

# AIFF presents I-League trophy to Churchill Bros

The All India Football Federation Deputy Secretary General Satyanarayan presented the trophy to Churchill Brothers and claimed that they learnt about the CAS order only after the ceremony was conducted

PTI, NEW DELHI: Hours after Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) stayed All India Football Federation's (AIFF) decision to declare Churchill Brothers as I League champions and barred it from conducting any formal felicitation ceremony, the national federation presented the winners' trophy to the Goan club, a development which may invite action from the international body.

All India Football Federation Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan presented the trophy to Churchill Brothers and claimed that they learnt about the CAS order only

after the ceremony was conducted.

CAS order came on an application filed by Inter Kashi.

Elizabeth Steiner, the Deputy President of the Appeals Arbitration Division of the CAS, had barred AIFF from conducting any medal ceremony till the case is decided.

Inter Kashi President Prithijit Das said that the CAS order came around 1.30pm on Sunday while Satyanarayan gave away the trophy to Churchill at around 4 pm.

Satyanarayan, however, said that the AIFF came to know of the CAS order only

The I-League 2024-25 presentation ceremony was concluded on Sunday, April 27, 2025, in Goa.

During the event, the champions' trophy and winners' medals were formally presented to Churchill Brothers FC Goa, as per Appeals Committee order and representation made by AIFF to Delhi High Court on April 23. The AIFF would like to clarify that, with regard to CAS order, due to a holiday in the AIFF Secretariat, the Federation was only informed of the order at a time when the ceremony had already been concluded in Goa. The AIFF remains committed to adhering to all regulatory and legal processes and will take appropriate action

— All India Football Federation

after he had already given away the trophy to Churchill Brothers.

He said since the AIFF Secretariat was closed on Sunday and he being on a

flight, he came to know of the CAS order late in the day.

"I was on a flight to Goa to give away the trophy and it being a Sunday, the AIFF

Secretariat is closed. I came to know about it only after I gave away the trophy," he told PTI.

"We have followed the Delhi High Court and AIFF Appeals Committee order and now we will see what can be done after consulting the lawyers."

He did say that the AIFF will have to obey the CAS' final ruling on the matter.

"After the hearing, whatever the CAS rules, we have to obey it and then we have to act accordingly."

The AIFF later issued a statement defending its position.

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## sportspopup

### Sudirman Cup: India lose 1-4 to Denmark in opening Group D tie

XIAMEN (China): India's lack of bench strength came to the fore as it slumped to a crushing 1-4 defeat against Denmark with top singles stars PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy losing their matches during the team's opening Group D match at the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals, here, on Sunday. Denmark, playing without their top singles players Viktor Axelsen and Mia Blichfeldt, still proved too strong as India's star shuttlers Prannoy and Sindhu lost their respective matches in straight games. The mixed doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila opened India's campaign but went down 15-21, 14-21 to World No. 7 Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund, handing Denmark a 1-0 lead. Up next, HS Prannoy, still not at his physical best following a bout of chikungunya, suffered a 15-21, 16-21 defeat against World No. 3 Anders Antonsen in the men's singles. The men's doubles match turned out to be a complete mismatch as world No. 1 pair Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen demolished the inexperienced Indian duo of Hariharan Amsakarun and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi 21-7, 21-4 to seal the tie for Denmark. World No. 18 Sindhu, squandered big leads of 20-16 and 19-12 in her two games to lose 20-22, 21-23 against Line H jmark Kjaersfeldt, piling on India's misery. Tanisha Crasto and Shruvi Mishra salvaged some pride for India with a win in the women's doubles, beating lower-ranked Danish pair of Natasa P. Anthonisen and Alexandra Bje in the final match. India will next face a formidable Indonesian side in their match on April 29 at the Xiamen Fenghuang Gymnasium.

### India beat Sri Lanka by nine wickets in Women's ODI tri-series match

COLOMBO: Opener Pratika Rawal struck an unbeaten half-century, while Smriti Mandhana and Harleen Deol made useful contributions as India comfortably defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the rain-curtailed Women's ODI tri-series match here on Sunday. Pratika (50 not out) and Mandhana (43) were involved in a 54-run stand for the opening wicket before the Delhi youngster forged an unbeaten 95-run stand with Harleen (48 not out) as India chased down the 148-run target in 29.4 overs. In a match reduced to 39 overs per-side due to a delay of three hours following heavy showers, Sri Lanka were bundled out for 147 in 38.1 overs with Sneha Rana (3/31), Shree Charani (2/26) and Deepti Sharma (2/22) doing the damage. None of the Sri Lankan batters could get a big knock as Hasini Perera made 30 in 46 balls and Kavisha Dilhari contributed a 26-ball 25. Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 147 all out in 38.1 overs (Hasini Perera 30; Sneha Rana 3/31, Shree Charani 2/26, Deepti Sharma 2/22). India: 149 for 1 in 29.4 overs (Pratika Rawal 50 not out, Harleen Deol 48 not out, Smriti Mandhana 43).

### DC captain Pant fined Rs 24 lakh for slow over-rate against MI

MUMBAI: Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant was on Sunday fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during his team's 54-run loss to Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here. "As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Pant was fined INR 24 lakhs," the IPL said in a release. "The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, will be fined either INR six lakhs or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser."

### Ronaldo scores and leads Al-Nassr into AFC Champions Elite semifinals

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia): Cristiano Ronaldo led Saudi Arabian team Al-Nassr to a 4-1 win over Yokohama F. Marinos of Japan in the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League Elite. The 40-year-old scored his eighth goal of the tournament during a dominant first half performance in Jeddah, which is hosting all of the games in the tournament from the quarterfinal stage to the final on May 3. In Wednesday's semifinal, Al-Nassr will take on Al-Sadd of Qatar or Kawasaki Frontale of Japan, who meet on Sunday.

### San Lorenzo club pays tribute to Pope Francis

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine soccer club San Lorenzo paid tributes to its fan Pope Francis during a national league home match. The pontiff, who died last Monday at age 88, was buried in Rome before the game. San Lorenzo players wore a patch on their shirts with an image of Jorge Mario Bergoglio smiling and wearing his papal robes, accompanied by the phrase "Together for Eternity."

## MI crush LSG by 54 runs for 5<sup>th</sup> straight win



Mumbai Indians' players acknowledge fans as they celebrate after winning the Indian Premier League 2025 match against Lucknow Super Giants, in Mumbai, on Sunday

PTI, MUMBAI: In-form Mumbai Indians extended their winning run with a 54-run hammering of Lucknow Super Giants, recording their fifth consecutive victory in the Indian Premier League, here, on Sunday.

The hosts smashed LSG in a one-sided clash in which Suryakumar Yadav grabbed lead as tournament's leading run-scorer, with his 28-ball 54.

Suryakumar continued to plunder runs to become the leading run-scorer in this IPL, crossing the 400-run mark with his third fifty. The India T20 skipper also completed his 4,000 runs in the tournament.

Ryan Rickelton also sized up with a 32-ball 58 that helped MI post a stiff 215 for seven being invited to take first strike.

With a handsome total to defend, Mumbai Indians juggled their bowlers cleverly as the visitors struggled to find response to the challenges thrown by the

home bowlers.

With his wickets column not reflecting how well he has bowled since his comeback, pacer Jasprit Bumrah finally reaped the rewards to return with impressive figure of 4-0-22-4. He broke the back of LSG's chase with three wickets in the 16th over.

In the process, Bumrah also went past Lasith Malinga (170) to become MI's leading wicket-taker in IPL history. LSG's chase was also marred by another poor outing for their captain Rishabh Pant (4). They were shot out for 161 on a perfect batting surface at the Wankhede Stadium.

### SCOREBOARD

**Mumbai Indians:** Ryan Rickelton c Badoni b Rathi 58, Rohit Sharma c Prince b Mayank 12, Will Jacks b Prince 29, Suryakumar Yadav c Marsh b Avesh 54, Tilak Varma c Prince b Bishnoi 6, \*Hardik Pandya b Mayank 5, Naman Dhir not out 25, Corbin Bosch c Pooran b Avesh 20, Deepak Chahar not out 1. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 215-7. **Fall of wickets:** 33-1, 88-2, 116-3, 137-4, 157-5, 180-6, 208-7. **Bowling:** Mayank Yadav 4-0-40-2, Prince Yadav 4-0-44-1, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-48-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-41-1, Avesh Khan 4-0-42-2. **Lucknow Super Giants:** Mitchell Marsh c Varma b Boult 34, Aiden Markram c Dhir b Bumrah 9, Nicholas Pooran c Suryakumar b Jacks 27, \*Rishabh Pant c Karn b Jacks 4, Ayush Badoni c Jacks b Boult 35, David Miller c Bosch b Bumrah 24, Abdul Samad b Bumrah 2, Ravi Bishnoi b Bosch 15, Avesh Khan b Bumrah 0, Prince Yadav not out 4, Digvesh Rathi b Boult 1. **Extras:** 8. **Total:** 161-10. **Fall of wickets:** 18-1, 60-2, 64-3, 110-4, 135-5, 141-6, 142-7, 142-8, 157-9, 161-10. **Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-20-3, Deepak Chahar 3-0-38-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-22-4, Will Jacks 2-0-18-2, Karn Sharma 2-0-25-0, \*Hardik Pandya 1-0-10-0, Corbin Bosch 4-0-26-1. **Man-of-the-match:** Will Jacks

## Krunal's rare 50 helps RCB beat DC, extend unbeaten away run

PTI, NEW DELHI: Krunal Pandya recorded his first fifty in IPL since 2016, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru pull off a six-wicket win over Delhi Capitals on a challenging Peraz Shah Kotla track, here, on Sunday.

Krunal (73 not out of 47 balls), who has part of every IPL season since his debut in 2016, paced his innings perfectly while batting alongside chase master Virat Kohli (51 off 47).

The duo shared a 119-run stand off 84 balls as RCB chased down 163 in 18.3 overs to extend their unbeaten run away from home. RCB bowlers put a squeeze on Delhi Capitals in the middle overs through Josh Hazlewood and the spinners to limit the home team to 162 for six.

For RCB, it was their seventh win in 10 games while DC suffered only their third loss in nine matches. Both teams are on course to make the play-offs.

At 26 for three, RCB felt the heat before Krunal and Kohli bailed them out.

In his maiden season for RCB, Krunal has made valuable contributions with both bat and ball.

On Sunday night, Kohli played the perfect anchor

as Krunal came up with timely hits on a difficult surface to deliver a fine win for his team. His straight hit through the line off Mukesh Kumar and an aerial drive over cover off the wily Kuldeep Yadav stood out among his four sixes.

Kohli's consistency has been remarkable this season and the knock against DC was his sixth 50-plus score in 10 innings. The highlight of his solid effort was the straight drive off Mitchell Starc. The night, however, belonged to Krunal who collected only his second 50-plus score in 116 IPL innings.

Earlier, K L Rahul (41 off 39 balls) was the top-scorer for DC but it was Tristian Stubbs (34 off 18 balls) who helped the hosts post a fighting total. RCB put the opposition in to bat, expecting better batting conditions during the run chase.

### SCOREBOARD

**Delhi Capitals:** Abishek Porel c Sharma b Hazlewood 28, Faf du Plessis c Kohli b Pandya 22, Karun Nair c Kumar b Dayal 4, KL Rahul c Bethell b Kumar 41, \*Aaxar Patel b Hazlewood 15, Tristan Stubbs c Hazlewood b Kumar 34, Ashutosh Sharma b Kumar 2, Vipraj Nigam run out (Kumar) 12, Mitchell Starc not out 0, Dushmantha Chameera not out 0. **Extras:** 4. **Total:** 162-8. **Fall of wickets:** 33-1, 44-2, 72-3, 102-4, 118-5, 120-6, 158-7, 162-8. **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-33-3, Yash Dayal 4-0-42-1, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-36-2, Suyash Sharma 4-0-22-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-28-1. **Royal Challengers Bengaluru:** Jacob Bethell c Nair b Patel 12, Virat Kohli c Starc b Chameera 51, Devdutt Padikkal b Patel 0, \*Rajat Patidar run out (Nair) 6, Krunal Pandya not out 73, Tim David not out 19. **Extras:** 4. **Total:** 165-4. **Fall of wickets:** 20-1, 20-2, 26-3, 145-4. **Bowling:** \*Aaxar Patel 4-0-19-2, Mitchell Starc 3-0-31-0, Mukesh Kumar 3-0-51-0, Vipraj Nigam 1-0-12-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-28-0, Dushmantha Chameera 3-0-24-1. **Man-of-the-match:**

### TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Rajasthan Royals vs Gujarat Titans, at the Sawai Mansingh Cricket Stadium, Jaipur, at 7.30 pm

## Barcelona edge Real in extra-time to win Copa del Rey trophy

The Catalans, aiming for a quadruple, won the first major trophy of Hansi Flick's reign as coach and a record-extending 32<sup>nd</sup> Spanish cup in dramatic fashion

AP, SEVILLE: Barcelona defender Jules Kounde struck deep in extra-time to decide a gripping Copa del Rey Clasico final on Saturday in Seville, earning his side a 3-2 win over rivals Real Madrid.

The Catalans, aiming for a quadruple this season, won the first major trophy of Hansi Flick's reign as coach and a record-extending 32nd Spanish cup in dramatic fashion. Three Real Madrid players were sent off during and after a fiery conclu-

sion to the game, including England international Jude Bellingham.

Pedri sent Barcelona ahead at La Cartuja but two Real Madrid goals in seven second-half minutes, from Kylian Mbappe and Aurelien Tchouameni, pulled the Spanish and European champions level.

However, Ferran Torres struck in the 84th minute to take the game to extra-time and Kounde drilled home to win it for the La Liga leaders.

Barca host Inter Milan in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday.

"They can make a party -- for today, it's OK," a delighted Flick, who has won all seven finals he has coached in his career, told Movistar. Substituted Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger was sent off in the final seconds for "throwing an object" onto the pitch towards referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea, according to the official's report, and Lucas Vazquez, also replaced, was

dismissed for further protest as Madrid unravelled.

Bellingham was sent off after the final whistle for showing an "aggressive attitude" towards the referee, who wrote that the midfielder "had to be restrained by his team-mates".

"I don't want to talk about the referee," said stone-faced Madrid coach Ancelotti. "I don't know what happened at the end." The teams meet again in La Liga in May in a potential title decider.



Barcelona players celebrate after winning the Spanish Copa del Rey final soccer match between Barcelona and Real Madrid at Estadio de La Cartuja Stadium in Seville, Spain, on Sunday

## Liverpool clinch EPL title



(From left) Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah, Japanese midfielder Wataru Endo, English midfielder Curtis Jones, Portuguese striker Diogo Jota, Colombian midfielder Luis Diaz, Argentinian midfielder Alexis Mac Allister and French defender Ibrahim Konate celebrate after the English Premier League match against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield in Liverpool, England on Sunday

AFP, LIVERPOOL: Liverpool demolished Tottenham 5-1 to clinch the Premier League title at an impassioned Anfield on Sunday, sealing a record-equalling 20th English top-flight crown.

Arne Slot's men stormed back after conceding a surprise early goal to dominate the first half as the decibel level soared among 60,000-plus crowd.

Liverpool, who can no longer be caught by second-placed Arsenal, are now level with bitter rivals Manchester United as the joint-most successful club in English top-flight history.

Slot's men started on the front foot at an expectant Anfield after a stirring rendition of club anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" in the warm spring sunshine.

Mohamed Salah had an early sighter and Cody Gakpo went close with a spectacular overhead kick but Tottenham briefly threatened to become party poopers when Dominic Solanke powered home a header from a James Maddison corner in the 12th minute.

But Liverpool were level just four minutes later when Luis Diaz converted Dominik Szoboszlai's cross from close range. The off-side flag went up but VAR awarded the goal.

The momentum was now all with Liverpool and the home side took the lead in the 24th minute when Alexis Mac Allister thundered the ball home from the 18-yard line past the flying Guglielmo Vicario.

Now the party was well and truly started and Gakpo made it 3-1, slamming a

shot into the bottom corner after Spurs failed to clear.

Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou had made eight changes from the team that lost to Nottingham Forest last week as he prioritises the semi-finals of the Europa League and they now had a mountain to climb.

The Liverpool fans -- deprived of celebrating the 2020 Premier League trophy due to Covid restrictions, ran through their full repertoire of songs as their team pushed for a fourth goal in the second half.

Top-scorer Salah scored the goal the crowd craved, collecting Szoboszlai's pass before cutting in and blasting his shot into the bottom corner. He celebrated by grabbing a fan's phone before taking a selfie in front of the Kop.

Deafening cheers of "We're going to win the league" and "We shall not be moved" rang out.

Liverpool had a fifth when Spurs defender Destiny Udogie poked the ball past his own goalkeeper from close range with about 20 minutes to go as the game turned into a procession.

As the game went into added time the club's anthem rang out again as scarves were held aloft and the final whistle elicited a thunderous roar.

The win leaves Liverpool on 82 points, 15 clear of nearest challengers Arsenal with just four games remaining.

Tottenham are a miserable 16th in the Premier League table after their 19th defeat of the season, putting Postecoglou under enormous pressure.