

Chahal spins magic as Punjab defend IPL's lowest total

Leg-spinner bags four as KKR fall from 71/3 to 95 all out



Yuzvendra Chahal

TODAY'S FIXTURE
Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals, at Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi, at 7.30 pm

PTI, MULLANPUR: Punjab Kings scripted history on Tuesday by defending the lowest-ever total in IPL history, pulling off a thrilling 16-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders after being bowled out for just 111.

Chasing 112, KKR were cruising at 71 for 3 in 9.1 overs before collapsing spectacularly to 95 all out in 15.1 overs. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was the architect of the upset, returning match-winning figures of 4 for 28. His scalps included Ajinkya Rahane (17), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (37), Rinku Singh (2) and Ramandeep Singh (0)—the latter two in successive deliveries.

Pacer Marco Jansen also played a pivotal role, picking up 3 for 17, while Xavier Bartlett, Glenn Maxwell and Arshdeep Singh took one apiece. The previous lowest total defended was 116 by CSK in 2009.

Early on, Sunil Narine (5) and Quinton de Kock (2) fell cheaply to Jansen and Bartlett respectively. Rahane and Raghuvanshi steadied the innings, guiding KKR to 55 for 2 at the end of the powerplay. However, Chahal's introduction in the eighth over turned the tide—Rahane was trapped LBW, and Raghuvanshi was caught at backward point shortly after.

Maxwell removed Venkatesh Iyer, while Chahal cleaned up Rinku and Ramandeep to leave KKR tottering at 76 for 7. Jansen struck again to remove Harshit Rana, and although Andre Russell briefly threatened with

■ From cruising at 71/3 in 9.1 overs, Kolkata looked set for a comfortable chase — until they lost 7 wickets for just 24 runs in a dramatic collapse triggered by Chahal and Co.

■ Chahal dismissed Rinku Singh and Ramandeep Singh off successive deliveries, turning a tense

contest into a PBKS surge as KKR slid from 72/4 to 76/7 in no time.

■ With 17 needed off 36 balls and two wickets in hand, Andre Russell's burst of two sixes and a four gave KKR a glimmer of hope — but it fizzled out as Arshdeep struck to seal the historic win



two sixes and a four in the 14th over, the collapse could not be halted. KKR needed 17 runs with two wickets in hand and six overs left, but Vaibhav Arora was caught off Arshdeep to seal the result.

Earlier, KKR had bowled out Punjab for 111—the third lowest total this season. Only Prabhsimran Singh (30), Priyansh Arya (22) and Shashank Singh (18) managed notable scores. Harshit Rana (3/25) starred with the ball, supported by Varun Chakravarthy (2/21) and Sunil Narine (2/14).

SCOREBOARD

Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya c Singh b Rana 22, Prabhsimran Singh c Singh b Rana 30, Shreyas Iyer c Singh b Rana 0, Josh Inglis b Chakravarthy 2, Nehal Wadhwa c Iyer b Nortje 10, Glenn Maxwell b Chakravarthy 7, Suryansh Shedge c de Kock b Narine 4, Shashank Singh lbw b Arora 18, Marco Jansen b Narine 1, Xavier Bartlett run out (Arora) 11, Arshdeep Singh not out 1, Yuzvendra Chahal not out 0. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 111 all out. **FOW:** 39-1, 39-2, 42-3, 54-4, 74-5, 76-6, 80-7, 86-8, 109-9, 111-10. **Bowling:** Vaibhav Arora 2.3-0-26-1, Anrich Nortje 3-0-23-1, Harshit Rana 3-0-25-3, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-21-2, Sunil Narine 3-0-14-2. **Kolkata Knight Riders:** Quinton de Kock c Shedge b Bartlett 2, Sunil Narine b Jansen 5, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Chahal 17, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Bartlett b Chahal 37, Venkatesh Iyer lbw b Maxwell 7, Rinku Singh st Inglis b Chahal 2, Andre Russell b Jansen 17, Ramandeep Singh c Iyer b Chahal 0, Harshit Rana b Jansen 3, Vaibhav Arora c Inglis b Singh 0, Anrich Nortje not out 0. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 95 all out. **FOW:** 7-1, 7-2, 62-3, 72-4, 74-5, 76-6, 76-7, 79-8, 95-9, 95-10. **Bowling:** Marco Jansen 3.1-0-17-3, Xavier Bartlett 3-0-30-1, Arshdeep Singh 3-1-11-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-28-4, Glenn Maxwell 2-0-5-1

Man-of-the-Match: Yuzvendra Chahal

Boxing turf war deepens as interim panel, State units clash

PTI, NEW DELHI: The turf war in India's boxing administration intensified on Tuesday with members of various state units calling for immediate elections while the newly-formed Interim Committee announced its own set of key decisions, including the conduct of national championships and appointment of coaches.

The tenure of the BFI office-bearers ended on February 2. However, the elections have been delayed by legal disputes.

In its latest order, the Himachal Pradesh High Court directed the Sports Ministry observer and the Returning Officer to issue a fresh election schedule before April 28, when the case is set to be heard again.

"Ajay Singh (the former BFI President and current head of the interim com-

mittee) has tried all tactics to delay the election and undermine the constitution of the Boxing Federation of India," Assam Boxing President and former secretary general of the BFI Hemanta Kalita told reporters on Tuesday.

"We are grateful and happy that the law of the land has prevailed and the honourable High Court has passed the order to conduct the election in a free and fair manner," he added.

The elections, which were scheduled for March 28, had been "paused" by Returning Officer RK Gauba following directives from the Delhi and Himachal Pradesh High Courts to reinstate names omitted from the Electoral College, including that of former union sports minister Anurag Thakur.

"Ajay Singh is working in a dictatorial manner. We

did not have any national championship last year, our performance at the Paris Olympics was zero," Madhya Pradesh Boxing President and former BFI Treasurer Digvijay Singh said.

"We are worried and want the elections to happen as soon as possible. So that our athletes don't lose out and their future is secure," he added.

Himachal Pradesh Boxing Association President and former BFI Vice President Rajesh Bhandari alleged that Singh refused to take the inputs of the executive committee while deciding on the coaching staff, which led to the poor performance in the Paris Games.

The Interim Committee took decisions to rejuvenate the domestic circuit as well as restart the elite boxing system.

Gavaskar to give Kambl Rs 30,000 monthly

AGENCIES, MUMBAI: Sunil Gavaskar has pledged lifelong support for Vinod Kambl, who has been grappling with serious health challenges in recent years. Through his CHAMPS Foundation, Gavaskar will provide Kambl with Rs 30,000 monthly starting April 1, along with an additional Rs 30,000 annually for medical expenses, according to a newspaper.

Kambl has faced significant health setbacks in recent years. He becomes the second cricketer after Salim Durani to receive aid from the CHAMPS Foundation.

The decision follows a heartfelt moment in January when an emotional Kambl had touched Gavaskar's feet during the Wankhede stadium's 50th anniversary celebration.

India to play 6 matches on Bangladesh tour

PTI, DHAKA: India will play four games at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur and the remaining two in Chattogram during their white-ball away series against Bangladesh in August, the BCB announced on Tuesday.

India will play three ODIs and as many T20s in Bangladesh. This will also be India's first T20 bilateral series in Bangladesh and first exclusive white-ball tour since 2014.

The first two ODIs and the last two T20s will be played in Mirpur while the third ODI and first T20 will be held in Chattogram.

India are set to arrive in Dhaka on August 13. They will play the first two ODIs on August 17 and 20, before heading to Chattogram to play the third ODI and first T20 on August 23 and

26. They will return to Dhaka to play the last two T20s on August 29 and 31.

The tour will also help in preparation for the Asia Cup T20. While India are the hosts of the tournament, it is still not clear if the event will be entirely held in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or UAE as Pakistan will not travel to India as per the understanding between the two countries.

"This series promises to be one of the most exciting and most anticipated events in our home calendar," BCB's chief executive Nizam Uddin Chowdhury was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"India have set the benchmark in international cricket across all formats and the cricket-loving millions in both countries are sure to enjoy this contest," he added.

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