

Sudharsan sizzles as Titans crush Rajasthan by 58 runs

PTI, AHMEDABAD: A composed half-century from Sai Sudharsan, coupled with an all-round bowling performance, led Gujarat Titans (GT) to a dominant 58-run victory over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their IPL 2025 clash on Wednesday.

Sudharsan produced a sparkling 82 off 53 balls, striking eight fours and three sixes. He was ably supported by brisk contributions from Jos Buttler (36), Shubman Gill (36), and Rahul Tewatia (24), as GT posted an imposing 217 for 6.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

In response, RR never truly recovered from early setbacks and were bowled out for 159 in 19.1 overs, despite fighting knocks from Shimron Hetmyer (52) and captain Sanju Samson (41).

GT's bowlers struck early, with Arshad Khan (1/19) removing Yashasvi Jaiswal (6), who sliced to Rashid Khan at deep third. Mohammed Siraj (1/30) then dismissed Nitish Rana (1) in the following over, with another catch in the same region.

Samson and Riyan Parag (26) fought back, the latter smashing three no-look sixes as RR reached 57/2 by the end of the powerplay. But the momentum shifted once more when Impact Substitute Kulwant Khejroliya (1/29) had Parag

■ Though GT finished strong, Jofra Archer's fiery spell briefly turned heads. His 147.7 kmph inswinger that knocked over Shubman Gill's off stump in the powerplay gave RR a glimmer of hope early on and reminded everyone of his devastating pace.

■ Sai Sudharsan was dropped on 81, a moment that could have cost RR dearly. Yet, the twist came when he added just one

more run before edging behind off Tushar Deshpande. What seemed like a costly miss turned out to be harmless for the Royals.

■ Just when RR looked shaky at 17/2, Riyan Parag's explosive no-look sixes briefly shifted the mood in the stadium. His flamboyant hitting, alongside Samson, hinted at a revival before GT's bowlers struck back to remove both and regain control.

TWISTS & TURNS



caught by Buttler, and Rashid Khan (1/27) dismissed Dhruv Jurel (5) to reduce RR to 68/4.

A 48-run partnership between Samson and Hetmyer gave Rajasthan hope, but Prasidh Krishna (3/24) returned to deal the decisive blows. He removed Samson, who skied one to Sai Kishore, and then sent Hetmyer back shortly after.

Earlier, Jofra Archer (1/30) signalled a return to form, cranking up the pace to 152.3 kph and knocking over Shubman Gill (2) with a sharp inswinger clocked at 147.7

kph. Archer also kept Buttler in check with a tight spell.

Sudharsan, however, stood firm. He and Buttler added 80 runs, with the latter striking back-to-back boundaries off Fazalhaq Farooqi. Buttler also punished Maheesh Theekshana (2/54) before being trapped leg-before by the off-spinner.

Shahrukh Khan then took charge, slamming successive boundaries and a six over deep extra cover. He tore into Theekshana for 16 runs in the 14th over, but was dismissed soon after, followed quickly by Sherfane Rutherford (7).

Sudharsan was dropped on 81 but added just one more before edging behind off Tushar Deshpande.

SCOREBOARD

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Samson b Deshpande 82, Shubman Gill b Archer 2, Jos Buttler lbw b Theekshana 36, Shahrukh Khan st Samson b Theekshana 36, Sherfane Rutherford c Samson b Sharma 7, Rahul Tewatia not out 24, Rashid Khan c Jaiswal b Deshpande 12, Arshad Khan not out 0. **Extras:** 18. **Total:** 217 for 6. **FOW:** 14-1, 94-2, 156-3, 163-4, 187-5, 201-6. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-30-1, Fazalhaq Farooqi 4-0-38-0, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-53-2, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-41-1, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-54-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Khan b Arshad 6, Sanju Samson c Kishore b Krishna 41, Nitish Rana c Khejroliya b Siraj 1, Riyan Parag c Buttler b Khejroliya 26, Dhruv Jurel c Sudharsan b Khan 5, Shimron Hetmyer c Kishore b Krishna 52, Shubham Dubey lbw b Khan 1, Jofra Archer c Gill b Krishna 4, Maheesh Theekshana c Sudharsan b Kishore 5, Tushar Deshpande c Khan b Kishore 3, Sandeep Sharma not out 6. **Extras:** 9. **Total:** 159 all out. **FOW:** 10-1, 12-2, 60-3, 68-4, 116-5, 119-6, 144-7, 145-8, 150-9, 159-10. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-30-1, Arshad Khan 2-0-19-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-24-3, Kulwant Khejroliya 3-0-29-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-37-2, Sai Kishore 2.2-0-20-2.

Man-of-the-Match: Sai Sudharsan

Maxwell fined, handed one demerit point



PTI, MULLANPUR: Punjab Kings' all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point for breaching IPL Code of Conduct during the match against Chennai Super Kings here.

The 36-year-old Maxwell has admitted to the Level 1 offence under article 2.2 which relates to abuse of fixtures and fittings during the match which was played here at the New PCA Stadium on Tuesday.

"Glenn Maxwell, All-rounder, Punjab Kings has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees and has also accumulated one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Chennai Super Kings at the New PCA Stadium, New Chandigarh on Tuesday," the BCCI informed in an email.

"Glenn Maxwell admitted to the Level 1 offence under article 2.2 (abuse of fixtures and fittings during the Match) and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," it added.

Maxwell, who has been struggling for form both with the bat and the ball, fell for one run, giving a return catch to CSK spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on the second ball he faced to be dismissed for one.

sportspopup

Shooting World Cup: Vijayveer wins India's fourth gold

BUENOS AIRES: Paris Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu won India's fourth gold medal at the ISSF World Cup after he emerged victorious in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event in Buenos Aires. Vijayveer shot 29 in a thrilling but low-scoring final to get the better of experienced Italian Riccardo Mazzatti, who was left one short after the eight series of five rapid-fire shots each. Chinese teenager Yang Yuhao won bronze. Indian shooters Rudranksh Patil and Arya Borse combined to win the silver medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event.



"I have played so many past finals with Gurpreet sir, Anish and others previously in the nationals, trials etc. and have performed well," Vijayveer said after the final on Tuesday. "So today I told myself that I had to do what I do there. Which is that I have to feel that I own the place like I do in Delhi. Just do the same things, but more importantly feel the same way. I just wanted to control what I can control and it worked. I am happy that this gold was a barrier and now it has been broken down and this will help future Indian athletes also in this event," he added.

Djokovic falls in Monte Carlo, first win for Alcaraz

MONTE CARLO: Novak Djokovic said he felt "horrible" as he crashed out of the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday, losing his opening second round match 6-3, 6-4 to Chilean Alejandro Tabilo. Djokovic, 37, went into the tournament hampered by an eye infection that has been troubling him since the semi-finals in Miami at the end of March and admitting that he did not have "very high" expectations for Monte Carlo. Carlos Alcaraz, meanwhile, picked up his first ever win at the Monte Carlo Masters when he came from a set down to win his second round match against Francisco Cerundolo 3-6, 6-0, 6-1. The second seed booked himself a last 16 date against the German Daniel Altmaier, 84th in the world, who saw off the French veteran Richard Gasquet 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

Asia C'ship: Sindhu advances; Sen, Prannoy crash out

CHINA: Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu made a winning start to the Badminton Asia Championships with a straight-game win over Ester Nurumi Wardoyo of Indonesia in the women's singles while Lakshya Sen made an early exit from the men's singles draw in Ningbo, China, on Wednesday. The 29-year-old World No. 17 Sindhu won 21-15, 21-19 in 44 minutes against 19-year-old Wardoyo, ranked 36th. Sindhu will be up against World No. 4 and third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the pre-quarter-finals on Thursday.

Meanwhile, 2021 World Championships bronze medallist Sen dished out a lackluster performance against Lee Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei, a finalist at the All England Championships, to lose 18-21, 10-21 in the first round. Earlier in the day, H S Prannoy also made an early exit as he lost to Zu Guang Lu of China in the men's singles opening round. Prannoy, who hasn't been at his best since suffering a bout of Chikungunya, lost to his Chinese opponent 16-21, 21-12, 11-21 in a round of 32 match.

Sending Maradona home after surgery was a mistake: Doctor

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina): A doctor testified at the trial of seven medical professionals accused of negligence in the death of Diego Maradona that the soccer star should have been admitted to a rehabilitation center rather than taken home following surgery he underwent in 2020. Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986, died on Nov. 25, 2020 while undergoing home hospitalization on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. He was 60. "He should have gone to a rehabilitation clinic... a more protected place for him," Mario Alejandro Schiter, who treated Maradona for two decades, told the court. "Knowing the patient, I would not have suggested home hospitalization; he was not easy to manage, given my direct knowledge of having treated him at the worst moment of his life," added Schiter, who treated Maradona for a drug addiction.



World Boxing establishes interim committee to oversee BFI affairs

NEW DELHI: World Boxing has formed an interim committee to oversee the affairs of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to ensure administrative continuity and management of domestic and international competitions. World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst has written to BFI chairman Ajay Singh, conveying the appointment of a six-member committee. The committee will be headed by Singh for "a period not extending 90 days." The six-member committee includes BFI Vice President Narendar Kumar Nirwan, Executive Director Arun Malik and Olympian L Sarita Devi. One of the remaining two members of the committee would be a nominee of the India Olympic Committee (IOA), "to be nominated in consultation with the President IOA - Member," the letter dated April 7 said.

Arjun draws with Nakamura in Freestyle chess tournament

PARIS: World number four Arjun Erigaisi of India started off with a draw against Hikaru Nakamura of United States in the first game of the quarterfinals of Freestyle chess tournament here on Wednesday. Qualifying as the fourth-place finisher in the rapid section, Arjun had to choose Nakamura as his opponent as he was the only player left in the last eight spots. Meanwhile, Magnus Carlsen of Norway, who had opted for Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan as his first game opponent, got off to a flier, outplaying his younger rival in the heavy pieces endgame. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi drew with German Vincent Keymer. The other game of the quarterfinals between American Fabiano Caruana and local star Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was also drawn. World champion D Gukesh's fortunes did not see any reversal in the 9-12 place play-off as he suffered a defeat at the hands of Richard Rapport of Hungary.

Batting is never about ego, I want to play according to situation: Virat

PTI, NEW DELHI: Champion cricketer Virat Kohli said curbing the ego and playing as per the demands of a match situation form the core principle of his batting.

One of the most successful batters of the modern era, Kohli recently flew past another milestone while becoming the first Indian player to score 13000 runs in T20s.

"It's (batting) never about ego. It was never about trying to overshadow anyone. It's always been about understanding the game situation — and that's something I've always taken pride in. I want to play according to what the situation demands," Kohli told JioHotstar.

"If I was in rhythm, in the flow of the game, I naturally took the initiative. If someone else was better placed to take the lead, they would do it," he added.

Kohli is the highest run-getter in the IPL with 8168 runs from 256 matches with eight hundreds, the most by any batter.

The 36-year-old said he decided the demands of the format from the 2011 edition onwards.

"In my first three years with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, I didn't get many opportunities to bat in the top

order. I was usually sent lower down. So, I wasn't really able to crack the IPL in a big way.

"But from 2010 onwards, I started performing more consistently, and by 2011, I was regularly batting at number three. That's when my IPL journey really began to take shape," he added.

Kohli admitted that spending 18 years in the league helped him polish his skills in the shortest version of cricket.



Dhoni creates history with 150th IPL catch

CSK legend achieves historic milestone against Punjab Kings

MULLANPUR: MS Dhoni etched his name into the IPL history books once again as he became the first wicket-keeper to complete 150 catches in the tournament's history during the 2025 clash between Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings at Mullanpur on Tuesday.

The landmark moment arrived in the 8th over of the Punjab Kings innings when Nehal Wadhwa miscued a delivery from Ravichandran Ashwin. Dhoni, ever alert behind the stumps, pouched a simple catch to reach the unprecedented milestone. He now leads the all-time wicket-keeping catches chart, ahead of Dinesh Karthik, who has 137 to his name.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest wicketkeepers in cricket history, Dhoni has been a pivotal figure for Chennai Super Kings since the inception of the Indian Premier League.

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Known for his calm demeanour, razor-sharp reflexes, and astute leadership, the former CSK captain has left an indelible mark on the league.

Famed for his lightning-fast stumpings and unmatched glove work, Dhoni's presence behind the stumps has often changed the course of matches. His ability to execute stumpings in the blink of an eye and his clinical catching have contributed significantly to CSK's long-standing success in the tournament.

Despite his brilliance with the



gloves, Dhoni has come under fire in recent times for his underwhelming performances with the bat. The 43-year-old has faced criticism for demoting himself down the batting order during crucial run chases, with fans and pundits alike questioning his role in the side's strategy.

We batted a bit better, but it's been a frustrating season for CSK: Fleming

PTI, MULLANPUR: Head coach Stephen Fleming was relieved to see Chennai Super Kings' top-order producing some runs, but, for him, the failure of his side to cross the line in the fourth consecutive IPL match this season remained a "frustrating" element.

CSK batters gave a better account of themselves in pursuit of 220 set by Punjab Kings, but still fell short of the target by 18 runs here on Tuesday.

"It (has been) a frustrating season so far," Fleming told the media after the match.

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— Stephen Fleming, Chennai Super Kings' head coach

that was an area of concern. If you want to pick up 20 runs, it's probably that and (the) drop catches," he said.

Fleming had a point there because CSK have so far dropped 11 catches in five matches, with three of them



occurring against Punjab Kings.

The Kiwi then touched upon CSK's improved batting effort as openers Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra put on 69 runs, following which the former

added another 89 runs for the third wicket with Shivam Dube (42).

"Well, positive-wise, we batted a bit better. We got some substance from the top order, which has been lacking so we were able to then construct the chase," Fleming said.

"We just weren't able to keep the run rate at a good level through the middle, and it just left too much towards the end. But we've been out of games, so to be in a game for a lot longer is a positive aspect. The game was really lost in the field," he added.

Fleming heaped praise on Punjab Kings' batter Priyansh Arya, who made a 42-ball 103 despite regular fall of wickets at the other end.