

END OF OVER: 20 | 14 Runs | RCB: 148/4 | RR: 7.40

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| AB de Villiers | 89 | (46b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-47-0 |
| STR Binny | 18 | (20b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-26-1 |
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9.38pm That was the stuff of genius. AB de Villiers does it like only AB can. He was returning from a back injury, but seemed far from a man returning from a layoff. That was just brutal hitting - a mix of deftness, timing, savage power and sublime timing. De Villiers showed his incredible range and the Holkar crowd, who were behind him from the outset despite RCB being the away team here, were treated to a delight. Take out his 89 and RCB are left with a grand total of 59 from 74 balls. Game very much on in Indore. Varun will join you for the chase.

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| 19.6 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, one more that sails over the roof. De Villiers anticipates that the |
|  | bowler would take it away from him, so he walks across early. Gets right on top of it and | |

smashes it over deep square leg. That was all timing and balance RCB have doubled their 15-over score.

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| 19.5 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, slower full ball, outside off, de Villiers comes charging down and |
|  | lofts it over long-off. He had to make a late adjustment there. Came down the track, saw it was | |
|  |  | wider and then had to move across slightly to reach out |
|  |  |  |
| 19.4 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, fullish, outside off, de Villiers throws his hands at it and gets a |
|  | bottom edge back to the bowler. Nice bowling from Mohit, taking it away from the batsman | |
| 19.3 | 1 | Sharma to Binny, 1 run, full, outside off, thumps it hard and drags it from outside off to long- |
|  | on. Strike back with AB | |
| 19.2 | 0 | Sharma to Binny, no run, short, caught in two minds is Binny. Wants to pull but the bounce is |
|  | considerable and goes for a late upper-cut. Cannot make contact | |

Sandeep had gone for seven runs in three before this over. AB has comfortably tripled that.

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| 19.1 | 1 | Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, slower full ball, finds the inside edge of de Villiers and Saha dives | | |
|  | to his left. They get de Villiers off strike | |  |  |
| Mohit to bowl the final over, against a rampaging de Villiers | | | |  |
|  | | |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 19 | 19 Runs | RCB: 134/4 | RR: 7.05 | | |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| AB de Villiers | | 76 (42b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-26-1 |
| STR Binny | | 17 (18b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-33-0 |
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| 18.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, on a length, whipped away to deep midwicket for one. |
|  | Swung hard but did not find the middle of the bat. He gets to keep strike for the last over, | |

though





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| 18.5 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, no run, fullish length, holding its line outside off, de Villiers |
|  | swings mighty hard and does not make contact | |
| 18.5 | 1w | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 wide, and now he drags the length back. Tries to take it away |
|  | from the batsman but drifts away a tad more than he would have liked. De Villiers reaches out | |
|  |  | but cannot make contact |
|  |  |  |
| 18.4 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, another full toss and it is dispatched. If he wants to bowl |
|  | the yorker, he better get it right. De Villiers thumps it over deep midwicket. Not as big enough | |
|  |  | this time but it goes well into the crowd nonetheless |
|  |  |  |
| 18.3 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, first, there was one that smacked the roof. Now, one has |
|  | sailed over it and out of the stadium. Biggest hit of the night. Walks across to this low full toss | |
|  |  | outside off and swings for the fences. Makes meaty connection, bang off the middle and out of |
|  |  | here |
|  |  |  |
| 18.2 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, FOUR, how's that for placement. Wide outside off and he just |
|  | opens the face of his bat to guide it wide of backward point. That was nearly a yorker but such | |
|  |  | is the class of this batsman |
|  |  |  |
| 18.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Binny, 1 run, drives hard away from the body, gives too much power and |
|  | gets an outside edge that files towards third man. But there is a fielder there and he gets | |

around it

Sandeep to bowl the penultimate over.

Chetan: "100 for ABD, anyone??"

END OF OVER: 18 | 19 Runs | RCB: 115/4 | RR: 6.38

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| AB de Villiers | 59 (37b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-33-0 |
| STR Binny | 16 (17b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-0 |
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| 17.6 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, well-done. Full ball but slower from Mohit. De Villiers swings |
|  | hard but too early and misses | |
| 17.5 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, another yorker gone wrong. Full toss again, comes on at a nice |
|  | height and de Villiers shovels it between wide long-on and deep midwicket. Flat six, that's just | |
|  |  | brute force |
|  |  |  |
| 17.4 | 2 | Sharma to de Villiers, 2 runs, short ball, does not really get on top of it but pulls anyway. Two |
|  | fielders converge in front of the deep midwicket boundary but the ball bounces in front of | |
|  |  | them |
|  |  |  |
| 17.3 | 1 | Sharma to Binny, 1 run, attempts a yorker and offersup a low full toss on middle and leg, |
|  | punched hard to the right of long-on but Miller runs across in a flash and gets down neatly to | |

stop it clean





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| 17.2 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Binny, FOUR, that has been bludgeoned through extra cover. Overpitched, | |  |  |
|  |  | outside off, can't be bowling a half-volley at this stage of the innings. Binny crashes it off the | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | front foot |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 17.1 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Binny, SIX, That is humongous. Binny this time. Fullish, seam-up on the stumps, | | |  |
|  |  | Binny swings hard and lofts it over cow corner | | | |  |  |
|  | Mohit, third over for him. | | | |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 17 | 16 Runs | RCB: 96/4 | RR: 5.64 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | | 51 (34b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-0 |  |
|  | STR Binny | |  | 5 (14b) | VR Aaron | 4-0-21-2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 6 | Stoinis to de Villiers, SIX, and the extra ball proves costly. This one's short and de Villiers | | |  |
|  |  | lays into a pull shot, into the second-tier after it clears deep midwicket. Fifty for de Villiers | | | | |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 1w | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 wide, short ball, de Villiers lets it go after coming down the track. | |  |  |
|  |  | Called a wide and square leg umpire Anil Chaudhary signals a wide and one for the over | | | |  |  |
| 16.5 | |  | 1 | Stoinis to Binny, 1 run, short of a length, tries to back away and pull off the hips, gets it just to | | |  |
|  |  | the left of backward square leg who scampers across and stops it | | | |  |  |

Every third delivery AB faced after the 16th over went for a boundary - four or six - in IPL 2016. Strike rate:

215.55

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| 16.4 | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, shortish, gets on top of it and whips it away to deep midwicket for |
|  | one | |
| 16.3 | 6 | Stoinis to de Villiers, SIX, what a shot! Thumps it muscularly over deep midwicket. On a |
|  | length, on off, de Villiers smacks it bang off the middle of the bat | |
| 16.2 | 0 | Stoinis to de Villiers, no run, short of a length, closes the bat face early as he looks to flick and |
|  | gets a leading edge back to the bowler. Think it was the off-cutter | |

Rahul Ranjan: "AB has faced just 30 out off 90 deliveries since his arrival. Pretty much tells you where RCB have gone wrong!"

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| 16.1 |  | | Stoinis to Binny, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, tucked off the pads to deep fine leg for one | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 16 | 9 Runs | RCB: 80/4 | RR: 5.00 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STR Binny | |  | 3 (12b) | VR Aaron | 4-0-21-2 |  |  |
| AB de Villiers | | | 38 (30b) | AR Patel | 4-0-12-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Time for the second timeout. RCB need to seriously get a move on here.

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| 15.6 |  | Aaron to Binny, 1 leg bye, short of a length, walks across and tries to flick across the line, gets |  |
| 1lb |  |
|  |  |





hit high on the pad. Given as runs, so there was an inside-edge there

sarath264: "Without downplaying saha's efforts. God!! This ground is so small when you see it from an aerial view. Many college grounds would be much bigger than this."

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| 15.5 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, tries to cut but it is not short enough and does not get up as much as |
|  | he would have liked it to, beaten | |

RCB's 71 was their second lowest score after 15 overs in an IPL innings.

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| 15.4 | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, turned away to deep midwicket. Two fielders converge and they |
|  | keep it to one | |

Chants of Ab, Ab picking up again.

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| 15.3 | 6 | Aaron to de Villiers, SIX, full, outside off, de Villiers backs away to give himself room and |
|  | lofts it over mid-off. Clean and straight over the boundary | |

Jeevan: "Still think the catch Saha took to dismiss Steve O' Keefe was the best of the season."

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| 15.2 | 1 | Aaron to Binny, 1 run, short of a length, gets on top of the bounce and opens the face of his |
|  | bat to run it down to square third man for one | |
| 15.1 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, beats him with pace, 143kph, beats him on the pull. Stifled appeal for |
|  | caught-behind but there was no under-edge, that clipped the back thigh | |

Snehil: "Saha proving why he is called the best keeper in the country.. "

END OF OVER: 15 | 1 Run | RCB: 71/4 | RR: 4.73

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| AB de Villiers | 31 (28b) | AR Patel | 4-0-12-1 |
| STR Binny | 2 (8b) | VR Aaron | 3-0-13-2 |
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Terrific performance from Axar, finishes with 1 for 12 from four.

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| 14.6 | 0 | Patel to de Villiers, no run, full, outside off, drives away from the body and gets an inside edge |  |
|  | back to the bowler | |  |
| 14.5 | 1 | Patel to Binny, 1 run, back of a length, on middle and leg, whipped away from the crease |  |
|  | between mid-on and midwicket | |  |
| 14.4 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, short of a length, punched crisply off the backfoot to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.3 | 0 | Patel to Binny, no run, plays it off the front foot to the right of the bowler. Decides against the |  |
|  | single | |  |
| 14.2 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.1 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, comes down the track, it is sliding in with the arm. He misses the flick |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |





and the keeper takes it off the pad. No inside-edge there

Sulay: "Superman Saha at it again! WHAT. A. CATCH."

END OF OVER: 14 | 2 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 70/4 | RR: 5.00

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| STR Binny | 1 (3b) | VR Aaron | 3-0-13-2 |
| AB de Villiers | 31 (27b) | AR Patel | 3-0-11-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

Aabhas: "4 overs without a boundary in T20 cricket is a lot. Something was bound to give."

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| 13.6 |  | Aaron to Binny, 1 run, full, on the pads, turns it away to deep backward square leg for one |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13.5 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, short of a length, outside off, tries to open his bat face and gets an |  |
|  | inside edge that misses the stumps and Saha dives to his left to stop it. Another great effort | |  |

That was Varun Aaron's 50th T20 wicket.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13.4 | |  | Aaron to Binny, no run, fuller on off, opens the bat face and defends to point. No run there | | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 13.3 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, pushes forward and knocks it to square third man off the outside | | |  |  |
|  |  | part of the bat | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.2 | |  | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, short, wide, cut hard to covers | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 13.1 | | W | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, OUT, great catch by Saha. That is one of the best catches I have | | |  |  |
|  |  | seen recently. Short ball, Mandeep tries to pull and gets a top-edge. Saha has to dart back all | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | the way, almost runs three-fourths towards the boundary and in the last minute, he has to | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | change direction, dives to his right, towards fine leg and takes it with both hands | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Mandeep Singh c †Saha b Aaron 28 (36m 34b 1x4 1x6) SR: 82.35 | |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 13 | 3 Runs | RCB: 68/3 | RR: 5.23 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 28 (33b) | AR Patel | 3-0-11-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 30 (25b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-12-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.6 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, shortish again, outside off, punched out to sweeper cover | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.5 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, short and wide, slapped hard but can't beat point | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 12.4 | | 0 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, punched off the backfoot in front of point. Takes off for a | | |  |  |
|  |  | single but is forced to go back. Close | |  |  |  |  |
| 12.3 | |  | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, backs away and punches it down to long-off | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

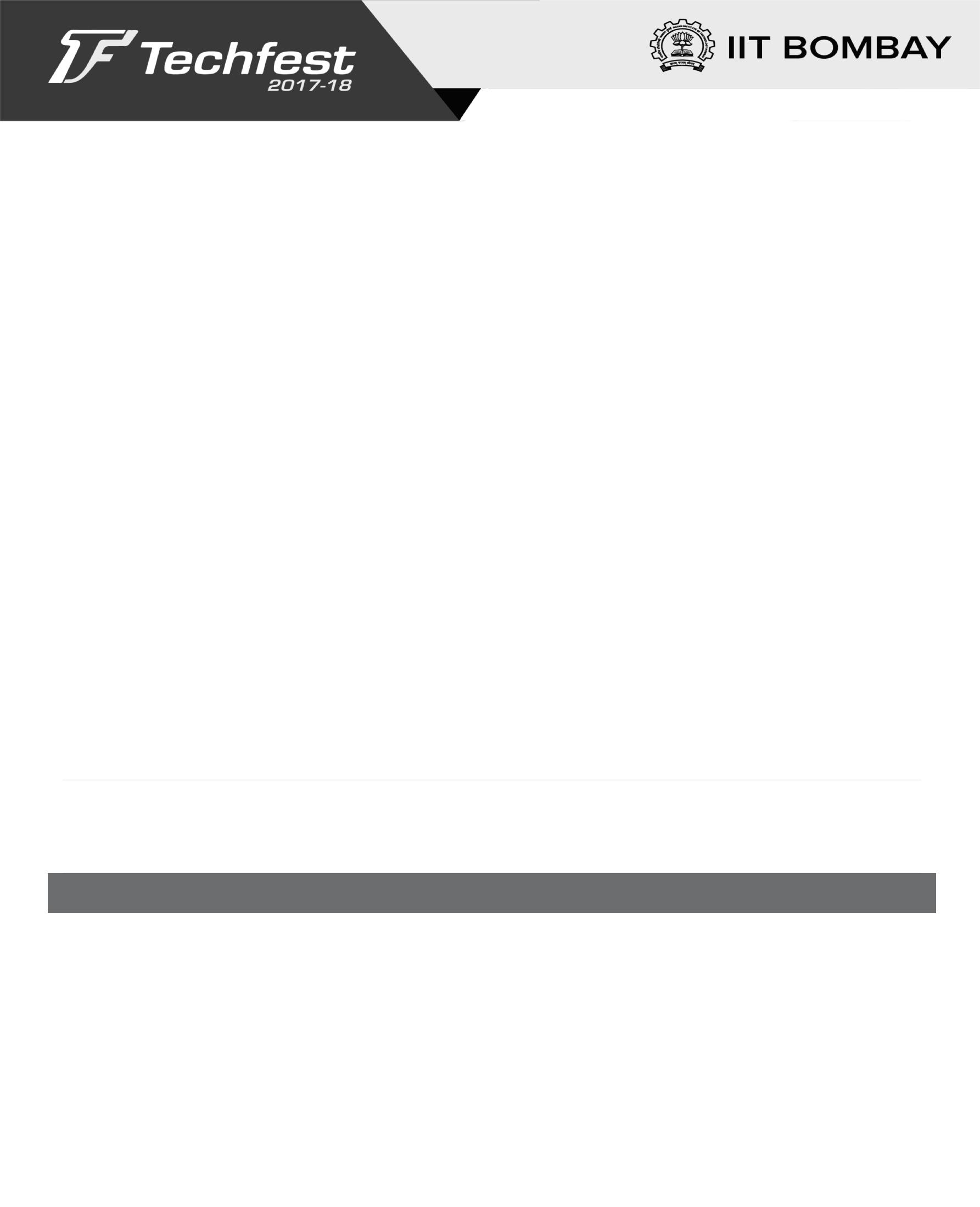




Should Axar have been used early v ABD? ABD, in the last 3 seasons, 8 out of his 10 dismissals to spinners in the IPL have been to Left arm orthodox or Right Arm Leg Spin (take the ball away from the batsmen).

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| 12.2 | | 1 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, width on offer, chases it away from the body and flays it out to | | |  |  |
|  |  | sweeper cover | |  |  |  |  |
| 12.1 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, fullish, pushed back to the bowler | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 12 | 6 Runs | RCB: 65/3 | RR: 5.41 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 26 (28b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-12-0 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 29 (24b) | AR Patel | 2-0-8-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.6 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, runs in zig-zag and fires it from wide of the crease, short of a | | |  |  |
|  |  | length, gets on top of the bounce and runs it down to third man | | |  |  |  |
| 11.5 | |  | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, outside off, punched to mid-off for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 11.4 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, backs away and the bowler follows him, opens his bat face, | | |  |  |
|  |  | more of the outside part of the bat, actually as he knocks it behind square on the off side | | |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, outside off, drops it into the off side with soft | | |  |  |
|  |  | hands for a quick single | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length on middle, backs away and opens his bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | face to steer it to deep backward point | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.1 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, angling in, tucked away to deep backward square | | |  |  |
|  |  | leg. Thinks of a second but decides against it | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 11 | 6 Runs | RCB: 59/3 | RR: 5.36 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 26 (21b) | AR Patel | 2-0-8-1 |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 23 (25b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.6 | |  | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, tucked away to deep square for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 10.5 | | 1 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short on middle, gets his body behind the ball and swats it | | |  |  |
|  |  | hard to Varun Aaron at deep square leg | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.4 | | 1 | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, trying to cramp de Villiers again but he backs away and manages to | | |  |  |
|  |  | tuck it away of the middle of the bat | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | | 0 | Patel to de Villiers, no run, comes in with the arm, no turn, de Villiers finds an inside to the | | |  |  |
|  |  | pad as he tries to tuck it away | |  |  |  |  |





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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10.2 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, gets forward and drops it in between cover and point for one | | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 10.1 | | 2 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, short and wide, punched off the backfoot and beats point. | | | |  |  |
|  |  | Takes on the fielder in the deep and the throw is on the bounce and they make it back easily | | | | |  |  |
|  | Axar back for his second over. | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 10 | 6 Runs | RCB: 53/3 | RR: 5.30 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 24 (18b) |  | MP Stoinis | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 19 (22b) |  | T Natarajan | 1-0-13-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 9.6 | | 0 | Stoinis to de Villiers, no run, on a length, slightly seaming away. De Villiers was looking to | | | |  |  |
|  |  | flick across the line and gets beaten. Close | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.5 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, fullish, sliding on leg, turned away to midwicket for a quick | | | |  |  |
|  |  | single | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, short of good length, whipped away to mid-on who is slightly deep | | | |  |  |
|  |  | and wide | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.3 | | 2 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 2 runs, back of a length and coming in, tucked with the angle to the left | | | |  |  |
|  |  | of deep backward square leg for a brace | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short of a length, angling in, inside-edges to the pad and | | | |  |  |
|  |  | takes off for a quick single as the ball goes to the right of the keeper | | | |  |  |  |

Snehil: "RCB batting lineup without Kohli looking like a Cricket bat without a handle."

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| 9.1 | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, tucked off the hips towards fine leg |
|  | and the wicketkeeper runs across to pick it up | |

Marcus Stoinis to resume after the break.

END OF OVER: 9 | 13 Runs | RCB: 47/3 | RR: 5.22

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| Mandeep Singh | 17 (20b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-13-0 |
| AB de Villiers | 20 (14b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-14-0 |
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Strategic timeout.

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| 8.6 | 4 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, FOUR, overcompensates with the length. Fires it too full and |
|  | too wide. The intent is right, making the batsman reach out. Mandeep does so as he tries to | |
|  |  | drive but the cordon is vacant and the outside edge runs away to third man |
|  |  |  |
| 8.5 | 6 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, SIX, shot, what a shot! That's a monster hit. Short and sitting |
|  | up nicely for Mandeep who has all the time to rock back and swivel around with the pull. The | |

ball goes over backward square and smacks the roof





Vasant Horapeti: "I am not sure if we need to trust history any more. Ex. last match between RCB vx DD, Bengaluru known for batting pitch, but turned out to be interesting as RCB defended low score. And now at Indore the same venue, Pune scored 160+ and KXI chased it without much trouble!"

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.4 | | 1 | Natarajan to de Villiers, 1 run, full, on off, de Villiers bends forward and drives it down to | | |  |
|  |  | long-off | |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | | 1w | Natarajan to de Villiers, 1 wide, short of a length, down the leg side, de Villiers tries to tuck off | | |  |
|  |  | the pads and misses | |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | | 1 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length, pitching on leg, tries to flick and closes | | |  |
|  |  | the face of his bat a tad early. Lobs it to square leg. The fielder is slightly backward. That was | | | |  |
|  |  |  | the off-cutter |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | | 0 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of a length and angling away, pace off that | |  |  |
|  |  | delivery and beats the pull | |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | | 0 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of a length, angled across to Mandeep who is | |  |  |
|  |  | pushed back and opens the face of his bat to point | | |  |  |
|  | T Natarajan | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 8 | 3 Runs | RCB: 34/3 | RR: 4.25 | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 6 (15b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-14-0 |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 19 (13b) | VR Aaron | 2-0-11-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 7.6 | | 1 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length, just outside off, punched off the backfoot | | |  |
|  |  | and Stoinis at extra cover makes a diving save | | |  |  |
| 7.5 | | 0Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, full, on off, defended watchfully to point | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.4 | | 2 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, slightly back of a length, punched hard off the backfoot to | | |  |
|  |  | the right of sweeper cover for a brace | |  |  |  |
| 7.3 | | 0Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of good length, gets on top of it and defends | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | | 0 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, advances down the track and the bowler takes it away | | |  |

from him. Short of a length and he fetches a pull away from the body. The ball goes to Amla at midwicket and Mandeep takes off for a suicidal single. He is sent back and has to put in the dive

Harsha Borra: "Is this a Bowling friendly pitch ?" A bit two-paced. And the odd ball is skidding on.

Historically has been a low-scoring venue.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7.1 | 0 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, back of a length, gets on top of the bounce and defends |
|  | back to the bowler | |





END OF OVER: 7 | 8 Runs | RCB: 31/3 | RR: 4.42

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 19 (13b) | VR Aaron | 2-0-11-1 |
| Mandeep Singh | 3 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-7-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

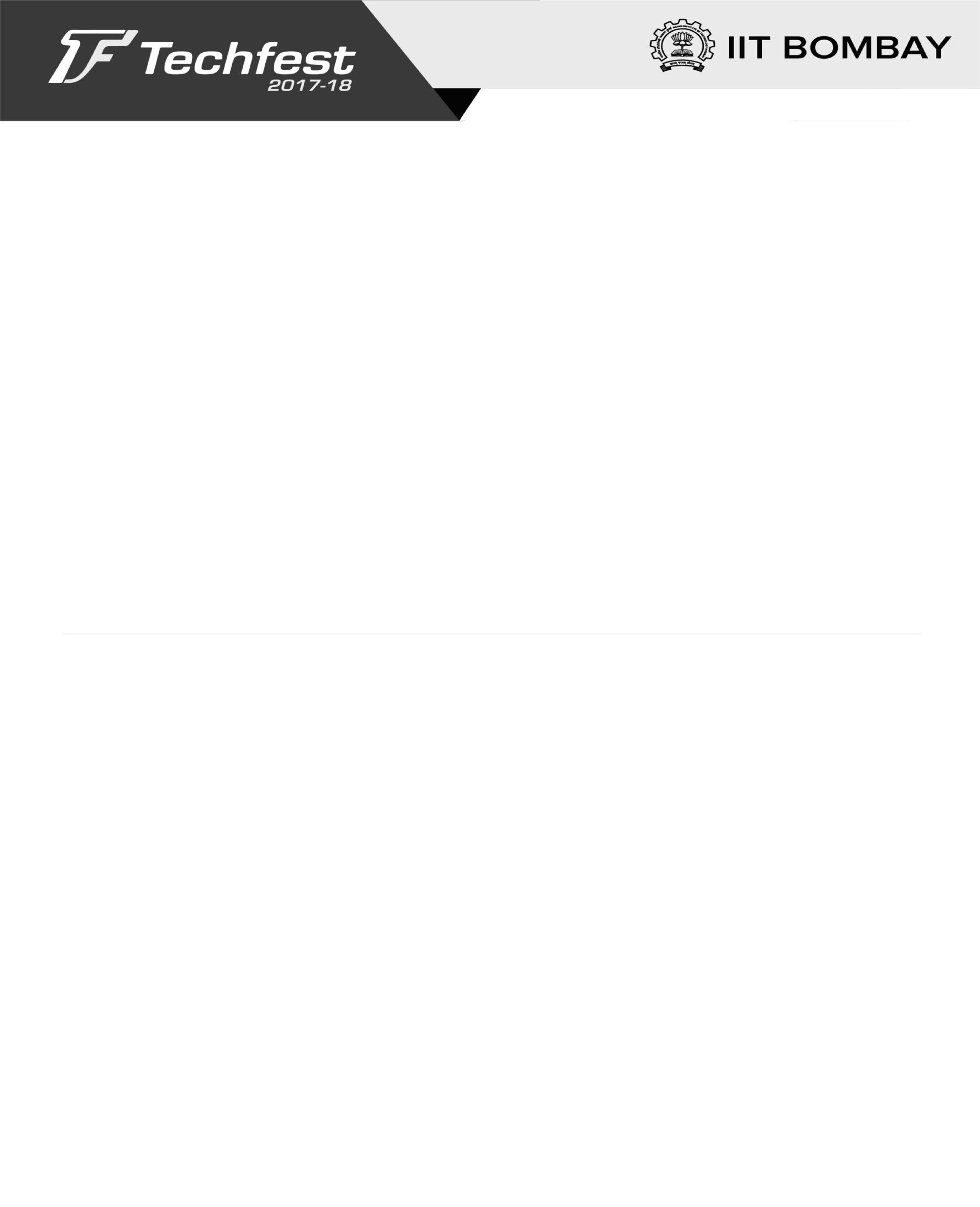
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 6.6 | 4 | Aaron to de Villiers, FOUR, full, clipped off the pads and beats midwicket diving to his right. |
|  | That's loose bowling | |
| 6.5 | 1 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, gets on top of the bounce and |
|  | punches off the backfoot to sweeper cover | |

Only four times in the past have RCB made a lower Powerplay score than this. The most recent being in 2014.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6.4 | | 2 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, short, some width on offer outside off, hangs back and flays | | |  |  |
|  |  | it hard but cannot beat square third man running to his right | | |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | |  | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, on off, defended to point off the front foot | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 6.2 | | 0 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, no run, fullish, just around off, comes forward and defends with bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | close to pad into the off side | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, rides the bounce and turns it away | |  |  |  |
|  |  | through square leg | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 6 | 1 Run | RCB: 23/3 | RR: 3.83 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 0 (5b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-7-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 14 (11b) | VR Aaron | 1-0-3-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 5.6 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, tucked with the angle to midwicket. There is a | | |  |  |
|  |  | fielder there, so no run. Good, testing over from Sandeep | | |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, comes on straight and on the | |  |  |  |
|  |  | stumps, defended | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, length, angling in, closes the face of his bat a tad | | |  |  |
|  |  | early and gets a mild leading edge back towards the bowler | | |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, beautiful. On a length and tempts him by firing it | | |  |  |
|  |  | just outside off. Gets it to seam away and beat the outside edge | | |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, outside off, gets a good stride across | | |  |  |
|  |  | and defends back to the bowler | |  |  |  |  |

Replays confirm the ball would have gone over off-stump.





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.1 | |  | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 5 | 3 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 22/3 | RR: 4.40 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 13 (10b) | VR Aaron | 1-0-3-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-6-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 4.6 | | W | Aaron to Jadhav, OUT, back of a length, angling in, rapped on the pads as it misses the flick. | | |  |  |
|  |  | It seems as though height may have been an issue but the umpire C Shamshuddin does not | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | think so. That is a close one. He was struck pretty high on the pad and was jumping up as | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | well. But Jadhav is not a very tall man. Still pretty close, though | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | KM Jadhav lbw b Aaron 1 (9m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 25.00 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 4.5 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, punched on the up off the backfoot to | | |  |  |
|  |  | the left of mid-off where Amla runs across and tumbles right on the practice wicket as he | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | gathers it | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 4.4 | | 1 | Aaron to Jadhav, 1 run, sees some width on offer and pokes his bat without getting close to it, | | |  |  |
|  |  | gets an inside edge and they steal the single by the time the bowler can there on the follow- | | | |  |  |

through

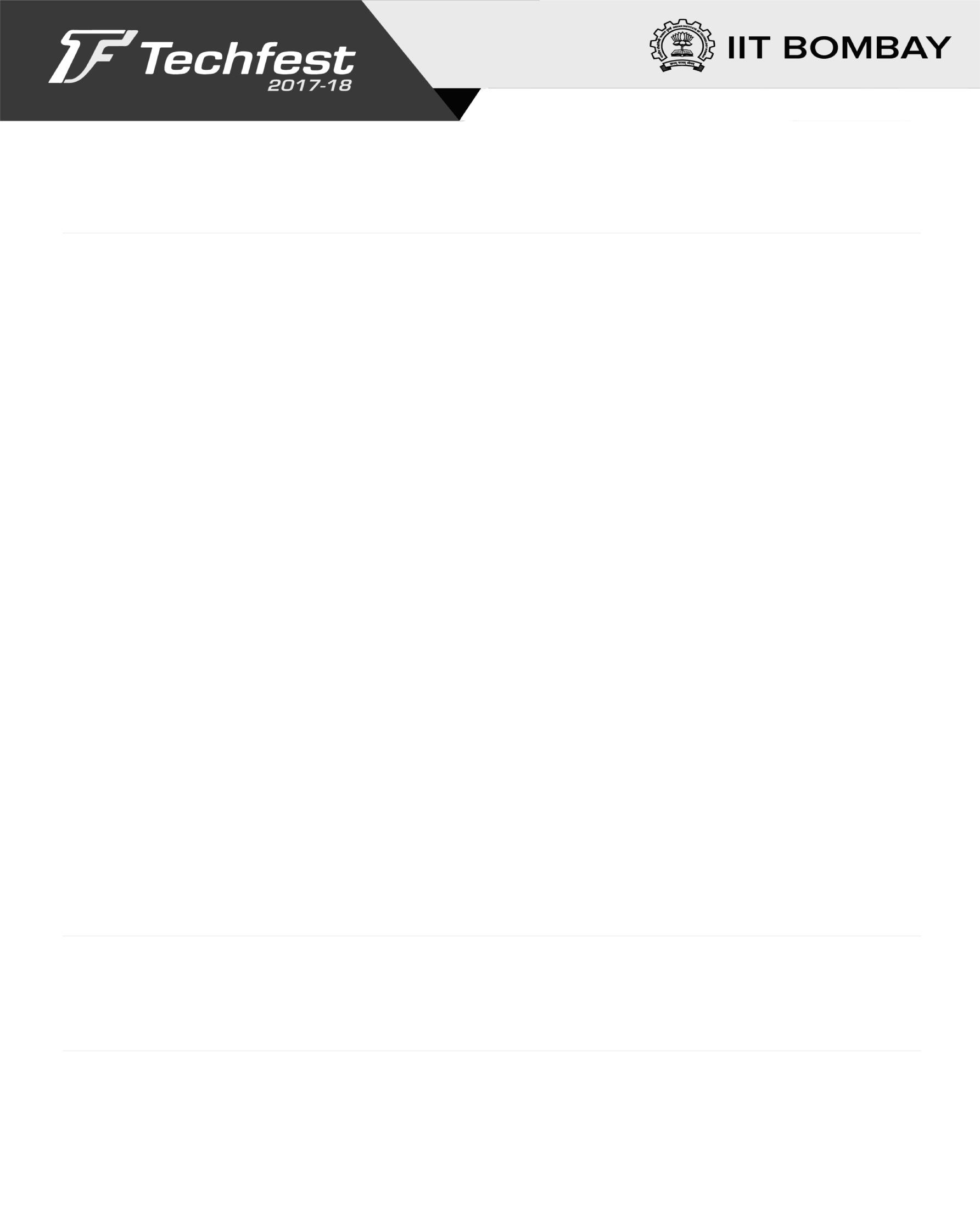
Siam: "Where is pocket dynamo the sharfaraz khan??" Out with a hamstring injury.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.3 | |  | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, tucked off the pads to the left of deep midwicket for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 4.2 | | 0 | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, fullish length, on the stumps, defended with the straightest of | | |  |  |
|  |  | bats | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | | 0 | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, shortish but not short enough, attempts a cut and chops it hard | | |  |  |
|  |  | into the ground | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Varun Aaron. | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 4 | 1 Run 1 Wkt | RCB: 19/2 | RR: 4.75 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KM Jadhav | | 0 (2b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-6-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 11 (6b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-11-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.6 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Jadhav, no run, beaten. Full, cuts back in slightly, prods without moving | | |  |  |
|  |  | his feet and the ball misses the inside edge, and off-stump, by a whisker | | |  |  |  |
| 3.5 | |  | Sandeep Sharma to Jadhav, no run, full, on the stumps, defended back to the bowler | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Kedar Jadhav

Vishnu: "This is probably the most productive year for a small state like Kerala in IPL which is known in the national Football level and not so much in cricket. Vishnu Vinod, Sachin Baby, Basil Thampi and ofcourse





the IPL veteran, Sanju Samson. Also it could only be the second time a team apart from Kochi Tuskers are playing two Kerala players in their first line up. First being, Sanju and Sreesanth for RR."

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3.4 | | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, fuller, outside off, comes forward and pushes into covers | | |  |
|  |  | for one | |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | | W | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, OUT, goes for a pull but there was really no room to play | | |  |
|  |  | that shot. Shortish, so it wasn't so much about the length. Though he backs away, he cannot | | | |  |
|  |  |  | manufacture enough room and gets a top-edge that goes straight down the throat of long-on. | | |  |
|  |  |  | Mid-on had dropped back unlike in the previous over | |  |  |
|  |  |  | Vishnu Vinod c Maxwell b Sandeep Sharma 7 (15m 12b 1x4 0x6) SR: 58.33 | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 3.2 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, short of a length, slightly sliding into him, so he | | |  |
|  |  | backs away to make room and drops it in front of covers. Takes off for a non-existent single | | | |  |
|  |  |  | and is sent back by de Villiers, direct hit and he could have been gone | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 3.1 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, god length, on off, comes forward and step and | | |  |
|  |  | defends | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 3 | 11 Runs | RCB: 18/1 | RR: 6.00 | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 10 (5b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-11-0 |  |
|  | Vishnu Vinod | | 7 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-5-0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Vishnu Vinod as opener in his T20 career (before today) - 297 runs in 7 inns at 49.50, SR 159.67, 30+ in each of the 7 inns

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.6 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, that's as flat a six as you'd ever see. Full, in the slot outside off and |  |
|  | giving him the room to open his shoulders. De Villiers gleefully thumps it over extra cover and | |  |
|  |  | it goes all the way |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2.5 |  | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, full, outside off, driven crisply but straight to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

Anshul: "Watson's bowling makes him quite valuable so there's no way he'd be dropped for Gayle"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.4 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, short, pushes him back, de Villiers gets on top of the bounce |
|  | and defends into the off side | |

SureshGuna: "Vishnu Vinod must be so lucky to be in the spotlight with two greats Watto and ABD and learn more.. #THANK IPL!!"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.3 | 1 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, fullish, on middle, quietly comes forward and dabs it between |
|  | mid-on and midwicket for a single | |
| 2.2 | 4 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, FOUR, shortish, outside off. Pulls hard. It does not bounce as much |
|  | as he may have liked. Thumps it hard and just clears the leaping Maxwell at lid-on | |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.1 | 0 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, on a length, defended from outside off to the left of the |
|  | bowler | |

Mohit Sharma.

Sathvick: "A big risk by RCB to send Vishnu Vinod for opening?" He has some impressive numbers, strikes at 144 in T20s and averages over 31.

END OF OVER: 2 | 5 Runs | RCB: 7/1 | RR: 3.50

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 4 (2b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-5-0 |
| Vishnu Vinod | 2 (6b) | AR Patel | 1-0-2-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.6 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, no run, short of good length, outside off, not much bounce, |
|  | swing and a miss from the batsman | |
| 1.5 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, FOUR, deft. Sees some width on offer outside off and just |
|  | open the face of his bat. Beats a diving point to his right as well as the fielder in the deep who | |

runs across but can't get down in time

AB de Villiers on strike for the first time. The crowd gets going with chants of AB, AB

Maruf: "I didn't go to class today to watch Gayle storm, but he is not playing today. Also happy to see ABD is back. 2 Aussie, 1 English, & 1 South African vs 3 Aussie & 1 South African. So excited to watch this match!!! "

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.4 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, short of a length, moving back in, gets an inside edge |
|  | to the pad to square leg | |

Manu Gill: "If Waton goes on to play like this, it will be he who will be replaced Gayle once Kohli gets fit."

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.3 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, steps down the track but it is angled into him. |  |
|  | Short of a length, and gets cramped for room, misses and the ball just misses leg stump | |  |
| 1.2 |  | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, holding its line in the channel outside off, left alone |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

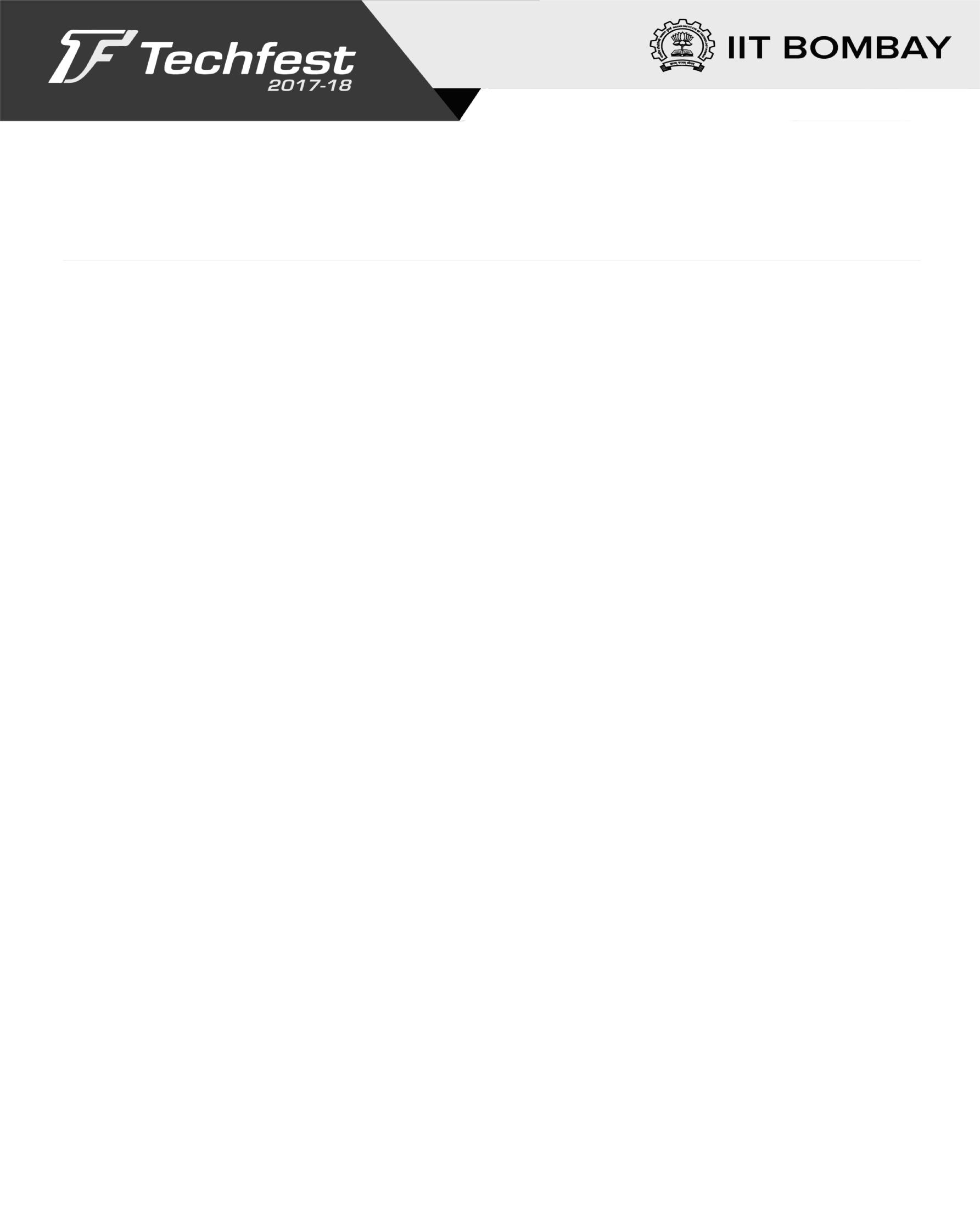
Sandeep Sharma has the joint-highest wickets in the Powerplay since the start of IPL 2013: 31 wickets, equal with Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, fullish, on middle and off, defended | |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sandeep. | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 1 | 2 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 2/1 | RR: 2.00 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |  |
| Vishnu Vinod | | | 1 (2b) | AR Patel | 1-0-2-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Shane Watson has now been dismissed four times in four innings by Axar. He has 23 off 24 balls.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.6 |  | Patel to Watson, OUT, chopped on! Early breakthrough for Punjab. Shortish ball but not |  |
| W |  |
|  |  |





much spin and too close to the stumps to be attempting a cut. Gets an inside edge for his troubles

SR Watson b Patel 1 (3m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 25.00

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.5 |  | Patel to Watson, no run, sliding on leg, defended down the pitch |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Left-arm attack vs Watson - 14 of his last 16 IPL dismissals v spin have been either left-arm orthodox or leg-spin.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.4 |  | Patel to Watson, no run, short of a length, tucked off the backfoot to square leg |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.3 | 1 | Patel to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, good length, comes forward and turns it away to square leg for |  |
|  | one | |  |
| 0.2 | 0 | Patel to Vishnu Vinod, no run, on a length, spinning away outside off, defended with bat close |  |
|  | to pad | |  |
| 0.1 | 1 | Patel to Watson, 1 run, sliding in with the arm, Watson wears it on the pad as he misses the |  |
|  | attempted flick | |  |

7.59pm Right then. We are all set for action. The Holkar Stadium crowd roars as the RCB openers Shane Watson and Vishnu Vinod, followed by the Kings XI team. Watson to take first strike. He will face up to spin straightaway, with Axar opening the bowling.

7.48pm We have just over 10 minutes for the start. Meanwhile, in case you missed it, India beat Uzbekistan 4-1 in the Davis Cup over the weekend to book their spot in the World Group playoffs. No surprise then that Mahesh Bhupathi, the non-playing captain of the team, has [received plaudits](http://www.espn.in/tennis/story/_/id/19116815/mahesh-bhupathi-wins-points-bold-calls-davis-cup-captain) for making some tough (and uncomfortable) calls.

Sooryanarayanan: "This could be an indication as to how RCB's team combination might pan out for the rest of the season. If Gayle's not playing inspite of Kohli's absence, then I don't expect him to be back once Kohli is fit. At least not until ABD leaves on national duty. So this is a good opportunity for Stanlake to seal his spot for good. Plus of course, there's Samuel Badree."

The move to leave out Gayle is no doubt a bold call from RCB. This fact proves it further - he has been left out despite being the top-scorer against Kings XI (797 runs). And he scores at a rate of 10.53 per over.

7.42pm The last meeting between these two sides saw RCB knock down 211 in a 15-over contest. But the overall head-to-head record is more or less even. And it's not the team you think that is ahead. The teams have met in 18 matches, of which Kings XI have won ten and lost eight.

Snehil: "Irony-The preview headline for this match-"Gayle eyes 10,000-run landmark"....Ends up getting

dropped.."

Darshan: "Dropping Gayle could prove costly for RCB, especially against KXIP. They could've dropped Stanlake and played an Indian bowler instead."





Nitish Kumar: "What's the point of playing 5 bowlers when you have an all rounder in Stoinis and part timer in Maxwell.Should have gone with an extra batsman."

Abhishek: "Is Martin Guptil injured? If not, then I don't understand why he isn't playing. Amla is a good choice to open in this format, but I think Guptil is even better in this format at least. " Yes, Guptill is taking time off to strengthen his hamstring and is expected to miss the initial part of the tournament.

7.30pm Royal Challengers Bangalore have won the toss and are batting first.

"We want to bat first. It's great to see Maxi do well," says Shane Watson. "We've got AB de Villiers coming in for Chris Gayle."

"To start off with a win was great," says Maxwell. "I have certainly been enjoying myself and have acclimatised myself to the conditions well. Swapnil Singh is out and Varun Aaron comes in."

Here are the XIs -

Kings XI Punjab: Hashim Amla, Manan Vohra, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Glenn Maxwell (capt), David Miller, Marcus Stoinis, Axar Patel, Mohit Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Varun Aaron, T Natarajan

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Shane Watson (capt), Vishnu Vinod (wk), AB de Villiers, Kedar Jadhav, Mandeep Singh, Stuart Binny, Pawan Negi, Iqbal Abdulla, Tymal Mills, Yuzvendra Chahal, Billy Stanlake

Joe Root: "Shame to see Morgs miss out again - he was exceptional for Eng on the India tour a couple of months back."

Sulay: "Just happy to see maxwell showing confidence in Amla"

Afsar: "Uffffff and finally Mr.360 is playing today!! Just want to shout ABD! ABD!! ABD!!!"

DurgeshKulkarni: "I don't understand why players like Amla, Williamson are ignored in the shortest format. Just because they cannot slog doesn't necessarily mean that they are not suitable for T20s! Their eye-pleasing stroke-making might just given their team the starts they are hoping for in each match!!!"

Brad Hogg previews the game with Raunak Kapoor and Gaurav Kalra. You can catch it on the top right of your screen.

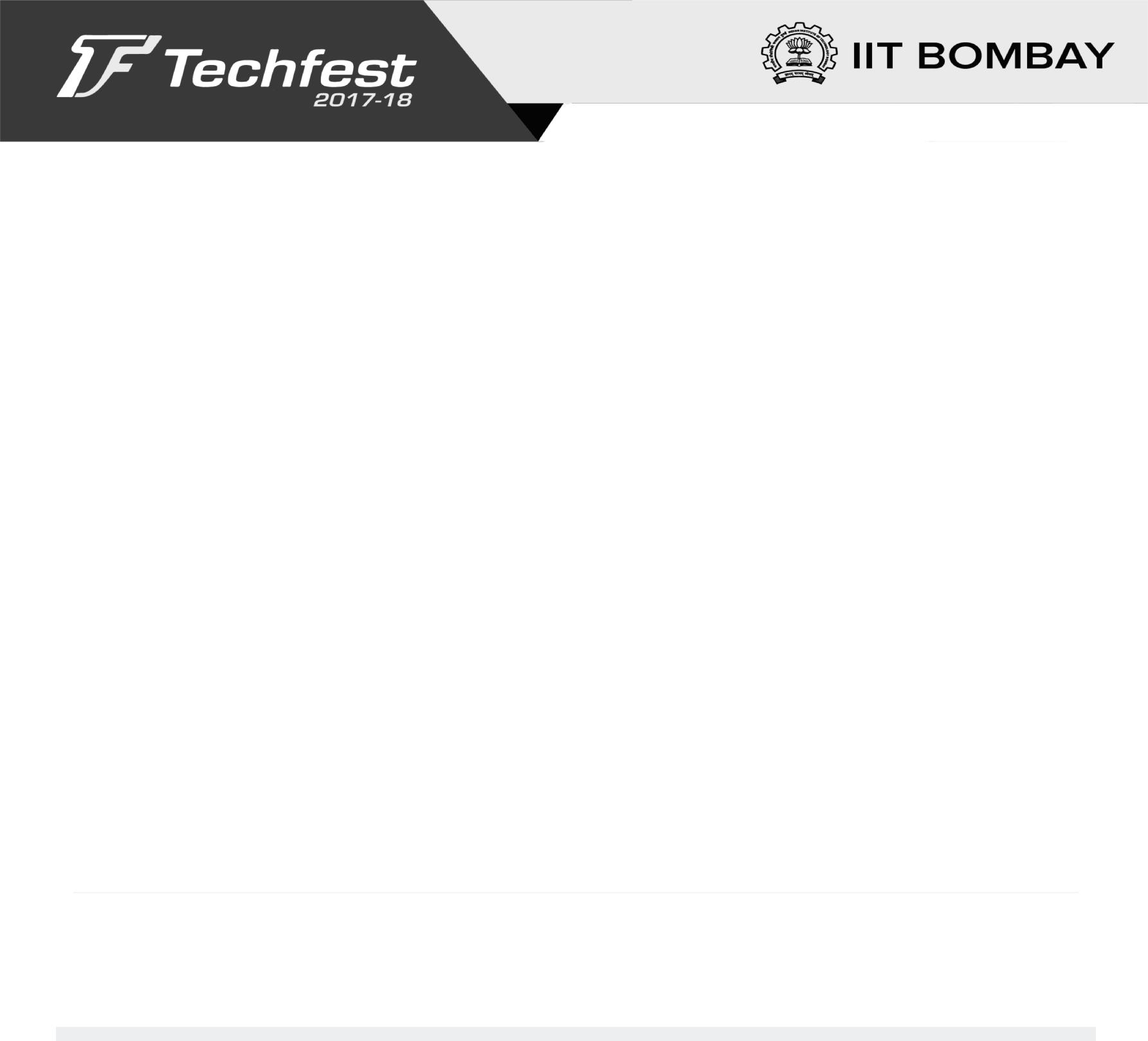
7.25pm As we approach the toss, here's a little nugget from my colleague Deiva, in case you're wondering which way the captains are likely to go. The team batting first has won the last five matches between RCB and Kings XI.

7.18pm We are a little while away from the toss. That usually means all eyes on the XIs and some frantic last-minute changes to your fantasy teams. Which foreign players would make it to your [Fantasy XI](http://www.cricfantasy.in/) for today's game? Daily prizes up for grabs.

We are barely a week into the tournament and we have already seen thrillers, howlers, stunners and plenty of festivities from the various opening ceremonies. We have the best snaps from the week gone by in our [gallery](http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/gallery/1091588.html).

Swapnil Jarande: "Mark these words - "It's matches like these where the importance of good Indian bowlers in the team is understood!""





7.05pm That RCB batting line-up is frighteningly strong even without Virat Kohli, with Gayle, AB de Villiers and Shane Watson. But the Holkar Stadium hasn't exactly been conducive to the kind of big hitting we have become accustomed to seeing from these men. Of all the Indian venues to have hosted the IPL, this is among the lowest-scoring, with teams managing an average first-innings run rate of 6.94 in three matches. The DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai has been the only lower-scoring venue, with a first-innings run rate of 6.89 in 17 matches.

Sulay: "Everyone is talking about NO AMLA! WHY? How many times does he have to prove his abilities in the shorter formats?" He just seems the most likely to make way. Maxwell is the captain and is going to play. Hard to see Marcus Stoinis being dropped, given what he brings to the table as an allrounder, and David Miller and Eoin Morgan seem much better fits in a T20 XI than Amla.

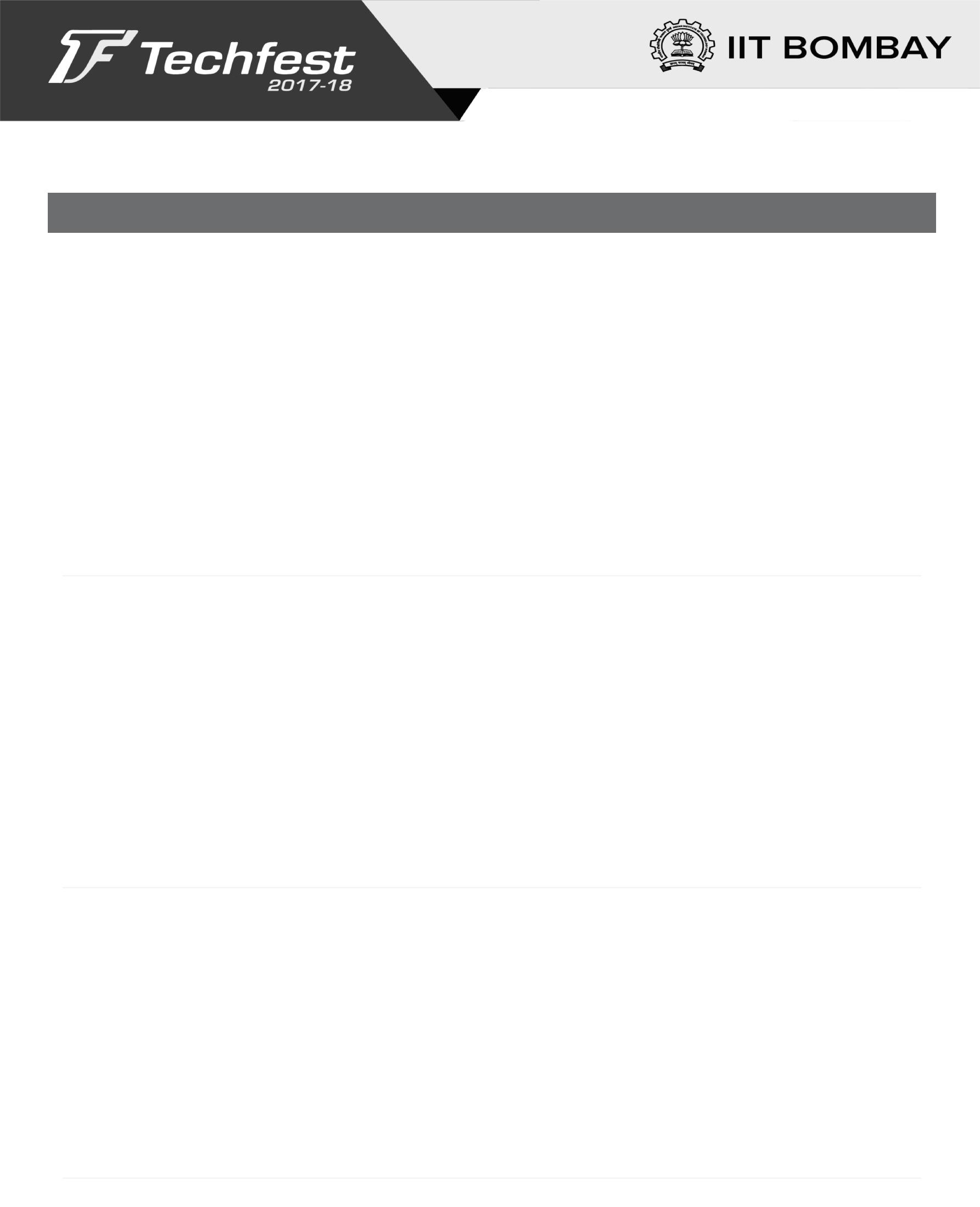
Sreenath: "if Kxip want to replace amla ..it must be Guptil.. Not Morgan... If history teach you anything.. Always replace opener with anotge opener " Guptill is still undergoing remedial work on [his hamstrings](http://www.espncricinfo.com/newzealand/content/story/1086195.html) and is not likely to play a part in the initial part of the tournament.

7pm There is plenty to ponder about and look forward to if you are a Royal Challengers Bangalore fan tonight. Chris Gayle is staring in the face of history on account of being just 25 short of becoming the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket. That is, if he plays tonight. With AB de Villiers indicating that he is close to being fully fit, how does Gayle fit into the XI? Hello, and welcome to ESPNcricinfo's live coverage of Match 8 from the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

Pulkit Gupta: "Why is Virat Kohli name missing from RCB squad? " He is still recovering from a shoulder injury.

Kings XI Punjab seem certain to make one change, with Eoin Morgan joining the squad. Could he edge Hashim Amla out of the XI? You can check out the likely XIs and all the pertinent numbers from this game in Karthik Krishnaswamy's [match preview](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1091420.html).





END OF OVER: 20 | 14 Runs | RCB: 148/4 | RR: 7.40

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 89 | (46b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-47-0 |
| STR Binny | 18 | (20b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-26-1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

9.38pm That was the stuff of genius. AB de Villiers does it like only AB can. He was returning from a back injury, but seemed far from a man returning from a layoff. That was just brutal hitting - a mix of deftness, timing, savage power and sublime timing. De Villiers showed his incredible range and the Holkar crowd, who were behind him from the outset despite RCB being the away team here, were treated to a delight. Take out his 89 and RCB are left with a grand total of 59 from 74 balls. Game very much on in Indore. Varun will join you for the chase.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19.6 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, one more that sails over the roof. De Villiers anticipates that the |
|  | bowler would take it away from him, so he walks across early. Gets right on top of it and | |

smashes it over deep square leg. That was all timing and balance RCB have doubled their 15-over score.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19.5 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, slower full ball, outside off, de Villiers comes charging down and |
|  | lofts it over long-off. He had to make a late adjustment there. Came down the track, saw it was | |
|  |  | wider and then had to move across slightly to reach out |
|  |  |  |
| 19.4 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, fullish, outside off, de Villiers throws his hands at it and gets a |
|  | bottom edge back to the bowler. Nice bowling from Mohit, taking it away from the batsman | |
| 19.3 | 1 | Sharma to Binny, 1 run, full, outside off, thumps it hard and drags it from outside off to long- |
|  | on. Strike back with AB | |
| 19.2 | 0 | Sharma to Binny, no run, short, caught in two minds is Binny. Wants to pull but the bounce is |
|  | considerable and goes for a late upper-cut. Cannot make contact | |

Sandeep had gone for seven runs in three before this over. AB has comfortably tripled that.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19.1 | 1 | Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, slower full ball, finds the inside edge of de Villiers and Saha dives | | |
|  | to his left. They get de Villiers off strike | |  |  |
| Mohit to bowl the final over, against a rampaging de Villiers | | | |  |
|  | | |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 19 | 19 Runs | RCB: 134/4 | RR: 7.05 | | |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| AB de Villiers | | 76 (42b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-26-1 |
| STR Binny | | 17 (18b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-33-0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, on a length, whipped away to deep midwicket for one. |
|  | Swung hard but did not find the middle of the bat. He gets to keep strike for the last over, | |

though





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18.5 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, no run, fullish length, holding its line outside off, de Villiers |
|  | swings mighty hard and does not make contact | |
| 18.5 | 1w | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 wide, and now he drags the length back. Tries to take it away |
|  | from the batsman but drifts away a tad more than he would have liked. De Villiers reaches out | |
|  |  | but cannot make contact |
|  |  |  |
| 18.4 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, another full toss and it is dispatched. If he wants to bowl |
|  | the yorker, he better get it right. De Villiers thumps it over deep midwicket. Not as big enough | |
|  |  | this time but it goes well into the crowd nonetheless |
|  |  |  |
| 18.3 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, first, there was one that smacked the roof. Now, one has |
|  | sailed over it and out of the stadium. Biggest hit of the night. Walks across to this low full toss | |
|  |  | outside off and swings for the fences. Makes meaty connection, bang off the middle and out of |
|  |  | here |
|  |  |  |
| 18.2 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, FOUR, how's that for placement. Wide outside off and he just |
|  | opens the face of his bat to guide it wide of backward point. That was nearly a yorker but such | |
|  |  | is the class of this batsman |
|  |  |  |
| 18.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Binny, 1 run, drives hard away from the body, gives too much power and |
|  | gets an outside edge that files towards third man. But there is a fielder there and he gets | |

around it

Sandeep to bowl the penultimate over.

Chetan: "100 for ABD, anyone??"

END OF OVER: 18 | 19 Runs | RCB: 115/4 | RR: 6.38

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 59 (37b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-33-0 |
| STR Binny | 16 (17b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 17.6 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, well-done. Full ball but slower from Mohit. De Villiers swings |
|  | hard but too early and misses | |
| 17.5 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, another yorker gone wrong. Full toss again, comes on at a nice |
|  | height and de Villiers shovels it between wide long-on and deep midwicket. Flat six, that's just | |
|  |  | brute force |
|  |  |  |
| 17.4 | 2 | Sharma to de Villiers, 2 runs, short ball, does not really get on top of it but pulls anyway. Two |
|  | fielders converge in front of the deep midwicket boundary but the ball bounces in front of | |
|  |  | them |
|  |  |  |
| 17.3 | 1 | Sharma to Binny, 1 run, attempts a yorker and offersup a low full toss on middle and leg, |
|  | punched hard to the right of long-on but Miller runs across in a flash and gets down neatly to | |

stop it clean





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17.2 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Binny, FOUR, that has been bludgeoned through extra cover. Overpitched, | |  |  |
|  |  | outside off, can't be bowling a half-volley at this stage of the innings. Binny crashes it off the | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | front foot |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 17.1 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Binny, SIX, That is humongous. Binny this time. Fullish, seam-up on the stumps, | | |  |
|  |  | Binny swings hard and lofts it over cow corner | | | |  |  |
|  | Mohit, third over for him. | | | |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 17 | 16 Runs | RCB: 96/4 | RR: 5.64 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | | 51 (34b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-0 |  |
|  | STR Binny | |  | 5 (14b) | VR Aaron | 4-0-21-2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 6 | Stoinis to de Villiers, SIX, and the extra ball proves costly. This one's short and de Villiers | | |  |
|  |  | lays into a pull shot, into the second-tier after it clears deep midwicket. Fifty for de Villiers | | | | |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 1w | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 wide, short ball, de Villiers lets it go after coming down the track. | |  |  |
|  |  | Called a wide and square leg umpire Anil Chaudhary signals a wide and one for the over | | | |  |  |
| 16.5 | |  | 1 | Stoinis to Binny, 1 run, short of a length, tries to back away and pull off the hips, gets it just to | | |  |
|  |  | the left of backward square leg who scampers across and stops it | | | |  |  |

Every third delivery AB faced after the 16th over went for a boundary - four or six - in IPL 2016. Strike rate:

215.55

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 16.4 | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, shortish, gets on top of it and whips it away to deep midwicket for |
|  | one | |
| 16.3 | 6 | Stoinis to de Villiers, SIX, what a shot! Thumps it muscularly over deep midwicket. On a |
|  | length, on off, de Villiers smacks it bang off the middle of the bat | |
| 16.2 | 0 | Stoinis to de Villiers, no run, short of a length, closes the bat face early as he looks to flick and |
|  | gets a leading edge back to the bowler. Think it was the off-cutter | |

Rahul Ranjan: "AB has faced just 30 out off 90 deliveries since his arrival. Pretty much tells you where RCB have gone wrong!"

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16.1 |  | | Stoinis to Binny, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, tucked off the pads to deep fine leg for one | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 16 | 9 Runs | RCB: 80/4 | RR: 5.00 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STR Binny | |  | 3 (12b) | VR Aaron | 4-0-21-2 |  |  |
| AB de Villiers | | | 38 (30b) | AR Patel | 4-0-12-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Time for the second timeout. RCB need to seriously get a move on here.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15.6 |  | Aaron to Binny, 1 leg bye, short of a length, walks across and tries to flick across the line, gets |  |
| 1lb |  |
|  |  |





hit high on the pad. Given as runs, so there was an inside-edge there

sarath264: "Without downplaying saha's efforts. God!! This ground is so small when you see it from an aerial view. Many college grounds would be much bigger than this."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.5 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, tries to cut but it is not short enough and does not get up as much as |
|  | he would have liked it to, beaten | |

RCB's 71 was their second lowest score after 15 overs in an IPL innings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.4 | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, turned away to deep midwicket. Two fielders converge and they |
|  | keep it to one | |

Chants of Ab, Ab picking up again.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.3 | 6 | Aaron to de Villiers, SIX, full, outside off, de Villiers backs away to give himself room and |
|  | lofts it over mid-off. Clean and straight over the boundary | |

Jeevan: "Still think the catch Saha took to dismiss Steve O' Keefe was the best of the season."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.2 | 1 | Aaron to Binny, 1 run, short of a length, gets on top of the bounce and opens the face of his |
|  | bat to run it down to square third man for one | |
| 15.1 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, beats him with pace, 143kph, beats him on the pull. Stifled appeal for |
|  | caught-behind but there was no under-edge, that clipped the back thigh | |

Snehil: "Saha proving why he is called the best keeper in the country.. "

END OF OVER: 15 | 1 Run | RCB: 71/4 | RR: 4.73

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 31 (28b) | AR Patel | 4-0-12-1 |
| STR Binny | 2 (8b) | VR Aaron | 3-0-13-2 |
|  |  |  |  |

Terrific performance from Axar, finishes with 1 for 12 from four.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.6 | 0 | Patel to de Villiers, no run, full, outside off, drives away from the body and gets an inside edge |  |
|  | back to the bowler | |  |
| 14.5 | 1 | Patel to Binny, 1 run, back of a length, on middle and leg, whipped away from the crease |  |
|  | between mid-on and midwicket | |  |
| 14.4 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, short of a length, punched crisply off the backfoot to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.3 | 0 | Patel to Binny, no run, plays it off the front foot to the right of the bowler. Decides against the |  |
|  | single | |  |
| 14.2 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14.1 |  | Patel to Binny, no run, comes down the track, it is sliding in with the arm. He misses the flick |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |





and the keeper takes it off the pad. No inside-edge there

Sulay: "Superman Saha at it again! WHAT. A. CATCH."

END OF OVER: 14 | 2 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 70/4 | RR: 5.00

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| STR Binny | 1 (3b) | VR Aaron | 3-0-13-2 |
| AB de Villiers | 31 (27b) | AR Patel | 3-0-11-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

Aabhas: "4 overs without a boundary in T20 cricket is a lot. Something was bound to give."

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13.6 |  | Aaron to Binny, 1 run, full, on the pads, turns it away to deep backward square leg for one |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13.5 | 0 | Aaron to Binny, no run, short of a length, outside off, tries to open his bat face and gets an |  |
|  | inside edge that misses the stumps and Saha dives to his left to stop it. Another great effort | |  |

That was Varun Aaron's 50th T20 wicket.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13.4 | |  | Aaron to Binny, no run, fuller on off, opens the bat face and defends to point. No run there | | |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 13.3 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, pushes forward and knocks it to square third man off the outside | | |  |  |
|  |  | part of the bat | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.2 | |  | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, short, wide, cut hard to covers | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 13.1 | | W | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, OUT, great catch by Saha. That is one of the best catches I have | | |  |  |
|  |  | seen recently. Short ball, Mandeep tries to pull and gets a top-edge. Saha has to dart back all | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | the way, almost runs three-fourths towards the boundary and in the last minute, he has to | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | change direction, dives to his right, towards fine leg and takes it with both hands | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Mandeep Singh c †Saha b Aaron 28 (36m 34b 1x4 1x6) SR: 82.35 | |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 13 | 3 Runs | RCB: 68/3 | RR: 5.23 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 28 (33b) | AR Patel | 3-0-11-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 30 (25b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-12-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.6 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, shortish again, outside off, punched out to sweeper cover | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12.5 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, short and wide, slapped hard but can't beat point | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 12.4 | | 0 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, punched off the backfoot in front of point. Takes off for a | | |  |  |
|  |  | single but is forced to go back. Close | |  |  |  |  |
| 12.3 | |  | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, backs away and punches it down to long-off | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

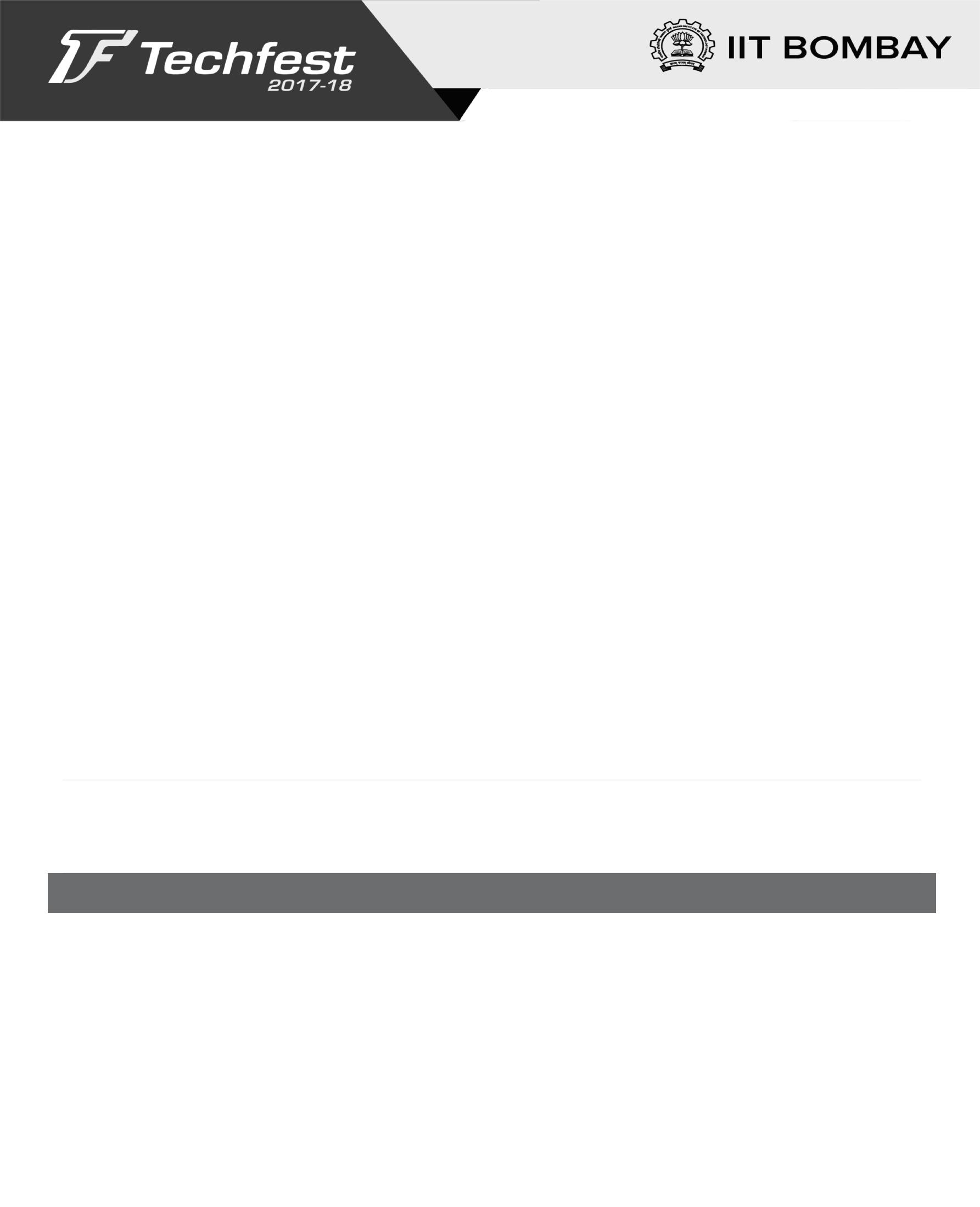




Should Axar have been used early v ABD? ABD, in the last 3 seasons, 8 out of his 10 dismissals to spinners in the IPL have been to Left arm orthodox or Right Arm Leg Spin (take the ball away from the batsmen).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12.2 | | 1 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, width on offer, chases it away from the body and flays it out to | | |  |  |
|  |  | sweeper cover | |  |  |  |  |
| 12.1 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, no run, fullish, pushed back to the bowler | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 12 | 6 Runs | RCB: 65/3 | RR: 5.41 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 26 (28b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-12-0 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 29 (24b) | AR Patel | 2-0-8-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.6 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, runs in zig-zag and fires it from wide of the crease, short of a | | |  |  |
|  |  | length, gets on top of the bounce and runs it down to third man | | |  |  |  |
| 11.5 | |  | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, outside off, punched to mid-off for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 11.4 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, backs away and the bowler follows him, opens his bat face, | | |  |  |
|  |  | more of the outside part of the bat, actually as he knocks it behind square on the off side | | |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, outside off, drops it into the off side with soft | | |  |  |
|  |  | hands for a quick single | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length on middle, backs away and opens his bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | face to steer it to deep backward point | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.1 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, angling in, tucked away to deep backward square | | |  |  |
|  |  | leg. Thinks of a second but decides against it | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 11 | 6 Runs | RCB: 59/3 | RR: 5.36 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 26 (21b) | AR Patel | 2-0-8-1 |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 23 (25b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.6 | |  | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, tucked away to deep square for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 10.5 | | 1 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short on middle, gets his body behind the ball and swats it | | |  |  |
|  |  | hard to Varun Aaron at deep square leg | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.4 | | 1 | Patel to de Villiers, 1 run, trying to cramp de Villiers again but he backs away and manages to | | |  |  |
|  |  | tuck it away of the middle of the bat | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | | 0 | Patel to de Villiers, no run, comes in with the arm, no turn, de Villiers finds an inside to the | | |  |  |
|  |  | pad as he tries to tuck it away | |  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10.2 | |  | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, gets forward and drops it in between cover and point for one | | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 10.1 | | 2 | Patel to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, short and wide, punched off the backfoot and beats point. | | | |  |  |
|  |  | Takes on the fielder in the deep and the throw is on the bounce and they make it back easily | | | | |  |  |
|  | Axar back for his second over. | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 10 | 6 Runs | RCB: 53/3 | RR: 5.30 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 24 (18b) |  | MP Stoinis | 1-0-6-0 |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 19 (22b) |  | T Natarajan | 1-0-13-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 9.6 | | 0 | Stoinis to de Villiers, no run, on a length, slightly seaming away. De Villiers was looking to | | | |  |  |
|  |  | flick across the line and gets beaten. Close | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.5 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, fullish, sliding on leg, turned away to midwicket for a quick | | | |  |  |
|  |  | single | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, short of good length, whipped away to mid-on who is slightly deep | | | |  |  |
|  |  | and wide | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.3 | | 2 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 2 runs, back of a length and coming in, tucked with the angle to the left | | | |  |  |
|  |  | of deep backward square leg for a brace | | |  |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | | 1 | Stoinis to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short of a length, angling in, inside-edges to the pad and | | | |  |  |
|  |  | takes off for a quick single as the ball goes to the right of the keeper | | | |  |  |  |

Snehil: "RCB batting lineup without Kohli looking like a Cricket bat without a handle."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9.1 | 1 | Stoinis to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, tucked off the hips towards fine leg |
|  | and the wicketkeeper runs across to pick it up | |

Marcus Stoinis to resume after the break.

END OF OVER: 9 | 13 Runs | RCB: 47/3 | RR: 5.22

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mandeep Singh | 17 (20b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-13-0 |
| AB de Villiers | 20 (14b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-14-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

Strategic timeout.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8.6 | 4 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, FOUR, overcompensates with the length. Fires it too full and |
|  | too wide. The intent is right, making the batsman reach out. Mandeep does so as he tries to | |
|  |  | drive but the cordon is vacant and the outside edge runs away to third man |
|  |  |  |
| 8.5 | 6 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, SIX, shot, what a shot! That's a monster hit. Short and sitting |
|  | up nicely for Mandeep who has all the time to rock back and swivel around with the pull. The | |

ball goes over backward square and smacks the roof





Vasant Horapeti: "I am not sure if we need to trust history any more. Ex. last match between RCB vx DD, Bengaluru known for batting pitch, but turned out to be interesting as RCB defended low score. And now at Indore the same venue, Pune scored 160+ and KXI chased it without much trouble!"

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.4 | | 1 | Natarajan to de Villiers, 1 run, full, on off, de Villiers bends forward and drives it down to | | |  |
|  |  | long-off | |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | | 1w | Natarajan to de Villiers, 1 wide, short of a length, down the leg side, de Villiers tries to tuck off | | |  |
|  |  | the pads and misses | |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | | 1 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length, pitching on leg, tries to flick and closes | | |  |
|  |  | the face of his bat a tad early. Lobs it to square leg. The fielder is slightly backward. That was | | | |  |
|  |  |  | the off-cutter |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | | 0 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of a length and angling away, pace off that | |  |  |
|  |  | delivery and beats the pull | |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | | 0 | Natarajan to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of a length, angled across to Mandeep who is | |  |  |
|  |  | pushed back and opens the face of his bat to point | | |  |  |
|  | T Natarajan | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 8 | 3 Runs | RCB: 34/3 | RR: 4.25 | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 6 (15b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-14-0 |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 19 (13b) | VR Aaron | 2-0-11-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 7.6 | | 1 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, back of a length, just outside off, punched off the backfoot | | |  |
|  |  | and Stoinis at extra cover makes a diving save | | |  |  |
| 7.5 | | 0Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, full, on off, defended watchfully to point | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.4 | | 2 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, slightly back of a length, punched hard off the backfoot to | | |  |
|  |  | the right of sweeper cover for a brace | |  |  |  |
| 7.3 | | 0Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, short of good length, gets on top of it and defends | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | | 0 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, advances down the track and the bowler takes it away | | |  |

from him. Short of a length and he fetches a pull away from the body. The ball goes to Amla at midwicket and Mandeep takes off for a suicidal single. He is sent back and has to put in the dive

Harsha Borra: "Is this a Bowling friendly pitch ?" A bit two-paced. And the odd ball is skidding on.

Historically has been a low-scoring venue.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7.1 | 0 | Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, back of a length, gets on top of the bounce and defends |
|  | back to the bowler | |





END OF OVER: 7 | 8 Runs | RCB: 31/3 | RR: 4.42

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 19 (13b) | VR Aaron | 2-0-11-1 |
| Mandeep Singh | 3 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-7-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

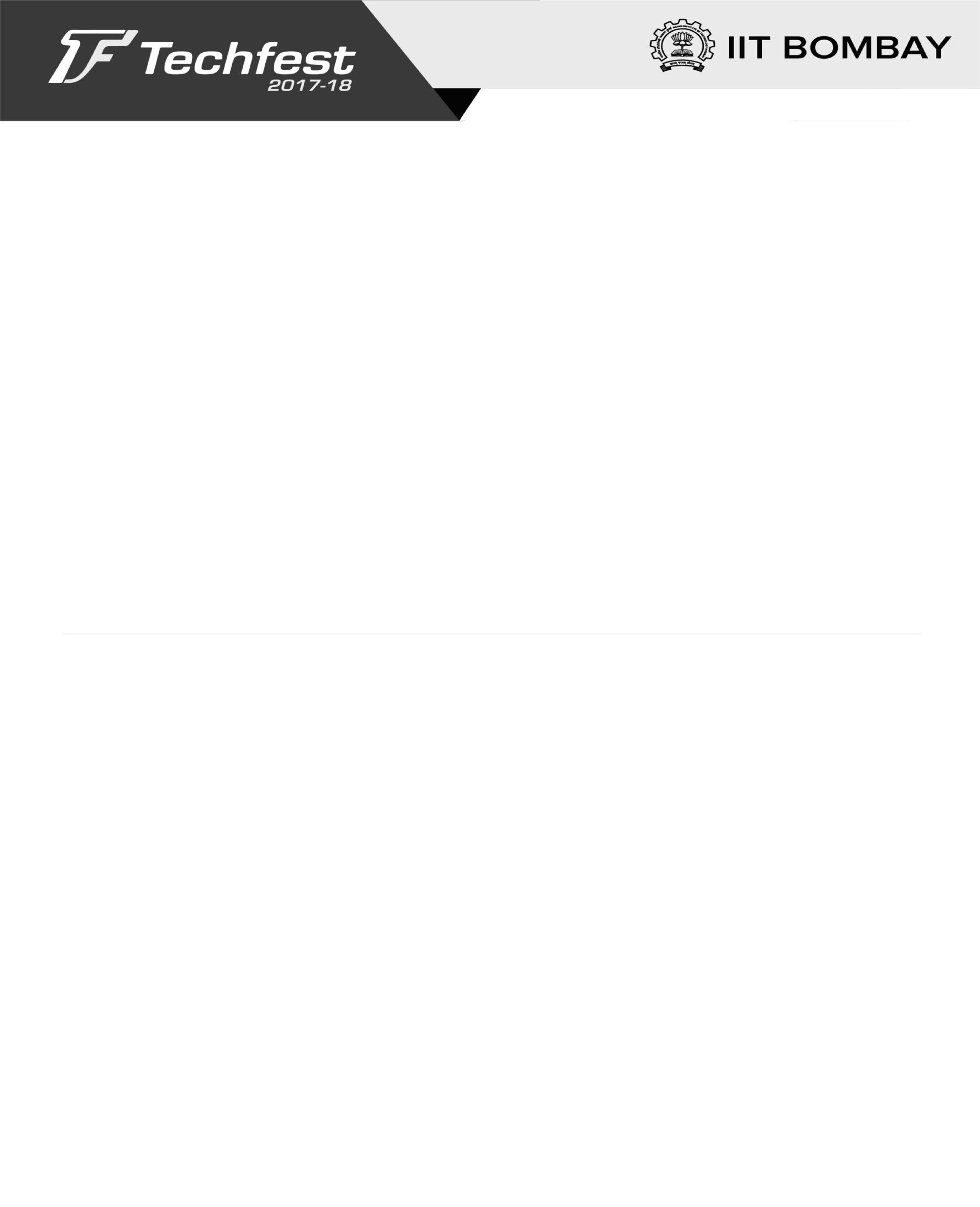
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 6.6 | 4 | Aaron to de Villiers, FOUR, full, clipped off the pads and beats midwicket diving to his right. |
|  | That's loose bowling | |
| 6.5 | 1 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, gets on top of the bounce and |
|  | punches off the backfoot to sweeper cover | |

Only four times in the past have RCB made a lower Powerplay score than this. The most recent being in 2014.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6.4 | | 2 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, 2 runs, short, some width on offer outside off, hangs back and flays | | |  |  |
|  |  | it hard but cannot beat square third man running to his right | | |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | |  | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, on off, defended to point off the front foot | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 6.2 | | 0 | Aaron to Mandeep Singh, no run, fullish, just around off, comes forward and defends with bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | close to pad into the off side | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, back of a length, angling in, rides the bounce and turns it away | |  |  |  |
|  |  | through square leg | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 6 | 1 Run | RCB: 23/3 | RR: 3.83 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mandeep Singh | | 0 (5b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-7-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 14 (11b) | VR Aaron | 1-0-3-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 5.6 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, tucked with the angle to midwicket. There is a | | |  |  |
|  |  | fielder there, so no run. Good, testing over from Sandeep | | |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, comes on straight and on the | |  |  |  |
|  |  | stumps, defended | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, length, angling in, closes the face of his bat a tad | | |  |  |
|  |  | early and gets a mild leading edge back towards the bowler | | |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, beautiful. On a length and tempts him by firing it | | |  |  |
|  |  | just outside off. Gets it to seam away and beat the outside edge | | |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Mandeep Singh, no run, good length, outside off, gets a good stride across | | |  |  |
|  |  | and defends back to the bowler | |  |  |  |  |

Replays confirm the ball would have gone over off-stump.





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.1 | |  | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 5 | 3 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 22/3 | RR: 4.40 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 13 (10b) | VR Aaron | 1-0-3-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-6-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 4.6 | | W | Aaron to Jadhav, OUT, back of a length, angling in, rapped on the pads as it misses the flick. | | |  |  |
|  |  | It seems as though height may have been an issue but the umpire C Shamshuddin does not | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | think so. That is a close one. He was struck pretty high on the pad and was jumping up as | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | well. But Jadhav is not a very tall man. Still pretty close, though | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | KM Jadhav lbw b Aaron 1 (9m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 25.00 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 4.5 | | 1 | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, short of a length, outside off, punched on the up off the backfoot to | | |  |  |
|  |  | the left of mid-off where Amla runs across and tumbles right on the practice wicket as he | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | gathers it | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 4.4 | | 1 | Aaron to Jadhav, 1 run, sees some width on offer and pokes his bat without getting close to it, | | |  |  |
|  |  | gets an inside edge and they steal the single by the time the bowler can there on the follow- | | | |  |  |

through

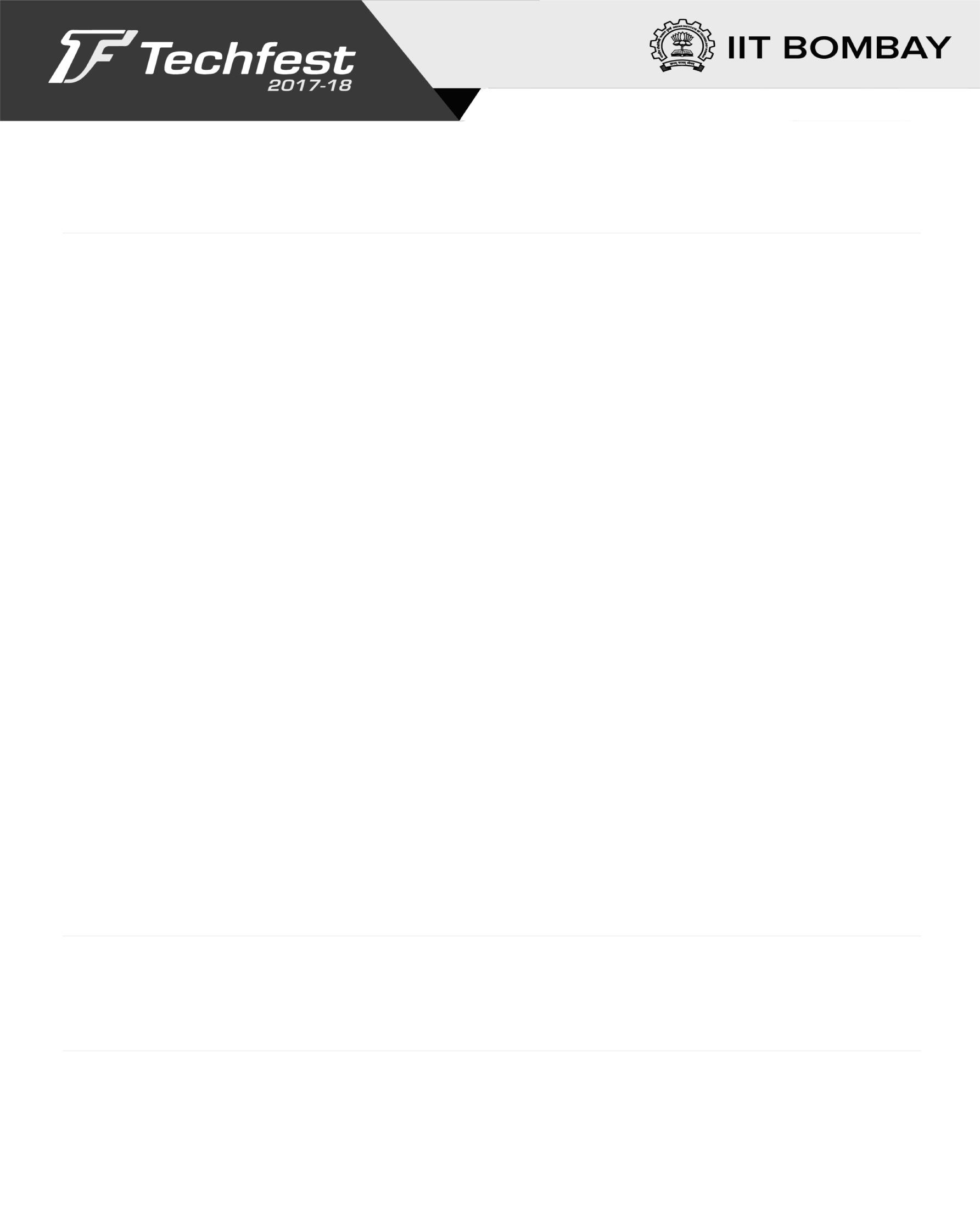
Siam: "Where is pocket dynamo the sharfaraz khan??" Out with a hamstring injury.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.3 | |  | Aaron to de Villiers, 1 run, tucked off the pads to the left of deep midwicket for one | |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 4.2 | | 0 | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, fullish length, on the stumps, defended with the straightest of | | |  |  |
|  |  | bats | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | | 0 | Aaron to de Villiers, no run, shortish but not short enough, attempts a cut and chops it hard | | |  |  |
|  |  | into the ground | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Varun Aaron. | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 4 | 1 Run 1 Wkt | RCB: 19/2 | RR: 4.75 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | KM Jadhav | | 0 (2b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-6-1 |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 11 (6b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-11-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 3.6 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Jadhav, no run, beaten. Full, cuts back in slightly, prods without moving | | |  |  |
|  |  | his feet and the ball misses the inside edge, and off-stump, by a whisker | | |  |  |  |
| 3.5 | |  | Sandeep Sharma to Jadhav, no run, full, on the stumps, defended back to the bowler | |  |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Kedar Jadhav

Vishnu: "This is probably the most productive year for a small state like Kerala in IPL which is known in the national Football level and not so much in cricket. Vishnu Vinod, Sachin Baby, Basil Thampi and ofcourse





the IPL veteran, Sanju Samson. Also it could only be the second time a team apart from Kochi Tuskers are playing two Kerala players in their first line up. First being, Sanju and Sreesanth for RR."

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3.4 | | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, 1 run, fuller, outside off, comes forward and pushes into covers | | |  |
|  |  | for one | |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | | W | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, OUT, goes for a pull but there was really no room to play | | |  |
|  |  | that shot. Shortish, so it wasn't so much about the length. Though he backs away, he cannot | | | |  |
|  |  |  | manufacture enough room and gets a top-edge that goes straight down the throat of long-on. | | |  |
|  |  |  | Mid-on had dropped back unlike in the previous over | |  |  |
|  |  |  | Vishnu Vinod c Maxwell b Sandeep Sharma 7 (15m 12b 1x4 0x6) SR: 58.33 | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 3.2 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, short of a length, slightly sliding into him, so he | | |  |
|  |  | backs away to make room and drops it in front of covers. Takes off for a non-existent single | | | |  |
|  |  |  | and is sent back by de Villiers, direct hit and he could have been gone | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 3.1 | | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, god length, on off, comes forward and step and | | |  |
|  |  | defends | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 3 | 11 Runs | RCB: 18/1 | RR: 6.00 | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | AB de Villiers | | 10 (5b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-11-0 |  |
|  | Vishnu Vinod | | 7 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-5-0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Vishnu Vinod as opener in his T20 career (before today) - 297 runs in 7 inns at 49.50, SR 159.67, 30+ in each of the 7 inns

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2.6 | 6 | Sharma to de Villiers, SIX, that's as flat a six as you'd ever see. Full, in the slot outside off and |  |
|  | giving him the room to open his shoulders. De Villiers gleefully thumps it over extra cover and | |  |
|  |  | it goes all the way |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2.5 |  | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, full, outside off, driven crisply but straight to mid-off |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |

Anshul: "Watson's bowling makes him quite valuable so there's no way he'd be dropped for Gayle"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.4 | 0 | Sharma to de Villiers, no run, short, pushes him back, de Villiers gets on top of the bounce |
|  | and defends into the off side | |

SureshGuna: "Vishnu Vinod must be so lucky to be in the spotlight with two greats Watto and ABD and learn more.. #THANK IPL!!"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.3 | 1 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, fullish, on middle, quietly comes forward and dabs it between |
|  | mid-on and midwicket for a single | |
| 2.2 | 4 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, FOUR, shortish, outside off. Pulls hard. It does not bounce as much |
|  | as he may have liked. Thumps it hard and just clears the leaping Maxwell at lid-on | |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.1 | 0 | Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, on a length, defended from outside off to the left of the |
|  | bowler | |

Mohit Sharma.

Sathvick: "A big risk by RCB to send Vishnu Vinod for opening?" He has some impressive numbers, strikes at 144 in T20s and averages over 31.

END OF OVER: 2 | 5 Runs | RCB: 7/1 | RR: 3.50

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AB de Villiers | 4 (2b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-5-0 |
| Vishnu Vinod | 2 (6b) | AR Patel | 1-0-2-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.6 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, no run, short of good length, outside off, not much bounce, |
|  | swing and a miss from the batsman | |
| 1.5 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to de Villiers, FOUR, deft. Sees some width on offer outside off and just |
|  | open the face of his bat. Beats a diving point to his right as well as the fielder in the deep who | |

runs across but can't get down in time

AB de Villiers on strike for the first time. The crowd gets going with chants of AB, AB

Maruf: "I didn't go to class today to watch Gayle storm, but he is not playing today. Also happy to see ABD is back. 2 Aussie, 1 English, & 1 South African vs 3 Aussie & 1 South African. So excited to watch this match!!! "

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.4 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, short of a length, moving back in, gets an inside edge |
|  | to the pad to square leg | |

Manu Gill: "If Waton goes on to play like this, it will be he who will be replaced Gayle once Kohli gets fit."

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.3 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, steps down the track but it is angled into him. |  |
|  | Short of a length, and gets cramped for room, misses and the ball just misses leg stump | |  |
| 1.2 |  | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, holding its line in the channel outside off, left alone |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

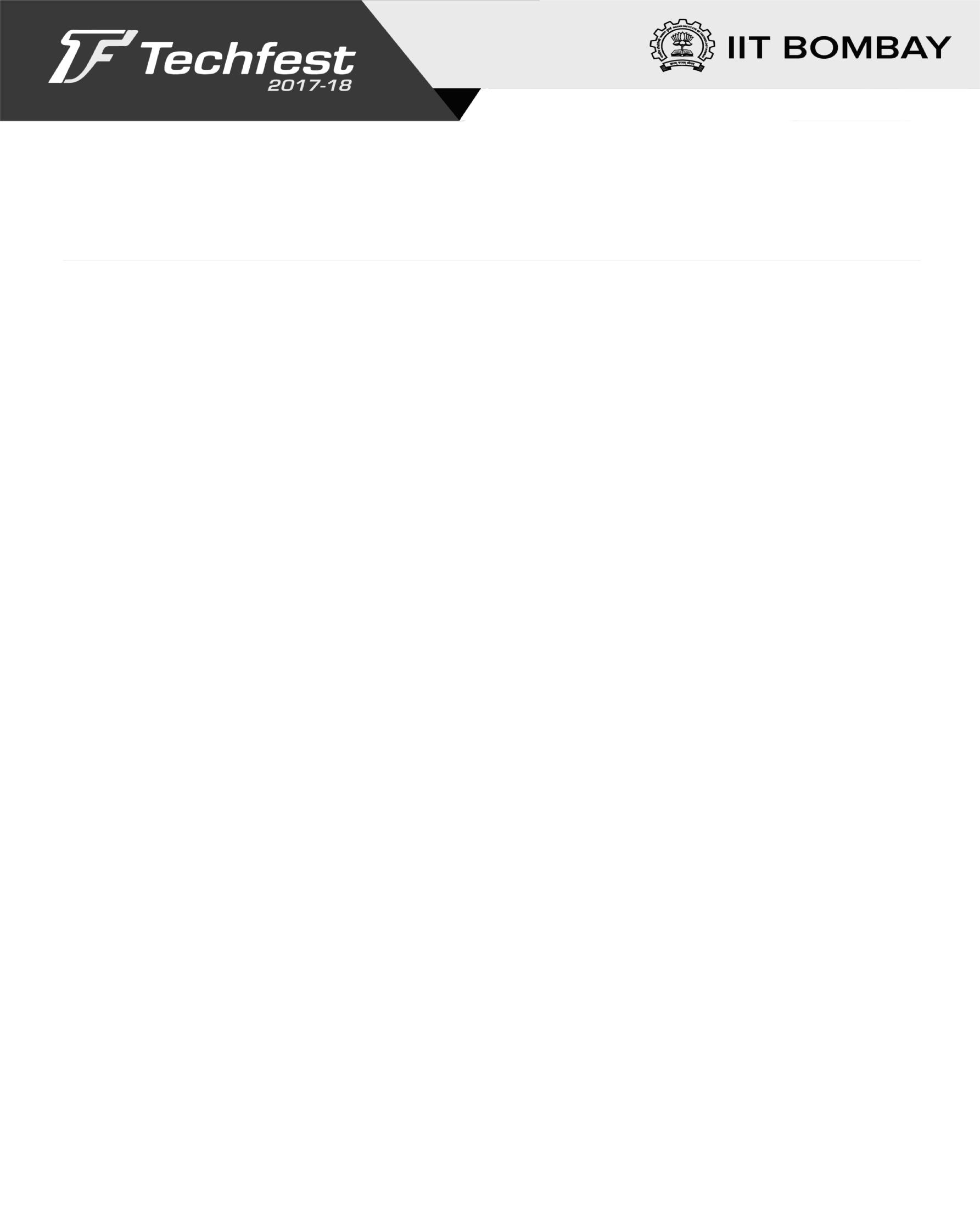
Sandeep Sharma has the joint-highest wickets in the Powerplay since the start of IPL 2013: 31 wickets, equal with Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Vishnu Vinod, no run, fullish, on middle and off, defended | |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sandeep. | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 1 | 2 Runs 1 Wkt | RCB: 2/1 | RR: 2.00 | | | |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |  |
| Vishnu Vinod | | | 1 (2b) | AR Patel | 1-0-2-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Shane Watson has now been dismissed four times in four innings by Axar. He has 23 off 24 balls.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.6 |  | Patel to Watson, OUT, chopped on! Early breakthrough for Punjab. Shortish ball but not |  |
| W |  |
|  |  |





much spin and too close to the stumps to be attempting a cut. Gets an inside edge for his troubles

SR Watson b Patel 1 (3m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 25.00

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.5 |  | Patel to Watson, no run, sliding on leg, defended down the pitch |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Left-arm attack vs Watson - 14 of his last 16 IPL dismissals v spin have been either left-arm orthodox or leg-spin.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.4 |  | Patel to Watson, no run, short of a length, tucked off the backfoot to square leg |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.3 | 1 | Patel to Vishnu Vinod, 1 run, good length, comes forward and turns it away to square leg for |  |
|  | one | |  |
| 0.2 | 0 | Patel to Vishnu Vinod, no run, on a length, spinning away outside off, defended with bat close |  |
|  | to pad | |  |
| 0.1 | 1 | Patel to Watson, 1 run, sliding in with the arm, Watson wears it on the pad as he misses the |  |
|  | attempted flick | |  |

7.59pm Right then. We are all set for action. The Holkar Stadium crowd roars as the RCB openers Shane Watson and Vishnu Vinod, followed by the Kings XI team. Watson to take first strike. He will face up to spin straightaway, with Axar opening the bowling.

7.48pm We have just over 10 minutes for the start. Meanwhile, in case you missed it, India beat Uzbekistan 4-1 in the Davis Cup over the weekend to book their spot in the World Group playoffs. No surprise then that Mahesh Bhupathi, the non-playing captain of the team, has [received plaudits](http://www.espn.in/tennis/story/_/id/19116815/mahesh-bhupathi-wins-points-bold-calls-davis-cup-captain) for making some tough (and uncomfortable) calls.

Sooryanarayanan: "This could be an indication as to how RCB's team combination might pan out for the rest of the season. If Gayle's not playing inspite of Kohli's absence, then I don't expect him to be back once Kohli is fit. At least not until ABD leaves on national duty. So this is a good opportunity for Stanlake to seal his spot for good. Plus of course, there's Samuel Badree."

The move to leave out Gayle is no doubt a bold call from RCB. This fact proves it further - he has been left out despite being the top-scorer against Kings XI (797 runs). And he scores at a rate of 10.53 per over.

7.42pm The last meeting between these two sides saw RCB knock down 211 in a 15-over contest. But the overall head-to-head record is more or less even. And it's not the team you think that is ahead. The teams have met in 18 matches, of which Kings XI have won ten and lost eight.

Snehil: "Irony-The preview headline for this match-"Gayle eyes 10,000-run landmark"....Ends up getting

dropped.."

Darshan: "Dropping Gayle could prove costly for RCB, especially against KXIP. They could've dropped Stanlake and played an Indian bowler instead."





Nitish Kumar: "What's the point of playing 5 bowlers when you have an all rounder in Stoinis and part timer in Maxwell.Should have gone with an extra batsman."

Abhishek: "Is Martin Guptil injured? If not, then I don't understand why he isn't playing. Amla is a good choice to open in this format, but I think Guptil is even better in this format at least. " Yes, Guptill is taking time off to strengthen his hamstring and is expected to miss the initial part of the tournament.

7.30pm Royal Challengers Bangalore have won the toss and are batting first.

"We want to bat first. It's great to see Maxi do well," says Shane Watson. "We've got AB de Villiers coming in for Chris Gayle."

"To start off with a win was great," says Maxwell. "I have certainly been enjoying myself and have acclimatised myself to the conditions well. Swapnil Singh is out and Varun Aaron comes in."

Here are the XIs -

Kings XI Punjab: Hashim Amla, Manan Vohra, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Glenn Maxwell (capt), David Miller, Marcus Stoinis, Axar Patel, Mohit Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Varun Aaron, T Natarajan

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Shane Watson (capt), Vishnu Vinod (wk), AB de Villiers, Kedar Jadhav, Mandeep Singh, Stuart Binny, Pawan Negi, Iqbal Abdulla, Tymal Mills, Yuzvendra Chahal, Billy Stanlake

Joe Root: "Shame to see Morgs miss out again - he was exceptional for Eng on the India tour a couple of months back."

Sulay: "Just happy to see maxwell showing confidence in Amla"

Afsar: "Uffffff and finally Mr.360 is playing today!! Just want to shout ABD! ABD!! ABD!!!"

DurgeshKulkarni: "I don't understand why players like Amla, Williamson are ignored in the shortest format. Just because they cannot slog doesn't necessarily mean that they are not suitable for T20s! Their eye-pleasing stroke-making might just given their team the starts they are hoping for in each match!!!"

Brad Hogg previews the game with Raunak Kapoor and Gaurav Kalra. You can catch it on the top right of your screen.

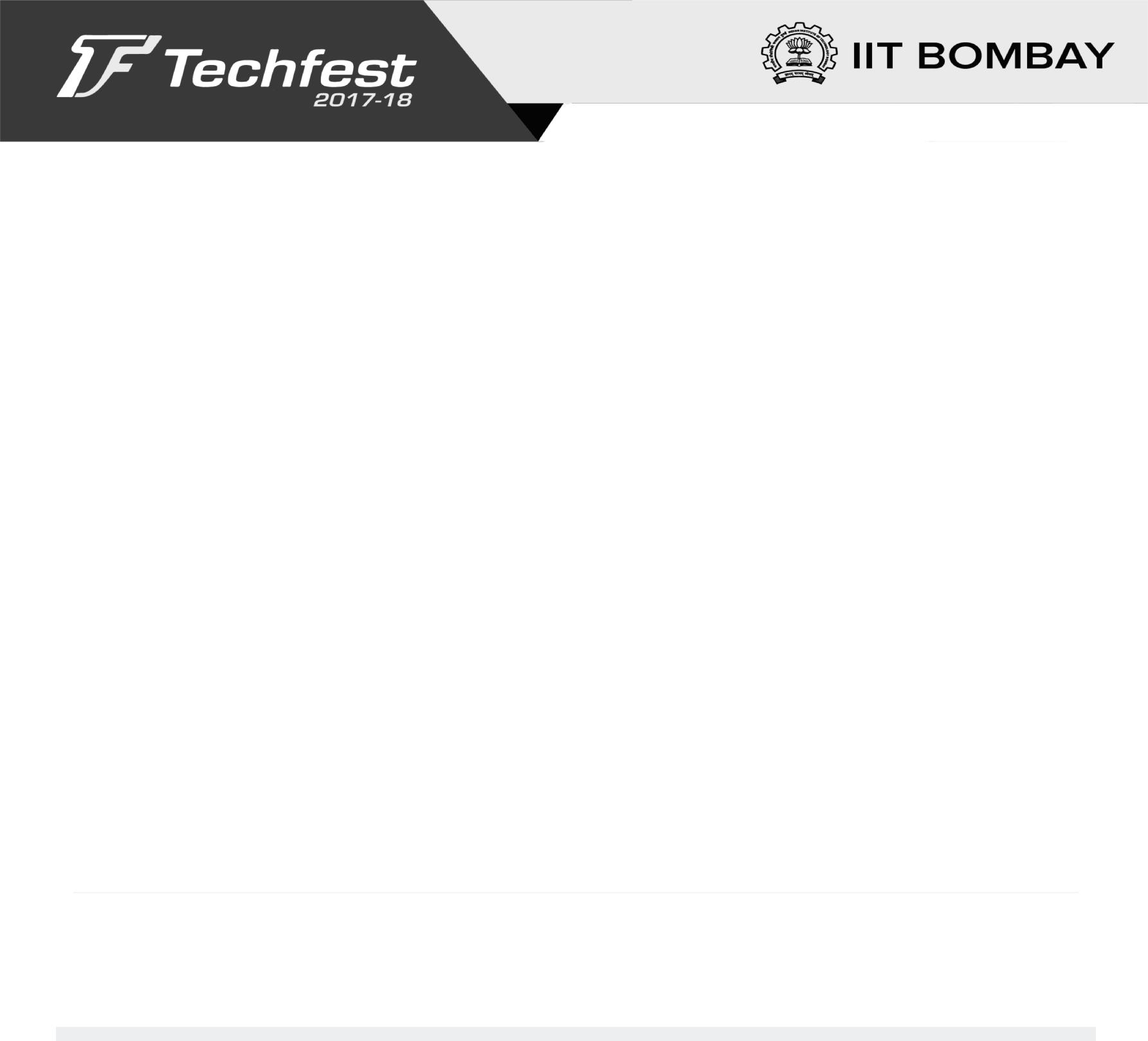
7.25pm As we approach the toss, here's a little nugget from my colleague Deiva, in case you're wondering which way the captains are likely to go. The team batting first has won the last five matches between RCB and Kings XI.

7.18pm We are a little while away from the toss. That usually means all eyes on the XIs and some frantic last-minute changes to your fantasy teams. Which foreign players would make it to your [Fantasy XI](http://www.cricfantasy.in/) for today's game? Daily prizes up for grabs.

We are barely a week into the tournament and we have already seen thrillers, howlers, stunners and plenty of festivities from the various opening ceremonies. We have the best snaps from the week gone by in our [gallery](http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/gallery/1091588.html).

Swapnil Jarande: "Mark these words - "It's matches like these where the importance of good Indian bowlers in the team is understood!""





7.05pm That RCB batting line-up is frighteningly strong even without Virat Kohli, with Gayle, AB de Villiers and Shane Watson. But the Holkar Stadium hasn't exactly been conducive to the kind of big hitting we have become accustomed to seeing from these men. Of all the Indian venues to have hosted the IPL, this is among the lowest-scoring, with teams managing an average first-innings run rate of 6.94 in three matches. The DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai has been the only lower-scoring venue, with a first-innings run rate of 6.89 in 17 matches.

Sulay: "Everyone is talking about NO AMLA! WHY? How many times does he have to prove his abilities in the shorter formats?" He just seems the most likely to make way. Maxwell is the captain and is going to play. Hard to see Marcus Stoinis being dropped, given what he brings to the table as an allrounder, and David Miller and Eoin Morgan seem much better fits in a T20 XI than Amla.

Sreenath: "if Kxip want to replace amla ..it must be Guptil.. Not Morgan... If history teach you anything.. Always replace opener with anotge opener " Guptill is still undergoing remedial work on [his hamstrings](http://www.espncricinfo.com/newzealand/content/story/1086195.html) and is not likely to play a part in the initial part of the tournament.

7pm There is plenty to ponder about and look forward to if you are a Royal Challengers Bangalore fan tonight. Chris Gayle is staring in the face of history on account of being just 25 short of becoming the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket. That is, if he plays tonight. With AB de Villiers indicating that he is close to being fully fit, how does Gayle fit into the XI? Hello, and welcome to ESPNcricinfo's live coverage of Match 8 from the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

Pulkit Gupta: "Why is Virat Kohli name missing from RCB squad? " He is still recovering from a shoulder injury.

Kings XI Punjab seem certain to make one change, with Eoin Morgan joining the squad. Could he edge Hashim Amla out of the XI? You can check out the likely XIs and all the pertinent numbers from this game in Karthik Krishnaswamy's [match preview](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1091420.html).

