

CSK crash out of playoffs race

Iyer, Prabhsimran, Chahal set up Punjab's 4-wicket win

PTI, CHENNAI: Shreyas Iyer and Prabhsimran Singh struck well-crafted fifties after Yuzvendra Chahal's stunning four-wicket burst, including a hat-trick, as Punjab Kings defeated Chennai Super Kings by four wickets on Wednesday, eliminating the five-time champions from the IPL 2025 play-off race.

IPL

Chasing 191, PBKS reached 194/6 with two balls to spare. Iyer (72 off 41) and Prabhsimran (54 off 36) anchored the chase with a crucial 72-run partnership for the second wicket. PBKS now move up to second on the table with 13 points, while CSK sit 10th with only four.

Earlier, PBKS openers Priyansh Arya (23) and Prabhsimran scored at

■ Yuzvendra Chahal was wicketless for most of the innings, then took four wickets in five balls, including a hat-trick in the penultimate over, triggering CSK's collapse from a strong position

■ The PBKS opener

survived a close LBW review early in his innings while attempting a reverse sweep off Jadeja, and went on to

score a vital 54

■ With the match in the balance, Shreyas Iyer smashed 20 runs off Pathirana's 17th over, decisively shifting momentum towards PBKS

TWISTS & TURNS

■ Sam Curran hammered 26

runs off a single over to revive CSK hopes but fell in the 18th while ducking a bouncer, halting their surge

over nine runs an over. Prabhsimran survived a close LBW appeal on review, then showcased a variety of strokes, mixing reverse sweeps, scoops, and drives down the ground. Iyer, composed and calcu-

lated, kept the chase on track despite pressure through regular wickets and dot balls. He shut the door on CSK with 20 runs in the 17th over off Matheesha Pathirana, including two sixes and a four.

Chahal (4/32) turned the match in PBKS' favour with a decisive penultimate over. MS Dhoni (11) was caught at long-off. Deepak Hooda chipped to point, Anshul Kamboj was bowled, and Noor Ahmad miscued a shot that Marco Jansen held at long-on—sealing Chahal's second IPL hat-trick. CSK



Shreyas Iyer

collapsed, losing six wickets for five runs.

Before the meltdown, Sam Curran had lifted CSK with a superb 88 off 47 balls (9x4, 4x6). After CSK slipped to 48/3 in the powerplay, he added 78

with Dewald Brevis (32). Curran's 26-run assault on Suryansh Shedge included two sixes and two fours but he edged behind off Jansen in the 18th over, ending CSK's hopes of a par-plus score.

Maxwell likely to miss rest of IPL with fractured finger

AFP, CHENNAI: Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell missed Punjab Kings' IPL match on Wednesday with a fractured finger and is likely to be out injured for the rest of the T20 tournament.

"Unfortunately that he's got a fractured finger," skipper Shreyas Iyer said at the toss against Chennai Super Kings.

"To be honest, we haven't decided about the replacements yet so far but we are pretty strong in our team's mindset and what we have outside of our playing XI."

Iyer added: "We've got variety of players who can win you matches. So we're going to stick to that as much as possible."

With Maxwell absent, Punjab started the match with only three overseas players -- a maximum of four are allowed in the T20 tournament.

Another Australian import at Punjab, Marcus Stoinis also confirmed Maxwell's injury.

"Unfortunately, Maxi's broken his finger," Stoinis told the broadcasters before the match in Chennai.

"He broke it just before the last game at training. He didn't think it was too bad, but it ended up getting pretty bad. He had scans and yeah, the results weren't great. So unfortunately for Maxi, I think it's likely he's out for the tournament."

SCOREBOARD

Chennai Super Kings: Shaik Rasheed c Shashank b Arshdeep 11, Ayush Mhatre c Iyer b Jansen 7, Sam Curran c Inglis b Jansen 88, Ravindra Jadeja c Inglis b Brar 17, Dewald Brevis b Omarzai 32, Shivam Dube c Shashank b Arshdeep 6, MS Dhoni c Wadhera b Chahal 11, Deepak Hooda c Arya b Chahal 2, Anshul Kamboj b Chahal 0, Noor Ahmad c Jansen b Chahal 0, Khaleel Ahmed not out 0. **Extras:** 16. **Total:** 190 all out. **FOW:** 21-1, 22-2, 48-3, 126-4, 172-5, 184-6, 186-7, 186-8, 186-9, 190-10. **Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 3.2-0-25-2, Marco Jansen 4-0-30-2, Azmatullah Omarzai 4-0-39-1, Harpreet Brar 2-0-21-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-1-32-4, Suryansh Shedge 3-0-40-0

Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya c Dhoni b Ahmed 23, Prabhsimran Singh c Brevis b Ahmed 54, Shreyas Iyer b Pathirana 72, Nehal Wadhera c Jadeja b Pathirana 5, Shashank Singh c Brevis b Jadeja 23, Josh Inglis not out 6, Suryansh Shedge c Ahmad b Ahmed 1, Marco Jansen not out 4. **Extras:** 6. **Total:** 194 for 6. **FOW:** 44-1, 116-2, 136-3, 180-4, 188-5, 190-6. **Bowling:** Khaleel Ahmed 3.4-0-28-2, Anshul Kamboj 2-0-20-0, Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-37-1, Noor Ahmad 4-0-39-1, Sam Curran 3-0-27-0, Matheesha Pathirana 4-0-45-2

Man-of-the-Match: Shreyas Iyer

TODAY'S FIXTURE

Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians, at Sai Mansingh Stadium, Rajasthan, at 7.30 pm

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Dembele sinks Arsenal as PSG seize edge in semis

AFP, LONDON: Paris Saint-Germain seized the advantage in their Champions League semi-final against Arsenal as Ousmane Dembele sealed a 1-0 win in the first leg on Tuesday.

Dembele struck in the opening minutes at the Emirates Stadium and Luis Enrique's side held on to the lead with a composed display that kept Arsenal at bay.

PSG will head into the second leg at the Parc des Princes on May 7 as favourites to reach the final against Barcelona or Inter Milan as they look to win the tournament for the first time.

But the French champions should take nothing for granted given their history of epic European collapses.

Arsenal's first defeat in 18 home European matches was a painful blow to their own bid to win a first Champions League crown.

Mikel Arteta had labelled Arsenal's run to the semi-finals a "beautiful story".

The last chapter might make for frustrating reading, but Arteta insisted they aren't dead and buried just yet.

The Gunners had beaten holders Real Madrid 5-1 on aggregate to reach their first

Champions League semi-final since losing to Manchester United in 2009.

They could not replicate the swaggering display that blew Madrid away 3-0 in the first leg, despite a frenzied atmosphere as kick-off approached.

Arsenal were the one English side they had failed to conquer, losing 2-0 in north London in October.

However, PSG were without the influential Dembele for disciplinary reasons on that occasion and Luis Enrique insisted his side were "more complete" seven months on.



Ousmane Dembele

RESULT

Semi-finals, first leg
Arsenal 0 Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Dembele 4)

Bangladesh crush Zimbabwe by an innings in second Test

AFP, CHATTOGRAM (Bangladesh): Bangladesh won the second and final Test against Zimbabwe by an innings and 106 runs on Wednesday, a decisive victory in less than three days to level the series.

Zimbabwe scored 227 in their first innings after winning the toss, with Bangladesh scoring a formidable 444 in response.

The visitors then collapsed for 111 in the second session of the third day in Chattogram.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz starred with both bat and ball, scoring a century and then bagging 5-32 with the ball to hand Zimbabwe a crushing defeat.

It was the all-rounder's third five-wicket haul of the series after five in each innings of the Sylhet Test.

His spin-bowling partner Tajul Islam bagged 3-42 for nine wickets in the match.

Maradona was allowed to order hamburgers in days after surgery, ICU director testifies

AP, BUENOS AIRES: Diego Maradona was allowed to order unhealthy food including hamburgers during recovery from surgery, the director of the clinic's intensive care unit testified at the trial of seven health professionals charged with negligence in the soccer star's death.

Fernando Villarejo, who worked at the Olivos Clinic on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, told the court he felt like a pawn between the 'king and the queen', referring to neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque and psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, as they determined Maradona's post-surgery care in November 2020.

"Anything was allowed inside the room," Villarejo

Boult plays down Suryavanshi threat, calls challenge 'exciting'

PTI, JAIPUR: Mumbai Indians pacer Trent Boult described the prospect of facing Rajasthan Royals' 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi as 'exciting', but said it is not something that would 'worry' him on a flat Sai Mansingh Stadium deck.

The 14-year-old Suryavanshi wrote his name in history books, hitting a 38-ball 101 against Gujarat Titans to become the youngest ever to score a ton in the IPL and overall men's T20 cricket. His 35-ball innings was also the second fastest ton in the tournament.

"(I have) bowled to some brilliant batsmen around the world, the Chris Gayles, the AB de Villiers, all the quality that come in these tournaments. I think I'll be careful not to say I'm worried about a 14-year-old," Boult told the media on the eve of MI's clash



"I have bowled to some brilliant batsmen around the world, the Chris Gayles, the AB de Villiers, all the quality that come in these tournaments. I think I'll be careful not to say I'm worried about a 14-year-old — Trent Boult, Mumbai Indians pacer"

against RR here.

"But it's going to be an exciting challenge to come up against a guy who's obviously fearless and running in hot form at the moment, so that's what it's about."

"The whole world saw that performance the other night. (It was a) quality (knock) from such a young kid. It's the beauty of this tournament, of all the players coming out and taking

any opportunity with both hands and I thought he did that very nicely."

Boult said his experience and knowledge of the pitch and conditions here would hold them in "good stead".

"No, I don't as a bowler," he said when asked if he was anticipating another high-scoring game at this venue.

Mumbai Indians were languishing at the penultimate spot at one point earlier in the season but they have turned around their fortunes with five wins in a row.

few days after the surgery, Luque ordered him to sedate Maradona to "try to detoxify" him from his drinking habits and because he was an unmanageable patient. "I didn't agree — it wasn't the right place. I told Luque all this," said the director of the clinic's intensive care unit, who said that he recorded all of it in the medical records.

He added that Maradona's family agreed to the sedation "out of ignorance or because they trusted (his father's people)."

Villarejo said that he agreed with the cardiologist who testified last week that the former national team captain should have recovered in a rehabilitation clinic rather than in a private home.

Gujarat looking at Gill as long-term captain: COO

PTI, AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans have systems and processes in place to help Shubman Gill "grow as a captain" as the franchise has appointed the India batter with a long-term view, says COO Colonel Arvinder Singh.

A vital cog in their title-winning campaign in Gujarat Titans' maiden season in IPL 2022, Gill was appointed captain of the franchise when Hardik Pandya moved back to Mumbai Indians ahead of the 2024 edition.

While the first year as a full-time skipper didn't bring Gill much success as GT finished eighth, his side has been one to beat in this IPL, currently ranked third with an impressive six wins and three losses in nine matches so far.

"At Gujarat Titans, whatever we do, we don't do it for a season or two; we think long-term. When Hardik moved on, many were of the opinion that we had players who can just walk in and take on the role of a captain; but we chose to invest in Shubman," Singh said in a statement.

"This decision clearly indicated that we were investing in Shubman for a long-term, not just for a single season. The results of that investment are now evident," he added.

Singh said GT have put in a system in place for Gill, who was appointed India's vice-captain during their victorious Champions Trophy campaign, to develop as a leader.

"What is more important for us as an ecosystem is to understand that you cannot just make someone a captain and expect him to do everything," Singh said.

sportspopup

Superbet Rapid and Blitz: Praggnanandhaa bounces back to jump to second spot

WARSAW (Poland): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa bounced back from a poor start to climb to second in the overall standings at the end of the first half of the blitz section in the Superbet Rapid & Blitz tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour. Praggnanandhaa's efforts held him in good stead for a second day running. The Indian had not done well on the first two days of rapid chess but has come back strongly especially showing his expertise in the blitz section. With just five minutes given for each game and a three seconds increment after every move is made, Praggnanandhaa played his usual brand of complicated games and ended with three straight wins. On a day when Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram ran a bit out of steam and could only garner 3.5 points from his nine games, Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia cruised to a brilliant 8/9 on the penultimate day and took his tally to a massive 19 points out of a possible 27.

Cricket retained for 2026 Asian Games in Japan

NEW DELHI: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has confirmed that cricket will be a part of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games to be held in Japan from September 19 to October 4. The call to retain cricket was taken during the meeting between the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the organising committee (AINAGOC) earlier this week. "The latest development in the compilation of the sports programme came at the 41st meeting of the AINAGOC Board of Directors at Nagoya City Hall on Monday, April 28, when cricket and Mixed Martial Arts were both formally approved," the OCA said.

English Premier League to open office in Mumbai

NEW DELHI: The English Premier League on Wednesday announced the opening of an office in Mumbai to engage local fans and promote football in India. The Premier League has a long history of working in India. At a grassroots level, the League has been running its Premier Skills programme in partnership with the British Council to support the development of the community football workforce since 2007.

Swiatek recovers against Keys to reach Madrid Open semis

MADRID: Iga Swiatek kept her Madrid Open title defence alive, as she avenged her Australian Open defeat to Madison Keys with a 0-6, 6-3, 6-2 win against the American in the quarter-finals on Wednesday. Searching for her first title of the season, the second-seeded Swiatek recovered from a poor opening set to improve her clean record on clay against Keys to 4-0 and reach a third consecutive Madrid semi-final. Meanwhile on Arantxa Sanchez-Sanchez stadium, Novak Djokovic's conqueror Matteo Arnaldi earned multiple top-20 wins in one event for the first time by knocking out 16th-seeded Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 7-5 to move into the Madrid quarter-finals.

Djokovic withdraws from the Italian Open after losing his past 3 matches

ROME: Novak Djokovic pulled out of the Italian Open in the midst of a three-match losing streak, shedding doubt on how well he'll be able to play at the upcoming French Open as he continues to seek a record 25th Grand Slam trophy and 100th tournament title overall. The clay-court event in Rome, which will be held next month, posted on social media that Djokovic wouldn't be participating and wrote: "See you next year, Nole," referring to the 37-year-old Serbian star by his nickname.

Bournemouth's Evanilson has 3-match ban overturned after red card against Utd

LONDON: Bournemouth striker Evanilson had a three-match ban overturned on Wednesday following his red card against Manchester United in the Premier League. The Brazilian was dismissed in the 70th minute of the 1-1 draw with United at the Vitality Stadium on Sunday following a challenge on Noussair Mazraoui. The suspension was removed after a successful claim of wrongful dismissal by Bournemouth, with Evanilson appearing to slip before taking out Mazraoui. Evanilson will now be available to face Arsenal on Saturday, as well as for games against Aston Villa and Manchester City.

Real Madrid's Rudiger, Mendy and Alaba out injured until end of season

MADRID: Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger is set to miss up to eight weeks after undergoing surgery on a knee injury on Tuesday. Spanish and European champions Madrid also lost Ferland Mendy to a quadriceps injury, with the left-back likely out for at least two months. Fellow defender David Alaba joined his team-mates on the long-term injury list after it was announced by the club he had been "diagnosed with an internal meniscus tear in his left knee".

Former national shooting coach Sunny Thomas dies

KOCHI: Former India shooting coach Sunny Thomas, under whose tutelage the sport achieved some historic highs including multiple Olympic medals, died on Wednesday after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 84 and breathed his last in Kottayam where he was based. Thomas is survived by his wife KJ Josamma, sons Manoj Sunny, Sanil Sunny and daughter Sonia Sunny. The former shooter, who guided the Indian marksmen from 1993 to 2012, was a first-hand witness to several momentous occasions in the sport's history. He was bestowed with the Dronacharya award in 2001 and was part of the coaching staff during the 2004 Athens Olympics where Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore became the first Indian to win a Games medal in shooting with his silver in the men's double trap competition.

India to play Thailand in FIFA international friendly on June 4

NEW DELHI: Indian men's football team will play an international friendly against higher-ranked Thailand away from home on June 4, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced on Wednesday. The 'Blue Tigers' are currently competing in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round. The international friendly, to be held at Thammasat Stadium, will be a part of the team's preparation for its qualification match against Hong Kong-China on June 10. India are ranked 127th in the FIFA Rankings, while Thailand are 99th. India and Thailand have faced each other 26 times. While the Blue Tigers have won seven matches, the Changsuek have tasted victory on 12 occasions. The remaining seven matches ended in draws.