



## BCCI to discuss IPL resumption options on Sunday: Rajeev Shukla

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla on Saturday said the Board officials and IPL Governing Council will discuss on Sunday the best possible schedule to complete the suspended T20 League following the announcement of an immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

The Board was forced to suspend the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Friday, with 16 matches remaining, as the India-Pakistan border conflict threatened to grow into a full-blown war following the Pahalgalam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor.

"The war has stopped. In



the new situation BCCI office bearers, officials and IPL Governing Council, will discuss the matter tomorrow (Sunday) and take a call. We will see which can be the best schedule to complete the tournament," Shukla said.

It was being speculated that the League could be moved to Southern Indian

cities Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad but Shukla said such an option was perhaps relevant in the scenario of a continued military conflict.

"That was an option when war was going on. There are many options which have been discussed. The ceasefire has just been announced, give

some time to us, we will discuss and then only a decision will be taken," Shukla said.

A total of 12 League stage matches and four play-off stage matches are yet to be played in the tournament.

Most of the foreign recruits, who compete in the League for different teams, have already left the country.

Thursday's match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was abandoned midway due to the conflict. With the Dharamsala airport shut, players and support staff of both teams travelled by bus to Jalandhar and then boarded a train to Delhi.

## Gill-Pant duo set to take charge of Indian Test team, BCCI silent on Kohli

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests with talented batter Shubman Gill set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format.

The choice of vice-captain seems to be a straight forward one as Pant is one of India's finest Test batters in overseas conditions and Jasprit Bumrah can't be considered for the role of deputy due to his stature and also when his own fitness is iffy, making him uncertain for full series.

An average of 42 plus with hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa along with seven scores between 90 and 99 makes Pant of the best bat-

ters in the format.

"If Bumrah isn't the captain, then there is no point offering him vice-captaincy," a BCCI source said.

While the cricket fraternity is taken aback by talismanic Virat Kohli's wish to retire from Test cricket, it has been learnt that selection committee did ponder over the idea of handing over leadership to him in England to allow Gill some more time to groom.

As of now, Kohli has not made any official announcement and it is believed that he will be requested to compete in the upcoming five Test series in England as his experience will be required in challenging conditions, especially when Rohit

Sharma has also announced his Test retirement.

BCCI however is tight-lipped on its conversation with Kohli with regards to his Test career. PTI reached out to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia but they are yet to respond to the query.

"It is true that selectors did think about having Kohli as India skipper for the England series. This would have given Gill some time to grow into leadership role but at 25-and-a-half years of age, he is yet to hit his peak. Due to Bumrah's fitness issues, Gill looks like the obvious choice for Ajit Agarkar's committee," a BCCI source privy to development said.

It is understood that KL Rahul isn't being considered as an option as he is already 33 plus and consistency has been an issue with the Bengaluru player even though he was one of the better performers in Australia. After 11 years of Test cricket an average of less than 35 in 50 games isn't impressive.

The Indian team for the tour of England will be announced during the end of third week of May while India A team will be announced early next week.

If there is one certainty among the rookies for the Test tour, it has to be Tamil Nadu southpaw Sai Sudharsan, who has made an impression. If all goes well, he will either open or come to bat at No.3.

## India's challenge at Taipei Open ends after Ayush, Unnati's exit from semi-finals

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** India's challenge at the Taipei Open 2025 badminton tournament ended on a bitter note after Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda fell short in their semi-final fixtures in men's and women's singles, respectively, on Saturday.

In a tightly contested affair, the 20-year-old Ayush tested the top seed Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei to his limits but eventually succumbed to a 21-18, 21-17 defeat in a contest that lasted for 42 minutes.

Ayush, ranked 44th in the men's singles, led the opening game with a slender 18-17 advantage, but the seventh-ranked shuttler won four straight points and sealed the



opening game in his favour. 8

The second game followed a similar pattern as the scoreboard stood level at 16-16. However, Chou once again upped the ante and won five out of the six points to confirm his berth in the final.

Earlier in the tournament, the young Indian sensation stunned third

seed Lee Chia-hao in his opening clash and went on to knock out the former world number one Kidambi Srikanth in the round of 16. He continued his scorching form by ousting seventh seed Brian Yang of Canada in the quarter-finals.

In March, Ayush made it to the semi-finals of the Orleans Masters Super

300 after staging a massive upset and defeating the former world champion Loh Kean Yew in the round of 32.

In the women's singles event, Unnati Hooda's impressive run in the tournament ended following a defeat against the top seed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan by 21-19, 21-11.

The 17-year-old ranked 53rd in the women's singles, enjoyed a healthy 18-15 lead in the opening game. However, she squandered the advantage as the world number eight turned the tide with her late surge. In the second game, it was one-sided traffic as the Japanese shuttler dictated the terms of play and raced to victory to move to the final.

## Truist Championship: Indian-American Bhatia lies tied third after 63 in first round

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** Akshay Bhatia started off the Truist Championship with a round of seven under par 63 at The Philadelphia Cricket Club (Wissahickon Course).

The Indian-American Bhatia sits tied third alongside Rickie Fowler, Colin Morikawa and Sepp Straka. Bhatia, who was third at the PLAYERS this year, is two behind the leader, Keith Mitchell (61) and one behind Denny McCarthy (62).

Indo-British Aaron Rai played five under par and sits tied 11th while another Indian-American Sahith Theegala played one-under par 69 and is placed tied 55th on the first day, a



release said.

Mitchell, who is one of the four sponsor exemptions this week, shot 61 that shattered the course record at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. The previous Wissahickon Course record of 65 was shared by Colin St Maxen, Zac Blair and Angus Flanagan.

Bhatia had 10 birdies,

the best in the field, and three bogeys in his 63. Starting on the back nine he birdied the 10th with a 19-foot birdie before dropping a shot on the 11th hole. Following this Bhatia made five consecutive birdies from the 13th to the 17th hole.

On the front nine of the Wissahickon course, Bha-

tia dropped a shot on the first hole before making a run of three consecutive birdies between the fourth and sixth holes. He dropped another shot on the eighth hole and closed with a 13-foot birdie on the ninth hole, the release said.

Bhatia's putting made possible after some good iron play helped in the low score. He was tied first for putts per greens in regulation.

Rory McIlroy, making his first individual start since completing the career Grand Slam at the Masters, had a 66 and was one of 64 players who beat par in the sixth USD 20m Signature Event of the PGA TOUR season.

## England's ODI slide sparks 2027 World Cup qualification concerns

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** England have slipped to eighth place in the ICC Men's ODI rankings following the annual update last week, raising concerns about their direct qualification for the 2027 ODI World Cup, as per Wisden.

The rankings update with each match and series played, but annual update reduces the impact of matches older than a year and completely removes results from over three years ago.

As a result, England, despite climbing to No. 2 in the Test rankings, dropped to eighth in ODIs. Between May 4, 2024 and May 4, 2025, they managed just three wins in 14 ODIs, giving them a win/loss ratio of 0.272 --



better only than Nepal and Bangladesh in that period.

This decline could affect their path to the next World Cup. The 2027 edition will feature 14 teams. South Africa and Zimbabwe have already secured their spots as co-hosts. Namibia, another host, won't get automatic entry because only ICC Full Member hosts get

that benefit.

Eight other teams will qualify directly through the ODI rankings, excluding the host nations. These rankings will be locked in on March 31, 2027.

As it stands now, the teams making the cut would be India, New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

Afghanistan, England, and West Indies.

The remaining four places will be filled via a qualifying tournament. This event will feature 10 teams, including the next two in the rankings after the top eight and hosts -- currently, that would be Bangladesh and Ireland.

England, currently just one ranking point ahead of ninth-placed West Indies, are not out of the danger zone yet.

The two sides are set to face off in an upcoming three-match ODI series, and the results could cause further changes in the standings. A series loss could see England drop below West Indies and edge closer to the Qualifier danger zone.

## Foreign players fly out of India after IPL suspension

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** Most of the foreign recruits in IPL franchises departed for their respective countries on Saturday following the suspension of high-profile T20 League which was halted for a week due to India-Pakistan border tension.

The Indian Premier League (IPL) was suspended on Friday, a day after the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala was abandoned midway following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot.

With the tournament suspended, the players and support staff from various franchises have begun returning to their hometowns, while several foreign players are home-bound.

"Our players and ex-

tended staff have safely returned to Bengaluru and are now homebound to their respective cities and countries," RCB said in a statement.

RCB's foreign contingent includes Tim David, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Philip Salt, Josh Hazlewood, Lungi Ngidi, and Nuwan Thushara.

Among the overseas support staff are head coach Andy Flower, bowling coach Adam Griffith, Director of Cricket Operations Mo Bobat, team physio Evan Speechly, and analyst Freddie Wilde.

"We're deeply grateful for the swift coordination and support from the BCCI, local authorities, and the police who made this possible," the RCB statement added.

An LSG official also con-

firmed to PTI that some of their overseas players flew out on Saturday, while a few others opted to stay back for the time being.

For other franchises like Mumbai Indians (MI) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), both domestic and international players have also departed for their respective locations.

According to a source, KKR players left from Hyderabad, where they were scheduled to face Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday.

After the IPL match in Dharamsala was called off, players from Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals reached New Delhi on Friday after being evacuated and escorted to the Jalandhar railway station in batches through Hoshiarpur amid tight security.

The squads had arrived in New Delhi aboard a spe-

cial 'Vande Bharat Ex-

press'.

A Punjab Kings (PBKS)

source said that most of their foreign players have left for home.

Meanwhile, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said that updates regarding the revised schedule and venues for the remainder of the tournament would be shared in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders.

The suspension of the IPL comes in the wake of India's missile strikes targeting terror infrastructure across the border in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The strikes were carried out in response to the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

## 14 Indian athletes to participate in World Athletics Relays

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** India will send a team of 14 athletes to participate in the World Athletics Relays 2025, which will take place in Guangzhou, China, on May 10 and 11, as per olympics.com website.

This year's event at the Guangdong Olympic Stadium will include six relay categories: men's 4x400m, men's 4x100m, women's 4x400m, and women's 4x100m, as well as mixed relays for both 4x400m and 4x100m.

This will be the seventh edition of the World Athletics Relays, and it will be the first time the event will

be held in China.

For the first time, the mixed 4x100m relay will be featured at the World Relays. Additionally, India will only participate in the men's and mixed 4x400m races. Guangzhou 25 also serves as a qualifying event for the World Athletics Championships 2025, which is set to occur in Tokyo this September.

A total of 730 competitors from 43 different nations will take part in the World Relays. Each country can submit one team for each event, with a limit of eight athletes per team. The first 14 teams in each category, excluding the

mixed 4x100m, will secure automatic spots for the Tokyo 25 World Championships, where 16 teams will compete in each relay.

The final two slots will be assigned according to the most impressive results achieved throughout the qualification phase, which occurred from February 25, 2024, to August 24, 2025. The Indian men's 4x400m team will be led by the top five competitors from the Federation Cup 2025 held in Kochi: TK Vishal, Jay Kumar, TS Manu, Dharamveer Choudhary, and Rince Joseph.

Olympic athletes Amoj

Jacob and Subha Venkatesan are the standout athletes in the mixed 4x400m relay team. Olympians Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan headline the mixed 4x400m relay squad.

**INDIAN SQUAD MEN'S 4X400M:** Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Dharamveer Choudhary, Rince Joseph, Tushar Kanti, Jay Kumar, Mohit Kumar, TS Manu and TK Vishal.

**MIXED 4X400M:** Amoj Jacob, Dharamveer Choudhary, TK Vishal, Sneha Kollerli, Jisna Mathew, Rupal, Subha Venkatesan.

## Bizarre fielding error costs Bangladesh A five penalty runs against New Zealand A

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10:** In the third unofficial ODI between Bangladesh A and New Zealand A on Saturday in Sylhet, an incident led to Bangladesh A conceding five penalty runs, as per Wisden.

During the fifth over of New Zealand A's chase of 227, with the score at 35/0, opener Rhys Mariu let a wide delivery from Ebadot Hossain go untouched. However, Bangladesh had set an odd field - wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan was standing in a first slip position, far from the stumps. Because of this, the ball went past him and hit a helmet that was

left on the ground behind the stumps.

According to MCC's Law 28.3, if the ball hits any helmet placed on the ground by the fielding team, the ball is declared dead and the batting team is awarded five penalty runs. The umpires followed the rule and added five runs to New Zealand's total.

Mariu went on to score 33 off 33 balls and shared a 77-run opening stand with Dale Phillips. Bangladesh A later fought back, with Nasum Ahmed, Mosaddek Hossain, and Nayeem Hasan taking two wickets each to leave New Zealand

at 166/6 but Dean Foxcroft (36\*) and Zachary Foulkes (28\*) guided the visitors to victory with 10 balls remaining.

Despite the loss, Bangladesh A still lead the five-match series 2-1. They had dominated the first two games, in the opener, their pace bowlers dismissed four of New Zealand's top five batters for zero, and in the second match, centuries from Mahidul and Nurul Hasan helped them post 344/5 and win by 87 runs.

Recently, Bangladesh cricketer Mehidy Hasan rose in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rank-

ings for all-rounders, as per the ICC official website.

Miraz gained one place to move to second overall on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders on the back of his heroics for Bangladesh in their recent Test series against Zimbabwe.

The in-form Miraz scored 116 runs and claimed 15 wickets across the two Tests and was rewarded on the updated ICC Men's Test Player Rankings by improving to a new career-best rating of 327 points and within 73 rating points of No. 1-ranked Ravindra Jadeja.