

# IPL likely to resume on May 16 or 17, final could be moved out of Kolkata

BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla says the Board is still working on a suitable schedule

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Suspend- ed due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to resume either on May 16 or 17 with the possibility of the final being moved out of Kolkata.

The announcement of ceasefire on Saturday paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended on May 9 for one week.

The IPL Governing Council members and the BCCI officials discussed the resumption plan on Sunday. BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla said the Board is still working on creating a suitable schedule.

"As of now there is no decision on IPL. BCCI officials are working out on the solutions. BCCI secretary, IPL Chairman are in talks

with franchises and everyone, so very soon we will know about the decision, efforts are being made to resume the tournament early," said Shukla.

An IPL source said the league will resume with the match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow -- the game which was supposed to be played on May 9.

"All the teams have been asked to call back their players, the tournament will resume either on May 16 or 17 in Lucknow. The final schedule will be shared tomorrow (Monday)," a source told PTI.

"Most likely the matches will be held at four venues and Delhi and Dharamsala won't get to host more

matches. All the equipment has already been removed from these venues," added the source.

The source also said that there won't be any change in the venue for Qualifier I and Eliminator that Hyderabad was supposed to host but Kolkata may miss out on hosting the final, most likely on June 1, due to rain forecast on that day in the city.

"As of now there is no change in venues for the play-off stage but it seems rain can affect the final in Kolkata. In that case the final could be played in Ahmedabad," said the source.

Speaking to PTI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added: "In the next few days, we will begin consultations with the franchises,

broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations slated to host the remaining matches before crystallizing to a decision on the league's resumption.

"Given that the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take the nod of the Government of India before finalising the time for its restart."

It is possible that the two teams will be awarded a point each. Punjab Kings had raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when the game in Dharamsala had to be stopped due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

The players were ferried in bus to Jalandhar in Punjab from where they travelled to Delhi by train. If only four venues are

chosen to host the remaining 16 games then Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians will miss out on their home games.

It means the remainder of the tournament will be restricted to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Lucknow.

CSK, RR and SRH are already out of the reckoning and the battle for sealing the four play-offs spots is among seven teams.

Gujarat Titans as of now are leading the table with 16 points and superior NRR of 0.793, followed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (16 points, 0.482), Punjab Kings (15), Mumbai Indians (14), Delhi Capitals (13), Kolkata Knight Riders (11) and Lucknow Super Giants (10).

## India eves crush Lanka by 97 runs

**PTI, COLOMBO:** India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here on Sunday.

After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Amanjot Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the damage.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu (51 off 66 balls) and Nilakshika Silva (48 off 58) were the chief contributors for the hosts.

Mandhana struck a majestic 116 off 101 balls to lay the foundation for India's imposing total after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat.

## Newcastle win top-five showdown with Chelsea, Arsenal rescue Liverpool draw

**AFP, LONDON:** Newcastle took a huge step towards qualifying for the Champions League with a vital 2-0 victory over top-five rivals Chelsea, while Arsenal fought back from two goals down to rescue a valuable 2-2 draw against Liverpool on Sunday.

Sandro Tonali put Newcastle ahead after just two minutes at St James' Park before Chelsea striker Nicolas Jackson was sent off for an elbow on Sven Botman late in the first half.

Bruno Guimaraes struck in stoppage time to secure the Magpies' seventh win from their last nine league games and lift them into third place in the Premier League.

Eddie Howe's side, aiming to feature in the Champions League for the second time

in three seasons, are three points clear of sixth-placed Aston Villa in the race for a top-five finish.

Fifth-placed Chelsea's first defeat in seven league games leaves their bid to return to Europe's elite club competition in the balance.

The Blues are level on points with sixth-placed Aston Villa and one ahead of seventh-placed Nottingham

Forest. With Manchester United at home and Forest away left on their schedule, Enzo Maresca's UEFA Conference League finalists face a tense finish to their season.

Arsenal trailed to first-half goals from Cody Gakpo and Luis Diaz at Anfield.

But Gabriel Martinelli reduced the deficit before Mikel Merino grabbed the equaliser for Arsenal's

side. Although Merino was sent off for a second booking with 11 minutes left, Arsenal clung on for a vital point in the battle for the top five.

Second-placed Arsenal sit five points clear of Villa and boast a vastly superior goal difference to all their top-five rivals.

They should need just one more point to secure a Champions League berth despite winning only one of their last six league games.

Manchester United slumped to a 2-0 home defeat by West Ham as their woeful league campaign hit a new low. United were back in action after crushing Athletic Bilbao in the Europa League semi-final second leg on Thursday to set up an all-English final against Tottenham on May 22.



Liverpool's midfielder Luis Diaz celebrates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match against Arsenal at Anfield in Liverpool, England

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

**Newcastle 2** (Tonali 2, Guimaraes 90) **Chelsea 0**, **Manchester United 0** **West Ham 2** (Soucek 26, Bowen 57), **Nottingham Forest 2** (Gibbs-White 25, Wood 56) **Leicester 2** (Coady 16, Buonanotte 81), **Tottenham 0** **Crystal Palace 2** (Eze 45, 48), **Liverpool 2** (Gakpo 20, Diaz 21) **Arsenal 2** (Martinelli 47, Merino 70). **Saturday: Fulham 1** (Jimenez 17) **Everton 3** (Mykolenko 45+3, Keane 70, Beto 73), **Ipswich 0** **Brentford 1** (Schade 18), **Southampton 0** **Manchester City 0**, **Wolves 0** **Brighton 2** (Welbeck 28-pen, Gruda 85), **Bournemouth 0** **Aston Villa 1** (Watkins 45+6).

## sportspopup

### Deepika, Salunkhe win bronze as India finish with 7 medals at Archery World Cup Stage 2

**SHANGHAI:** India's most decorated archer, Deepika Kumari, salvaged her pride with a hard-earned bronze medal after a semifinal heartbreak, while Parth Salunkhe also finished on the podium for the first time as India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 with seven medals, here, Sunday. A day after compound archers put up a dominating show with five medals, Deepika and Salunkhe added two more from the recurve section to end India's campaign on a high.

### Praggnanandhaa remains in joint lead

**BUCHAREST (Romania):** Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to remain in joint lead with the Frenchman after five rounds of the Superbet Classic, a part of the Grand Chess tour. World champion D Gukesh recovered a bit to draw with Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland in what turned out to be a rather dull day with stalemates on all five boards in the 10-player round-robin event. Results (Round 5): R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3) drew with Maxime-Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3); D Gukesh (Ind, 2) drew with Duda Jan-Krzysztof (Pol, 2); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 2) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou, 2.5); Wesley So (USA, 2.5) drew with Fabio Caruana (USA, 3); Levon Aronian (2.5) drew with Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 2.5).

### Zverev in last 16, Sabalenka battles past Kenin

**ROME:** Alexander Zverev continued his Italian Open title defence by cruising past qualifier Vilius Gaubas and reaching the last 16, as Aryna Sabalenka progressed with a battling 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Sofia Kenin. Zverev barely broke a sweat on centre court against Gaubas, easing to a 6-4, 6-0 win to set up a last-16 clash with France's Arthur Fils. Zverev will face a much tougher test against Fils, who beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, than the one put up by Gaubas. Daniil Medvedev swept past Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-1 and next faces home hope Lorenzo Musetti who followed Sabalenka on centre court by beating Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 6-3. One of Sabalenka's key rivals for the women's title, Coco Gauff, cruised past Magda Linette in straight sets 7-5, 6-3.

### Barca move to brink of La Liga title

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona mounted a spectacular comeback to beat Real Madrid 4-3 in La Liga on Sunday and move to the brink of the title after overcoming a hat-trick from Kylian Mbappe. Results: Leganes 3 (Cisse 33, Diomande 41, Kumbulla 63-og) Espanyol 2 (Cabrera 79, Milla 90+8), Barcelona 4 (Garcia 19, Yamal 32, Raphinha 34, 45) Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 5-pen, 14, 70).

### Kane tastes title, Bayern bid farewell to Mueller

**MUNICH:** Harry Kane opened the scoring ahead of lifting his first career silverware as Bayern Munich beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-0, with veteran Thomas Mueller playing his last home game for the club. Bayern officially won the title on Sunday when defending champions Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 2-2 draw at Freiburg, but were presented with the Bundesliga shield in front of their home fans at full-time.

### Triple century maker Bob dies at age 84

**MELBOURNE:** Bob Cowper, who scored test cricket's first triple century on Australian soil, has died at the age of 84 due to an undisclosed illness, Cricket Australia said on Sunday. Cowper played 27 test matches for Australia.

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