

# Rains dash Sunrisers Hyderabad hopes to qualify for play-offs

Cummins-led Sunrisers Hyderabad pace attack ran through the Delhi Capitals batting line-up to limit the visitors to 133/7 before rains washed out the tie

**PTI, HYDERABAD:** Sunrisers Hyderabad were eliminated from the play-offs race after their Indian Premier League fixture against Delhi Capitals was called off due to heavy rain following the first innings, here, on Monday.

Pat Cummins-led SRH pace attack ran through the DC batting line-up to limit the visitors to 133/7 before rain dashed the slim hopes of the home team. Both teams shared a point each for the abandoned game.

With 13 points from 11 games, DC remain in contention for a top-four spot.

After reaching the final last year, it was a season to forget for SRH who could not replicate their ballistic run of 2024 with the bat. Having collected only seven points from 11 matches, SRH will now be playing for pride.

Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals were already eliminated from the competition. Before rain lashed the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, the hosts put up a clinical effort with the ball and were on course for only their fourth win of the season until rain arrived, creating large puddles of



Sunrisers Hyderabad players celebrate the wicket of Delhi Capitals batter Faf du Plessis during the Indian Premier League match at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, in Hyderabad, Monday

water on the outfield. The match officials decided to call off the game at 11.10 pm local time.

The shot selection of Delhi Capitals' batters contributed to their downfall after being put in to bat.

They were left reeling at 29 for five in 7.1 overs with captain Cummins causing the maximum damage.

Cummins had Karun Nair caught behind on the very first ball of the match with a good length ball around the

off-stump. It was a rather loose shot from the DC batter first up.

Faf du Plessis departed in Cummins' following over, a failed attempt to put the relentless Australian away for a boundary. Not getting

any loose ball from Cummins, the South Africa went for a pull on the charge only to be caught by the wicket-keeper.

Cummins' third victim was Abhishek Porel who was caught after mistiming a flick.

Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat then got into the act by dismissing Axar Patel and K L Rahul respectively. The inform Rahul went for a drive on the up but ended up edging it to Ishan Kishan behind the stumps.

It was one way traffic until Tristan Stubbs (41 not out off 36) and impact player Ashutosh Sharma (41 off 26) combined to take DC to a respectable total. They shared a 66-run stand off 45 balls.

Sharma was able to break the shackles by depositing leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari for a couple of sixes over long-on in the 15th over.

Stubbs did not look as comfortable as Sharma in the middle but managed to provide much needed support to the latter. The South African could find only four boundaries with the last one coming off the final ball of the innings.

## TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

**Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Titans, at the Wankhede Cricket Stadium, Mumbai, at 7.30 pm**

## Rabada eligible to play after completing treatment programme

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The provisional ban on South African pacer Kagiso Rabada for using a prohibited recreational drug has been lifted after he completed a "substance abuse treatment programme" during the suspension, making him available for his IPL franchise Gujarat Titans.

According to a statement from the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), Rabada, who has already linked up with the Gujarat Titans after serving his suspension, can now take the field. GT will take on Mumbai Indians in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old was tested during the SA20 league in January and the lifting of suspension also makes him available for the World Test Championship final against Australia next month.

"Rabada tested positive for a Substance of Abuse and was subsequently notified of the allegation of his doping offence on 1 April 2025. A provisional suspension was imposed and Mr. Rabada returned immediately to South Africa from India," the release stated.

"As per the South African Anti-Doping Rules specifically pertaining to Substances of Abuse, the

player was offered an opportunity to complete a substance abuse treatment programme.

"After Rabada satisfactorily completed two sessions of his treatment program, his provisional suspension ended. The player has effectively served a one-month period of ineligibility and may now resume participation in sport," it added.

Cocaine, heroin, MDMA and cannabis fall in the category of 'Substances of Abuse' for which Rabada was sanctioned.

The abuse of such drugs can lead to a maximum of four-year ban but if a sportsperson can prove that the use occurred out-of-competition and is not related to performance enhancement, the suspension could be reduced to three months.

The athlete's ban can be further brought down to two months if he/she is willing to undertake a treatment program that is approved by South African Anti-Doping body.

The South African pacer had left the league last month after playing two games for Gujarat Titans, citing personal reasons. GT had bought him for Rs 10.75 crore.

## Dubey joins SRH as a replacement



**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Sunrisers Hyderabad have roped in all-rounder Harsh Dubey as a replacement for the injured left-hander Smaran Ravichandran for the remainder of the Indian Premier League season.

Dubey, who represents Vidarbha in the domestic circuit, has joined SRH for Rs 30 lakh. The 22-year-old has featured in 16 T20s, 20 List A matches, and 18 First-Class games, amassing 127 wickets and 941 runs across formats.

Earlier this year, he was named Player of the Tournament for its stellar show in the Ranji Trophy in which he scored 476 runs and took 69 wickets.

The 21-year-old Smaran, a left-handed batter from Karnataka, had been signed as the replacement for the injured Adam Zampa last month.

## Ruud wins Madrid Open

**AP, MADRID:** Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian to win a Masters 1000 title after beating Jack Draper 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 in the Madrid Open final on Sunday.

The former second-ranked Ruud rallied from 5-3 down in the first set and sealed the victory after capitalizing on his lone break at 2-2 in the third.

The 26-year-old Ruud yelled and thrust both arms into the air after clinching the win on his first match point on the Caja Magica clay court. "It's been a long time coming," Ruud said. "(This was) one of the really big goals I dreamed about when I was young, so it's an incredible feeling to accomplish it. Also the way I did it today, it was a great match. I knew Jack had been playing unbelievable all year, and especially in this tournament, so I knew that if I didn't bring my A-plus game, I was going to be whooped around the court."

The 15th-ranked Ruud will return to the top 10 thanks to his campaign in Madrid, reaching No. 7 in the rankings on Monday.

"Luckily, I played really well," Ruud said. "Jack has become such an incredible player, on any surface now... This is a really big boost for me, and I would like to keep it going."

The 13-time tour champion is the first Norwegian to lift a Masters 1000 trophy



Norway's Casper Ruud poses with his trophy after winning against Britain's Jack Draper during their 2025 ATP Tour Madrid Open tennis tournament singles final match at the Caja Magica in Madrid

since the series was introduced in 1990, according to the ATP. It was Ruud's third such final after losing to Stefanos Tsitsipas in Monte Carlo last year and to Carlo Alcaraz in Miami in 2022. Ruud has more titles (12) on clay than any other play-

er since the start of 2020, according to the ATP. Draper won at Indian Wells in March. After his quarterfinal victory in Madrid, he secured a top-five debut in the rankings. Draper said Ruud was "braver than him in the key moments on Sunday."

## India extend dominance in white-ball formats, retain top spot in ODIs and T20Is

**PTI, DUBAI:** India retained their top position in the ODIs and T20Is to extend their dominance in the white-ball formats but slipped a place to fourth spot in the Test format, in which Australia reigned supreme, in the latest ICC annual men's ranking update issued on Monday.

The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2024 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent.

In the ODI rankings, 2023 World Cup finalists India have strengthened their grip at the top on the back of a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating points from 122 to 124.

Coming in second place are the runners-up at the

Champions Trophy, New Zealand, overtaking their Trans-Tasman rivals Australia, who now occupy the third spot.

Sri Lanka, who enjoyed an excellent run at home in recent months, including ODI series wins against India and Australia, are in fourth place after gaining five rating points, leapfrogging Pakistan (fifth with a gain of one point) and South Africa (sixth with loss of four points) in the process.

Afghanistan also climbed up the ladder moving to seventh following a four-point improvement at the expense of former world champions England, who fell to eighth after dropping four points.

West Indies, meanwhile, rose to the ninth spot after gaining five points to

surpass Bangladesh, who dropped to 10th with a four-point decline.

In T20Is, the current world champions India are placed at the top, although their lead over the second-placed Australia has reduced from 10 to nine points.

For the first time ever, the annual update features 100 teams in the global T20I rankings, with the updated list including all sides that have played a minimum of eight T20Is over the past three years.

The original global T20I rankings were launched in 2019 and included 80 sides.

The 2022 edition champions England, sit at number three, with New Zealand, West Indies and South Africa at four, five, and six respectively.

Sri Lanka's surge continues in the shortest format of the game as well, now seventh in the rankings after overtaking Asian rivals Pakistan (8). Bangladesh and Afghanistan follow their fellow Asian teams at ninth and 10th places, respectively.

Ireland also showed improvement, swapping spots with Zimbabwe to sit in the 11th rank.

Reigning World Test Championship holders Australia have retained their top spot in the Test team rankings, though their lead was trimmed from 15 to 13 points after the annual update.

Pat Cummins' side boasts a rating of 126, staying well in front of the chasing pack. Ben Stokes-led England made a big jump, moving up into the second place while

overtaking both South Africa and India.

England's improved position comes on the back of winning three out of their four Test series in the past year. Their rating points climbed to 113, while South Africa (111) and India (105) each slipped one place to third and fourth, respectively.

The rest of the top 10 remains unchanged, with New Zealand holding fifth place, followed by Sri Lanka, Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Only 10 teams are currently ranked in the Test table. Ireland need to play one more Test in the next 12 months to qualify for a ranking, while Afghanistan must play three more matches to join the list.

## Play-offs dream still alive: Pant

**PTI, DHARAMSALA:** Disappointed but not deflated, Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant is still dreaming of sneaking into the IPL play-offs as he believes his struggling side can turn things around in the remaining three games.

Another poor batting effort by the top order led LSG's 37-run defeat at the hands of Punjab Kings on Sunday. LSG have 10 points from 11 games and are currently placed seventh in the league table. With a net run-rate of -0.47, merely winning three games might not be enough for Pant and his men to make it to the play-offs.

"The dream is still alive. If we can win the next three matches, we can definitely turn around and do amazing things," Pant said.

## sportspopup

### India's Parv bags bronze at Youth and Junior World C'ships

**LIMA (Peru):** Indian weightlifter Parv Choudhary fetched a bronze medal in the IWF Youth and Junior World Weightlifting Championships here. Competing in the youth boys 96kg weight class, Parv heaved a total of 315kg. He lifted 140kg in snatch while his clean and jerk effort of 175 kg fetched him a silver medal in the category on Sunday. This is India's third medal in the ongoing tournament. Jyoshna Sabar (40kg) and Harsabardhan Sahu (49kg) had also won bronze medals in their respective weight categories last week. At the World Championships, medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift, unlike the Olympic Games.

### Srikanth, young Indian shuttlers eye turnaround in form at Taipei Open

**TAIPEI:** Battling an extended run of poor form, Kidambi Srikanth and a host of young Indian shuttlers, including Ayush Shetty and Anupama Upadhyaya, will be eager to deliver strong performances at the USD 240,000 Taipei Open, beginning, here, on Tuesday. Srikanth will look to arrest his slump when he begins his campaign against compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, the 2022 World Junior Championships silver-medallist who made headlines by stunning then world No. 2 Anders Antonsen of Denmark at the Swiss Open in March this year. The 2023 World Junior Championships bronze-medallist Ayush Shetty, 20, opens his campaign against third seed Lee Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei in this Super 300 event. The 2023 National Games gold-medallist Tharun Manneppalli faces Japan's Shogo Ogawa, while Meiraba Luwang Mainsam will take on seventh-seeded Canadian Brian Yang. In women's singles, promising youngsters Anupama Upadhyaya and Unnati Hooda will face off in an all-Indian opening-round clash.

### Bowlers can finally get some swing back, says pacer Shami

**HYDERABAD:** India pacer Mohammed Shami has observed that the BCCI's move to revoke the ban on using saliva on the ball in IPL 2025 has restored the balance between bat and ball in a league that has for long been a graveyard for bowlers. Before the start of this IPL, the BCCI lifted the ban on using saliva to polish the ball and introduced "two ball" rule to counter dew in night matches, bringing much-needed respite for bowlers, who had been advocating for changes to bowling rules. "For a long time, the rules have favoured batters - but now, things are finally shifting a bit," Shami said on JioHotstar. "After COVID, the saliva ban made it tough to reverse the ball, but with that lifted, bowlers can finally get some swing back. Also, being able to change a wet ball is a big plus -- a dry ball gives better grip and life, especially in tough conditions," he added.

### Inter captain Lautaro could make surprise comeback against Barcelona in CL

**MILAN:** Inter Milan captain Lautaro Martinez is hoping to emulate strike partner Marcus Thuram ahead of their team's Champions League semifinal against Barcelona on Tuesday. In the build-up to the first leg last week, the focus was on whether Thuram would be fit in time even for a place on the bench after missing three matches with a thigh problem. But Thuram surprisingly started and scored the opener just seconds after kick-off in a thrilling 3-3 draw that has set up a must-see sequel in Milan. This time around it is Lautaro who is a doubt after having to come off at halftime against Barcelona last Wednesday with a thigh muscle injury. Inter coach Simone Inzaghi admitted last week that it would be "very difficult" to have Lautaro back in time as that type of injury normally takes 10 days to two weeks to recover from.

### Guys with speed forced Mumbai Indians to play Rohit as impact sub: Jayawardene

**MUMBAI:** The decision to use Rohit Sharma as an 'impact sub' was not a pre-meditated one but it was taken since the team felt the need to have players who could bowl and be quick in the field, Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said on Monday. Jayawardene said Rohit was also carrying a niggle from India's victorious campaign in Champions Trophy. "No, it wasn't at the start. Obviously, Ro (Rohit) was on the field in some of the games," Jayawardene said during MI's training session when asked if it was the plan since the beginning of the season. "But if you look at the composition of the team, most of the guys are doing dual roles; most of them are bowling. At the same time, some of the venues need boundary runners, you need guys with speed and all that so that also comes into play. "Ro was also nursing a niggle from the Champions Trophy so we wanted to make sure that we don't push him too hard, and we have managed that while (his) batting is the most important thing," he added.

### Enjoy taking each day as it comes: Arshdeep Singh

**DHARAMSALA:** On a late balmy Sunday evening, Arshdeep Singh did what he does best -- swinging it in favour of Punjab Kings with three top-order wickets against Lucknow Super Giants. And he doesn't want to look too far ahead as staying in the present has yielded rich dividends for him. "I am just enjoying the present. We are just taking it day by day," Arshdeep said after his 3 for 16 stopped LSG on its tracks during a tough chase of 237 in an IPL match. Arshdeep has now taken 16 wickets from 11 games and is third in the leading wicket-takers' list behind Prasad Krishna (19 wickets) and Josh Hazlewood (18 wickets) this season. "For a change, there was movement in the starting overs. I really enjoyed it. In the second innings, it gets colder and the temperature drops down and it swings a bit," Arshdeep spoke about the high-altitude venue on the lap of the spectacular Dhauladhar mountain range. Arshdeep is happy that he could account for all three in-form batters of LSG in Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran inside the Powerplay.

### Soccer organisations might have to cover care costs for ex-players with dementia

**LONDON:** Soccer organisations in Britain could be forced to pay toward the care costs of ex-players who have suffered brain conditions caused by heading balls, under proposals to be tabled in Parliament. Campaigners are drafting amendments to the Football Governance Bill with the aim of treating it as an "industrial injuries issue" and overseeing a scheme to provide care and support for those affected. The proposals seek to require the industry, including the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association union, to provide the necessary financial support amid concerns existing arrangements are not fit for purpose. The Brain Health Fund, set up with an initial 1 million pounds (now \$1.3 million) in 2023 by the PFA with support from the Premier League, has been criticized by campaigners. The Premier League said the fund has supported 121 families with at-home adaptations and care-home fees.