

# MI make it six wins in a row, Royals out of play-offs race



Mumbai Indians' Ryan Rickelton gets clean bowled during the Indian Premier League match against Rajasthan Royals, in Jaipur, on Thursday

**PTI, JAIPUR:** Mumbai Indians extended their remarkable winning streak to six matches with a 100-run rout of Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday, pushing the home team out of the race for play-offs.

Openers Rohit Sharma (53 off 36 balls) and Ryan Rickelton (61 off 38) struck sublime half-centuries before Suryakumar Yadav (48 not out off 23) and Hardik Pandya (48 not out off 23) went on the offensive to power Mumbai Indians to 217 for two.

Royals, who chased down 210 against Gujarat Titans here three nights ago with more than four overs to spare, never got going in the run chase and folded up for 117 in 16.1 overs.

## SCOREBOARD

**Mumbai Indians:** Ryan Rickelton b Theekshana 61, Rohit Sharma c Jaiswal b Parag 53, Suryakumar Yadav not out 48, \*Hardik Pandya not out 48. **Extras:** 7. **Total:** 217-2. **Fall of wickets:** 116-1, 123-2. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-42-0, Fazalhaq Farooqi 4-0-54-0, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-47-1, Kumar Kartikeya 2-0-22-0, Akash Madhwal 4-0-39-0, \*Riyan Parag 2-0-12-1. **Rajasthan Royals:** Yashasvi Jaiswal b Boult 13, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Jacks b Chahar 0, Nitish Rana c Varma b Boult 9, \*Riyan Parag c Rohit b Bumrah 16, Dhruv Jurel c and b Sharma 11, Shimron Hetmyer c Yadav b Bumrah 0, Shubham Dubey c Boult b Pandya 15, Jofra Archer c Bumrah b Boult 30, Maheesh Theekshana c Yadav b Sharma 2, Kumar Kartikeya c Chahar b Sharma 2, Akash Madhwal not out 4. **Extras:** 15. **Total:** 117-10. **Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 18-2, 41-3, 47-4, 47-5, 64-6, 76-7, 87-8, 91-9, 117. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 2-0-13-1, Trent Boult 2.1-0-28-3, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-15-2, Corbin Bosch 3-0-29-0, \*Hardik Pandya 1-0-2-1, Karn Sharma 4-0-23-3.

**Man-of-the-match:** Ryan Rickelton

It was Royals' eighth defeat in 11 games while Mumbai Indians have seven wins from 11 matches.

Another victory should be enough to secure a play-offs berth for the five-time champions.

The 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi (0 off 2), who took the cricketing world by storm with his 35-ball hundred on Monday night, was caught at mid-on off Deepak Chahar in the first over of the RR innings.

His opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal struck two towering sixes off Trent Boult in the following over before being castled by the New Zealander. It was a procession from thereon.

Jasprit Bumrah, who was brought into the attack in the fifth over, sent back Shimron Hetmyer and Riyan Parag with short balls to reduce Royals to 51 for five inside the powerplay.

Earlier, Rohit and Rickelton put the home team under pressure with a sizzling display of clean hitting.

In their 116-run stand, Rickelton targeted the quick bowlers while Rohit went after spinners especially Maheesh Theekshana, who was introduced as early as third over.

Suryakumar and Hardik Pandya capitalised on the openers' good work to take the team past 200.

Jofra Archer bowled a tight first over but the Mumbai openers collected 18 runs off his second. Notwithstanding the express pace of Archer, Rohit made room to cut the England pacer for a four before Rickelton pulled him for a six over mid-wicket.

## TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

**Gujarat Titans vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, at Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, Ahmedabad, at 7.30 pm**

# Barca fight back against Inter in a sensational 3-3 draw



Inter Milan's players watch helplessly as Barcelona's Lamine Yamal dribbles his way down the middle during the first leg of semi-final of the UEFA Champions League, at the Lluís Companys Stadium in Barcelona, Spain

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULT

**Semi-finals, first leg**

**Barcelona 3 (Yamal 24, Torres 38, Sommer 65-og) Inter Milan 3 (Thuram 1, Dumfries 21, 63).**

**Second legs to be played on May 7/8, at 12.30 am**

**AFP, BARCELONA:** Barcelona and Inter Milan shared a compelling 3-3 draw in a high-octane Champions League semi-final first leg clash on Wednesday, with teenage star Lamine Yamal shining bright.

The Italian side raced into a two-goal lead with superb strikes from Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries, before the unstoppable Yamal pulled Barca back into it with a sublime solo effort.

Ferran Torres levelled for the five-time champions and although Inter nosed ahead through Dumfries again, a Yann Sommer own goal left the tie on a knife-edge at the halfway stage.

Despite losing three domestic games in a row and seeing their treble hopes crumble, Inter showed resilience and quality in Catalonia. Inter were desperately hoping Thuram would be fit to play after a thigh injury and he showed precisely why, scoring the fastest ever Champions League semi-final goal after 30 seconds.

Dutch wide man Dumfries aimed a low cross towards Thuram and Inigo Martinez slipped at just the

wrong time, allowing the France striker room to finish with an impudent backheel flick. Quadruple-chasing Barcelona seized control and pushed forward, roared on by the nervous Olympic stadium crowd.

Yamal, on his 100th Barcelona appearance was leading the charge.

Against the run of play Inter scored their second. Francesco Acerbi nodded on a corner and Dumfries reached the dropping ball first to score with a stunning acrobatic effort for the 2023 runners-up.

Barcelona teams over the past few years may have crumbled but Hansi Flick's youthful side are not burdened by the series of European failures since they last won the competition in 2015.

Least of all teenage wizard Yamal, who pulled Barcelona back into the game

just three minutes later with a wonderful individual goal that made him the youngest player ever to score in the semis.

On the eve of the game the Spaniard rejected comparisons to all-time Barca great Lionel Messi, but his goal was straight from the Argentine's playbook.

Yamal shook off Thuram, floated inside from the right flank and past Henrikh Mkhitaryan into the box, drawing defenders towards him but before they could stop him, stroked an inch-perfect shot in off the left post.

Minutes later Yamal nearly repeated the trick. This time he darted outside, pausing to let Federico Dimarco lunge past him and off the pitch.

From a tight angle the youngster flashed a shot that Sommer tipped onto the crossbar. Barca pulled

level when Pedri hooked a ball into the area for Raphinha to head across goal and Torres to convert from close range after 38 breathless minutes.

Kounde limped off before half-time in a blow for Barca, while Inter captain Lautaro Martinez also came off hurt, and Inzaghi said he "doubts" if he will be ready for the return.

Inter took the sting out of the game early in the second half and then sucker-punched Barca, scoring from another corner, with Dumfries' header bouncing in off Dani Olmo.

Barcelona equalised within two minutes, with Yamal stepping over a corner on the edge of the box, allowing it to run to Raphinha. The Brazilian's rasping effort smashed against the crossbar and then in, off the back of the unfortunate diving Sommer's head.

Inter's Mkhitaryan had a goal ruled out for an extremely tight offside, later saying he would think about it "maybe for the rest of my life", and Yamal hit the bar again as the sides could not be separated.

# Munoz named Best Player of I-League 2024-25 season, Fazila Best Striker of IWL

## AWARDS

**INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2024-25**

**Best Striker:** Fazila Ikwaput (24 goals, Gokulam Kerala FC)  
**Best Goalkeeper:** Elangbam Panthoi Chanu (East Bengal FC)  
**Best Defender:** Purnima Kumari (Sethu FC)  
**Best Midfielder:** Hemam Shilky Devi (Gokulam Kerala FC)  
**Best Match Organisation:** Gokulam Kerala FC  
**Best Media Activities:** East Bengal FC

**I-LEAGUE 2024-25**

**Best Player:** David Castaneda Munoz (Sreenidi Deccan FC)  
**Highest Scorer:** David Castaneda Munoz (17 goals, Sreenidi Deccan FC)  
**Syed Abdul Rahim Award for Best Coach:** Dimitris Dimitriou (Churchill Bros)  
**Best Midfielder:** Pape Gassama (Churchill Brothers FC Goa)  
**Jarnail Singh Award for Best Defender:** Daniel Gon alves (Shillong Lajong FC)  
**Best Goalkeeper:** Jaspreet Singh (Namdhari FC)  
**Best Emerging Player:** Hridaya Jain (Delhi FC)  
**Fair Play Award:** Dempo SC  
**Best Match Organisation:** Gokulam Kerala FC  
**Best Media Activities:** Rajasthan United FC



**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Prolific striker David Castaneda Munoz of Sreenidi Deccan FC was on Thursday named the Best Player of the I-League season 2024-25.

Even though Sreenidi Deccan FC finished the league in the ninth place, Munoz netted 17 goals across 22 matches to top the chart.

In the Indian Women's League (IWL), Gokulam Kerala FC's Fazila Ikwaput was the top scorer for the second season in a row, and won the Best Striker award. Fazila hammered in 24 goals as the Kerala side finished second in the standings with 29 points from 14 matches behind table-toppers East Bengal (37 points).

# Satwik-Chirag bag Khel Ratna

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award to badminton stars Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, here, on Thursday, completing a long-pending felicitation of the celebrated duo.

Chirag and Satwik were named for the honour last year but could not attend the glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan owing to their playing commitments.

They were due to receive the award from Mandaviya in February but that too had to be postponed after Satwik's father R Kasi Viswanatham died of cardiac arrest on the day of the



brief ceremony for which he was scheduled to travel. "Felicitated and presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 to our badminton champions, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, in New Delhi today," Mandaviya posted on X along with pictures of the felicitation held at the Sports Authority of India headquarters here.

"This award is a testament to their dedication and exceptional performances on the court. I wish them the very best in their future endeavours," he said.

Satwik and Chirag Shetty have been trailblazers in Indian badminton.

The duo won a gold at the 2022 Asian and Commonwealth Games, and the 2023 Asian Championships. The duo is the only

Indian doubles pair to hold the No. 1 spot in the BWF World Rankings and win a BWF World Tour Super 1000 title.

In 2023, Satwik also set a Guinness World Record for the fastest badminton smash by a male player, reaching a speed of 565 km/h.

He had shared a heartwarming video on social media featuring his father unwrapping his Guinness World Record certificate.

"As my shuttle soared at 565 kmph, I realized the true speed of a father's pride an unbreakable record in my heart," he had posted at that time in a tribute to his father's contribution in his growth.

## sportspopup

### Indian boxers add 4 more gold medals, finish 2nd in Asian U-15 & U-17 Championships

**AMMAN (Jordan):** Indian boxers wrapped up their campaign at the inaugural Asian U-15 & U-17 Championships in style, adding four gold medals on the final day to finish second overall. India's tally included 15 gold, 6 silver, and 22 bronze medals, placing them behind table-toppers Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan finished third. The final day of the tournament saw the Indian U-17 contingent bag four more gold medals -- all from the girls' division. Khushi Chand (46kg) edged past Mongolia's Altanzul Altangadas in a hard-fought 3-2 win, while Ahaana Sharma (50 kg) and Jannat (54kg) delivered dominant 5-0 victories over opponents from Uzbekistan. The final gold came through Anshika (80+kg), who ended her bout against Jordan's Jana Alalawneh with a first-round RSC to seal India's 15th title of the championships.

### Indian lifters fetch 2 bronze medal at Youth and Junior World C'ships

**LIMA (Peru):** India began its campaign at the IWF Youth and Junior World Weightlifting Championships with two bronze medals here. Jyoshna Sabar secured a bronze in the youth girls' 40kg category with a total lift of 129kg (56kg+72kg). She also clinched a silver in the clean and jerk segment on Wednesday. In the youth boys' 49kg category, Harsabardhan Sahu lifted a total of 197kg (87kg+110kg) to finish third overall and earn a bronze medal. He added another bronze for his clean and jerk performance.

### Ruud sails into Madrid Open semis

**MADRID:** Casper Ruud reached the Madrid Open semi-finals with a 6-3, 7-5 straight sets triumph over Daniil Medvedev on Thursday. The Norwegian ousted Taylor Fritz to reach the quarter-finals and secured his first win against the Russian in their fourth meeting. Strong on clay Ruud only converted two of his eight break points but it was enough to secure victory, with Medvedev, who dislikes the surface, not producing a single break. Ruud, ranked 15th, will face Francisco Cerundolo or Jakub Mensik in the final four. Later fifth seed

Jack Draper faces Matteo Arnaldi and Lorenzo Musetti takes on Gabriel Diallo in the other quarter-finals. In the WTA 1000 semi-finals holder Iga Swiatek is up against American Coco Gauff, while Aryna Sabalenka faces in-form Elina Svitolina.

### Indian women hockey team's agony continues, loses 0-2 to Australia

**PERTH:** The Indian women's hockey team fought hard before going down 0-2 against Australia in the third game of its Down Under tour at the Perth Hockey Stadium here on Thursday. Courtney Schonell (9th minute) opened the scoring for the hosts in the first quarter, before Grace Stewart (52nd) added a second goal in the final phase of the match to seal the contest. The visitors had earlier lost 3-5 and 2-3 against Australia 'A' in the first two matches of the exposure trip. This match was India's first outing against Australia's main team. India will take on Australia again in the fourth match of the tour here on Saturday.

### Superbet Rapid and Blitz: Praggnanandhaa finishes third

**WARSAW (Poland):** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finished third while Slovenia's Vladimir Fedoseev expectedly won the Superbet Rapid and Blitz tournament, an event on the Grand Chess tour. Final Standings: 1. Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo) 26.5; 2. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 21.5; 3. R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) 20.5; 4. Levon Aronian (Usa) 20; 5. Firouzja Alireza (Fra) 18.5; 6. Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 18; 7-8: Duda Jan-Krzysztof (Pol), Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind) 17 each. 9. David Gavrilescu (Rou) 11; 10. Veselin Topalov (Bul) 9.

### Lord's to host 2026 Women's T20 WC final

**DUBAI:** The iconic Lord's Cricket Ground will host the final of the expanded Women's T20 World Cup on July 5 next year, the International Cricket Council announced on Thursday. The 12-team tournament will begin on June 12 and feature 33 matches, culminating in a grand finale at Lord's, which also hosted the final of the 2017 Women's ODI World Cup. In addition to Lord's, six other venues will stage matches, including Old Trafford, Headingley, Edgbaston, The Oval, Hampshire Bowl, and the Bristol County Ground.