

The Indian Premier League (IPL) is a professional Twenty20 cricket league in India organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).[1] Founded in 2007, the league features ten state or city-based franchise teams.[2] The IPL is the most popular and richest cricket league in the world and is held between March and May. It has an exclusive window in the Future Tours Programme of the International Cricket Council (ICC), resulting in fewer international cricket tours occurring during the IPL seasons.[3] It is also the most viewed sports competition in India, as per the Broadcast Audience Research Council.[4][5]

In 2014, it ranked sixth in attendance among all sports leagues.[6] In 2010, the IPL became the first sporting event to be broadcast live on YouTube.[7][8] Inspired by the success of the IPL, other Indian sports leagues have been established.[9][11][12] In 2022, the league's brand value was estimated at ₹90,038 crore (US\$11 billion).[13] According to the BCCI, the 2015 IPL season contributed ₹1,150 crore (US\$140 million) to India's GDP.[14] In December 2022, the IPL achieved a valuation of US\$10.9 billion, becoming a decacorn and registering a 75% growth in dollar terms since 2020 when it was valued at \$6.2 billion, according to a report by the consulting firm D and P Advisory.[15] Its 2023 final became the most streamed live event on the internet, with 32 million viewers.[16]

In 2023, the league sold its media rights for the next 4 seasons for US\$6.4 billion to Viacom18 and Star Sports,[17] meaning each IPL match was valued at \$13.4 million.[18] As of 2024, there have been seventeen seasons of the tournament. The current champions are the Kolkata Knight Riders, who won the 2024 season after defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad in the final.[19] In just six years, the IPL's value has more than doubled, reaching \$12 billion in 2024.[20]

History

Winners Indian Premier League	
Season	Winners
2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings (2)
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders (2)
2015	Mumbai Indians (2)
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians (3)
2018	Chennai Super Kings (3)
2019	Mumbai Indians (4)
2020	Mumbai Indians (5)
2021	Chennai Super Kings (4)
2022	Gujarat Titans
2023	Chennai Super Kings (5)
2024	Kolkata Knight Riders (3)

Background

In April 2007, *Essel Group* launched the *Indian Cricket League* (ICL), in partnership with *IL&FS*.^{[21][22]} The ICL was not recognized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) or the *International Cricket Council* (ICC). Moreover, the BCCI was unhappy about its committee members joining the ICL executive board.^{[23][24]} In response, the BCCI increased the prize money for its domestic tournaments and imposed lifetime bans on players who joined the ICL, which it considered a rebel league.^{[25][26]}

Foundation

On 13 September 2007, as the [2007 ICC World Twenty20](#) began, the BCCI launched the Indian Premier League, an annual franchise-based Twenty20 cricket competition.^[27] The inaugural season was scheduled to start in April 2008, commencing with a "high-profile ceremony" in [New Delhi](#). BCCI Vice-president [Lalit Modi](#), who led the IPL initiative, provided details of the tournament, including its format, prize money, franchise revenue system, and squad composition rules. The league, to be managed by a seven-man governing council, would also serve as the qualifying mechanism for that year's [Champions League Twenty20](#).^{[27][28]}

To determine team ownership, an auction for the franchises was held on 24 January 2008. The reserve prices for the eight franchises totalled \$400 million,^[26] but the auction ultimately raised \$723.59 million.^[29] The league officially commenced in April 2008, featuring [Chennai Super Kings](#) (CSK), [Mumbai Indians](#) (MI), [Delhi Daredevils](#) (DD), [Kings XI Punjab](#) (KXIP), [Deccan Chargers](#) (DC), [Rajasthan Royals](#) (RR), [Kolkata Knight Riders](#) (KKR), and [Royal Challengers Bangalore](#) (RCB).^[30]

In 2009, the BCCI and other national boards offered amnesty to rival ICL's players and officials, provided they terminated their contracts. The resulting player exodus and financial difficulties forced ICL to shut down later that year.^{[31][32][33]}