammed boundaries and knocked singles when needed.

Delhi Capitals' blistering 72/0 in the powerplay was their highest total in the first six overs of IPL 2026. It was only the third time in 13 innings this season that DC went wicketless in the power play, with two of those instances coming against the Rajasthan Royals.

The score also became DC's second-highest power-play total against RR in IPL history, only behind the 78/2 they registered in Delhi during the 2024 season.

The duo continued to take the attack to the Rajasthan Royals bowlers, powering Delhi Capitals past the 100-run mark in the 10th over. The visitors finally found a



much-needed breakthrough when Brijesh Sharma dismissed Abishek Porel for a fluent 51 off 31 balls, bringing Sahil Parakh to the crease.

Jofra Archer also struck, removing Parakh for 9 off 8 balls, bringing DC skipper Axar Patel to the crease. Dason Shanaka also had a much-needed breakthrough, removing the set batter Rahul for 56, bringing Tristan Stubbs to the crease.

DC reached 151-3, after 16th overs, needing 43 runs in 24 balls with Stubbs and Patel at the crease. Archer also struck, removing Stubbs for 4, bringing David Miller to the crease.

Miller and Patel slammed Donovan Ferreira for 16 runs in the 18th over, bringing the equation to 19 runs in 12 balls. In the following, Brijesh Sharma struck and removed Miller for 9, bringing Ashutosh Sharma to the crease.

Sharma and Patel sealed the match in the final over with 4 balls to spare.

Earlier in the match, DC bowling, led by Mitchell Starc's four-fer and key contributions from Lungi Ngidi and Madhav Tiwari, restricted Rajasthan Royals (RR) to 193/8 in 20 overs despite getting a strong start in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash on Sunday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

From a strong position of 140/2 in 12 overs, RR were restricted to 193/8, with Starc starring for DC with a four-wicket haul. He was well supported by two wickets each from Ngidi and Madhav.

Delhi Capitals won the toss and elected to field in a must-win encounter to keep their playoff hopes alive.

After being put in to bat first by Delhi Capitals, the Rajasthan Royals suffered an early setback when Lungi Ngidi outsmarted the dangerous Yashasvi Jaiswal (12) with a slower ball in the third over, reducing the visitors to 19/1 in 2 overs. However, the early wicket did little to slow down RR's batting.

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi launched a blistering assault on the DC bowling unit. Sooryavanshi, along with Dhruv Jurel, targeted Mitchell Starc by taking 16 runs off the third over to take RR to 35/1.

Notably, Dhruv Jurel received a lifeline in the fourth over when he was dropped by KL Rahul, with the batter on four runs.

Sooryavanshi continued his onslaught as he slammed DC's Tripurana Vijay for 18 runs in the fifth over. After five overs, RR were 58/1. Then in the next over, Jurel took on pacer Mukesh Kumar, hitting two boundaries and a six as DC reached 75/1 after the power play.

DC's Madhav Tiwari got

140/2 in 12 overs, RR were restricted to 193/8, with Starc starring for DC with a four-wicket haul. He was well supported by two wickets each from Ngidi and Madhav.

Delhi Capitals won the toss and elected to field in a must-win encounter to keep their playoff hopes alive.

After being put in to bat first by Delhi Capitals, the Rajasthan Royals suffered an early setback when Lungi Ngidi outsmarted the dangerous Yashasvi Jaiswal (12) with a slower ball in the third over, reducing the visitors to 19/1 in 2 overs. However, the early wicket did little to slow down RR's batting.

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi launched a blistering assault on the DC bowling unit. Sooryavanshi, along with Dhruv Jurel, targeted Mitchell Starc by taking 16 runs off the third over to take RR to 35/1.

Notably, Dhruv Jurel received a lifeline in the fourth over when he was dropped by KL Rahul, with the batter on four runs.

Sooryavanshi continued his onslaught as he slammed DC's Tripurana Vijay for 18 runs in the fifth over. After five overs, RR were 58/1. Then in the next over, Jurel took on pacer

Mukesh Kumar, hitting two boundaries and a six as DC reached 75/1 after the power play.

DC's Madhav Tiwari got rid of Sooryavanshi in the eighth over, but not before he smashed 46 runs off just 21 deliveries, hitting five boundaries and three sixes. After eight overs, RR stood at 92/2.

Riyan Parag took charge for Rajasthan Royals, smashing two sixes off Axar Patel in the 11th over before following it up with three sixes and a four in the next over from Mukesh Kumar. After 12 overs, Delhi Capitals were 140/2.

Riyan Parag brought up a quickfire fifty off 23 balls in the 14th over for Rajasthan Royals. However, the match turned in the following over when Mitchell Starc struck twice in successive deliveries, removing Parag (51 off 26) and Donovan Ferreira for a duck, before also dismissing Ravi Singh for 4, narrowly missing out on a hat-trick. After 15 overs, DC were at 166/5.

Madhav Tiwari removed Shubham Dube for 5 runs in the 17th over, further halting RR's momentum.

New batter Dhasun Shanaka came to the crease and hit a six off Lungi Ngidi's bowling as RR reached 182/6 after 18 overs. Jurel brought up his fifty off 36 balls, but Starc handed RR another blow as he scalped Shanaka's (10) wicket in the penultimate over.

Ngidi dismissed Jurel (53 runs off 40 balls) in the final over, stopping the Royals from finishing big. RR eventually ended their innings at 193/8 in 20 overs.

Delhi Capitals were well served by their bowlers, with Mitchell Starc leading the attack with 4/40 in four overs. Lungi Ngidi (2/24) and Madhav Tiwari (2/27) also made key contributions, while Axar Patel kept things tight with an economical spell of 0/31 in his four overs. (ANI)

IPL 2026: CSK to fight for top 4, while SRH to fix their eyes on top 2

CHENNAI, MAY 18: With the playoffs qualification at stake, Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to rise above their batting inconsistencies against an equally desperate five-time champions Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match here on Monday.

Placed third in the points table with 14 points in 12 matches, SRH (NRR 0.331) need to win both their remaining two group stage games to avoid late hiccups in the journey towards the knockouts.

Even if they lose one of these two matches, SRH could still finish in the final four but the 2016 winners will need both Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals falter in at least one of their remaining two games.

However, SRH's wobbly run does present the Pat Cummins-led side to put together a unified show especially at the business end of the tournament where they seem to have stuttered, losing two of their last three fixtures.

In their last outing against Gujarat Titans, SRH looked in control having restricted them to 168 for five on a tricky wicket but fell apart for a mere 86 against high quality pace bowling.

Before that, SRH had extended Punjab Kings' losing streak with a 33-run victory in a high-scoring game but it came after Kolkata Knight Riders had hammered them by seven wickets.



Meanwhile, the road ahead for CSK is not easy either even as they stand with a chance to finish with 16 points, but for that they will have to win their remaining two matches.

The Rituraj Gaikwad-led side had slipped to the sixth spot following their loss to Lucknow Super Giants in their last outing, and they currently have 12 points from as many matches.

Even on Net Run Rate, CSK are behind in the race with a tally of 0.027 compared to RR (0.082) - who have three matches left - and PBKS (13 points, NRR 0.355) are also in the fray.

But CSK can still fancy their chances given the gumption their players and the support staff have shown while facing innumerable obstacles, including injuries to multiple key players.

The current bunch looks far different from the resources CSK had entered the IPL with, yet they continue to fight hard with a couple of new signings in the form of Macneil Noronha and Kuldeep Yadav.

Kartik Sharma's emergence as a dependable middle-order batter along with Urvil Patel's explosiveness has added to the firepower that CSK have at the top in Sanju Samson.

But bowling will remain a concern, especially after the last game in which a century opening stand from LSG batters had defied the hosts.

Teams (from) Chennai Super Kings: Rituraj Gaikwad (c), Dewald Brevis, MS Dhoni (wk), Karrik Sharma (wk), Sarfaraz Khan, Urvil Patel (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Aman Khan, Shivam Dube, Dian Forrester, Zak Foulkes, An-

shul Kamboj, Macneil Noronha, Matthew Short, Prashant Veer, Rahul Chahar, Shreyas Gopal, Gurjaneet Singh, Matt Henry, Akeal Hosein, Spencer Johnson, Akash Madhwal, Mukesh Choudhary, Noor Ahmad, Kuldeep Yadav.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins (c), Salil Arora, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan (wk), Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Ravichandran Smaran, Aniket Verma, Abhishek Sharma, RS Ambri-

sh, Harsh Dube, Krains Fuletra, Liam Livingstone, Kamindu Mendis, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshal Patel, Shivang Kumar, Amit Kumar, Gerald Coetzee, Praful Hinge, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Sakib Hussain, Onkar Tarmale, Jaydev Unadkat, Zeeshan Ansari.

Match starts at 7:30pm IST.

IPL 2026: Starc's 4-fer and key contributions from Ngidi, Madhav help DC restrict RR to 193/8

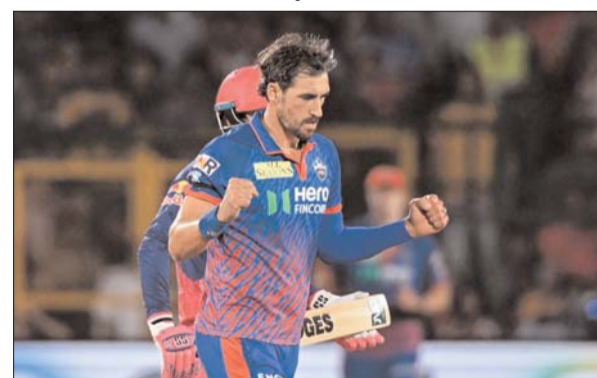
NEW DELHI, MAY 17: Delhi Capitals' (DC) bowling, led by Mitchell Starc's four-fer and key contributions from Lungi Ngidi and Madhav Tiwari, restricted Rajasthan Royals (RR) to 193/8 in 20 overs despite getting a strong start in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash on Sunday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

From a strong position of 140/2 in 12 overs, RR were restricted to 193/8, with Starc starring for DC with a four-wicket haul. He was well supported by two wickets each from Ngidi and Madhav.

Delhi Capitals won the toss and elected to field in a must-win encounter to keep their playoff hopes alive.

After being put in to bat first by Delhi Capitals, the Rajasthan Royals suffered an early setback when Lungi Ngidi outsmarted the dangerous Yashasvi Jaiswal (12) with a slower ball in the third over, reducing the visitors to 19/1 in 2 overs. However, the early wicket did little to slow down RR's batting.

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi launched



a blistering assault on the DC bowling unit. Sooryavanshi, along with Dhruv Jurel, targeted Mitchell Starc by taking 16 runs off the third over to take RR to 35/1.

Notably, Dhruv Jurel received a lifeline in the fourth over when he was dropped by KL Rahul, with the batter on four runs.

Sooryavanshi continued his onslaught as he slammed DC's Tripurana Vijay for 18 runs in the fifth over. After five overs, RR were 58/1. Then in the next over, Jurel took on pacer Mukesh Kumar, hitting two boundaries and a six as DC reached 75/1 after the power play.

DC's Madhav Tiwari got

26) and Donovan Ferreira for a duck, before also dismissing Ravi Singh for 4, narrowly missing out on a hat-trick. After 15 overs, DC were at 166/5.

Madhav Tiwari removed Shubham Dube for 5 runs in the 17th over, further halting RR's momentum.

New batter Dhasun Shanaka came to the crease and hit a six off Lungi Ngidi's bowling as RR reached 182/6 after 18 overs. Jurel brought up his fifty off 36 balls, but Starc handed RR another blow as he scalped Shanaka's (10) wicket in the penultimate over.

Ngidi dismissed Jurel (53 runs off 40 balls) in the final over, stopping the Royals from finishing big. RR eventually ended their innings at 193/8 in 20 overs.

Delhi Capitals were well served by their bowlers, with Mitchell Starc leading the attack with 4/40 in four overs. Lungi Ngidi (2/24) and Madhav Tiwari (2/27) also made key contributions, while Axar Patel kept things tight with an economical spell of 0/31 in his four overs.