

The **Indian Premier League (IPL)** is a professional [Twenty20](#) (T20) [cricket](#) league in India, organised by the [Board of Control for Cricket in India](#) (BCCI).^[1] Founded in 2007, it features ten city-based [franchise](#) teams.^[2] The IPL is the [most popular](#) and [richest cricket league, and the second-richest sports league in the world](#). It is held annually between March and May. It has an exclusive window in the [Future Tours Programme](#) of the [International Cricket Council](#), resulting in fewer international tours occurring during the seasons.^[3] It is also the most viewed Indian sports event, per the [Broadcast Audience Research Council](#).^{[4][5]}

In 2010, the IPL became the first sporting event to broadcast live on [YouTube](#).^{[6][7]} In 2014, it ranked sixth in attendance among all sports leagues.^[8] Inspired by the success of the IPL, other [Indian sports leagues](#) have been established.^{[9][11][12]} The IPL is the second-richest sports league in the world by per-match value, after the [National Football League](#).^[13] In 2023, the league sold its media rights for the next four seasons for US\$6.4 billion to [Viacom18](#) and [Star Sports](#),^[14] which meant that each IPL match was valued at \$13.4 million.^[15] As of 2025, there have been 18 seasons of the tournament. The current champions are the [Royal Challengers Bengaluru](#), who won the [2025 season](#) after defeating the [Punjab Kings](#) in the [final](#).

Background

In April 2007, [Essel Group](#) launched the [Indian Cricket League](#) (ICL), in partnership with [IL&FS](#).^{[16][17]} 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.^{[18][19]} 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.^{[20][21]}

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.^[22] 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-person governing council, would also serve as the qualifying mechanism for that year's [Champions League Twenty20](#).^{[22][23]}

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,^[21] but the auction ultimately raised \$723.59 million.^[24] 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).^[25]

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.^{[26][27][28]}