



Records tumble as Sooryavanshi hits 97 in 29 balls, overtakes Gayle for most sixes in a T20 tournament

MULLANPUR (PUNJAB), MAY 27: Rajasthan Royals (RR) prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi surpassed West Indies legend Chris Gayle for most sixes in a single Indian Premier League (IPL) edition and in a T20 tournament.

Sooryavanshi achieved this milestone during his side's IPL eliminator match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), slamming a stormy 97 in just 29 balls, with five fours and 12 massive sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 334.48.

Sooryavanshi has smashed 65 sixes so far in the ongoing IPL season, outdoing Gayle's tally of 59 sixes in the 2012 edition.

Sooryavanshi has also levelled with Gayle for most instances of hitting 10-plus sixes in an IPL innings, a total of four times. Three of these occasions have come this season, making him the first batter to hit 10-plus sixes in three IPL innings in a season.

The 15-year-old's take down of cricket legends one by one continues as he also surpassed Sri Lankan legend Sanath Jayasuriya's tally of seven powerplay sixes during the IPL 2008 clash between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), with eight sixes in the powerplay at Mullanpur.

Sooryavanshi is the batter with the most runs coming in the powerplay during an IPL season, with 490 runs, overtaking Australian legend David Warner, who scored 467 runs for SRH in the 2016 edition.

This is also his fifth fifty-plus score in the power play



in IPL, with only Warner (six such scores) ahead of him.

He has also joined Suresh Raina (87 against Punjab Kings in 2014) and Adam Gilchrist (74 against Delhi Daredevils in 2009) for fifty-plus scores made during powerplay in an IPL knockout/playoff match.

This is Sooryavanshi's fifth fifty in less than 20 balls, with only Abhishek Sharma (six) above him.

*Sooryavanshi establishes new IPL playoff records

The 15-year-old's 16-ball half-century tied with Raina's 16-ball fifty (against PBKS in 2014) for the joint-fastest fifty in an IPL knockout/playoff match.

Twelve sixes smashed by him are also the most in an innings by a batter in IPL knockouts/playoffs, outdoing Shubman Gill's 10 sixes against the Mumbai Indians (MI) in 2023. Sooryavanshi has the most sixes in an IPL inning by an Indian as well.

Ninety-seven runs by Sooryavanshi is the second-highest individual score for RR in an IPL knockouts/Playoffs game, behind 106* runs by Jos Buttler against RCB in the qualifier 2 of IPL 2022.

*A generational IPL season

In this season, Sooryavanshi has smashed 680 runs in 15 innings at an average of 45.33 and a strike rate of 242.85, including a century and four fifties, with a best score of 103. He has smashed 55 fours and 65 sixes in 280 balls faced. His balls per boundary shot ratio is 2.3, and balls per six ratio is 4.3.

This is the most runs an uncapped batter has scored in an IPL season, overtaking his opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal's tally of 625 runs in the 2023 season. Also, he is the youngest to complete 600 runs in an IPL season. Before the left-handed sensation arrived to the scene, no other batter in

T20 history had smashed 600+ runs in a T20 tournament while also striking at 200-plus.

Coming to the match, SRH opted to field first after winning the toss.

The winner of this match will play the Gujarat Titans (GT) in Qualifier two for a shot at playing the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the IPL final.

Teams: Sunrisers Hyderabad (Playing XI): Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan(w), Heinrich Klaasen, Smaran Ravichandran, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Pat Cummins(c), Shivang Kumar, Eshan Malinga, Sakib Hussain, Praful Hinge Rajasthan Royals (Playing XI): Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel(w), Riyan Parag(c), Donovan Ferreira, Dasun Shanaka, Ravindra Jadeja, Jofra Archer, Nandre Burger, Brijesh Sharma, Yash Raj Punja. (ANI)

Esha Singh wins gold with world record

MUNICH, MAY 27:

Three-time world championship medallist Esha Singh bossed the women's 25m pistol final with a world record score of 43 as she clinched the gold to open India's medal account on the second day of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday.

In a power-packed final, the 21-year-old Esha shot perfect fives in half of the 10 series of five shots, leaving home favourite and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp, a full five shots behind for silver. Bulgarian Miroslava Mincheva won the bronze in a field where reigning Olympic champion Yang Jiin bowed out in fifth.

It was also India's first medal of the Munich World Cup after two days of competition at the Olympic Shooting range here. It was Esha's fourth individual world cup medal.

"Munich meant a lot to me. Everyone knows the kind of competition that goes on here, especially in pistol. I mean even getting into the top eight is very tight. I really wanted to win this as this was my third time here," said Olympian Esha, also a double Asian Games medallist.

"I am really grateful and loved the experience. I just focussed on myself, my process and the things I did in training and it just paid off."

Speaking about nerves in a big final, she said, "I wasn't calm at all. At one time when trying to hear the command I could almost



feel my left hand shaking. I had a lot of nerves but in our sport you can't escape that. You have to face it and embrace it and that is what experience is all about."

On Wednesday, she fired a 294 in the rapid-fire round of qualification, to go with her 293 in the precision round on Tuesday, to claim the fourth qualifying spot with a score of 587.

Compatriots Manu Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat shot scores of 582 and 581 to finish at 12th and 14th positions respectively, in the 98-strong field.

Thereafter in the final, Esha shot off the blocks slamming three perfect fives in the first three series, putting a gap between her and the field of eight early. Doreen was her closest challenger on 12 with Vietnamese Trinh Thu Vinh in

third with 10 hits. The Indian missed the first of her fourth series, also the first elimination stage, but was still four clear of Doreen with Olympic champion Yang coming up to third with a perfect five.

The sixth and eighth were again fives as the world record came in sight with the medal assured. Esha closed out with a four and a three, bettering the mark of 42 set by Korean Kim Yeji in Baku two years back by one hit. She also bettered the junior world record mark of 41 set by Yang Jiin.

In the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P), Ashi Chouksey missed out on making the finals by the narrowest one point margin, after she finished 10th effectively (12th overall), with a score of 589 in a field of 70 shooters (including RPO shoot-

ers). Swiss Emely Jaeggi took the eighth and final spot on 590, while her countrywoman and reigning Olympic Champion Chiara Leone, shot 587, to finish in 28th spot. Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad won gold from Briton Seonaid McIntosh, while the home country's Anna Janssen picked up the bronze.

Among the other Indians in contention in the women's 3P, Vidarsa Vinod shot 588 to finish 14th overall while Tilotama Sen's effort of 583 was good enough for a 48th place finish.

On Thursday, the competition day three of the Munich World Cup, there is only one final on the roster, the women's 10m air rifle. Indian hopes will be shouldered by Olympian Elavelin Valarivan, Arya Borse and debutant Sakshi Padekar.

Singapore Open: HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Dhruv-Kapila advance to next round

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

(ANI): HS Prannoy upset World No. 5 Jonatan Christie 10-21, 21-12, 21-18 in a 61-minute men's singles battle on Day 2 of the Singapore Open at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Lakshya Sen defeated China's Lu Guang Zu 21-17, 21-15, and mixed doubles pair Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the next round following a 21-14, 20-22, 21-13 victory over Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien, according to a release.

Former World No. 6 Prannoy gave a strong comeback after dropping the opening game. Despite Christie holding a 7-3 advantage in their previous meetings, the Indian took control of the second game from 2-all and never allowed the Indonesian to outplay him, comfortably closing it 21-12.

The decider turned into a tense contest. While Jonatan held the advantage through the early exchanges, momentum shifted towards Prannoy in the closing stages. Trailing



16-18, the Indian scored five consecutive points to seal the victory 21-18. Prannoy will next face Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in the Round of 16.

Loh Kean Yew defeated India's Kidambi Srikanth 22-20, 19-21, 21-17.

Lakshya Sen defeated Lu Guang Zu in straight games in the other men's singles

clash to book his place in the pre-quarterfinals. A tough challenge awaits the Indian next as he faces Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who had beaten Sen in the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open 2026 last month. In mixed doubles, Dhruv and Tanisha secured the opening game before the Malaysians forced the match into a decider. The

Indian pair responded strongly, taking control from 7-6 in the final game to seal a 21-13 win in 58 minutes.

In women's singles, Malvika Bansod went down fighting against Lin Hsiang Ti 21-11, 19-21, 12-21. Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda lost in the Women's doubles. (ANI)

Indian women's hockey team beats Australia in shootout to win second match of friendly series

PERTH, MAY 27

(ANI): The Indian women's hockey team secured a hard-fought win against Australia on Wednesday at the Perth Hockey Stadium to level the four-match friendly series 1-1.

The visitors came from behind in the final quarter to force a 1-1 draw and then edged the hosts 4-2 in the shootout, as per a press release from Hockey India.

After an entertaining start to the game, Australia took the lead courtesy of a goal from Olivia Downes (10'). But the Indian team upped the ante by creating opportunities from a series of penalty corners and putting the Aussies under pressure. However, Australia remained resolute in defence.



But the home team's resistance was finally broken as Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam (46') found the back of the net in the final quarter,

bringing India back on level terms. The visitors prevailed 4-2 in the shootout with goals from Navneet Kaur, Ishika Chaudhary, Annu

and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal. The third match of the series will be played on Friday, 29 May 2026, at 11:00 AM IST at the same venue. (ANI)

"Captain's knock under pressure": Raina lauds Patidar's 93 after RCB's big Qualifier 1 win

MUMBAI, MAY 27: Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has heaped praise on Rajat Patidar after the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain's match-winning performance against the Gujarat Titans (GT) in Qualifier 1 of the IPL 2026 at Dharamsala on Tuesday.

The defending champions stormed into their fifth IPL final with a commanding 92-run win over Gujarat. RCB posted a mammoth 254/5 before sealing victory emphatically, with the contest witnessing several major records tumble along the way.

Rajat led from the front with a breathtaking 93 off just 33 deliveries,

helping RCB maintain complete control through the middle overs and take the game away from Gujarat.

Speaking to JioStar, Raina said Patidar produced a "captain's knock under pressure", comparing the innings to some of his finest performances in the league while highlighting his control and shot selection.

"Rajat Patidar took on the Gujarat Titans like a storm. He played exceptional shots all around the wicket and produced a captain's knock under pressure," JioStar expert Raina said.

Recalling his previous standout performances, Raina added that while Patidar's 2022 playoff century against



Lucknow Super Giants was special, the latest innings stood out for its maturity and timing.

"I remember his hundred in the playoffs against LSG in 2022. That innings was special, but this one was different. The timing, the confidence, the way he handled the bowlers were top class," he said.

Raina also singled out one of Patidar's sixes as a moment of exceptional skill.

"The six he hit over covers in this game is one of the best I have seen in IPL history. It wasn't just power; it was pure skill. He picked the length early, stayed balanced, and sent it sail-

ing," Raina noted.

Praising his current form, the former India batter said Patidar's consistency could soon earn him a national call-up in the shortest format.

"He is in great form, and I believe an India call-up for Rajat Patidar in T20s is just around the corner. If he keeps playing like this, the selectors won't be able to ignore him for long," he added.

RCB will now travel to Ahmedabad for the IPL 2026 Final on May 31 as they look to become only the third team in IPL history to successfully defend their title and lift the trophy for a second consecutive season. (ANI)