

END OF OVER: 20 | 30 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 184/8 | RR: 9.20

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| HH Pandya | 35 (15b) | AB Dinda | 4-0-57-0 |
| MJ McClenaghan | 0 (0b) | BA Stokes | 4-0-36-1 |
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9.42pm Wow. How this game has turned. Mumbai have never lost after posting 184 or more in the IPL. Pune were looking at chasing at least 20 less than that here tonight, but a poor last over from Ashok Dinda has undone all the good work done by Imran Tahir and Rajat Bhatia. Time to rest my fingers. Akshay Gopalakrishnan will be with you for the chase.

Ashok Dinda has just bowled the most expensive final over of an IPL innings - 30 runs. David Hussey and Rahul Shukla have conceded 27-run final overs. Dinda has two 26-run final overs too.

"I was hoping to be picked even after I went unsold, glad to have delivered and repay that trust from Pune," says Imran Tahir. "Every wicket is special for me. There isn't much turn, the ball is coming on nicely. Backing the boys to chase this."

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| 19.6 | 1b | Dinda to HH Pandya, 1 bye, full toss which he could've swung anywhere he wanted over the |  |
|  | leg side but missed. They somehow sneak in a run even as Dhoni fires a direct hit at the | |  |
|  |  | striker's end. |  |
| If you're wondering what are the 10 most-expensive IPL spell, [here goes](http://www.espncricinfo.com/iplcountdown/content/story/1087832.html) | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 19.6 | W | Dinda to HH Pandya, 1 wide, OUT, fires this full and way outside off, Pandya looks to carve |  |
|  | this over point but can't reach. Not sure why Southee wanted strike. Runs all the way down | |  |
|  |  | the pitch but Pandya didn't move an inch. Dhoni hurls the throw to Dinda who breaks the |  |
|  |  | bails at the bowler's end. Pandya;s back foot was briefly in the air and he just managed to put |  |
|  |  | it down even as Southee got into the crease at the striker's end. They needed to look at |  |
|  |  | multiple replays to decide who was out. Southee it is eventually, much to Mumbai's relief |  |
|  |  | TG Southee run out 7 (8m 3b 0x4 1x6) SR: 233.33 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 19.5 | 6 | Dinda to HH Pandya, SIX, this is nothing more than a short-arm jab. Clobbered over long- |  |
|  | on. Bangs a short of length delivery but Pandya didn't have any room to work with, went | |  |
|  |  | through with the pull and picked the bones out of that |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 19.4 | 4 | Dinda to HH Pandya, FOUR, thick edge past MS Dhoni's outstretched hands. Into the third |  |
|  | man boundary in a couple of nanoseconds. Flew off the blade. | |  |
| 19.3 | 6 | Dinda to HH Pandya, SIX, MS Dhoni would've been proud of that. Nearest to an helicopter |  |
|  | hit. Full and straight on middle from wide of the crease, brings the powerful bottom hand to | |  |
|  |  | meet the ball on the full and swing this over long-on |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 19.2 | 6 | Dinda to HH Pandya, SIX, leg-cutter but lands it at length, Pandya waits and waits and then |  |
|  | thumps this over long-off. This was sitting up nicely for him to swing through | |  |
| 19.1 |  | Dinda to HH Pandya, SIX, sliced over the cover boundary. This is very poor from Dinda. |  |
| 6 |  |
|  |  |





High full toss outside off, Pandya was down on one knee as he used the width to generate the power on the swing

END OF OVER: 19 | 9 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 154/7 | RR: 8.10

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| TG Southee | 7 (3b) | BA Stokes | 4-0-36-1 |
| HH Pandya | 7 (9b) | AB Dinda | 3-0-28-0 |
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| 18.6 | 6 | Stokes to Southee, SIX, full and straight on middle, Southee tees off like a golfer, connects as |
|  | the ball smashes into the sightscreen. What muscle | |

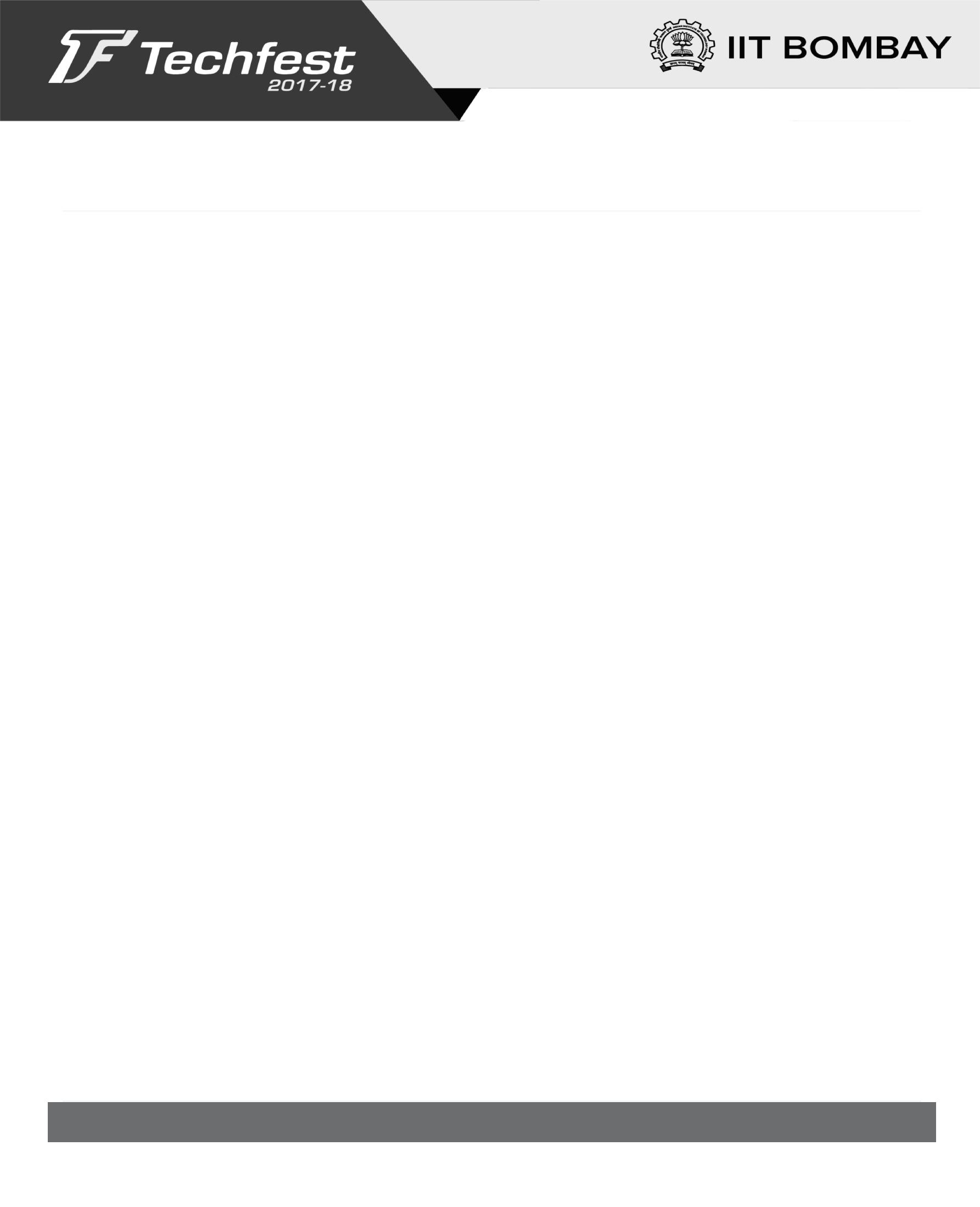
James: ""You needed to be Joel Garner to reach that." For younger readers, Joel Garner was about 6ft 9in, and could bowl 150k plus. Took 146 wickets in 98 ODI's, at a little under 19 each. Probably the best death bowler of all time, and still holds the ODI economy rate record, of just 3.09 an over." Thanks, mate for doing the job :)

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| 18.5 | |  | Stokes to Southee, no run, looks to send a length ball from outside off into orbit but misses | | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18.4 | |  | Stokes to HH Pandya, 1 run, squeezed into the gap between cover and point, down to Tahir | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 18.3 | |  | Stokes to Southee, 1 run, pushes the length ball outside off to long-off | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 18.2 | | W | Stokes to Pollard, OUT, stunner from Mayank at long-on. Flat hit that was dying on him but | | |  |  |
|  |  | he did well to attack the ball and put in an instinctive dive to pluck that inches from the | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | ground. Lets out an expletive which I can't type here. Stokes, Dhoni run up to congratulate | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | their mate. Pollard was struggling to time the ball since being hit on the elbow | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | KA Pollard c Agarwal b Stokes 27 (27m 17b 3x4 1x6) SR: 158.82 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18.1 | | 1 | Stokes to HH Pandya, 1 run, full and wide outside off, hammered to wide long-off where | |  |  |  |
|  |  | Rahane slides to his left to cut that off | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 18 | 8 Runs | MI: 145/6 | RR: 8.05 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KA Pollard | | 27 (16b) | AB Dinda | 3-0-28-0 |  |  |
|  | HH Pandya | | 5 (7b) | Imran Tahir | 4-0-28-3 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Akshet: "Last time i remember MS Dhoni dropping a catch was when i wasn't old enough to remember anything"

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| 17.6 | 4 | Dinda to Pollard, FOUR, looked to swing this to Mumbai, hit it towards downtown Pune. |  |
|  | Thick edge off a slog to the third man boundary | |  |
| 17.5 |  | Dinda to HH Pandya, 1 run, high full toss, hit hard to long-off |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.5 |  | Dinda to HH Pandya, 1 wide, fired wide outside off, around the seventh stump. You needed to |  |
| 1w |  |
|  |  |





be Joel Garner to reach that

Pollard is in some pain. There is a bit of swelling on his left elbow, it looks like

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| 17.4 | |  | 1 | Dinda to Pollard, 1 run, looks to muscle the pull over long-on but didn't get any power behind | | |  |  |
|  |  | the stroke. Bat face turned in his land as it rolled to long-on | | | |  |  |  |
| 17.3 | |  | 0 | Dinda to Pollard, no run, dropped. yorker-length delivery outside off, Pollard looks to | |  |  |  |
|  |  | squeeze this behind point but gets a healthy edge through to Dhoni who fluffs a low chance to | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | his right. |  |  |  |  |
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| 17.2 | |  | 1 | Dinda to HH Pandya, 1 run, takes off after punching a length ball straight to cover, would've | | |  |  |
|  |  | been gone had Smith hit at the bowler's end | | | |  |  |  |
| 17.1 | |  | | Dinda to HH Pandya, no run, thumps a full delivery straight to cover | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 17 | 10 Runs | MI: 137/6 | RR: 8.05 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KA Pollard | |  | 22 (13b) | Imran Tahir | 4-0-28-3 |  |  |
|  | HH Pandya | |  | 3 (4b) | A Zampa | 3-0-26-1 |  |  |
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Pollard was hit on the elbow, but good to see the spirit. Both of them give each other a hug.

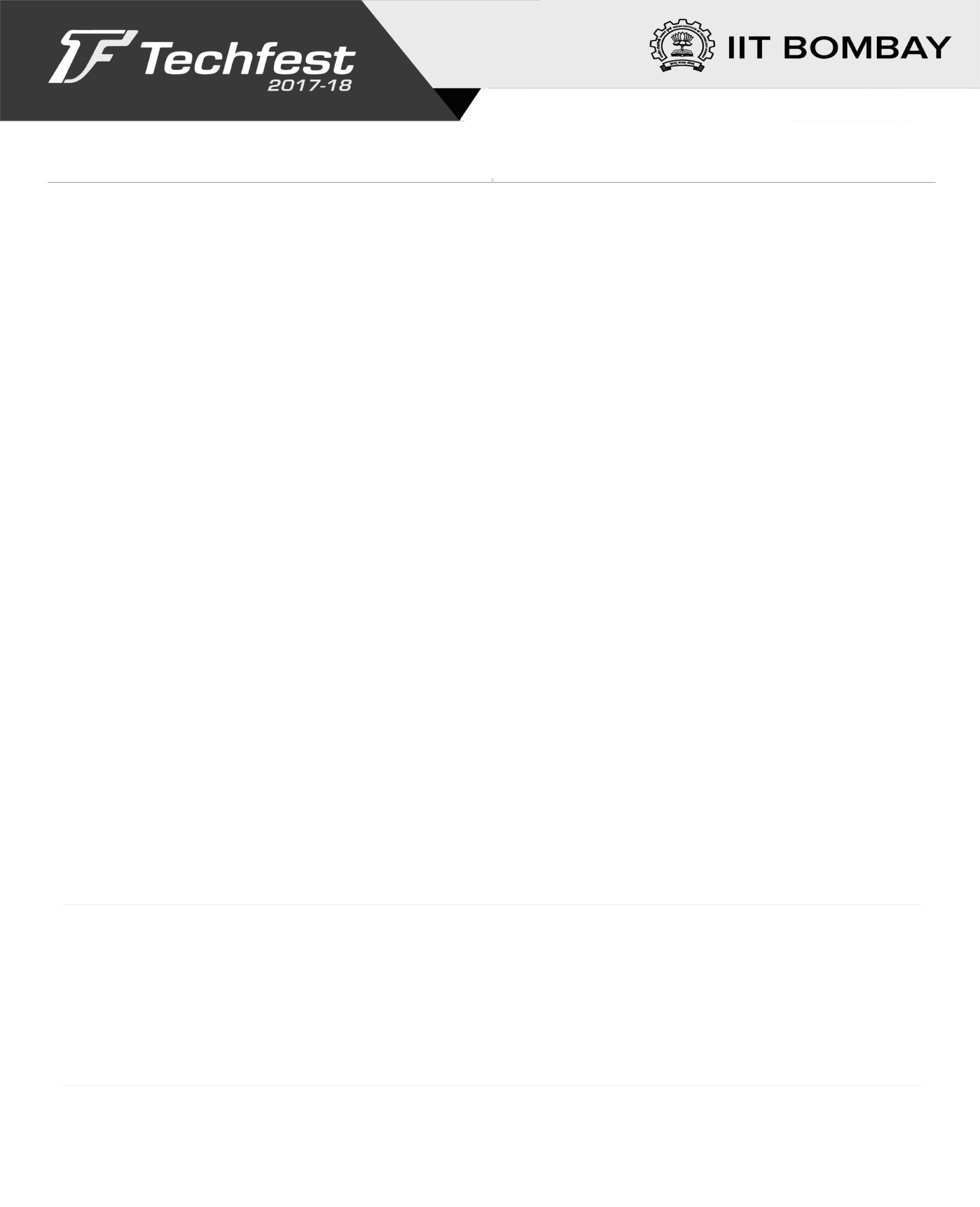
|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16.6 | 0 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, no run, googly which he somehow manages to keep out. Tahir gets to |  |
|  | the ball and fires a flat throw to the stumps, hits Pollard but he didn't even flinch. | |  |
| 16.5 | 6 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, SIX, one of the flattest hits you'd see for six. Down to the pitch of the |  |
|  | ball and boom. Wow, what power. I want that bat. Nonchalance to the core | |  |
| 16.4 |  | Imran Tahir to HH Pandya, 1 run, gets across the stumps and works the googly to midwicket |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 16.3 | 1 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, 1 run, pushed though quicker, this one fizzes from length, pushed to |  |
|  | long-off again | |  |
| 16.2 |  | Imran Tahir to HH Pandya, 1 run, driven with the spin to long-off |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 16.1 | 1 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, 1 run, thick inside-edge on the drive to deep square. Didn't pick the |  |
|  | googly | |  |

Contest time. How well can you mimic your favourite IPL stars? Send us a video and you can be featured on the site. [Details here](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1089869.html)

END OF OVER: 16 | 7 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 127/6 | RR: 7.93

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| KA Pollard | 14 | (9b) | A Zampa | 3-0-26-1 |
| HH Pandya | 1 | (2b) | Imran Tahir | 3-0-18-3 |
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| 15.6 | 1 | Zampa to Pollard, 1 run, low full toss but he powers it down the ground, long-on comes |  |
|  | around quickly | |  |
| 15.5 |  | Zampa to HH Pandya, 1 run, eased with the spin to long-off |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 15.4 |  | Zampa to HH Pandya, no run, lunges forward and eases one with the turn to cover |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Adam Zampa's stats in the last five overs of an IPL innings are impressive: 30 balls, 36 runs, six wickets before today's game.

Time for a second time-out

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15.3 | | W | Zampa to Rana, OUT, picked the googly but didn't get underneath the delivery to generate | | |  |  |
|  |  | power off the big swing, heaved straight to Bhatia at deep midwicket. | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | N Rana c Bhatia b Zampa 34 (41m 28b 1x4 2x6) SR: 121.42 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15.2 | |  | Zampa to Pollard, 1 run, worked across the line to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15.1 | | 4 | Zampa to Pollard, FOUR, hammered past Zampa even before he could react on his | |  |  |  |
|  |  | followthrough. Once againt too full, drilled. Good luck if you're going to try stopping that. | | | |  |  |
|  | Zampa again | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 15 | 9 Runs | MI: 120/5 | RR: 8.00 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KA Pollard | | 8 (6b) | Imran Tahir | 3-0-18-3 |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  | 34 (27b) | R Bhatia | 3-0-14-2 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14.6 | |  | Imran Tahir to Pollard, 1 run, fires one full on the pads, flicked to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

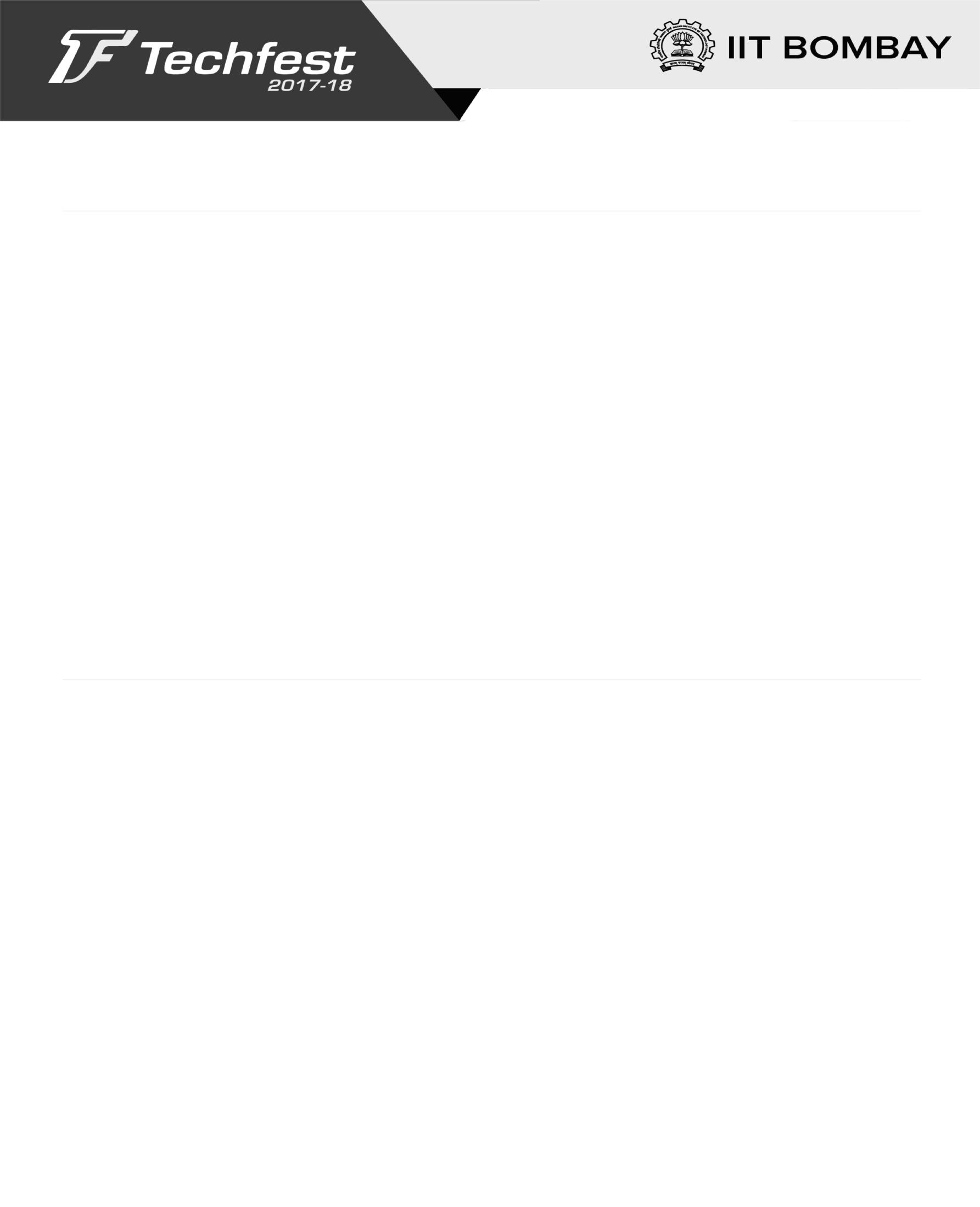
Satya: "I included Tahir and Bhatia in my fantasy team and then exclude for Zampa and Krunal. What i have done :D. " Well, done. I had Rohit as my Power Player

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| 14.5 | 1 | Imran Tahir to Rana, 1 run, goes over cover but didn't get to the pitch. On the bounce to |
|  | Stokes, who attacked the ball from the ropes | |
| 14.4 | 2 | Imran Tahir to Rana, 2 runs, touch short, he rocks back and pulls it into the gap at deep |
|  | midwicket | |

Fidlerrr: "Re: 13.1 & Stokes 20 yard chase - that's one thing the stats merchants don't appreciate with players like Stokes. That was 3 runs saved & Pandya on strike for the next ball (& resultant wicket)."

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.3 |  | Imran Tahir to Pollard, 1 run, worked across the line to midwicket |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.2 | 0 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, no run, appeal for lbw, S Ravi had to decide if it was bat or pad first. |  |
|  | Replays confirm it was pad first. That was crashing into the stumps. Pollard is lucky. | |  |





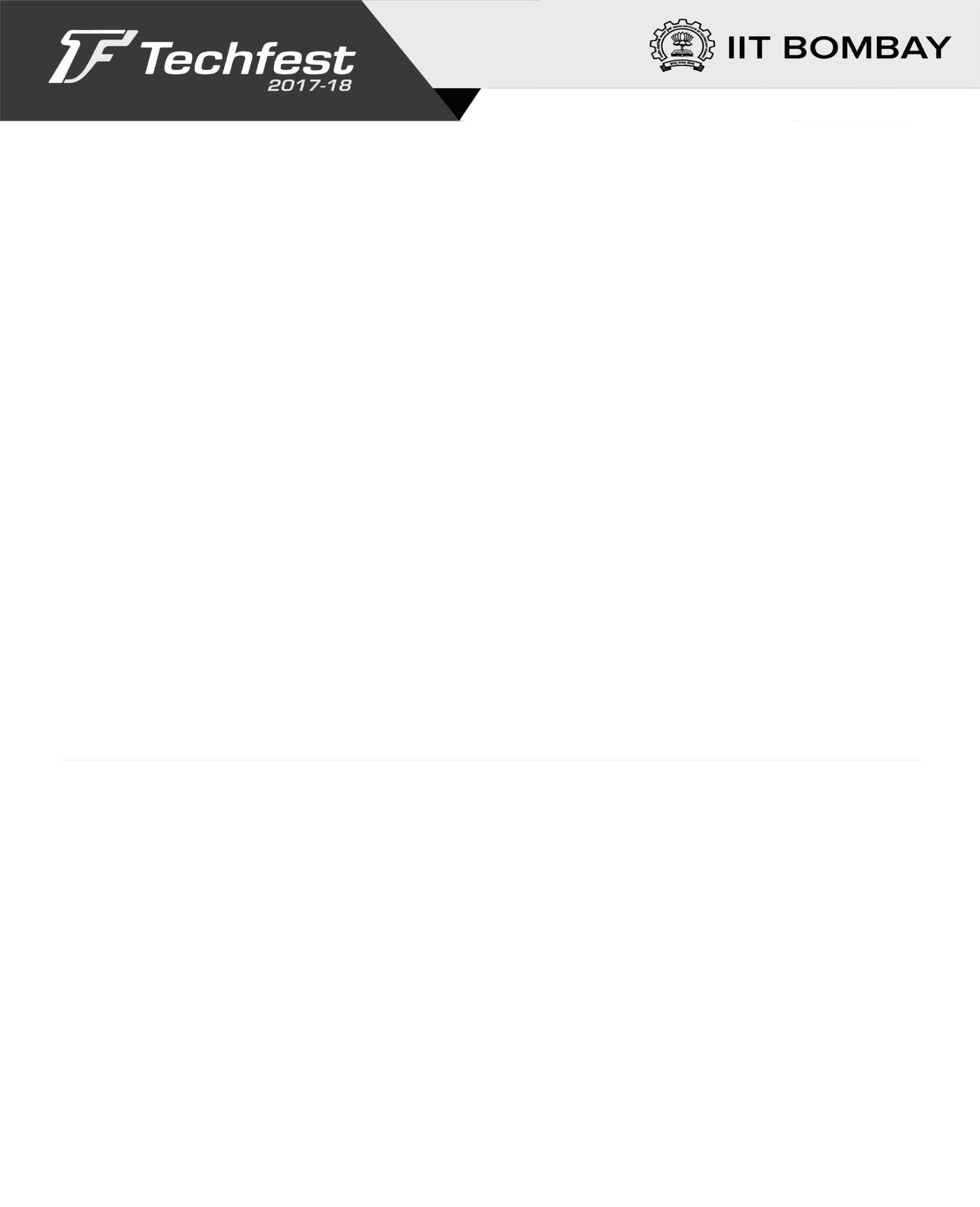
That pitched on off and went on. Dhoni signals for a review jokingly

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| 14.1 | | 4 | Imran Tahir to Pollard, FOUR, welcomed to the crease for a new spell with a powerful hit. | | |  |  |
|  |  | Too full, Pollard makes room and drills it over his head. Don't try putting your hand out to | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | those. |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 14 | 5 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 111/5 | RR: 7.92 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KA Pollard | | 2 (2b) | R Bhatia | 3-0-14-2 |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  | 31 (25b) | BA Stokes | 3-0-27-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | on | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.6 | | 1 | Bhatia to Pollard, 1 run, length ball that skids in and keeps a touch low too, punched to long- | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.5 | |  | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, nurdles a length ball to midwicket | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.4 | |  | Bhatia to Pollard, 1 run, punches a length ball to long-off to get off the mark | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.3 | |  | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, full toss on middle, worked to long-on | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Right. Here's Kieron Pollard. Over the last two years, he scores at 10.51 per over in the last five overs when Mumbai bat first in the IPL. When they chase, it's 12.57.

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| 13.2 | |  | W | Bhatia to KH Pandya, OUT, off-cutter outside off, he looks to heave this over the leg side but | | |  |  |
|  |  | got nowhere near the pitch of the ball and ended up skewing it to Dhoni, who called early and | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | took it without much fuss. |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | KH Pandya c †Dhoni b Bhatia 3 (8m 5b 0x4 0x6) SR: 60.00 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.1 | |  | 1 | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, gets down on one knee and slogs this to the leg side where Stokes | |  |  |  |
|  |  | sprints 20 yards at least around the ropes from long-on to take it on the bounce | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 13 | 11 Runs | MI: 106/4 | RR: 8.15 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KH Pandya | |  | 3 (4b) | BA Stokes | 3-0-27-0 |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  |  | 28 (22b) | R Bhatia | 2-0-9-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 12.6 | |  | 0 | Stokes to KH Pandya, no run, looks to walk across to whip it fine but misses. Was flirting with | | |  |  |
|  |  | the wide and gets away with it this time | | |  |  |  |  |
| 12.5 | |  | | Stokes to Rana, 1 run, uses the pace of the bowler to ease this down to third man | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.4 | |  | | Stokes to Rana, no run, slower and fuller on middle and leg, turned to midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 12.3 | |  | 1 | Stokes to KH Pandya, 1 run, walks outside the crease and forces a full delivery to mid-of for a | | |  |  |
|  |  | quick single | | |  |  |  |  |





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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12.2 | |  | Stokes to Rana, 1 run, floats it full and wide outside off, squeezed to third man | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 12.1 | | 6 | Stokes to Rana, SIX, sensational shot! Bangs one in on middle, Rana pounces onto it in a jiffy | | |  |  |
|  |  | as he pulls him behind square. Swivelled and transferred the body weight back before making | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | contact |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 12.1 | | 2w | Stokes to KH Pandya, 2 wides, length ball down leg to Dhoni, who fumbles. One extra run. | | |  |  |
|  |  | Don't see that often, do we? | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes is back | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 12 | 3 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 95/4 | RR: 7.91 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  | 20 (18b) | R Bhatia | 2-0-9-1 |  |  |
|  | KH Pandya | | 2 (2b) | A Zampa | 2-0-19-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11.6 | |  | Bhatia to Rana, no run, uppish again on the leading edge but just lands short of the bowler | | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 11.5 | | 0 | Bhatia to Rana, no run, lunges forward and defends an away-going slower delivery back to | | |  |  |
|  |  | Bhatia | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.4 | |  | Bhatia to KH Pandya, 1 run, gets a good stride forward and eases one to long-off | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

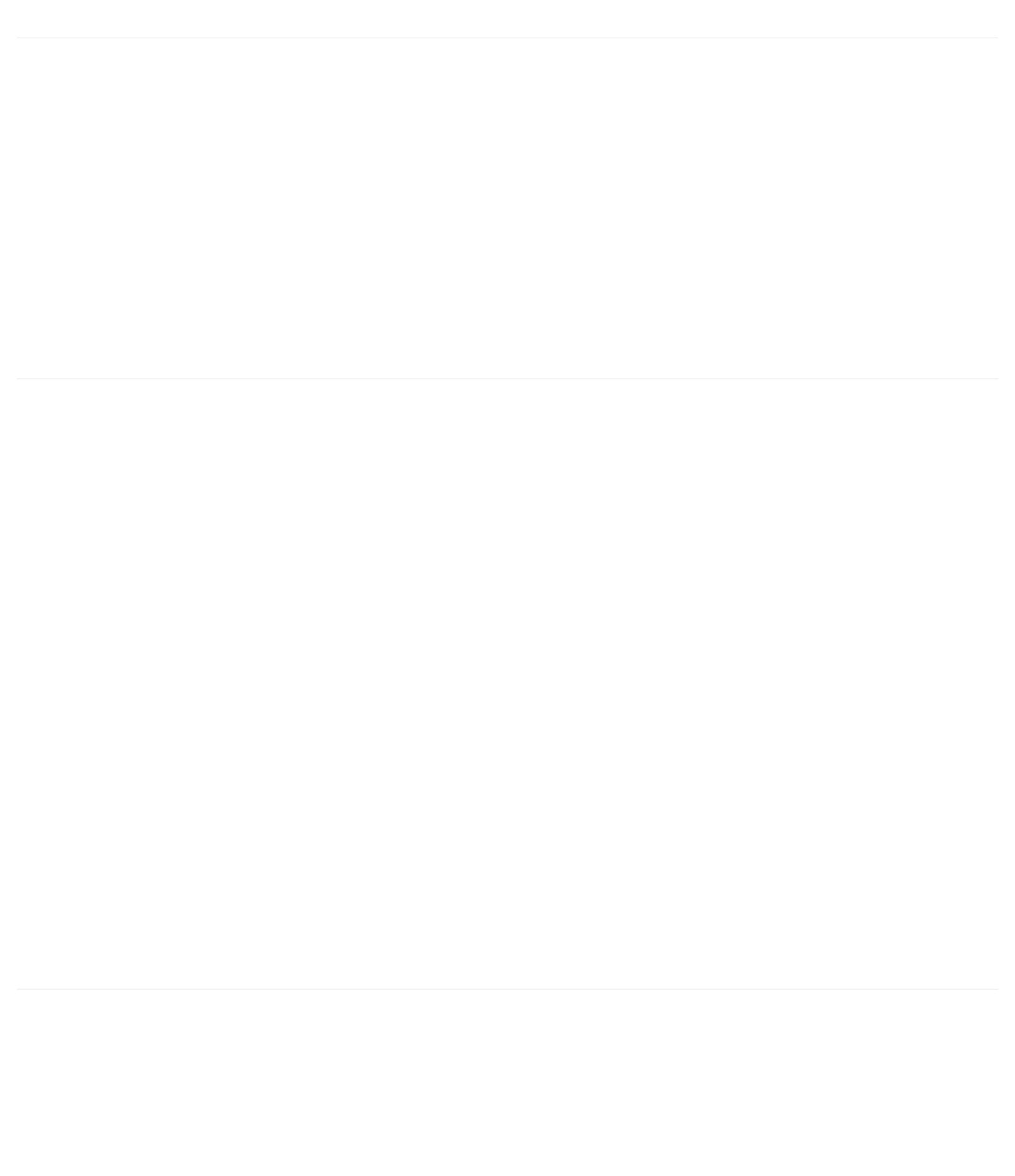
In terms of Mumbai's firepower at the end of the innings: Last season, Kieron Pollard scored at 9.61 an over in the last ten overs; Krunal Pandya at 11.80. Hardik only managed 4.85 though. Perhaps why they've shuffled the order to have Krunal up

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| 11.3 | |  | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, off-cutter this time, drives and gets a thick inside edge to midwicket | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | |  | Bhatia to KH Pandya, 1 run, worked to long-on, off the mark | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Krunal Pandya ahead of Kieron Pollard | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.1 | | W | Bhatia to Rayudu, OUT, as far as return catches go, it can't get simpler than that. Another | | |  |  |
|  |  | leg-cutter from Bhatia, looked like Rayudu was looking to go downtown but checks his shot | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | and lobs it back |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | AT Rayudu c & b Bhatia 10 (20m 12b 0x4 0x6) SR: 83.33 | |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 11 | 10 Runs | MI: 92/3 | RR: 8.36 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  | 19 (15b) | A Zampa | 2-0-19-0 |  |  |
|  | AT Rayudu | | 10 (11b) | R Bhatia | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.6 | |  | Zampa to Rana, no run, leading edge but safe. Looked to work across the line again | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | | | |  |  |
| 10.5 | | Zampa to Rana, FOUR, drifting down leg, the googly gone wrong again, and Rana sweeps | | | |  |  |





* this past short fine leg. Neatly done



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| 10.4 | 2 | Zampa to Rana, 2 runs, swung away into the gap at deep midwicket and long-on, Tahir runs |  |
|  | around and fires a quick throw at the bowler's end but he was well in | |  |
| 10.4 | 1w | Zampa to Rana, 1 wide, googly outside leg, looked for the turn as he anticipated a sweep. Rana |  |
|  | went for it but this one was way outside leg | |  |
| 10.3 | 1 | Zampa to Rayudu, 1 run, slow turn from outside off, he steps out and works it against the turn |  |
|  | to wide long-on | |  |
| 10.2 |  | Zampa to Rana, 1 run, steps out and works it with the spin to midwicket |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |

Adam Zampa's economy rate in the middle overs (6.1 to 14.6) is 6.75, and he has taken six wickets in five innings during this period.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10.1 | | 1lb | Zampa to Rayudu, 1 leg bye, fires one in from wide of the crease, looks to sweep but the ball | | |  |  |
|  |  | lobs off the pad to short fine leg. Played too early | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 10 | 6 Runs | MI: 82/3 | RR: 8.20 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AT Rayudu | | 9 (9b) | R Bhatia | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  | 12 (11b) | A Zampa | 1-0-10-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.6 | |  | Bhatia to Rayudu, 1 run, worked across the line to long-on | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| 9.5 | | 2 | Bhatia to Rayudu, 2 runs, chips one over cover but the timing is off, gets it into the gap | |  |  |  |
|  |  | between long-off and deep cover though and so there's enough time to come back for the | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | second |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 9.4 | | 1 | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, driven firmly to long-off. Stylish but this isn't something Pune would | | |  |  |
|  |  | mind too much | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.3 | |  | Bhatia to Rana, no run, chops one to point. Looked to cut but didn't have the room | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | |  | Bhatia to Rayudu, 1 run, floated full outside off, pushed to long-off | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Varun: "Has Rana as a left hander been sent to counter the leg spinners? Can we expect Krunal Pandya next?" Sound thinking if that is the case. I still think they'd look to Pollard

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9.1 |  | Bhatia to Rana, 1 run, whips a length ball to deep midwicket | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Here's Rajat Bhatia | | |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 9 | 10 Runs | MI: 76/3 | RR: 8.44 | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N Rana |  | 10 (8b) | A Zampa | 1-0-10-0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AT Rayudu | 5 (6b) | BA Stokes | 2-0-16-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

First of our strategic time-outs

In Tahir's last game v Mumbai, he conceded 59 in 4 wicketless overs and then wasn't picked by Daredevils for the rest of the 2016 season. What a start he's had to the 2017 season. Sensational

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.6 |  | Zampa to Rana, 1 run, too full on off, wrists it to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.5 |  | Zampa to Rayudu, 1 run, slow turn from outside off, punched to long-off |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.4 |  | Zampa to Rana, 1 run, steps out and works the quicker delivery to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |

Smaran: "As a Protea fan, it is so nice watching Imran Tahir onto the stage of retiring, celebrating as if he were a youngster like he always has been."

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.3 | |  | 6 | Zampa to Rana, SIX, this time he's too short and is punished. Rana rocks back and pulls that | | | |  |  |
|  |  | googly over deep midwicket. Muscular hit | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | |  | 0 | Zampa to Rana, no run, gets this to drift away from the left-hander, who waits and then bunts | | | |  |  |
|  |  | it with an opened bat face to point | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | |  | | Zampa to Rayudu, 1 run, rocks back and pulls a short ball to deep midwicket | | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Here's Adam Zampa | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 8 | 3 Runs | MI: 66/3 | RR: 8.25 | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  |  | 2 (4b) |  | BA Stokes | 2-0-16-0 |  |  |
|  | AT Rayudu | |  | 3 (4b) |  | Imran Tahir | 2-0-9-3 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Elsewhere in Colombo, Lasith Malinga, who is due to join the Mumbai Indians squad tomorrow, has taken a hat-trick against Bangladesh.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.6 |  | Stokes to Rana, no run, play and a miss. Gets this to skid across at length |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7.5 | 0 | Stokes to Rana, no run, angles a length delivery across the batsman, who bunts it to point. |  |
|  | There's a direct hit at the non-striker's end but Rayudu, who had his back to throw, dragged | |  |
|  |  | his bat in before the stumps were broken |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7.4 | 1 | Stokes to Rayudu, 1 run, slow legcutter outside off, dabbed to third man as Rayudu jogs the |  |
|  | single | |  |
| 7.3 | 0 | Stokes to Rayudu, no run, swing and a miss. Length ball outside off, he looked to heave this |  |
|  | over long-on but played too early | |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.2 | |  | | Stokes to Rana, 1 run, uses the pace to help that down to fine leg | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 7.1 | |  | 1 | Stokes to Rayudu, 1 run, Smith has missed a run-out chance at the bowler's end. | | |  |  |
|  |  | Rayudu was miles out. Just pushed it off the frontfoot and took off without looking at his | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | partner |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 7 | 2 Runs 2 Wkts | MI: 63/3 | RR: 9.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AT Rayudu | |  | 1 (1b) | Imran Tahir | 2-0-9-3 |  |  |
|  | N Rana |  |  | 1 (1b) | DL Chahar | 2-0-21-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.6 | |  | | Imran Tahir to Rayudu, 1 run, too full outside off, driven wide of cover as they jog the single | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.5 | |  | W | Imran Tahir to Buttler, OUT, he's on fire. Someone stop him before he runs all the way to | | |  |  |
|  |  | Mumbai. This is Buttler walking back. Plays all around a length ball that skids on. Unlucky | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | though as he gets a big inside edge. S Ravi raised the finger even before they completed | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | the appeal. |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | JC Buttler lbw b Imran Tahir 38 (32m 19b 3x4 3x6) SR: 200.00 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.4 | |  | | Imran Tahir to Rana, 1 run, too full outside off, squeezed to long-off | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Nitish Rana comes in at No. 4 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.3 | |  | W | Imran Tahir to Sharma, OUT, done him with a beauty! This drifts in from length and zips off | | |  |  |
|  |  | the track. Rohit's feet went nowhere as he looked to work it to the leg side, missed it | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | completely and saw the sound of ball hitting stumps. Used the angle superbly there, delivered | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | this from wide of the crease |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | RG Sharma b Imran Tahir 3 (9m 7b 0x4 0x6) SR: 42.85 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.2 | |  | 0 | Imran Tahir to Sharma, no run, drives and gets a thick inside edge to short fine leg. Played | | |  |  |
|  |  | outside the line, the ball dipped on him as well | | | |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | |  | | Imran Tahir to Sharma, no run, lunges forward and defends a tossed up delivery | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

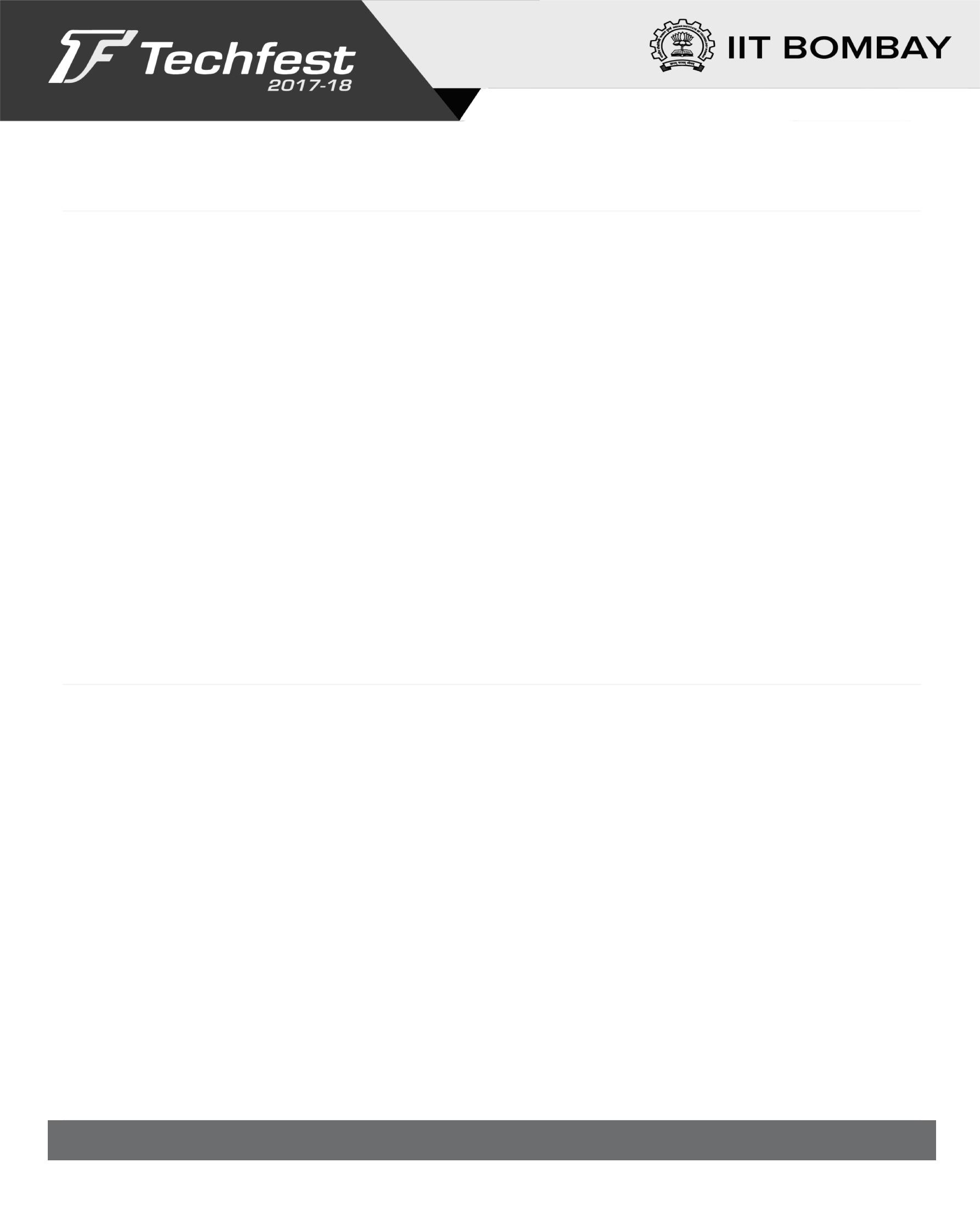
Rohit has hit only two boundaries from 21 balls off Tahir in the IPL. How many more can he get today?

END OF OVER: 6 | 13 Runs | MI: 61/1 | RR: 10.16

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| JC Buttler | 38 (18b) | DL Chahar | 2-0-21-0 |
| RG Sharma | 3 (4b) | Imran Tahir | 1-0-7-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.6 |  | Chahar to Buttler, 2 runs, length ball on middle and leg, whipped to Tahir at deep square leg |  |
| 2 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | 6 | Chahar to Buttler, SIX, muscular hit! This is Buttler unleashed. Too short, Buttler has all the |  |
|  | time in the world to make room and then slap this over cover. Sitting up nicely for him to | |  |





smack that. He was on one foot when he made contact

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.4 | | 4 | Chahar to Buttler, FOUR, bisects cover and mid-off. Sashays down the pitch and slaps the | | |  |  |
|  |  | length delivery into the gap. Don't bother diving | | |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | | 0 | Chahar to Buttler, no run, digs in a slower bouncer, took ages to get to Buttler who looked to | | |  |  |
|  |  | play an upper cut. Nearly played two strokes before it got to him. Beaten in the end | | |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | |  | Chahar to Buttler, no run, change in pace, slower and fuller on middle, pushed to midwicket | | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | |  | Chahar to Sharma, 1 run, short and wide outside off, slashed to third man | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Second over for Chahar | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 5 | 7 Runs 1 Wkt | MI: 48/1 | RR: 9.60 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | RG Sharma | | 2 (3b) | Imran Tahir | 1-0-7-1 |  |  |
|  | JC Buttler | | 26 (13b) | BA Stokes | 1-0-13-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.6 | |  | Imran Tahir to Sharma, 1 run, |  |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Bez: "Immy doing what Immy does: that wrong 'un with the late dip and sharp turn crashing into the stumps. Those of us who watch a lot of SA's ODIs and T20Is have become quite accustomed to that sight."

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.5 | 1 | Imran Tahir to Buttler, 1 run, drifting into middle and leg, pushed to the man coming in from |  |
|  | long-on | |  |
| 4.4 | 1 | Imran Tahir to Sharma, 1 run, pushed through quicker on middle and leg, worked to |  |
|  | midwicket | |  |
| 4.3 |  | Imran Tahir to Sharma, no run, quicker one outside off, punched to cover |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4.2 | W | Imran Tahir to Patel, OUT, bowled him round his legs. Typical Tahir sprint to celebrate the |  |
|  | wicket. The sponsor logo is nearly ripped off. This is fired full, Parthiv looked to sweep to | |  |
|  |  | early, but this one didn't turn much and beat the swing to crash into leg stump. Pune really |  |
|  |  | needed this |  |
|  |  | PA Patel b Imran Tahir 19 (20m 14b 4x4 0x6) SR: 135.71 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | 4 | Imran Tahir to Patel, FOUR, gets outside the line of the stumps and sweeps him with the |  |
|  | spin into the deep backward square leg boundary | |  |

Ashok Dinda's economy in the Powerplay overs of the first innings last season was a staggering 4.69. He's going at 10 today. Understandable then that there's a change. Here's Imran Tahir

END OF OVER: 4 | 13 Runs | MI: 41/0 | RR: 10.25

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| JC Buttler | 25 (12b) | BA Stokes | 1-0-13-0 |
|  |  |  |  |



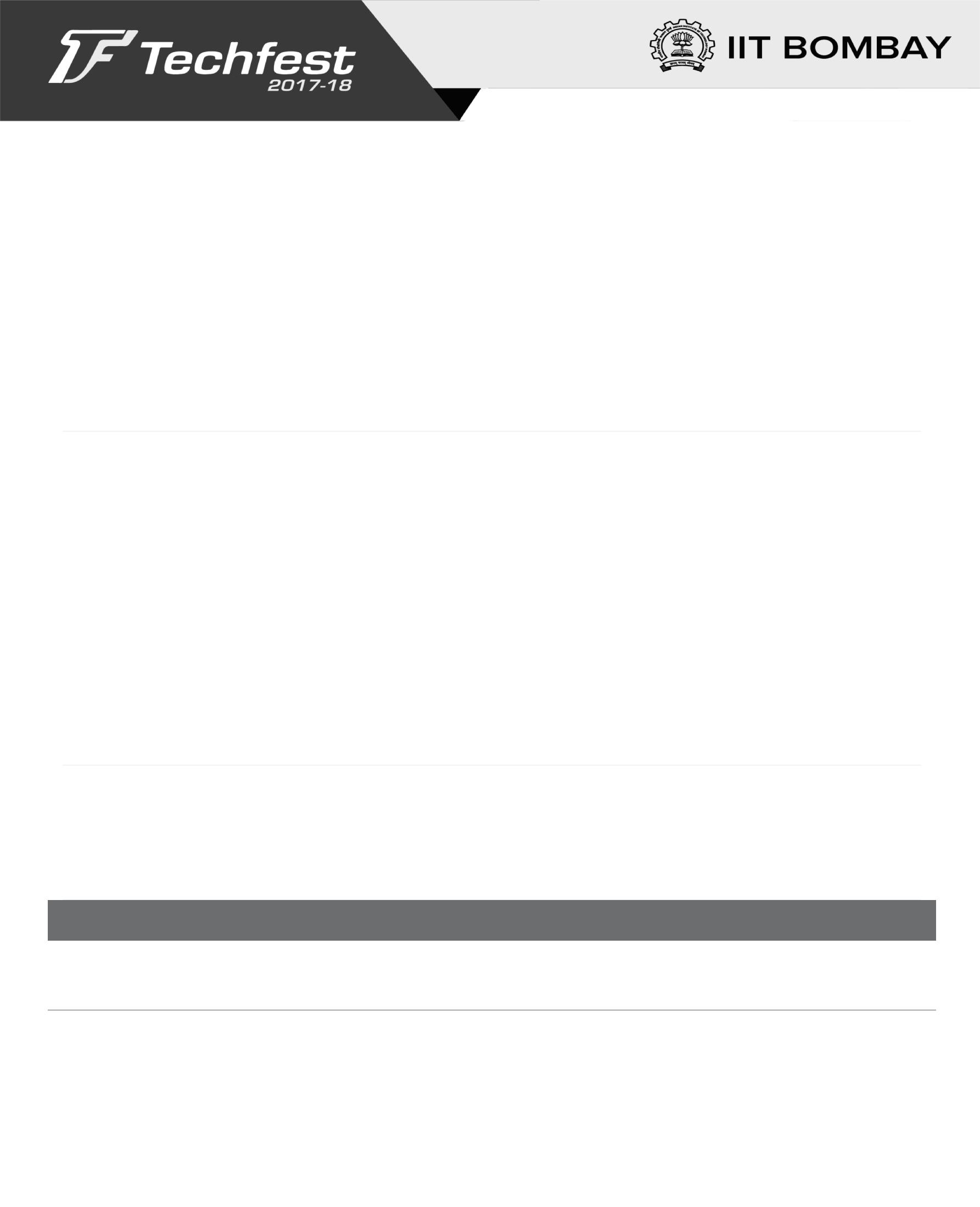


|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PA Patel | 15 (12b) | AB Dinda | 2-0-20-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3.6 | |  | 0 | Stokes to Buttler, no run, through him. Makes room to go over cover, but the ball nips back in | | |  |  |
|  |  | to beat the inside edge | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Third man comes in. Fine leg goes back | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.5 | |  | 6 | Stokes to Buttler, SIX, scoops him straight over the keeper, flies over the ropes. Trademark | | |  |  |
|  |  | Buttler. Bangs a short of length delivery outside off, Buttler walk outside the line of the | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | delivery and then ramps it over. Wow, exhilarating stuff this | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.4 | |  | 6 | Stokes to Buttler, SIX, thumped over the long-on boundary. Touch ahead of length, Buttler | | |  |  |
|  |  | waits inside the crease and shovels it over the ropes. Intent, execution, all too good | | | |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | |  | | Stokes to Buttler, no run, drags the length back just a little, he mistimes a pull to midwicket | | |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.2 | |  | 0 | Stokes to Buttler, no run, walks outside the crease and turns an incoming delivery to the leg | | |  |  |
|  |  | side | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes v Buttler for the first-time ever in any T20 game | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.1 | |  | 1 | Stokes to Patel, 1 run, starts off with a length ball on the stumps, dabbed to point for a quick | | |  |  |
|  |  | single | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 3 | 9 Runs | MI: 28/0 | RR: 9.33 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | PA Patel |  |  | 14 (11b) | AB Dinda | 2-0-20-0 |  |  |
|  | JC Buttler | |  | 13 (7b) | DL Chahar | 1-0-8-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.6 | |  | 1 | Dinda to Patel, 1 run, dropped! Oh, dear. Bhatia has made a right royal mess of a | |  |  |  |
|  |  | straightforward chance. Parthiv slashes, the thick edge flies to third man where Bhatia is hit | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | on the stomach as he looked to grab at that. It got to him much faster than he anticipated. | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 2.5 | |  | 4 | Dinda to Patel, FOUR, driven on the up past the diving mid-off fielder. Didn't time it as well | | |  |  |
|  |  | as he would have liked but it still raced away. On the up, delightful. | | | |  |  |  |
| 2.4 | |  | 0 | Dinda to Patel, no run, play and miss. Looks to ease the away-going delivery behind point. | | |  |  |
|  |  | Dinda shouts his lungs out but Dhoni hardly reacts | | | |  |  |  |
| 2.3 | |  | 0 | Dinda to Patel, no run, crunched but straight to Rahane at cover point. Missed out. This was | | |  |  |
|  |  | overpitched and he timed it sweetly | | |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2 | |  | 4 | Dinda to Patel, FOUR, top shot! Dinda errs in length again. Too short outside off, Parthiv | | |  |  |
|  |  | rolls his wrists over the delivery and pulls him over midwicket. Imperious | | | |  |  |  |

What Dhoni forgot perhaps was that lbw call off KP was overturned





|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.1 |  | Dinda to Patel, no run, pulled but straight to square leg | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 2 | 8 Runs | MI: 19/0 | RR: 9.50 | | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |  |
| JC Buttler | | 13 (7b) | DL Chahar | 1-0-8-0 |  |
| PA Patel |  | 5 (5b) | AB Dinda | 1-0-11-0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.6 |  | Chahar to Buttler, no run, length outside off, defended with soft hands | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Plenty of banter already. KP on air as Manoj Tiwary to tell MS Dhoni he's a better golfer than him. Dhoni retorts: "He's still my first Test wicket." Laughter in the commentary box

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.5 | 0 | Chahar to Buttler, no run, much better line, length on off, not much room this time, Buttler |  |
|  | walks out and blocks | |  |
| 1.4 |  | Chahar to Buttler, no run, gets forward and bunts the length ball outside off to cover |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Manoj Tiwary on air says they didn't expect Buttler to open | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1.3 | 4 | Chahar to Buttler, FOUR, walks across the stumps and then uses his steely wrists to whip |  |
|  | that behind square on the leg side. No chance for the fielder in the deep | |  |
| 1.2 |  | Chahar to Buttler, no run, back of length outside off, hint of nip away as well, left alone |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

Jos Buttler in the first innings of a T20 game: He's scored only 62 off 63 balls in the Powerplay in 11 innings. He's been dismissed three times in the first six overs. He's much better in the Powerplay while chasing - 122 runs off 68 balls.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 | 4 | Chahar to Buttler, FOUR, too short and pulled away in front of square. Swivels back and |
|  | swats that away between midwicket and mid-on | |

Deepak Chahar with the new ball from the other end

This is just the fourth game that Harbhajan has missed for Mumbai Indians since 'slapgate' in 2008

END OF OVER: 1 | 11 Runs | MI: 11/0 | RR: 11.00

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PA Patel | 5 (5b) | AB Dinda | 1-0-11-0 |  |
| JC Buttler | 5 (1b) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.6 |  | Dinda to Patel, no run, width outside off, flayed on the up to Rahane at cover point |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.5 |  | Dinda to Patel, no run, gets half-forward and punches the short of length delivery to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.4 | 4 | Dinda to Patel, FOUR, sliding into middle and leg, Parthiv clips it into the fine leg boundary. |  |
|  | Wrong line from Dinda. Too straight, nicely tucked away | |  |





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.3 | 5 | Dinda to Buttler, 5 runs, nearly a run-out at the bowler's end. Buttler is lucky. What's more is |  |
|  | he'll get four overthrows too. Turns this to short midwicket and sets off for a run, dishes in a | |  |
|  |  | full-length dive to get back in. |  |
|  | | |  |
| All three deliveries have been short of length so far | | |  |
| 0.2 |  | Dinda to Patel, 1 run, whipped away off his hip to deep square leg |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.1 | 0 | Dinda to Patel, no run, short of length on off, this one nips back in sharply and Parthiv |  |
|  | defends to the leg side | |  |
| 0.1 | 1w | Dinda to Patel, 1 wide, starts off with a wayward delivery down leg. Thing to note is there's |  |
|  | some swing | |  |

7.58pm Huge roar resonates across the MCA Stadium as the players walk out. Parthiv Patel and Jos Buttler are the two openers for Mumbai. Ashok Dinda will take the new ball.

Dinda has conceded 46 runs against Parthiv Patel in the Powerplay - the highest among current IPL players. Dinda has also dismissed Parthiv twice in six innings.

The elevens for you: Big call from Supergiant to leave out Faf du Plessis. They're playing two legspinners in Tahir and Zampa. Mumbai have six batsmen, one allrounder and four bowlers. They've left out their most-capped player Harbhajan Singh. Pollard, who flew halfway around the world from the Caribbean, where he was involved in a T20I series against Pakistan comes in straightaway. The Pandya brothers are in too.

Pune Supergiant: Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, Steve Smith (c), Manoj Tiwary, MS Dhoni (wk), Ben Stokes, Rajat Bhatia, Deepak Chahar, Adam Zampa, Imran Tahir, Ashok Dinda

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (c), Parthiv Patel (wk), Ambati Rayudu, Kieron Pollard, Nitish Rana, Jos Buttler, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Mitchell McClenaghan, Tim Southee, Jasprit Bumrah

7.30pm Steven Smith has won the toss, Supergiant will bowl . Smith has a big laugh when asked how different this pitch as compared to what he faced here a month ago. The pitch has a good covering of grass. "Radically different from the one we saw in the Test," says Sunil Gavaskar. There should be some pace and bounce.

Not sure of the XIs just yet, but what we definitely know is the New Zealand pair of Tim Southee and Mitchell McClenaghan are in for Mumbai Indians.

Dez: "Shashank, what do you think of the option of Buttler opening for MI? His best T20I score was achieved as an opener, and the more balls someone of his destructive ability faces the better surely? P.S - As an England fan, ilove the stat in your preview that Stokes has never bowled in a T20 to Buttler." - A definite option upfront. That will give them an extra bowling option. If he isn't injured and is willing to keep, perhaps they're better off exercising that option. And the Stokes stat is the discovery of my colleague Karthik Krishnaswamy.

Meanwhile, Sidharth has solved a big question. "I made a bone-headed decision of picking Tahir in my fantasy team. Hope it doesn't backfire." Sit and pray he's picked, mate. The toss is coming up very soon





Now here's a question for Mumbai Indians' fans: Should Rohit open or bat at No. 4? Raunak Kapoor argues [with himself. He loves to. Check it out. And if voting isn't your thing, participate in our playalike](http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/video_audio/1089940.html) [contest and you can be feature on our site.](http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/video_audio/1089940.html)

6.50pm Steven Smith is taken around the ground in a golf cart with dancers and fireworks surrounding him. The stadium's far from full at the moment. The grand stand is packed, but plenty of blue spaces on the far end. Rohit Sharma joins him on the stage as the *'Duniya Hiladenge'* theme song belts out.

Lot of talk around Supergiant's team combination. No Ashwin. So they'll need some experience in the spin department. They've got current No. 1 T20 spinner Imran Tahir in their ranks, but will they leave out Adam Zampa, their highest wicket-taker last year? Or will they play both? That will mean they may have to leave out Faf, since Stokes is a certainty, barring injury concerns. Lots to think about.

Yasir: "Zampa will consider himself unlucky, if Imran is picked above him, and will also question the Pune think tank. It will mean a player who was not picked at the auction plays ahead of a regular."

6.40pm We at ESPNcricinfo are coming up with an all-time IPL dream team, and you, our readers, have an opportunity to pick the XI. We'll feature five polls - one every five days - to help us draw the shortlist from which the final XI will be picked. In-line with the tournament's rules, you can pick just four foreign players. The first of our polls is on the openers. [Vote here](http://www.espncricinfo.com/iplxi/content/site/index.html) for your best openers in the competition

Chris Gayle and David Warner are our top two picks currently. But you can only pick four overseas players. Would you rather pick one Indian along with one of these two? Sehwag? Tendulkar? Gambhir? Uthappa? Plenty of contenders.

"My choice is Chris Gayle and Robin Uthappa," says Vicky Maly. "Gayle: Destabilizes the opposition plans and approach by mere presence. A match winner on own force. Although doesn't fire always, he is a great force to to have at the top of the order. Uthappa: Controlled aggression but carries a lot of power in his shots. Ability to play intelligent shots against all types of bowling. Calm head and consistent."

Sandeep Mellan says: "We need atleast one Indian opener keeping 4 foreign players policy. So Sehwag is the best choice here since he is consistent and has a very high strike rate. The other reason to chose Sehwag is my other opener is Chris Gayle. Since Chris takes time to get his eye in, we need an opener who can start firing from the first ball and who better than Sehwag. I would like to have 2 all rounders (unfortunately we don't have decent Indian allrounders, my choice here is foreigners again) and one foreign fast bowler in the team hence I have only one foreign cap left which made me choose Chris Gayle and Sehwag."

6.30pm Whose home game is this, really? People of Pune believe the MCA Stadium in Gahunje is way out of the city to be called one of their own. Those in Navi Mumbai believe it's faster to get to the stadium from there than it does for them to get to the Wankhede. Anyway, we'll have that up for another day. For now, it's a warm welcome to our ball-by-ball coverage of match two.

Today will be the first time MS Dhoni will not be captaining in an IPL game. Steven Smith will walk out to lead Rising Pune Supergiant at the venue of his recent Test success, where he made a magnificent century in Australia's 333-run win. Rohit Sharma returns after a five-month injury layoff. If you're just logging in, look no further than Akshay Gopalakrishnan's [match preview](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1090102.html) for all the pertinent numbers and match info







After a slightly one-sided opening game, the IPL is back at its exhilarating best. Mumbai continue to show that they are slow starters. They have now lost their first match in every season since 2013. After the two teams exchanged away wins in the last season, the head-to-head now has a home winner. After a forgettable debut season, Pune return with a cracking start and the highest successful chase against Mumbai. That's all we have from this game. We hope you enjoyed our coverage. Be back tomorrow when Gujarat Lions kick off their campaign with a home fixture against two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders. Until then, goodbye!

"It's a nice place to bat, Pune," says Steven Smith, Pune captain and Man of the Match. "Fortunate to get over the line in the end. We always knew they would have to get an over in from a spinner or Pollard and we had to target them It was nice to hit a couple of sixes to hit the game. It was one of those wickets where it was hard to find timing as soon as you come in. Form is form anywhere, I guess, so you got to make the most of it when you're hitting the ball well. Imran Tahir was magnificent, probably called him on a little bit earlier than I would have liked to. Taking wickets through the middle overs was helpful and probably helped us in the end as well. Probably 180 was a par score on that wicket, pretty nice wicket with even bounce and slightly on the slower side."

Abdullah: "I would like to give some credit to Rajat Bhatia, he is one of the most under-rated all rounders in Indian Cricket, especially in the T20 format. He gave away just 14 runs off 3 overs, brilliant with his wobbly-dobbly medium pacers!!"

11.38pm Is there any stopping Steven Smith at this moment? First in the Tests and now in his first game of the 2017 IPL, he has stolen the show with an innings of poise. Smith hadn't played a T20 for Australia in a year, but in his first match as Supergiant captain, comes out and plays a blinder. Dropped on 36 by Nitish Rana and that is what happens when you let off good players. Not to forget Rahane's pristine innings at the top, laced with supreme timing that set the tone for the chase and Imran Tahir, who put behind his nightmarish last match against Mumbai Indians with three strikes in his first two overs. Presentations soon.

Arjun: "That is two matches in a row for Pune the captains have finished off the chase in the last over with consecutive sixes!!"

Shaan: "So it is not Indian team that cannot dismiss Smith, it is anyone in Indian conditions"

Saveed: "Now I cant decide whether relieving Dhoni of his duties was a bad decision or making Smith the captain a better choice on the base of individual performances"

Shankar: "Way to go Dhoni !! That's how you give transition to smith "

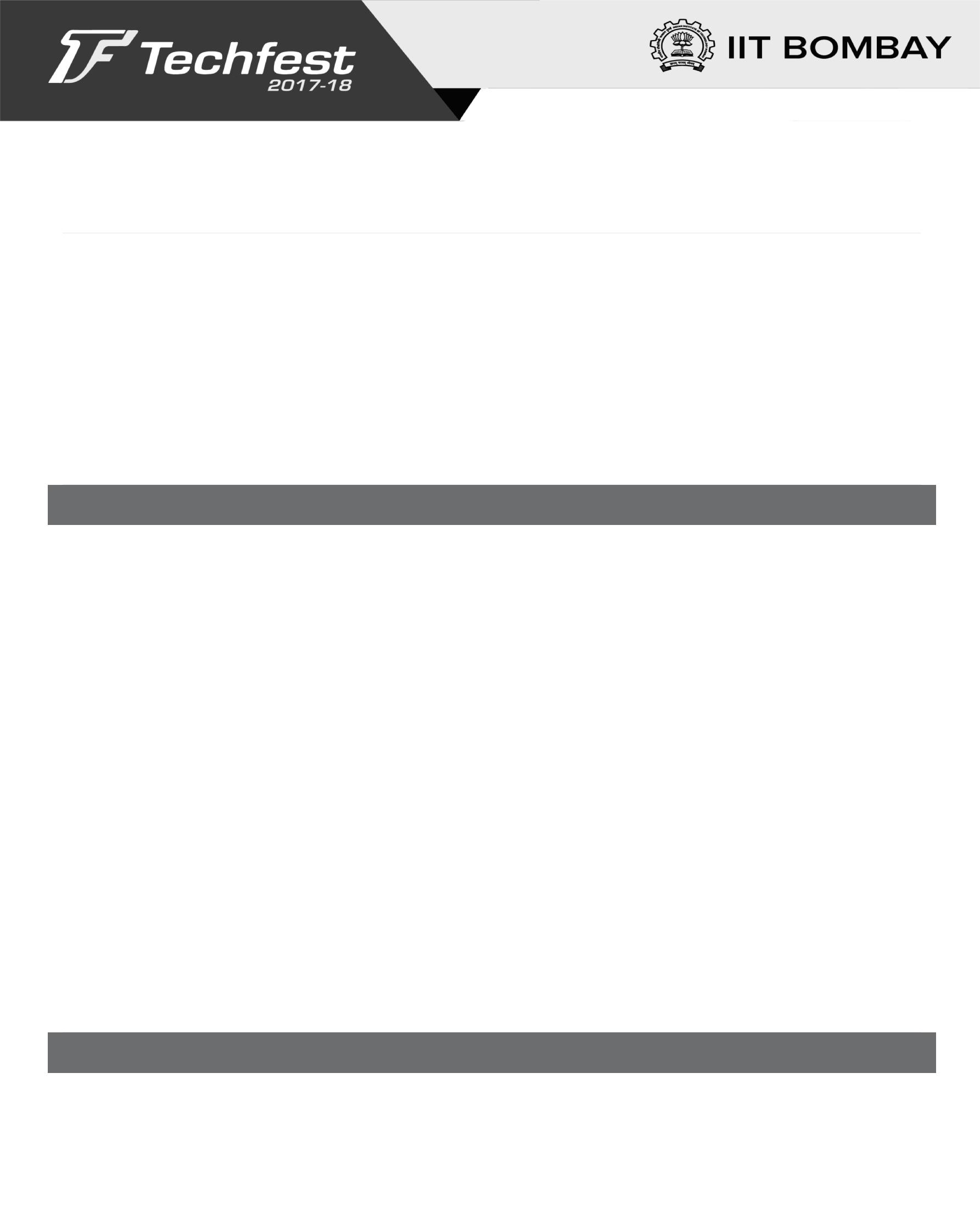
"I thought Smith batted really well. The kind of form he is in, he just took off from where he left," says Rohit Sharma, Mumbai captain. "The fielding didn't really help us. This is our first game and there is a lot of learning from this. Both bring very similar things to the table and Mitch McClenaghan has done very well for us which is why we picked him ahead of Mitchell Johnson. Mahela brings a lot of experience to the table, but we have a great squad and I am sure we will bounce back."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19.5 | 6 | Pollard to Smith, SIX, and that is the game. Full, on middle, Smith walks across and flicks it |
|  | over midwicket. Times it superbly and the ball carries the distance | |

Fine leg and third man inside the circle.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19.4 |  | Pollard to Smith, SIX, is that the game! Smith launches one into the long-on stands and it is a |  |
| 6 |  |
|  |  |





humongous hit. Back of a length, outside off. It was a slower ball and took some serious hitting from Smith who clobbers it

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19.3 | 1 | Pollard to Dhoni, 1 run, length ball, Dhoni cannot time this pull shot and the ball is fielded at |
|  | the deep | |
| 19.2 | 1 | Pollard to Smith, 1 run, Smith walks across towards off. Pollard bowls it full and Smith whips |
|  | it away to deep backward square leg where Vinay Kumar tidies up | |
| Pollard in the 20th over in the IPL - 11.15 economy rate | | |
|  |  |  |
| 19.1 | 1 | Pollard to Dhoni, 1 run, shortish, Dhoni tries to pull and drags it straight down the ground as |
|  | the ball crashes into the stumps at the non-striker's end | |

Thirteen needed off the last over. Pollard to bowl

END OF OVER: 19 | 7 Runs | RPS: 172/3 (13 runs required from 6 balls, RR: 9.05, RRR: 13.00)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MS Dhoni | 10 (10b) | JJ Bumrah | 4-0-29-0 |
| SPD Smith | 71 (51b) | MJ McClenaghan | 4-0-36-1 |
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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18.6 | 1 | Bumrah to Dhoni, 1 run, dropped. Southee spills a sitter at long-on. Full toss from Bumrah |
|  | and Dhoni does not find the elevation needed. Sends it straight into the hands of Southee who | |
|  |  | puts it down. Bumrah can't believe his luck |
|  |  |  |
| 18.5 | 4 | Bumrah to Dhoni, FOUR, like he has been doing for so many years now, Dhoni finds the |
|  | fence when most needed. Bumrah errs in length and drops it a tad too short and Dhoni pulls | |
|  |  | with brute force to deep square leg |
|  |  |  |
| 18.4 | 0 | Bumrah to Dhoni, no run, swing and a miss and the ball goes over the stumps. Back-to-back |
|  | dots and the pressure back on Pune all of a sudden | |
| 18.3 | 0 | Bumrah to Dhoni, no run, goes for a big pull shot but gets cramped for room as it cuts back |
|  | into him. Bumrah makes a feeble appeal for an lbw, seems like it flicked his back pocket | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18.2 | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, fullish, outside off, whips it away but straight to deep midwicket |
|  |  |  |
| 18.1 | 1 | Bumrah to Dhoni, 1 run, short of a length, Dhoni punches it down to long-off for a single |
|  |  |  |

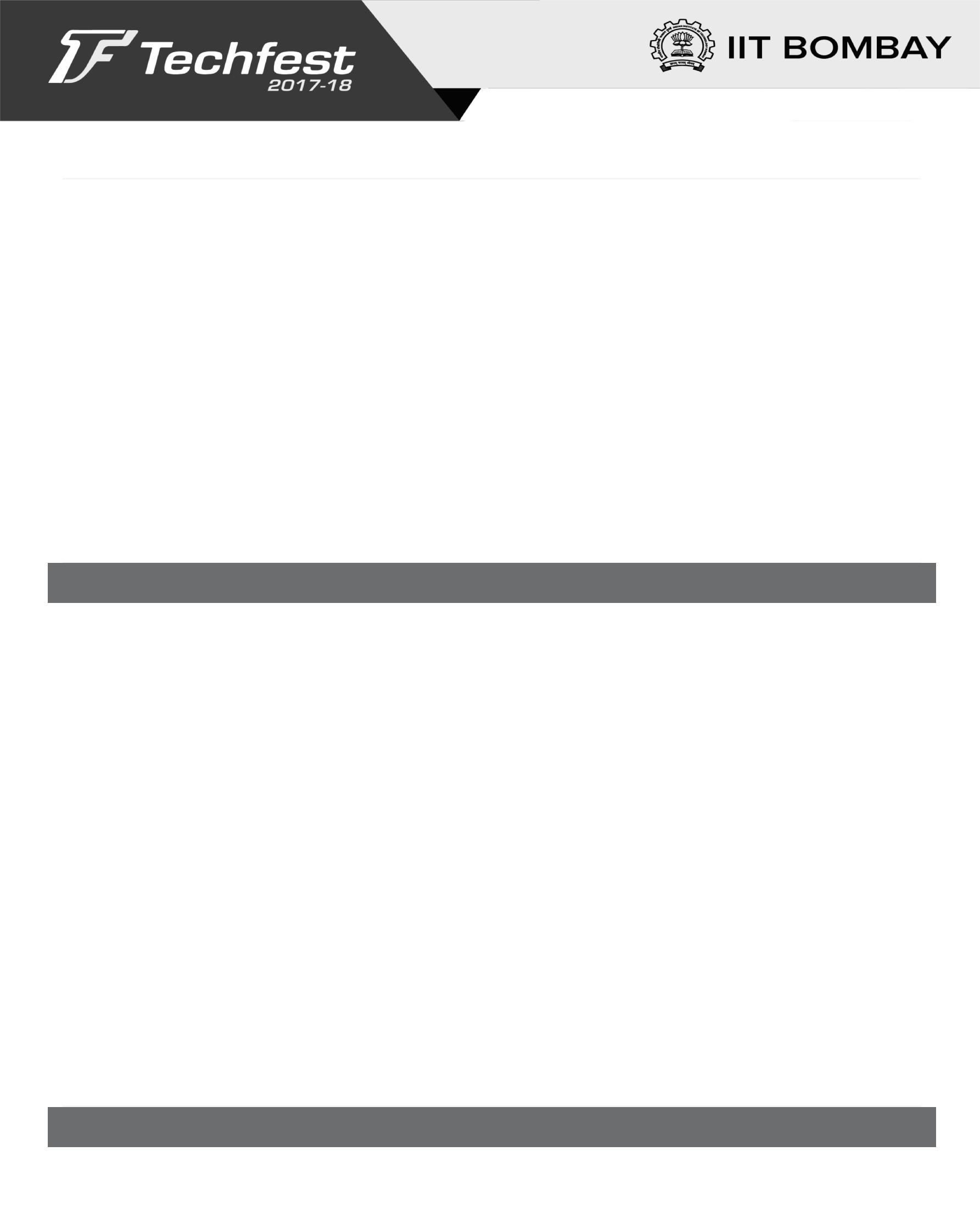
Bumrah, with 20 off 12..

END OF OVER: 18 | 7 Runs | RPS: 165/3 (20 runs required from 12 balls, RR: 9.16, RRR: 10.00)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 70 (50b) | MJ McClenaghan | 4-0-36-1 |
| MS Dhoni | 4 (5b) | JJ Bumrah | 3-0-22-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 17.6 | 4 | McClenaghan to Smith, FOUR, length, outside off, Smith lays into a pull shot and the ball |
|  | screams into the boundary, beats deep midwicket running to his left | |





Abhi: "On a hypothetical world I am imagining Bumrah & Malinga bowling the last 4 overs and defending this 20 odd runs !!"

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17.5 |  | McClenaghan to Dhoni, 1 run, length, drops it in front of point for a single |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.4 |  | McClenaghan to Smith, 1 run, manufactures some room and cuts to point for a single |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.3 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, short ball, gets up considerably outside off. Smith withdraws |  |
|  | his bat and looks for a wide call. But he had moved quite some way outside off | |  |
| 17.2 | 1 | McClenaghan to Dhoni, 1 run, short of a length, Dhoni swivels around and pulls to deep |  |
|  | square leg | |  |
| 17.1 |  | McClenaghan to Dhoni, no run, full, outside off, driven straight to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

That was such a good over from Bumrah until the last ball four. Mumbai need one tight over here.

END OF OVER: 17 | 10 Runs | RPS: 158/3 (27 runs required from 18 balls, RR: 9.29, RRR: 9.00)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 65 (47b) | JJ Bumrah | 3-0-22-0 |
| MS Dhoni | 2 (2b) | HH Pandya | 4-0-36-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

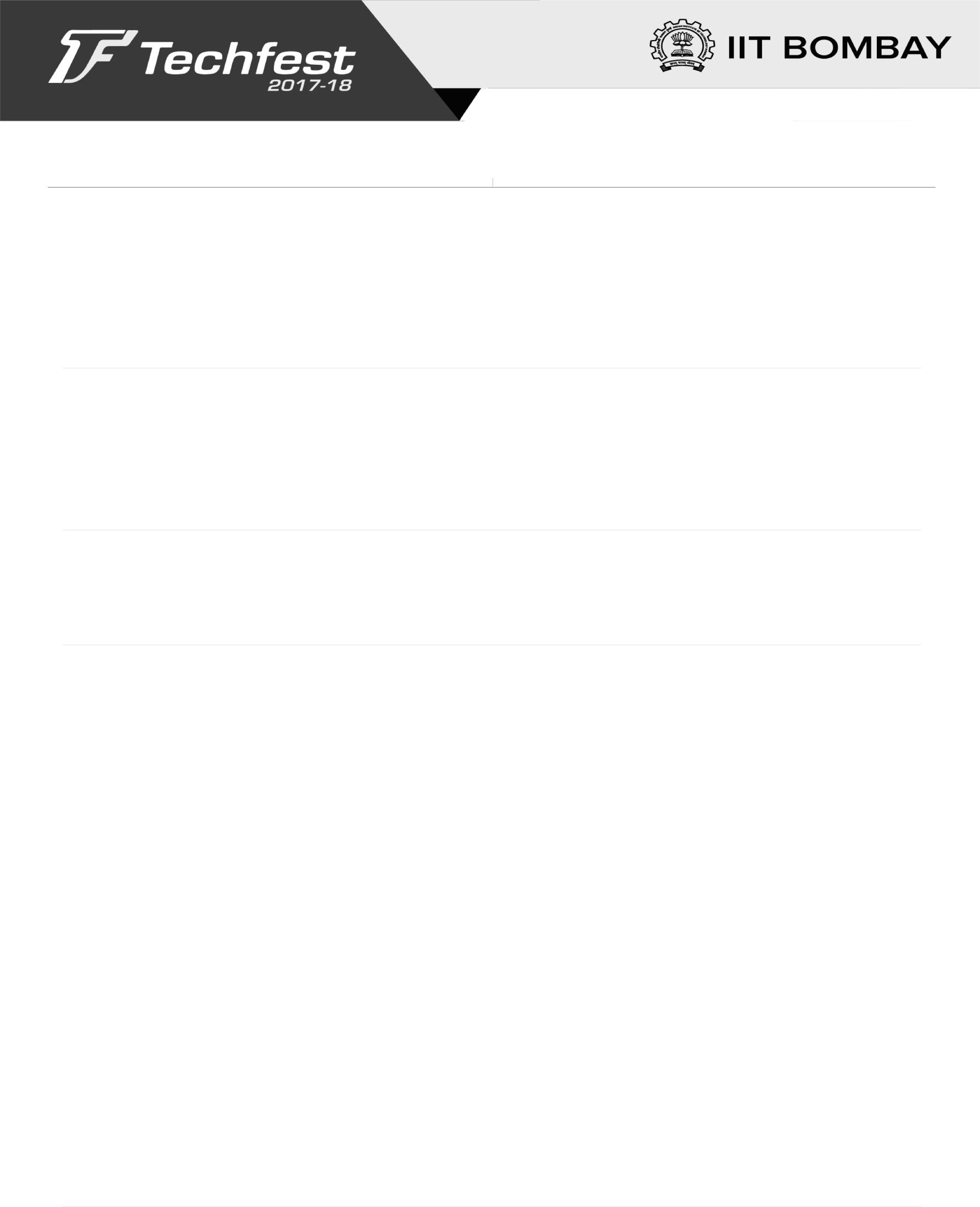
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 16.6 | 4 | Bumrah to Smith, FOUR, lovely shot. Width on offer outside off and Smith makes him pay |
|  | the price. Opens the bat face really late and comfortably beats short third man | |
| 16.5 | 2 | Bumrah to Smith, 2 runs, plays it late and opens the bat face. Backward point makes a diving |
|  | save but ends up conceding an overthrow with the batsman well inside the crease | |
| 16.4 | 0 | Bumrah to Smith, no run, tries to cut but it does not get up enough and he gets beaten |
|  |  |  |
| 16.3 | 2 | Bumrah to Smith, 2 runs, fullish, whipped off the pads to cow corner, deep midwicket runs to |
|  | his left and cuts it off in front of the boundary | |
| 16.2 | 1 | Bumrah to Dhoni, 1 run, short of good length, Dhoni jumps across and dabs it through square |
|  | leg | |
| Avneet : "Meanwhile, somewhere, KOHLI-ABD are laughing reading these comments of best pairs. " | | |
|  |  |  |
| 16.1 | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, slower full toss, outside off, Smith flicks it into deep midwicket for |
|  | one | |

Bumrah comes on with 37 needed off 24

END OF OVER: 16 | 9 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 148/3 (37 runs required from 24 balls, RR: 9.25, RRR: 9.25)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 56 (42b) | HH Pandya | 4-0-36-1 |
| MS Dhoni | 1 (1b) | TG Southee | 4-0-34-1 |
|  |  |  |  |





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| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.6 | 1 | HH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, length, outside off, another attempt at a pull shot but not short |
|  | enough and Smith knocks it to long-on for one | |
| 15.5 | 2 | HH Pandya to Smith, 2 runs, width on offer outside off, Smith carves it to the left of point |
|  | who gets down but does not stop the ball entirely | |

Last season, MS Dhoni hit 94 runs off 50 balls in the last five overs of chases, at 11.28 per over. 46 off 18 balls came in one match against Kings XI.

Pradeep Bomble: "Best batsman, and best finisher bat together in international cricket too. Kohli-Dhoni!"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.4 | 1 | HH Pandya to Dhoni, 1 run, slightly short but not short enough. Dhoni attempts a pull and |
|  | drags it down to long-on | |

Vamsi: "Smith was the captain of Pune Warriors as well. Micheal Clarke and Saurav Ganguly played under him. So leading Dhoni and playing in Pune and performing is nothing new for Smithy"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.3 | 1 | HH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, length outside off, Smith uses his wrists to flick it to midwicket |
|  | for one. Turns the strike over to Dhoni and the crowd roars in delight | |

Ambati Rayudu is being stretchered off the field. "We reckon it could be groin or hamstring," says Sanjay Majrekar on air.

[The five most expensive final overs in IPL history](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1090734.html). Guess who features most often?

MS Dhoni, the former captain, walks out to the usual "Dhoni, Dhoni" chants. And we have ourselves a strategic timeout.

Srinivasan: "In comes the best finisher along with no.1 batsman in the world. What else you can ask for, IPL at its best"

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15.2 | |  | W | HH Pandya to Stokes, OUT, slower ball from Pandya and Stokes does not pick it. And he also | | |  |
|  |  | fetches it from way outside off. Tries to slog, the bat face closes in his hand as he completes | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | the shot and he sends it straight down the throat of deep midwicket | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | BA Stokes c Southee b HH Pandya 21 (26m 14b 3x4 0x6) SR: 150.00 | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 15.1 | |  | 4 | HH Pandya to Stokes, FOUR, full, outside off, Stokes picks it up from outside off and whips it | | |  |
|  |  | away towards cow corner. Pollard darts across from long-on but cannot get down entirely and | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | the ball goes into the boundary. Pandya is not amused and has his hands up in the air | |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 15 | 10 Runs | RPS: 139/2 (46 runs required from 30 balls, RR: 9.26, RRR: 9.20) | | | | | |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 52 (39b) | TG Southee | 4-0-34-1 |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 17 (12b) | KA Pollard | 1-0-15-0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 14.6 | 0 | Southee to Smith, no run, gives himself room by staying legside of it and tries to shovel it over |
|  | the off-side in-field. But Southee does well to take it away from him, forces him to reach out | |

and Smith gets beaten comprehensively





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.6 | 1w | Southee to Smith, 1 wide, backs away to make room and Southee overcompensates with his |  |
|  | line, tries to take it away from Smith and fires it too wide outside off | |  |
| 14.5 |  | Southee to Stokes, 1 run, fuller ball, pushed straight down the ground for a single |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.4 | 1 | Southee to Smith, 1 run, good length, outside off, Smith shuffles across and tucks, gets a bat- |  |
|  | pad to square leg | |  |
| 14.3 | 2 | Southee to Smith, 2 runs, short of a length, outside off, punches it down the ground to the left |  |
|  | of long-on and he takes on the fielder there to charge back for the second. Fifty for Smith in | |  |

his first match as Supergiant captain

Steven Smith has six 30 plus scores in eight innings against Mumbai Indians. All of them have come in a winning cause. One for New South Wales Blues, one for Sydney Sixers. Two for Rajasthan Royals, two for RPS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 14.2 | 1 | Southee to Stokes, 1 run, slower full ball, Stokes picks up the drop in pace and waits for it. |
|  | Tries to slog it but does not get the timing right and the ball goes on the bounce to deep | |
|  |  | midwicket |
|  |  |  |
| 14.1 | 4 | Southee to Stokes, FOUR, full and wide, mid-off inside the circle and he beats him with a |
|  | searing drive. Drives away from the body, does not bother moving his feet but it gives him the | |

room to belt it

Here are the economy rates of the Mumbai bowlers in the last five overs in the last two IPL seasons: Bumrah 10.78, McClenaghan 8.93, Hardik 12.37, Pollard 11.85, Southee 9.50, Krunal Pandya 9.42. And Pune need only 9.33 runs per over in the last six.

END OF OVER: 14 | 15 Runs | RPS: 129/2 (56 runs required from 36 balls, RR: 9.21, RRR: 9.33)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BA Stokes | 11 (9b) | KA Pollard | 1-0-15-0 |
| SPD Smith | 49 (36b) | MJ McClenaghan | 3-0-29-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13.6 | 1 | Pollard to Stokes, 1 run, this time, Stokes walks across towards off and punches this to long- |  |
|  | off for one | |  |
| 13.6 | 1w | Pollard to Stokes, 1 wide, full, rolls his fingers over the seam and tries to take it away from the |  |
|  | batsman. But pushes it across too much and it is called a wide | |  |
| 13.5 | 1 | Pollard to Smith, 1 run, short of a length and angling in, chips it in the air as he tucks off the |  |
|  | hips. Nobody in square leg | |  |
| 13.4 | 6 | Pollard to Smith, SIX, half-volley outside off and Smith gleefully accepts it before dispatching |  |
|  | it over long-on. Swings hard and brings the bottom hand into play as he shovels it into the | |  |
|  |  | stands. This is shoddy bowling |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13.3 |  | Pollard to Stokes, 1 run, slowish and short of a length, punched down to long-off |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |





Third man inside the circle as is backward point

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 13.2 | 1 | Pollard to Smith, 1 run, short of a length, just outside off, punched in front of covers for a |
|  | quick single | |
| 13.1 | 4 | Pollard to Smith, FOUR, lovely placement. It's short of a length and angling in to him. Moves |
|  | towards off early that enables him to use the angle and just pull it wide of the short fine leg | |

fielder for four

Karthik: "If cricket is purely art, Smithy is a far cry on how he played over number 13. But he managed the runs and he is effective and why he is on the top of the best batsmen."

END OF OVER: 13 | 9 Runs | RPS: 114/2 (71 runs required from 42 balls, RR: 8.76, RRR: 10.14)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 37 (32b) | MJ McClenaghan | 3-0-29-1 |
| BA Stokes | 9 (7b) | JJ Bumrah | 2-0-12-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 12.6 | 1 | McClenaghan to Smith, 1 run, dropped. Nitish Rana the fielder, drops one after taking a |
|  | good one earlier. Short of a length and angling in so cramping Smith for room. He pulls | |
|  |  | nonetheless. Rana runs to his right from deep square leg and has it all covered but just cannot |
|  |  | hold on to it |
|  |  |  |
| 12.5 | 4 | McClenaghan to Smith, FOUR, short of good length, angling in, that's a poor line and Smith |
|  | makes him pay the price. Tucks it off the pads to deep fine leg. Beats short fine leg well | |
| 12.4 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, short of a length and slower in pace, Smith swings hard and |
|  | chops it towards the keeper | |
| 12.3 | 4 | McClenaghan to Smith, FOUR, walks across outside off early and McClenaghan bangs it in. |
|  | Smith goes through with a pull shot despite not having all the room he would have liked. But | |
|  |  | he has hammered this, loses balance as he completes the shot |
|  |  |  |
| 12.2 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, comes forward and backs away early. McClenaghan does well |
|  | to drag back his length as well as pace and has Smith beaten | |
| 12.1 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, short, outside off, the bounce gets a bit big on Smith and |
|  | beats his attempted cut | |

END OF OVER: 12 | 8 Runs | RPS: 105/2 (80 runs required from 48 balls, RR: 8.75, RRR: 10.00)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 28 (26b) | JJ Bumrah | 2-0-12-0 |
| BA Stokes | 9 (7b) | TG Southee | 3-0-24-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11.6 | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, fuller, outside off, Smith strides forward to meet the pitch and whips |  |
|  | it away to the right of long-on for a single | |  |
| 11.5 |  | Bumrah to Stokes, 1 run, opens the face of his bat but should have probably played it slightly |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |





later, gets it just wide of backward point and comes across for a quick single

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11.4 | 4 | Bumrah to Stokes, FOUR, short, outside off, comes on at good height and pace at 140kph, |  |
|  | Stokes gets on top of the bounce and pulls with authority through midwicket. Beautiful timing | |  |
|  |  | and balance |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, full, on the pads, that was the cutter from Bumrah, 114kph, Smith |  |
|  | tucks off the pads to deep midwicket for one | |  |
| 11.2 |  | Bumrah to Stokes, 1 run, fullish, outside off, Stokes stabs it square of the wicket for one |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 11.1 | 0 | Bumrah to Stokes, no run, short ball, Stokes tries to pull but goes through with his pull early |  |
|  | and misses | |  |

Bumrah to continue with 88 needed off 54.

When chasing for England in T20Is, Ben Stokes has made 110 runs off 85 balls, averages 18.

END OF OVER: 11 | 4 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 97/2 (88 runs required from 54 balls, RR: 8.81, RRR: 9.77)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BA Stokes | 3 (3b) | TG Southee | 3-0-24-1 |
| SPD Smith | 26 (24b) | KH Pandya | 2-0-21-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10.6 | 1 | Southee to Stokes, 1 run, full, on the pads, Stokes walks across and clips it away to deep |
|  | midwicket | |
| 10.5 | 2 | Southee to Stokes, 2 runs, full, angling across, driven elegantly through covers and sweeper |
|  | runs to his left to cut it off. First runs in the IPL for Stokes | |
| 10.4 | 0 | Southee to Stokes, no run, too full to cut. Width there but not the right length and the ball |
|  | beats Stokes' flat-batted shot | |
| Ben Stokes | |  |
|  |  |  |
| 10.3 | 1 | Southee to Smith, 1 run, width on offer outside off, Smith reaches out and slaps it to point |
|  | who slightly misfields allowing the single | |
| 10.2 | 0 | Southee to Smith, no run, short and wide, chops the cut to cover |
|  |  |  |
| 10.1 | W | Southee to Rahane, OUT, They have gone upstairs to check this catch. Nitish Rana dives |

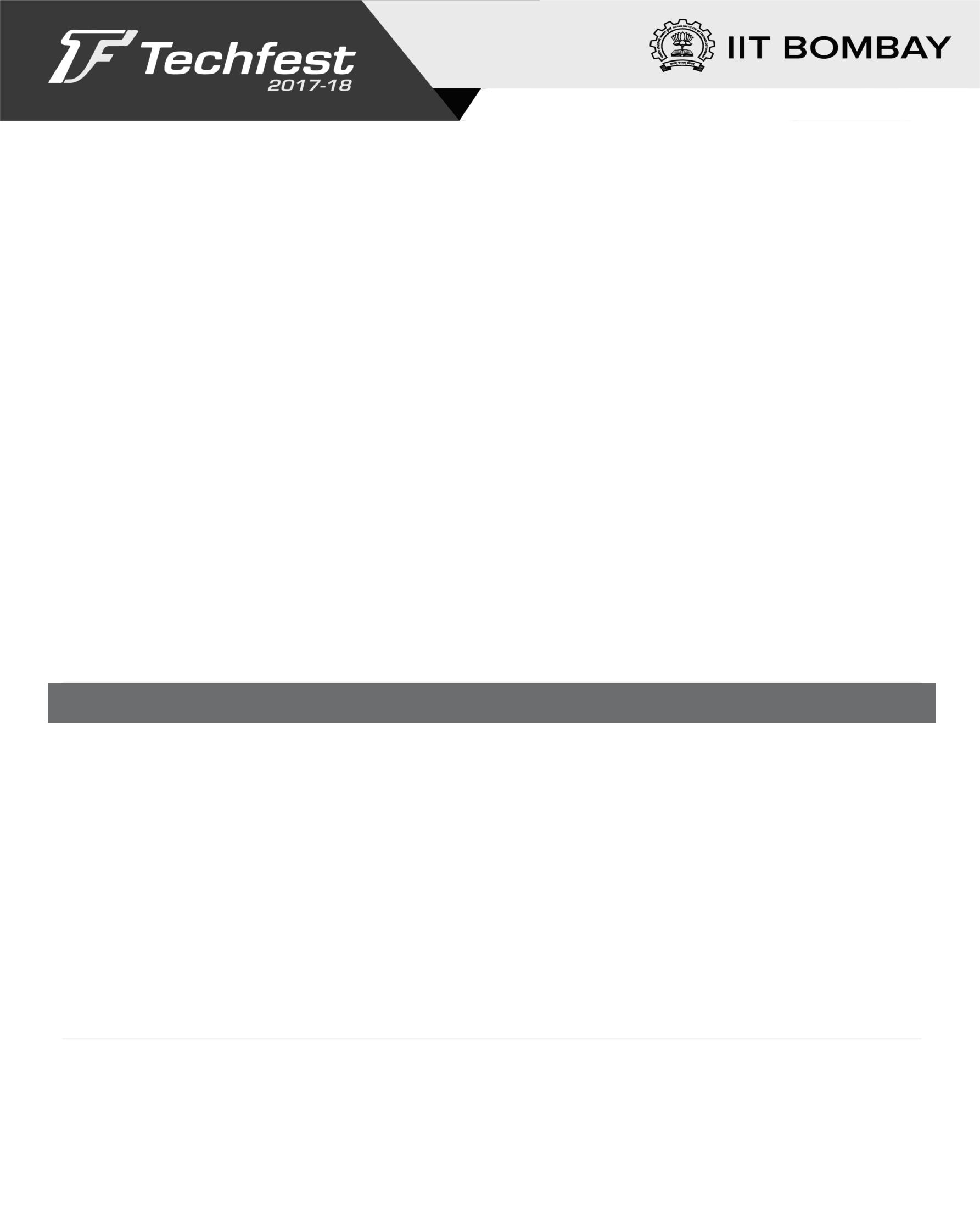
forward to pluck a smart catch. Short ball, Rahane pulls but does so across the line. The ball is dying on the fielder at deep square leg as he gets down and low but has done well. The soft signal was out and it is a clean catch

AM Rahane c Rana b Southee 60 (48m 34b 6x4 3x6) SR: 176.47

END OF OVER: 10 | 11 Runs | RPS: 93/1 (92 runs required from 60 balls, RR: 9.30, RRR: 9.20)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 60 (33b) | KH Pandya | 2-0-21-0 |
|  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 25 (22b) | HH Pandya | 3-0-27-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

[Dinda appears](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1090734.html) \*three\* times on the list of \*five\* most expensive final overs in the IPL

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9.6 |  | KH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.5 | 1 | KH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, full, on the pads, gets down and sweeps to deep backward square |  |
|  | leg | |  |
| 9.4 | 2 | KH Pandya to Smith, 2 runs, Smith sweeps hard and that's a great stop by Hardik Pandya at |  |
|  | deep midwicket, runs across to his right and slides full-length to stop it | |  |
| 9.3 |  | KH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, full, on the stumps, driven down to long-on for one |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | 6 | KH Pandya to Rahane, SIX, valiant attempt by Pollard but it evades him into the |  |
|  | long-on boundary. Rahane comes down the track and chips this one in the air. It seems as | |  |
|  |  | though it might be a straightforward catch for long-on, but so good was the timing on that one |  |
|  |  | that it beats Pollard who puts in a full-blooded leap and still cannot get to it. Just sublime |  |
|  |  | timing |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.1 |  | KH Pandya to Rahane, no run, drifting on the pads, tucked behind to short fine leg |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

END OF OVER: 9 | 9 Runs | RPS: 82/1 (103 runs required from 11 overs, RR: 9.11, RRR: 9.36)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 52 (29b) | HH Pandya | 3-0-27-0 |
| SPD Smith | 22 (20b) | KH Pandya | 1-0-10-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8.6 | 1 | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, arches back to manufacture some room and deftly opens the |
|  | face of his bat for a single to third man | |
| 8.5 | 1 | HH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, short of good length, width on offer, slapped out to sweeper cover |
|  | for one | |
| 8.4 | 0 | HH Pandya to Smith, no run, short and wide outside off, Smith tries to pull but the ball does |
|  | not bounce as much and goes off the bottom part of the bat to square leg | |

Rak: "Did somebody just say "brainfade"? Please remain quiet until Smith is batting. Pune needs him to stay there. "

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8.3 | 1 | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, short of a length and coming on at pace, Rahane hangs back and |
|  | opens the face of his bat to run it down to third man for one | |
| 8.2 | 4 | HH Pandya to Rahane, FOUR, short ball, gets slightly big on him and Rahane swivels around |
|  | and pulls it over deep backward square leg. That's fifty for Rahane | |
| 8.1 |  | HH Pandya to Rahane, 2 runs, short of a length, outside off, coming on nicely for Rahane who |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | punches it to the right of sweeper cover |  |
| 2 |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |

END OF OVER: 8 | 10 Runs | RPS: 73/1 (112 runs required from 12 overs, RR: 9.12, RRR: 9.33)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 44 (25b) | KH Pandya | 1-0-10-0 |
| SPD Smith | 21 (18b) | HH Pandya | 2-0-18-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

Rahane's striking at 179 at present (43 off 24 balls). The only two T20 innings he's finished with a higher strike-rate are 24 off 13 balls against Maharashtra and 8 off 4 balls against England. Can he keep striking at this level today?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.6 | 1 | KH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, on a length and slightly spinning away, whipped off the backfoot |  |
|  | to deep midwicket | |  |
| 7.5 |  | KH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, on the pads, flicked away to deep midwicket for one |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7.4 | 2 | KH Pandya to Smith, 2 runs, flighted, comes down the track and works it wide of long-on for |  |
|  | a brace | |  |
| 7.3 | 4 | KH Pandya to Smith, FOUR, too much width. Can't be offering up so much room, Smith |  |
|  | opens up and hammers a cut shot to sweeper cover. This time the fielder has no chance of | |  |
|  |  | getting to it |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | 0 | KH Pandya to Smith, no run, turn and bounce, wants to whip it away but it turns too much |  |
|  | and he is forced to jab it in front | |  |
| 7.1 | 2 | KH Pandya to Smith, 2 runs, short and wide outside off, slapped off the backfoot wide of |  |
|  | sweeper cover who moves to his right quickly but they get back for two | |  |

Krunal Pandya from around the wicket.

END OF OVER: 7 | 4 Runs | RPS: 63/1 (122 runs required from 13 overs, RR: 9.00, RRR: 9.38)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 12 (13b) | HH Pandya | 2-0-18-0 |
| AM Rahane | 43 (24b) | MJ McClenaghan | 2-0-20-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

Sriram: "I think people here has had a brain fade. There was a season when Rahane amassed runs almost every match for Rajastan Royals in quick time and was constantly leading the orange cap list."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 6.6 | 1 | HH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, short of good length, outside off, punched crisply off the backfoot |
|  | to sweeper cover | |
| 6.5 | 0 | HH Pandya to Smith, no run, full, outside off, Smith goes at a drive with hard hands. He had |
|  | moved towards off slightly and ends up getting cramped for room. Finds the inside part of the | |
|  |  | bat |
|  |  |  |
| 6.4 |  | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, good length, just outside off, punches it off the front foot down |





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | the pitch and they take one as mid-on gets around it |  |
|  | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | 1 | HH Pandya to Smith, 1 run, fullish and angling in at pace, Smith uses his wrists and flicks it |  |
|  | out to deep square leg | |  |
| 6.2 | 0 | HH Pandya to Smith, no run, short of a length, outside off, Smith reaches out without feet |  |
|  | and carves it off the inside part of the bat towards mid-off | |  |
| 6.1 | 1 | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, full and straight, driven back in the direction of the bowler who |  |
|  | gets his right foot up but cannot stop it | |  |

abhi: "is it really rahane playing? strike rate 180+ can't believe that"

END OF OVER: 6 | 16 Runs | RPS: 59/1 (126 runs required from 14 overs, RR: 9.83, RRR: 9.00)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 41 (22b) | MJ McClenaghan | 2-0-20-1 |
| SPD Smith | 10 (9b) | JJ Bumrah | 1-0-4-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

Time for the strategic timeout. Great start for Pune. This is a bit of a two-paced pitch and Mumbai need bowlers who can take pace off the ball. This is Rahane's highest score in the Powerplay in the IPL - 41 runs. Previous best was 37.

Bhargav Sura: "Mumbai Indians team looks the best on paper. Good bowling line-up and 3 of the best hitters in the world."

Akshet: "Never thought id ever see rahane score 40 runs inside the powerplay"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5.6 | 1 | McClenaghan to Rahane, 1 run, fullish length, on leg stump, tucks it to midwicket for one |
|  |  |  |
| 5.5 | 0 | McClenaghan to Rahane, no run, full, outside off, tries to drive but does so too hard and |
|  | mistimes it as the ball goes to mid-on | |
| 5.4 | 4 | McClenaghan to Rahane, FOUR, first, there was brute power and now it's deft touch. Again |
|  | some width on offer outside off. Short of a length and angled across. Hangs back and | |
|  |  | delicately guides it between keeper and wide slip |
|  |  |  |
| 5.3 | 6 | McClenaghan to Rahane, SIX, too short and too wide, Rahane flays it over the backward |
|  | point region and he has made good enough connection for the ball to go into the crowd | |
| 5.2 | 1 | McClenaghan to Smith, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, gets on top of the bounce and |
|  | stabs it square of the wicket | |
| 5.1 | 4 | McClenaghan to Smith, FOUR, oh, dear! How wide outside off has he fetched that from? |

Walks across towards off and McClenaghan offers up a harmless length ball. Smith shovels it

hard into the cow corner boundary where it seems the ball has painfully hit one of the cheergirls

END OF OVER: 5 | 4 Runs | RPS: 43/1 (142 runs required from 15 overs, RR: 8.60, RRR: 9.46)





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 5 (7b) | JJ Bumrah | 1-0-4-0 |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 30 (18b) | MJ McClenaghan | 1-0-4-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.6 | |  | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, good length on off, Smith drops it in front of covers for a quick single | | | |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.5 | |  | 0 | Bumrah to Smith, no run, fuller, outside off, Smith shuffles across and drives square of the | | | |
|  |  | wicket, straight to point | | |  |  |  |
| 4.4 | |  | 1 | Bumrah to Rahane, 1 run, good length, on off and middle, keeps a bit low and Rahane is | |  |  |
|  |  | slightly late to bring his bat down as he whips it wide of mid-on for one | | | |  |  |
| 4.3 | |  | 0 | Bumrah to Rahane, no run, fullish, angling in on off and middle, Rahane uses his wrists and | | | |
|  |  | flicks to midwicket | | |  |  |  |
|  | Snehil: "A few days back these two were at the helm of the one of the best test series in recent times...now | | | | |  |  |
|  | they are batting together...thats the beauty of IPL.." | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |
| 4.2 | |  | 1 | Bumrah to Smith, 1 run, length ball, Smith tries to pull but does not find the middle of the bat | | | |
|  |  | and drags it wide of mid-on for a single | | |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | |  | 1 | Bumrah to Rahane, 1 run, full, on middle and leg, driven straight down the ground and | |  |  |
|  |  | Pollard flings himself full length to his left to save three | | | |  |  |

Here's Jasprit Bumrah

Jonas: "As a MI fan, McCleneghan is a cult hero. Great SR in T20s and a destructive pinch hitter. What's not to love?"

END OF OVER: 4 | 4 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 39/1 (146 runs required from 16 overs, RR: 9.75, RRR: 9.12)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 3 (4b) | MJ McClenaghan | 1-0-4-1 |
| AM Rahane | 28 (15b) | TG Southee | 2-0-20-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3.6 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, offers up a lot of width outside off. Smith opens up his arms |
|  | and cuts but chops it as the ball did not bounce as much as he would have liked | |
| 3.5 | 2 | McClenaghan to Smith, 2 runs, short ball, comes on at a comfortable height for Smith who |
|  | fetches a pull from outside off and works it to deep square leg | |

Shubham: "Unusual start for Pune - Mayank's strike rate is 118 & Rahane's is only 111 in the first six overs, so if Pune get off to a rapid start, that might be unusual."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3.4 | 1 | McClenaghan to Rahane, 1 run, good length, pushed across on off, opens the face of his bat |
|  | and steers it to backward point | |
| 3.3 | 1 | McClenaghan to Smith, 1 run, short, wide, waits for it to come on before cutting late to deep |
|  | backward point for one | |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3.2 | 0 | McClenaghan to Smith, no run, short of good length, attacking point, punched to point |
|  |  |  |
| Around the wicket now.. | | |
|  |  |  |
| 3.1 | W | McClenaghan to Agarwal, OUT, and he continues to be a trusted wicket-taker for Mumbai. |

Short of good length, angled across. Agarwal tries to slap it but there is not enough room. Wanted to clear mid-off ut does not get the elevation desired and Rohit takes a fairly simple catch

MA Agarwal c Sharma b McClenaghan 6 (15m 5b 1x4 0x6) SR: 120.00 Mitchell McClenaghan, from over the wicket to the right-hander.

END OF OVER: 3 | 12 Runs | RPS: 35/0 (150 runs required from 17 overs, RR: 11.66, RRR: 8.82)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MA Agarwal | 6 (4b) | TG Southee | 2-0-20-0 |
| AM Rahane | 27 (14b) | HH Pandya | 1-0-14-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.6 | 1 | Southee to Agarwal, 1 run, short of a length, on off, Agarwal arches back and opens the face of |
|  | his bat to steer it to third man | |

That over was the first one Hardik Pandya has bowled in the Powerplay in the IPL. He's never bowled in the Powerplay in T20Is for India either.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.5 | 1 | Southee to Rahane, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, tries to slap it and gets it off the |
|  | outside part of the bat to square third man region | |
| 2.4 | 4 | Southee to Rahane, FOUR, could have been caught and bowled. Fullish length, cross- |
|  | seamer. Rahane pushes forward and sends it uppishly in the direction of Southee who gets his | |
|  |  | left hand out but cannot reach it |
|  |  |  |
| 2.3 | 6 | Southee to Rahane, SIX, short, gets slightly big on him but Rahane pulls with authority. Off |
|  | the high part of the bat and over deep square leg | |
| 2.2 | 0 | Southee to Rahane, no run, short, Rahane swivels around and pull, square leg dives to his |
|  | right and does well to stop it | |

Tim Southee has an economy of 7.83 in the Power Plays across all T20s.

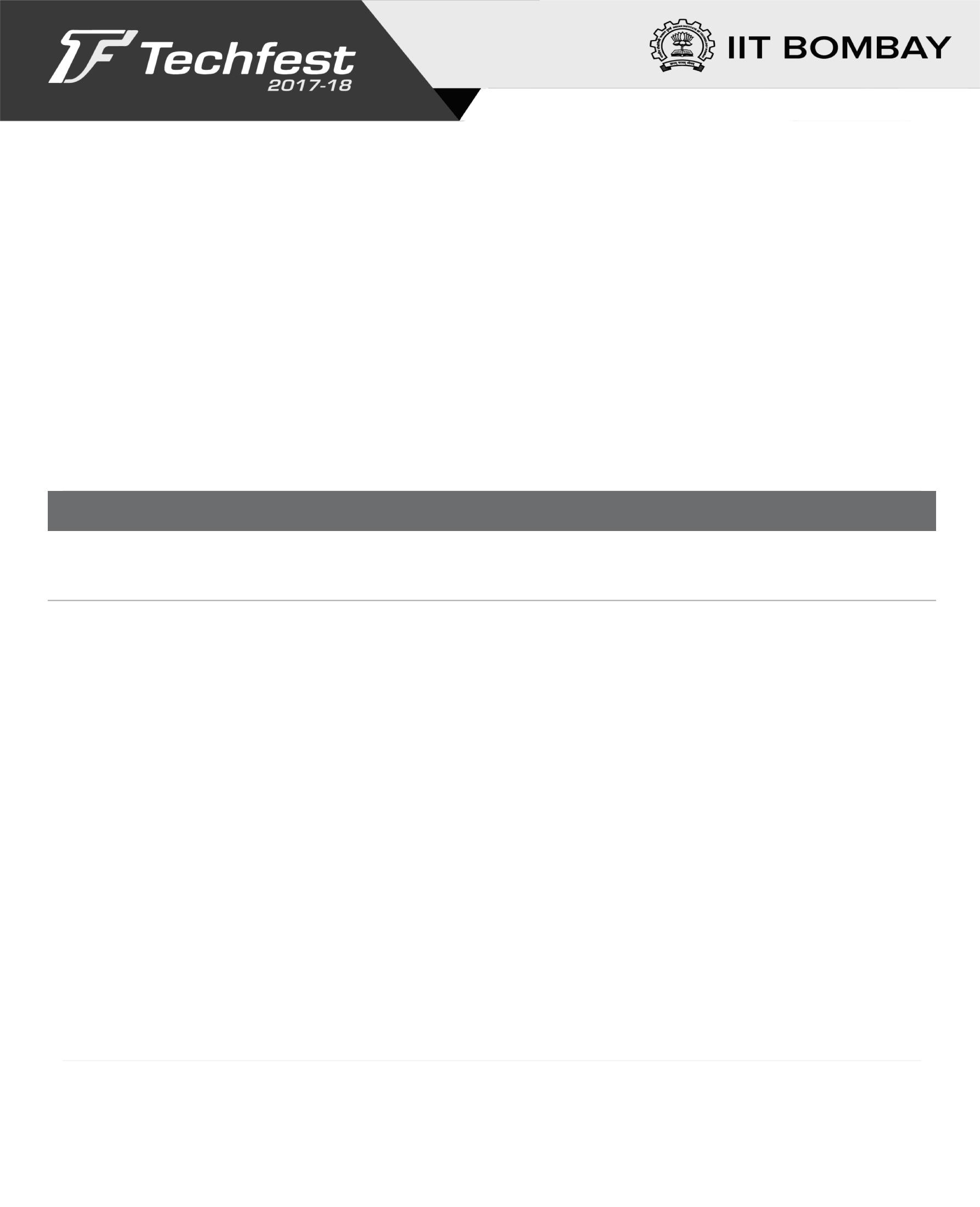
|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.1 |  | Southee to Rahane, no run, length ball on off, punched off the front foot to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

END OF OVER: 2 | 15 Runs | RPS: 23/0 (162 runs required from 18 overs, RR: 11.50, RRR: 9.00)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 16 | (9b) | HH Pandya | 1-0-14-0 |
| MA Agarwal | 5 | (3b) | TG Southee | 1-0-8-0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.6 | 1 | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, very full, almost a yorker on middle and leg, squeezed out to the |
|  | midwicket region for one | |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.5 | 4 | HH Pandya to Rahane, FOUR, half-volley outside off and offers up all the width in the world. |
|  | Rahane carves it over extra cover. Comfortably lofts it over the in-field with pristine timing | |
| 1.4 | 1lb | HH Pandya to Agarwal, 1 leg bye, shortish and beaten for pace, looks to pull and gets hit on |
|  | the thigh pad. He was cramped for room | |
| 1.3 | 1 | HH Pandya to Rahane, 1 run, short of a length and angling in on the pads, tucked off them to |
|  | deep backward square leg for one | |
| 1.2 | 4 | HH Pandya to Rahane, FOUR, another outside edge that goes for four. Rahane pushes |
|  | forward and the ball shapes away late. Gets an outside edge that goes past the slip fielder | |
| 1.1 | 4 | HH Pandya to Rahane, FOUR, full and outside off, Rahane carves it square of the wicket, |
|  | plays it close to the body and opens the face of his bat | |

END OF OVER: 1 | 8 Runs | RPS: 8/0 (177 runs required from 19 overs, RR: 8.00, RRR: 9.31)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AM Rahane | 2 (4b) | TG Southee | 1-0-8-0 |  |
| MA Agarwal | 5 (2b) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 0.6 | 1 | Southee to Rahane, 1 run, good length, straightening from middle and leg, opens the face of |
|  | his bat and steers it to square third man for one | |
| 0.5 | 0 | Southee to Rahane, no run, fullish, squeezed out back to the bowler |
|  |  |  |
| 0.4 | 0 | Southee to Rahane, no run, short and wide, no feet from Rahane as he slashes and gets beaten |
|  | comprehensively | |
| 0.3 | 1 | Southee to Agarwal, 1 run, back of a length, outside off, stays in the crease and slaps it hard to |
|  | sweeper cover | |
| 0.3 | 1w Southee to Agarwal, 1 wide, short of a length, sprayed down the leg side | |
|  |  |  |
| 0.2 | 4 | Southee to Agarwal, FOUR, stays in the crease to this back of a length ball, slight shape away |
|  | and opens the face of his bat. Gets an outside edge that evades the diving keeper. And there is | |

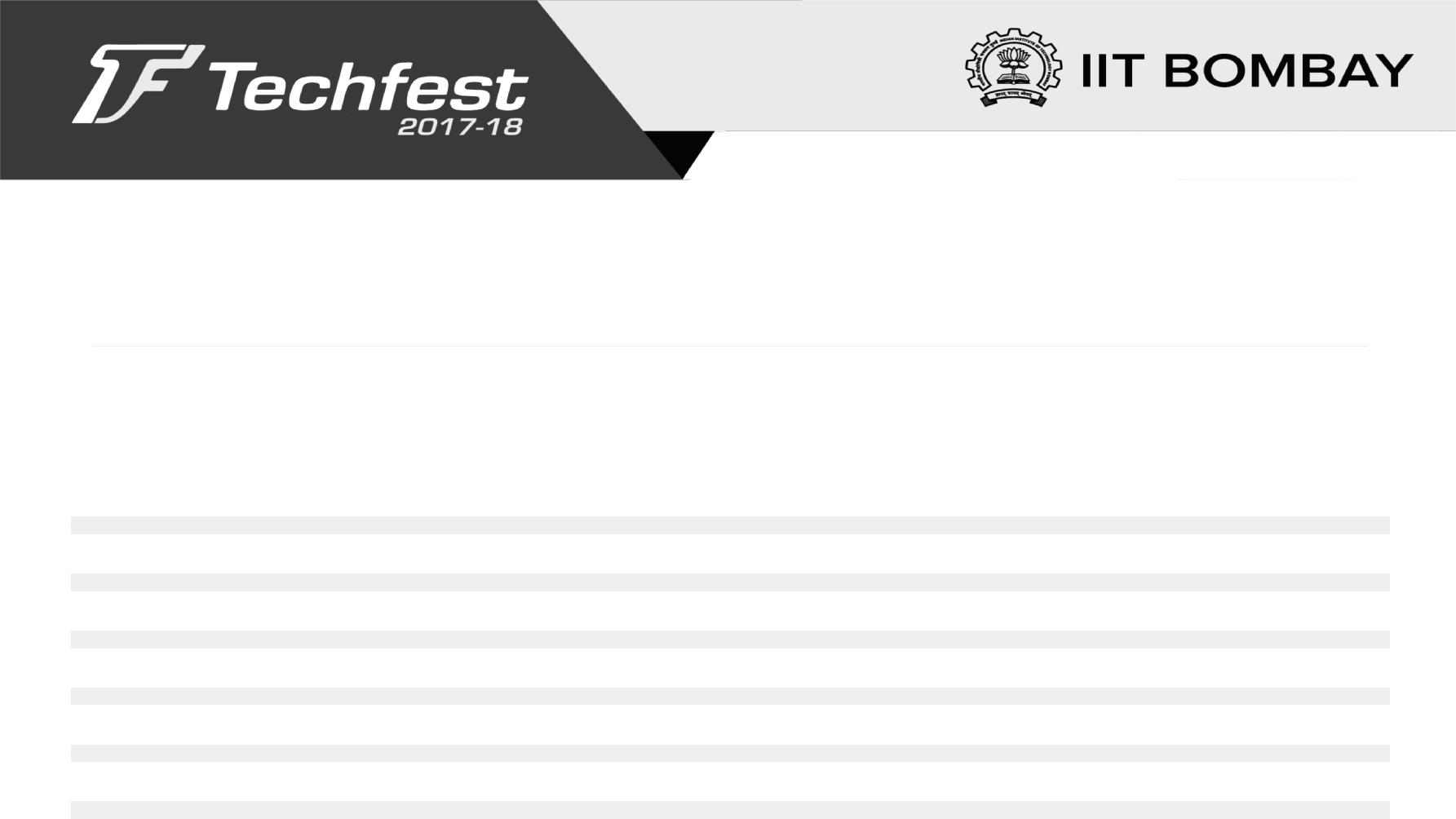
no first slip, just Buttler who is standing wide. The ball goes between the two

Mayank Agarwal is opening in his first IPL game for Pune Supergiant. In 37 previous innings, for RCB and Daredevils, he has been dismissed 26 times in the first six overs in an IPL game. He strikes at 118 during the fielding restrictions.

Ajinkya Rahane usually outlasts the first six overs. He's been dismissed in the Powerplay only 33 times in 81 innings. His strike rate in the first six overs is only 111 though, so if Pune get off to a rapid start, that might be unusual.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 0.1 | 1 | Southee to Rahane, 1 run, short of a length, angling in, tucks to midwicket and takes off for a |
|  | very quick single | |





We're back. Ajinkya Rahane to take strike. Mayank Agarwal at the non-striker's end. Tim Southee to begin proceedings.

