

Mohammed Siraj returns to familiar turf to leave Royal Challengers Bengaluru in tatters

NEW DELHI, APR 3

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have never been comfortable at home the past few years. The script didn't change on Wednesday as they crashed to their first defeat this season.

Their opening match at the Chinnaswamy ended in disaster following a top-order collapse which left them with only 169 runs to defend.

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill failed with the bat but Jos Buttler put in a superb exhibition of strokeplay as the side reached the target with 13 balls remaining.

Exhilarating Buttler Englishman Buttler was at his best, smashing five boundaries and six sixes which left RCB clueless. Sai Sudarshan provided him support in the initial stages during a 75-run stand and then Sherfane Rutherford stayed till the end to pull the chase off in style.

Rutherford tonked Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a



huge six over deep fine leg to hit the winning runs but it was Buttler's famous scoop against Josh Hazlewood over the keeper's head which left his teammates spellbound.

Coming into a new set-up after having flourished at Rajasthan Royals, Buttler never struggled at No.3. He had been under a lot of pressure, having quit England's captaincy after his team went down meekly in the Champions Trophy.

He started with a 54 against

Punjab Kings in a losing cause and then made 39 versus Mumbai Indians. He took his time to settle down on Wednesday but once he did, there was no stopping him.

Superb spell For the first time this season, Titans' Mohammed Siraj seemed to be in his elements on return to Bengaluru, his home franchise for several seasons.

The Titans' pacers ran through RCB's top order in the first seven overs to reduce them to 42/4 before Liam

Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma and Tim David combined to help them reach 169/8.

Out of the national team since the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, Siraj had a lot to prove but struggled with his rhythm in the first two matches this season. But the sight of Virat Kohli and Phil Salt helped him recover his mojo with the former falling to Arshad Khan cheaply.

Working up appreciable pace, Siraj got the new ball to move and removed Devdutt Padikkal and Salt in his opening spell.

He castled Padikkal who was aiming to go over mid-off. Salt had his moments when he was dropped by Buttler and then survived a run-out chance but his luck

ran out soon. Having tonked a six over deep mid-wicket, he was bowled next ball by a 145.9kmph Siraj thunderbolt. He returned to remove Livingstone (54 off 40 balls) at the death to finish with 3/19 off four overs.

Fans make KKR feel at Eden Gardens, not wicket: Dwayne Bravo plays down home advantage

NEW DELHI, APR 3



Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming and Lucknow Super Giants mentor Zaheer Khan have both been vocal about not getting the pitches of their choice in home matches. In comparison, Kolkata Knight Riders have only hinted at the need to avail home advantage at the Eden.

"Who doesn't want home advantage!" Knights head coach Chandrakant Pandit had said on the eve of their clash against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede, a game where they were thrashed by eight wickets.

Surprisingly, on Wednesday, the eve of their crucial game against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden, KKR mentor Dwayne Bravo played down the home advantage factor. For Bravo, it's the fans

who make home important than how the advantage an important factor. I will not really comment much about pitches but more on the process, and once the fans are into the game and cheering us on, that makes a difference," Bravo explained.

"I don't know much about pitches," Bravo commented.

"For me, you turn up, you play, and the team that does better on their day will win the game. So, whether the pitch is slow, whether it's turning, whether it's not turning... My suggestion to the players will always be to make the necessary assessment, adjustment and play according to the conditions. And what helps us with home advantage is the fans. I think that is more

The Sunrisers, too, were keen on putting up a stance suggesting they weren't much concerned with the pitch either. "It'll be about the team that adapts the best and posts a good score on the board if batting first. Obviously, you have to try and pick up some early wickets if you're bowling first," fielding coach Ryan Cook said.

Hardik Pandya tops all-rounders' rankings, Varun Chakravarthy slides to third in T20 bowling

NEW DELHI, APR 3

India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has dropped one place to third spot in the ICC men's T20 bowling rankings, while Hardik Pandya continues to top the all-rounders' chart issued on Wednesday.

With 706 rating points, Chakravarthy trails behind leader Jacob Duffy (723) of New Zealand and West Indies' Akeal Hosein (707).

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (674) and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (653) are the other two Indians in the top-10 at seventh and 10th positions respectively.



Axar Patel is placed at 13th position. Young Indian left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma continued to occupy the second position in the T20 batting rankings, which is being headed by Australia's Travis Head, while England's Phil Salt is at the third spot.

Two other Indians -- Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav -- are placed fourth and fifth respectively. Pandya managed to hold to his top spot among all-rounders with 252 rating points, followed by Dipendra Singh Airee of Nepal and Australia's Marcus Stoinis.

Midfielder Lalengmawia 'Apuia' Ralte and winger Manvir Singh could not recover in time from their injuries. Manvir was released from the national team camp before the international friendly against the Maldives on March 19 and Apuia picked up a leg injury during the AFC Asian Cup Qualifier against Bangladesh on March 25.

The second-leg will be at the Salt Lake Stadium on April 7, and it remains to be seen whether the duo regain match fitness before that. Despite the duo's absence, Bagan have enough ammunition to rock Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on

ISL semifinal: Jose Molina's Mohun Bagan hope for victory on the road against Jamshedpur FC

NEW DELHI, APR 3

Mohun Bagan Super Giant reached Jamshedpur on Wednesday for the first leg of the second semifinal of ISL-XI against Jamshedpur FC without two regular first-team players.

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Despite the duo's absence, Bagan have enough ammunition to rock Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on



Thursday. The likes of Greg Stewart, Jason Cummings, Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul Samad and captain Subhasish Bose will give Khalid Jamil's men a tough time.

Bagan are unbeaten on the road in the previous six games, winning thrice, scoring 13 goals and conceding just three.

Avoiding a loss here will not only mark a club record for their longest such streak away

from home in the league, but also enable them to enter the second and decisive leg in Calcutta high on confidence.

Jamshedpur FC have not secured a victory in their previous six matches against Bagan in the ISL, losing on four occasions. Another failure to bag a triumph will make it their longest winless run in front of any opponent in the competition.

Jamshedpur FC head coach

Khalid outlined an optimistic perspective before the fixture.

"There are two legs to play and we are facing a very good team. We are positive, since we are playing at home, and we must think for a good result," he said.

Bagan head coach Jose Molina affirmed his side's commitment to win the ISL Cup.

"We are ready and we want to win the ISL Cup. We are absolutely happy with the season, but we want to win the Cup too," he said.

Jamshedpur FC have scored the most goals (22) since the start of 2025, one more than Bagan (21), who are the highest scorers in the league with 47 strikes.

Jamshedpur FC and Bagan have faced each other 10 times in the ISL, with the latter winning five times and the Red Miners emerging victorious thrice. Two encounters have produced draws.

LSG mentor Zaheer Khan not happy with wicket at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium

NEW DELHI, APR 3

Zaheer Khan has always been known to speak his mind.

On Tuesday, the Lucknow Super Giants mentor made it clear that he wasn't happy with the wicket at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

Zaheer said it seemed the opposition had brought their own curator to prepare the pitch following Lucknow's eight-wicket loss to Punjab Kings with 22 balls remaining.

"What was a little disappointing for me here..." Zaheer said at the news conference. "Considering it's a home game and in IPL you've seen how teams have looked at taking a little bit of home advantage, from that point of view you've seen the curator is not really thinking that it's a home game. I think maybe it looked



like, you know, it was Punjab here."

Intense chat LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka is in the eye of another storm after what appeared to be an intense discussion with captain Rishabh Pant following their loss to the Kings.

Goenka wasn't available for comment but sources close to him

dismissed any talk of dissent. "It was a normal discussion and too much is being made out of it. We shouldn't go by what social media is saying. Pant has always maintained that he shares a cordial relation with the team management," the source maintained.

Their discussion revived memories of Goenka's animated on-field chat with KL Rahul last season after another disappointing finish. LSG did not retain Rahul and acquired Pant for ₹27 crore at the last auction.

Rahul later admitted that it wasn't the best thing to be part of and that all the teammates reacted "shockingly."

"When this happened, it was just a big shock for all of us... Whatever happened on the field after the game wasn't the nicest thing to be a part of," Rahul said on Star Sports six months later.

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IPL 2025: Sunrisers Hyderabad win toss against Kolkata Knight Riders, opt to bowl



MUMBAI, APR 3

Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins won the toss and decided to bowl against Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL match here on Thursday.

KKR made one change, bringing in Moeen Ali in place of pacer Spencer Johnson, while SRH fielded the same XI. Both the teams have lost two games and won one so far.

Teams: Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Nitish Kumar

Singh, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Shami, Zeeshan Ansari

Kolkata Knight Riders: Quinton de Kock (wk), Venkatesh Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane (capt), Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Moeen Ali, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:	
Tender Notice No.	17-Elect-C-BDGM-SL-25
Name of Work	Internal/External Electrification work of sick-Line shed at Budgam Railway station, laying of cables, poles etc. in connection with USBRL Project.
Approximate Cost of the Work	Rs. 59,09,759.64 (Including GST and all other taxes)
Completion Period	06 (Six) Months
Bid Security to be deposited	Rs. 1,18,200.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.04.2025.
Last date/time of uploading of tenders	30.04.2025 upto 15.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site.
Date/Time of Opening of tenders	30.04.2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender).
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender document	Tender Notice is available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 05.04.2025 and the tender document will be available for uploading of offers on IREPS website from 16.04.2025 to 30.04.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the above office.
No.: 17-Elect-C-BDGM-SL-25 Dated: 03.04.2025 1011/2025	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Staying aggressive all the time 'not cricket'; if basics are ignored: Kolkata Knight Riders mentor Dwayne Bravo

T20 cricket largely translates into explosive batting, but Kolkata Knight Riders mentor Dwayne Bravo reminded his batters on Wednesday that staying aggressive all the time is "not cricket" if the basics are

ignored. Their attacking approach has already led to two losses in three games in the IPL and clearly Bravo is not impressed with the approach.

The defending champions'

highest score this season has been 174/8 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru while they were shot out for just 116 by Mumbai Indians.

As they return home after two away fixtures, KKR will be

desperate to revive their campaign against Sunrisers Hyderabad -- a team that has twice breached the 280-run mark in two seasons.

Bravo emphasised on the importance of sticking to the

"basics". "As far as our batting group, yes, we are an aggressive batting line-up, but that's not cricket," Bravo said during the pre-match media interaction at Eden Gardens.