

Chennai Super Kings

T20 kit

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) is an Indian professional T20 cricket franchise based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The team competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and was one of the eight franchises incorporated when the league was established in 2008. The team plays its home matches at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium and is owned by Chennai Super Kings Cricket.

The Super Kings is the joint-most successful IPL franchise, having won five IPL titles (along with Mumbai Indians). In the IPL, it has appeared in a 10 finals and qualified for the playoff stages 12 times, the most amongst the IPL teams. The franchise has also won the Champions League Twenty20 twice in 2010 and 2014. The team is currently captained by Ruturaj Gaikwad and coached by Stephen Fleming.

The Super Kings was suspended for two years from the IPL starting July 2015 due to the involvement of its owners in the 2013 IPL betting case. The franchise re-joined the IPL for the 2018 season and won the title in its comeback season. In January 2022, CSK became India's first unicorn sports enterprise. As of 2022, it was the second most valuable IPL franchise with a valuation of \$1.15 billion.

In September 2007, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the establishment of the Indian Premier League, a Twenty20 competition to be started in 2008.[1] In January 2008, the BCCI unveiled the owners of eight city-based franchises. The Chennai franchise was sold to the India Cements for \$91 million, making it the fourth most expensive team in the league behind Mumbai, Bangalore and

Hyderabad.[2] India Cements acquired the rights to the franchise for 10 years. Former ICC Chairman N. Srinivasan was the de facto owner of the Chennai Super Kings, by means of his position as the vice-chairman and managing director of India Cements Ltd. The franchisee was transferred to a separate entity named Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd., after the Supreme Court of India struck down the controversial amendment to the BCCI constitution's clause 6.2.4 that allowed board officials to have a commercial interest in the IPL and the Champions League Twenty20 on 22 January 2015.[3]

During the first player auctions for the inaugural IPL season conducted in January 2008, the Chennai franchise bought a number of contemporary star cricketers such as Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Matthew Hayden, Stephen Fleming, Muttiah Muralitharan and Michael Hussey.[4] Dhoni became the costliest player of the auction, as the Chennai franchise bought him for \$1.5 million.[5] The franchise named Dhoni as the captain of the team and appointed Kepler Wessels as the head coach.[6] They played their first game on 19 April 2008 against Kings XI Punjab at Mohali. The Super Kings won the game by 33 runs after posting 240/5 in 20 overs, which was the highest total of the tournament, a record surpassed by themselves in 2010.[7] The Super Kings ended the league stage with eight wins from 14 games and finished third on the points table.[8] They beat the Kings XI Punjab by 9 wickets in the semifinal.[9] The Super Kings faced the Rajasthan Royals in the final of the IPL at Mumbai. Batting first, the Super Kings scored 163/5 in 20 overs and lost the game by 3 wickets off the final delivery of the match.[10] They also earned a spot in the inaugural Champions League Twenty20 along with Rajasthan, but the tournament was canceled due to the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the Super Kings, along with Rajasthan, received \$5 million each as compensation.[11] Fleming, who had decided to retire from all forms of the game after the first season of the IPL, took over as the coach of the Super Kings team from Wessels for the next season which was to be held in South Africa.

For the 2009 season, the Super Kings bought English all-rounder Andrew Flintoff for \$1.55 million at the auction making him the highest-paid IPL cricketer along with English teammate Kevin Pietersen who was bought for the same amount by Royal Challengers Bangalore.[12] However, Flintoff played only 3 matches for them before suffering a knee injury that ruled him out of the season. The Super Kings were also without the services of Hussey who had decided to skip the IPL season to focus on The Ashes.[13] The Super Kings finished with 17 points from 14 matches and earned a second place at the league table.[14] However, at the semi-finals, their hopes of entering the final for a second time were crushed by the Royal Challengers who beat them by 6 wickets.[15] The Super Kings opener Matthew Hayden, who scored 572 runs in 12 innings with 5 half-centuries at an average of 52 and strike-rate of 145, won the Orange Cap for the leading run-scorer of the season[16] and was also adjudged Player of the Tournament.

In 2010, the Super Kings struggled in the first half of the regular season, winning only two matches out of seven. They won four of their next five games in the season mainly due to the efforts of Murali Vijay and Suresh Raina. After a defeat at home to the Delhi Daredevils, the Super Kings were left with a must-win match against Kings XI Punjab at Dharamshala. The Super Kings won the match by six wickets as they chased down the target of 193 with two balls to spare with skipper Dhoni scoring an unbeaten 54 from 29 balls.[17] Thus, with seven wins from 14 matches, Chennai finished with the same number of points as three other teams with two semi-final spots at stake. Chennai got the third place as they had the better net run rate of the four teams which finished on 14 points.[18] In the semifinal, the Super Kings scored a modest 142/7 in 20 overs against the defending champions Deccan Chargers. But an inspired bowling spell from Doug Bollinger (4/13 in four overs) did the most damage as the Chargers were bowled

out for 104. This gave the Super Kings a 38-run victory that took them to the final.[19] The Super Kings faced the tournament favourites Mumbai Indians at their home ground in the final.[20] Suresh Raina's 57 (35) helped the Super Kings recover from 68/3 after 12 overs to put up 168/5 at the end of their 20 overs. Then, their spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Muralitharan conceded only 41 runs in the 8 overs bowled between them to help the Super Kings win the game by 22 runs and secure their first ever IPL title.[21] With this, the Super Kings also qualified for the 2010 Champions League Twenty20 that was held in South Africa.

At the Champions League, the Super Kings were placed in Group A along with champions of Twenty20 competitions from Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. The Super Kings topped the Group table with three wins and a Super Over defeat to the Victorian Bushrangers.[22] In the semi-final at Durban, the Super Kings comprehensively defeated IPL rivals Royal Challengers Bangalore by 52 runs. Raina won the Man of the Match for his unbeaten 94 off 48 balls.[23] The Super Kings played their first CLT20 final at Johannesburg where they beat the Chevrolet Warriors by 8 wickets, becoming the first IPL team to win the CLT20.[24] Murali Vijay won not only the Man of the Match in the final for his 58 but also the Golden Bat for scoring the most runs in the tournament and Ashwin, who was the leading wicket-taker, was adjudged the Player of the Series. At the end of the season, Matthew Hayden decided to retire from the IPL.

In 2011, as two new teams were added to the IPL, the IPL Governing Council declared that each franchise could retain a maximum of four players of their squad, only three of whom can be Indian players, and the rest of the international players would be put in the mega-auction. The Chennai franchise, keen to have the same set of core players, retained captain MS Dhoni, vice-captain Suresh Raina, Murali Vijay and all-rounder Albie Morkel for a total of \$4.5 million. The retention left them with the power of spending only \$4.5 million at the mega-auction. At the auction, they bought back some of their

star players of previous seasons such as Hussey, Ashwin, Bollinger and Subramaniam Badrinath. In the 2011 IPL, they lost three of their first five games which placed them at the bottom of the ten-team points table.[25] But then, they went on to win seven of their next eight games to finish second and register a spot in the knockout stages. They faced the top-ranked team Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Qualifying final which they won by 6 wickets thanks to an unbeaten 73 from Suresh Raina.[26] In the final, they faced the same opponents again, which was held at their home ground Chepauk. Vijay and Hussey put on a 133-run first-wicket partnership that helped the Super Kings to post a total of 205/5. Their bowlers, then, restricted Bangalore to only 147 to take the Super Kings to the second consecutive title in the IPL. Vijay was awarded Man of the Match for his match-winning innings of 95.[27] CSK also won all their home games that season becoming the first team in IPL to achieve the feat. However at the Champions League later that year, they won only one out of their four group matches and finished at the bottom.[28]

In 2012, the franchise signed up Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja for \$2 million at the players' auction.[29] They got off to a rather slow start in the regular season, winning only five of their first 12 games which put them in doubt of qualifying for the Playoffs. Then they won three of their last four matches and qualified for the Playoffs with a better net run rate than the Royal Challengers who also finished with the same number of points.[30] In the Eliminator, they beat the Mumbai Indians by 38 runs before comprehensively beating the table-toppers Delhi Daredevils in the Qualifying final by 86 runs. Murali Vijay, who struck his second IPL hundred (113 off 58 balls), won the Man of the Match.[31] At the final, the Super Kings were defeated by 5 wickets by the Kolkata Knight Riders who chased down the target of 191 with two balls to spare, thus denying the Super Kings a hat-trick of titles in the IPL.[32] At the Champions League, once again they could not progress past the group stage with two wins and two defeats.[33]

In 2013, the Super Kings strengthened their bowling attack by signing up five overseas and five Indian bowlers.[34] In the IPL season, they finished first in the points table with 11 wins from 16 matches and qualified for the Playoffs and 2013 CLT20.[35] This was the first time in six seasons that the Super Kings had topped the league table of the IPL. During the season, they also equaled Royal Challengers Bangalore's 2011 record for most wins in succession in the IPL (7 wins on trot).[36] In the first Qualifier at Delhi against Mumbai Indians, the Super Kings posted 192/1 in 20 overs riding on unbeaten half-centuries from Hussey (86* off 58 balls) and Raina (82* off 42 balls) before bowling out their opponents for 144.[37] Thus they entered the final of the IPL for the fourth time in succession where they would play the same opponents, Mumbai Indians, at Kolkata. At the final, batting first, the Mumbai Indians made 148/9 in their 20 overs. In reply, the Super Kings were reduced to 39/6 at one stage before an unbeaten half-century from skipper Dhoni took them close to the target. However, Mumbai Indians won the match by 23 runs to win their first ever IPL title.[38] Super Kings opening batsman Michael Hussey, who scored 733 runs that season at an average of 52, won the Orange Cap for the most runs in the season while all-rounder Dwayne Bravo won the Purple Cap for bagging the most wickets (32).[39] The Super Kings gained direct qualification for the 2013 CLT20 which was held in India in September/October. They were placed in Group B alongside Brisbane Heat, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Titans and Trinidad & Tobago. They won their first three games before losing the final group match against Trinidad & Tobago. With 12 points from four matches,[40] the Super Kings progressed to the semifinals where they suffered a 14-run defeat at the hands of the Rajasthan Royals at Jaipur.[41]

In 2014, before the players' mega-auction, Chennai retained Dhoni, Raina, Jadeja, Ashwin and Bravo. The retention left them with a purse of ₹21 crores to spend at the

auction. At the auction, the franchise bought the likes of Brendon McCullum, Dwayne Smith, Faf du Plessis, Ashish Nehra, Mohit Sharma among others. The first phase of the IPL season, as it coincided with the general elections, was held in UAE. The second phase returned to India, but the Super Kings' home matches were shifted from Chennai, due to "a deadlock between stadium authorities and the state administration", to JSCA International Stadium in Ranchi.[42][43] The Super Kings started the season with a defeat in the opening match, after which they went on to win eight of their next nine matches to take the first spot in the points table. However, they suffered a loss of form towards the end of the regular season which resulted in three consecutive defeats.[44] They won their last league fixture and finished third in the points table and qualified for the Eliminator against the fourth-placed Mumbai Indians. They won the Eliminator at Mumbai by 7 wickets and qualified for the Qualifier. At the Qualifier against Kings XI Punjab, the Super Kings won the toss and elected to field. Punjab went on to score 226/6 in their 20 overs. The Super Kings, in reply, could manage only 202/7 despite a 25-ball 87 from Raina.[45] They crashed out of the IPL, but, on account of finishing third, qualified for the main event of the 2014 CLT20. In the group stage of the CLT20, the Super Kings won two matches, lost one while another match was a no result. Thus with 10 points they finished second in the group table[46] and qualified for the semifinal where they met the unbeaten team of the other group, Kings XI Punjab. After being put in to bat, the Super Kings posted 182/7 in 20 overs thanks to Bravo who scored a 39-ball 67. Then their bowlers reduced Punjab to 34/6 in the eighth over, before eventually bowling them out for 117.[47] At the final in Bangalore, the Super Kings faced the IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders who set them a target of 181 in 20 overs. Raina guided the run-chase with an unbeaten 109 off 62 balls, helping the team to an eight-wicket win and their second CLT20 title.[48] Super Kings spinner Pawan Negi who took 5/22 during Kolkata's innings won the Man of the Match, and Raina, who finished as the highest run-getter of the tournament, was awarded Man of the

Tournament.[49]

In 2015, before the players' auction, Chennai Super Kings gave away Ben Hilfenhaus, John Hastings, Vijay Shankar and David Hussey. At the auction they bought back Michael Hussey for a price of ₹1.5 crores. They also bought Kyle Abbott, Irfan Pathan, Andrew Tye, Eklavya Dwivedi, Ankush Bains, Pratyush Singh and Rahul Sharma. In the final, they lost against Mumbai.[50]

Ahead of the players mega auction, Chennai Super Kings retained Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Suresh Raina & Ravindra Jadeja. Additionally, Faf du Plessis and Dwayne Bravo were brought back into the side using RTM. The return of the Super Kings to the IPL was the cause of a large amount of celebration and fanfare amongst the fans, with a crowd of more than 10,000 turning up for the practice sessions held at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai before the start of the tournament.[51]

Chennai's campaign started off with a thrilling one wicket win over the Mumbai Indians in the first match of the season thanks to an unbeaten 68 off 30 balls from Dwayne Bravo.[52] Playing their first home game in Chennai, the Kings successfully managed to chase down a target of 202 set by the Kolkata Knight Riders, aided by a quickfire half-century by Sam Billings. The team then went on to lose to Kings XI Punjab in Mohali but bounced back by winning three matches in a row against the Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore. The Super Kings' next eight matches resulted in them alternating between victories and defeats by winning against the Delhi Daredevils, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab and losing against the Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Daredevils and the Kolkata Knight Riders.[53] The league stage ended with the Super Kings in second place behind the Sunrisers.[54] Chennai then went on to post back-to-back victories against the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the first qualifier and in the final to win the Indian

Premier League for the third time since the inception of the tournament. Star all-rounder Shane Watson was adjudged Man of the Match for his 117* from 57 balls.[55][56]

Three of the five centuries scored in the 2018 season were by players belonging to the Chennai Super Kings (Ambati Rayudu 100* and Shane Watson 106, 117*). The Super Kings also became the first team to defeat an opposing team (Sunrisers Hyderabad) four times in a single season.[57]

In 2019, the Super Kings was the first team to qualify for the Playoffs. They entered the final of the IPL for the eighth time in the league. At the final, batting first, the Mumbai Indians made 149/8 in their 20 overs. In reply, the Super Kings were able to make just one short of Mumbai's total 148/7 and lost the title. Super Kings' star bowler of the season Imran Tahir, who took 26 wickets, won the Purple Cap for bagging the most wickets.[58]

Before the 2020 season of the IPL, CSK roped in Sam Curran (₹5.5 crore), Josh Hazlewood (₹2 crore), Piyush Chawla (₹6.75 crore) and R. Sai Kishore (₹20 lakh).[59] But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPL was postponed and shifted to the UAE. CSK faced some early setbacks before the start of the season after cricketers Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Chahar tested positive for the coronavirus. CSK's star batsman and vice-captain Suresh Raina and spinner Harbhajan Singh pulled out of the IPL citing personal reasons.[60]

Despite the setbacks, CSK started the season off on a high by convincingly beating the defending champions Mumbai Indians in the inaugural game.[61] But it was all downhill from here. CSK lost their next three games to the Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and the Sunrisers Hyderabad. This was followed by an out of the blue 10 wicket win over the Kings XI Punjab. The team then lost their next two matches to the Kolkata Knight Riders

and the Royal Challengers Bangalore. CSK captain MS Dhoni drew a lot of criticism from the fans and supporters over his form and team selection after his comments on the team youngsters lacking the "spark" to be backed by the management.[62]

CSK were at the bottom of the table for most of the season and their play-offs hopes were crushed after facing a humiliating 10 wickets defeat against the Mumbai Indians.

CSK ended their campaign on a high note by winning their last three games against KKR, RCB and KXIP, thanks to a hat-trick of fifties by youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad. He also became the first ever CSK cricketer to score three consecutive fifties in the team's history. CSK finished 7th overall in the points table and failed to make the playoffs for the very first time.

CSK released many of their bad performers from the previous season like Piyush Chawla, Kedar Jadhav and Murali Vijay before the player auctions for the 2021 season of the IPL.[63]

During the 2021 auctions, CSK picked up Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara for base price of Rs 50 lakh while spending a whopping Rs 9.25 crore on Krishnappa Gowtham, making the spinner the most expensive uncapped Indian buy ever. They also bought English all-rounder Moeen Ali for Rs 7 crore. Along with the three, CSK brought some uncapped Indian talents like Harishankar Reddy, Bhagath Varma and Chezian Harinishanth for their base price of Rs 20 lakh each. Rajasthan Royals player Robin Uthappa was traded to the Super Kings as well.[64]

CSK begun the first leg of the 2021 season with a loss against Delhi capitals. After that, they carried a consecutive 5 match winning streak, followed by a defeat against Mumbai Indians. Following the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rise in COVID-19 positive cases in many team camps, the IPL was postponed.[65]

When the second leg of the IPL resumed in the UAE, CSK carried a consecutive 4 match winning streak and thus, ensured its berth in the playoffs. CSK was the first team to

qualify for playoffs in the 2021 season.[66] CSK completed the league stage by losing the last 3 matches. Yet, CSK managed to remain within top 2 places in the points table throughout the season.

In Qualifier 1, CSK beat Delhi Capitals to storm into finals for the 9th time in their history.[67] In the finals, CSK showcased an all-round performance against KKR to clinch their 4th IPL title.[68]

In January 2022, CSK became India's first unicorn sports enterprise.[69] CSK unveiled their new jersey for IPL 2022.[70] On 24 March, two days before the start of the season, CSK announced that Ravindra Jadeja will captain CSK after MS Dhoni decided to step down as captain.[71] On 30 April, Jadeja decided to give up his captaincy to focus more on his game. MS Dhoni was named the captain again.[72] Under Jadeja's captaincy, CSK lost 6 out of their first 8 matches.

Following their defeat against Mumbai Indians CSK went out from the race of playoffs for the second time in their Ipl history .[73]

In the player auction before the start of the 2023 IPL season, the Super Kings bought Ben Stokes, Kyle Jamieson and Ajinkya Rahane.[74] Bravo retired and re-signed with the team as the bowling coach, replacing Lakshmipathy Balaji.[75] During the early part of the season, Chahar and Jamieson were ruled out due to injuries, and Stokes was out for most of the season due to various injuries.[76][77][78] The team finished second in the group stage with 17 points from eight wins.[79] The Super Kings won the first qualifier against the Gujarat Titans, making it into their tenth IPL finals in 14 seasons.[80] In the final in Ahmedabad, the Super Kings beat defending champions Gujarat Titans by five wickets to win a record equaling fifth title.[81][82][83]

In the player auction before the 2024 season, the Super Kings bought back Thakur and

added Daryl Mitchell, Sameer Rizvi, Mustafizur Rahman and Rachin Ravindra to the squad.[84] On 21 March 2024, Dhoni handed over the captaincy of the team to Ruturaj Gaikwad.[85] In the group stage, the Super Kings finished with 14 points from seven wins from 14 matches. The team was tied with three other teams in the competition for the fourth and final play-off spot but finished fifth behind the Royal Challengers Bangalore on net run rate after the loss to the same team in its final group match.[86][87] Hence, the team failed to qualify for the IPL playoffs for only the third time in the history of the competition.[81][88]

Ahead of the 2025 season, the Super Kings retained only five players including captain Gaikwad, former captains Dhoni and Jadeja, and players Shivam Dube and Matheesha Pathirana while releasing the others.[89] In the subsequent player auction, the franchise bought 20 players including ten capped players and six overseas players. The team bought back Ravindra, Mukesh Choudhary, Devon Conway, Sam Curran, and Shaik Rasheed, who had also played for the franchise in the previous seasons.[90] The Super Kings spent ₹10 crore (US\$1.1 million) to buy Afghan spinner Noor Ahmad and ₹9.75 crore (US\$1.1 million) on Indian all rounder Ravichandran Ashwin, who had previously played for the team till 2015.[91]

The home ground of the Super Kings is the historic M. A. Chidambaram Stadium (commonly called "The Chepauk") located in Chennai. The stadium is named after former BCCI President M. A. Chidambaram. It is the oldest stadium in India which is in continuous use. The stadium is owned by the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association and has a seating capacity of 50,000 as of May 2013.[92] In 2010, the stadium underwent a major renovation for hosting some of the matches of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. The seating capacity was increased from 36,000 to 50,000 and three new stands were established during this renovation.

The Super Kings have a 67.44% win record at this venue, which is often referred to as "Fortress Chepauk"[93] and "Lions' den".[94] In the 2011 season, the Super Kings won all their home games (8 matches) including the final against Royal Challengers Bangalore. The Super Kings thus became the second team to win all their home games in a season (after Rajasthan Royals 2008 season) and also the first team to win the tournament at home.

In 2014, Chennai Super Kings played all their home matches at Ranchi due to issues with Government of Tamil Nadu.[95][96]

In 2018, Chennai Super Kings managed to play a solitary home game against Kolkata Knight Riders due to members of a few fringe political parties staging protests outside the stadium as well as several parts of Chennai, demanding the IPL matches to be moved out of the city until the Cauvery Management Board (CMB) was set up as directed by the honourable Supreme Court of India. Despite tight security for the match against KKR, the Chennai police expressed their inability in ensuring enough personnel at the venue for the smooth conduct of the remaining games. The remaining six home matches of Chennai Super Kings were moved out of Chennai. Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune was selected to host the remaining six home matches of Chennai Super Kings.[97]

The Chennai franchise named the team as Chennai Super Kings to honour the rulers of the Tamil empire. The word "super" is used commonly in southern India especially in Tamil Nadu. The team name also derives from India Cements' brand "Coromandel King".[98]

The team logo features the head of a roaring lion in orange and the team name rendered in blue. The crown above the team name is the same as that used in the logo of the brand Coromandel King. According to the logo designers[citation needed], since the lion is the king of the jungle, the roaring lion logo reflects the team

name[speculation?]. The details of the logo signifies various qualities such as youth, vibrancy, solid performance orientation and fiery spirit.[99]

The team's primary colour is yellow with blue and orange stripes on either sides of the jersey. The jersey also incorporates the roaring lion logo in the center of the shirt below the logo of the main sponsor. The basic look of the jersey has remained the same from the first season with no changes except for the sponsor placement. The kit manufacturer until 2014 was Reebok and from 2015, Australian Apparel and Sports Gear manufacturer Spartan manufactures kits for the team.[100]

The team's theme song is the "Whistle Podu" designed by AravindShankar (duo of Aravind Murali and Jaishankar Iyer). Although the track was created only for YouTube in 2008, it gained popularity during the 2009 season and later became the team's theme song. The video of the song represents the street dance form of dappangutthu which is very popular among certain communities in Tamil Nadu. It is also a folk dance and music genre employed in Tamil cinema. The recordings of some of the Super Kings players whistling were used in the music video.[101]

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who was the captain of the Indian limited-overs team in 2008, was bought by the Super Kings for \$1.5 million at the 2008 players' auction. He was the most expensive player in the IPL until 2009 when the Super Kings signed up English all-rounder Andrew Flintoff for \$1.55 million. Dhoni is one of the most successful captains in the IPL, having led the Super Kings to nine finals of which the team has won four.[102]

The vice-captain of the team from 2008 to 2015 was Suresh Raina. Raina holds multiple IPL records such as most caps, most runs and most catches.[103] Australian batsman Michael Hussey has the best batting average for the Super Kings.[104] He was the first batsman from the Super Kings to score a century in the IPL. After Matthew Hayden's

retirement in 2010, Hussey took over his place of opening batsman and was the team's leading run-scorer in 2011 and 2013 seasons.[105][106] Murali Vijay, who played for the team from 2009 to 2013, is the first Indian batsman to score two centuries in the IPL. Super Kings' spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has the third best economy rate in IPL (6.53)[107] and is the third leading wicket-taker for the team behind Dwayne Bravo and Ravindra Jadeja.[108]

The Super Kings have a large fan following across India, colloquially referred to as "Yellow Army".[109][110] The team has an official fan club called the "Whistle Podu Army" which was founded in January 2016 after the team's suspension from IPL.[111] In 2018 and 2019, there were reports of over 10,000 fans turning up to watch the team's practice sessions.[112] After the team's home games were moved to Pune in 2018, the Super Kings management arranged a charter train between Chennai and Pune, as well as free accommodation, for more than 1,000 fans of the team.[113][114]

Chennai Super Kings was adjudged by Brand Finance to be the most valuable brand at US\$65 million after the completion of 2018 IPL.[115] The Economic Times commissioned UK-based Brand Finance to carry out brand evaluation of the IPL and also each of the eight franchise teams (that was increased to 10 in 2011). Chennai Super Kings was rated as the "most valuable team" in the Indian Premier League in 201011, with a brand value of \$100

million (approximately ₹2.24 billion).[116] In February 2013, London based Brand Finance evaluated the top 150 most valuable teams in the world, in which Chennai Super Kings is placed in the 147th place valued at \$46 million, just behind the Mumbai Indians.[117]

Until September 2008, BCCI regulation, Clause 6.2.4 stated that "No administrator could

have, directly or indirectly, any commercial interest in the matches or events conducted by the board". However, N. Srinivasan, who was then the treasurer and vice-chairman of BCCI, became the de facto owner of the Chennai Super Kings since he was the managing director of India Cements. Former BCCI President A. C. Muthiah wrote to the BCCI regarding the violation of this clause in 2008 but the BCCI did not respond. In September 2008, Muthiah went to the Madras High Court to restrain BCCI from allowing Srinivasan to participate in the general body meeting where the election was to be held. However, the suit was dismissed by the High Court and the following day, Srinivasan was elected as the Secretary of BCCI.[118] The clause was amended as "No administrator shall have, directly or indirectly, any commercial interest in any of the events of the BCCI, excluding IPL, Champions League and Twenty20".[119] Muthiah then moved to the Supreme Court which gave a split verdict in April 2011. Later in August 2011, Muthiah filed another petition to stop Srinivasan from taking over as the BCCI President[120] but the Supreme Court rejected the petition, and Srinivasan was elected the President of BCCI.[121]

In 2011, the owners of other teams were concerned about the possible rigging that could have taken place in the IPL auctions. Nita Ambani, the owner of Mumbai Indians questioned the changing order of players just before the auction began.[122] Former IPL chairman Lalit Modi accused Srinivasan of arm-twisting him and rigging the 2009 IPL auction to ensure that English all-rounder Andrew Flintoff was bought by the Chennai Super Kings while it was refuted by Srinivasan.[123]

In May 2013, Gurunath Meiyappan, son-in-law of Srinivasan, was arrested by Mumbai Police on charges of placing bets on IPL matches.[124] Meiyappan, who was the Team Principal of the Super Kings, was issued a summons by the Mumbai Police and on interrogation it was found that Meiyappan was in contact with bookies through actor Vindu Dara Singh.[125] Mumbai police arrested Meiyappan for betting offence.[126]

Following this, Srinivasan, on 2 June 2013, decided to step aside as BCCI President temporarily until the inquiry into the betting case is completed.[127] In February 2014, the three-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court of India enquired into the betting case, and indicted Meiyappan for illegal betting during the 2013 IPL.[128]

On 25 March 2014, the Supreme Court of India issued an ultimatum to the Board of Control for Cricket in India demanding that Srinivasan either step down as president or be removed from his position.[129] On 14 July 2015, the RM Lodha Committee suspended the owners of Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings from the Indian Premier League for a period of two years.[130] On 24 February 2016, the Supreme Court of India agreed to hear a plea for lifting the ban on the Chennai Super Kings.[131]

Last updated: 21 May 2022

Source: ESPNcricinfo[132]

In 2019, Disney+ Hotstar produced a documentary web series titled Roar of the Lion. The series followed the Chennai Super Kings' comeback season of 2018 edition after serving a two-year ban for their involvement in the 2013 Indian Premier League betting case. The series was shot across Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi in India and in Australia and featured Chennai Super Kings players such as MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Deepak Chahar and Suresh Raina. This series is the first one to be released under the label Hotstar Specials. The series premiered on 20 March 2019, in Tamil and Hindi languages.

Last updated: 15 October 2021

This section include records against an individual team.[133]

Last updated: 21 October 2021

[134]

Last updated: 19 December 2018

Delhi Capitals

Regular kit

India's Unique Diversity tribute kit

Delhi Capitals are a professional franchise cricket team based in Delhi that plays in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The franchise is jointly owned by the GMR Group and the JSW Sports. The team's home ground is Arun Jaitley Stadium (formerly Feroz Shah Kotla), located in New Delhi. The team is captained by Axar Patel, and is coached by Hemang Badani. The Capitals appeared in their first IPL final in 2020 against Mumbai Indians[1][2] under former captain Shreyas Iyer.

The IPL is a cricket league organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and backed by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The inaugural tournament was held in April–June 2008, in which the BCCI finalised a list of eight teams that participated in the tournament. The teams represented eight different cities in India, including Delhi. The teams were put up for auction in Mumbai on 20 February 2008, and

the Delhi team was bought by the property development company GMR Group for US\$84 million.[3]

In March 2018, GMR sold a 50% stake in the Delhi Daredevils to JSW Sports for ₹550 crore (US\$63 million).[4]

In December 2018, the team changed its name from the Delhi Daredevils to the Delhi Capitals.[5] Speaking about the rationale behind changing the team's name, co-owner and chairman Parth Jindal said, "Delhi is the power centre of the country, it is the capital, therefore the name Delhi Capitals." [6] Co-owner Kiran Kumar Grandhi said, "The new name symbolizes Delhi's identity and just like the city, we are aiming to be the centre of all action going forward." [7]

Subject to ratification by the England and Wales Cricket Board, in 2024 the franchise agreed a £120 million deal to buy Hampshire County Cricket Club in England, as well as a 51% stake in the Hundred team Southern Brave.[8]

During the inaugural edition of the IPL, the Delhi Daredevils won their initial two matches against the Rajasthan Royals and the Deccan Chargers. Then, after losing a match to the Kings XI Punjab, the team won their next two matches against the Royal Challengers Bangalore and the Chennai Super Kings.[citation needed]

However, the Delhi Daredevils lost in four straight matches, breaking the streak with a win against the Deccan Chargers.[9] After another loss against the Kings XI Punjab,[10] they recovered and won three matches to finish in the final four of the league.

The Delhi Daredevils lost to eventual champions, the Rajasthan Royals, in the

semi-final.[11]

The Daredevils dominated for much of the 2009 IPL season under the captaincy of former Indian opener and Delhi-native, Gautam Gambhir, finishing at the top of the table. The likes of former Indian opener and triple-Centurion Sehwag and Gambhir had both developed since the prior season. They set up many large totals for the Daredevils, with South African power hitter and part-time keeper AB de Villiers hitting one of only two centuries in the 2009 IPL (the other was made by the young Indian batter Manish Pandey) at a match in South Africa. The bowling team, which was composed mainly of New Zealander spin pro Daniel Vettori, India senior spinner Amit Mishra, Pradeep Sangwan, and former India fast bowler Ashish Nehra, was bolstered by the off-season signing of Australian Dirk Nannes, which created a strong bowling line-up. The batting of the Daredevils featured Sehwag, Gambhir, power hitter Dilshan, AB de Villiers, and Manoj Tiwary. The Daredevils consisted of new and then uncapped players like Australia Captain Aaron Finch and Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who went on to become successful in various T20 circuits.[12]

However, despite finishing at the top of the points table during the regular season, the Daredevils crumbled in the semi-final after Deccan Chargers' captain Adam Gilchrist hit the then fastest 50 in the IPL history (in just 17 balls).[13] Nannes in particular, who was again picked over Aussie pacer Glenn McGrath, was punished by Gilchrist, and later by Aussie opening all-rounder Andrew Symonds. The semi-final loss meant Delhi did not contest the final of the 2009 IPL season, despite having the best record in the league stages. However, Delhi managed to qualify for the now-defunct 2009 Champions League Twenty20 as a result of their performance in the group stage.[citation needed]

Due to the disbanding of the Kochi Tuskers Kerala, each team played the remaining

eight teams twice, once at home and once away. Therefore, each team played an extended season of 16 matches.[citation needed]

In the 2012 IPL season, a new side of the Delhi Daredevils was seen after a poor 2011 season where they finished last. They came back strongly, having purchased players such as Afro-English batting great Kevin Pietersen, Sri Lanka batter Mahela Jayawardene, and Kiwi batter Ross Taylor. They stood first in the Pool Table with the Kolkata Knight Riders at second place, the Mumbai Indians coming third, and the defending champions the Chennai Super Kings securing the fourth spot, consequently also qualifying for the Champions League Twenty20 in 2012 held in South Africa.

Australian pace bowler Glenn McGrath expressed disappointment over not being picked to play any match during the whole season, and stopped playing for Delhi.[14]

Former Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardane was appointed as the new captain of the Delhi Daredevils after Indian opener Virender Sehwag stepped down from captaincy during the 2012 season of the Champions League Twenty20.

Delhi Daredevils lost their first six matches of IPL 2013 and won their first match in their seventh game against the Mumbai Indians. Virender Sehwag and Mahela Jayawardane's partnership led to a win against the Mumbai Indians, in which they scored 161 runs. Sehwag was the "Man of the Match" for his innings of 95* off 57 balls. After this match, they faced the Kings XI Punjab and lost again. But in their ninth match of the season against the Pune Warriors India, they won, putting them in eighth place in the points table. They defeated defending champions the Kolkata Knight Riders in their tenth match by seven wickets but failed to advance to the seventh place due to their net run-rate. In their next match against the Sunrisers Hyderabad, the Delhi Daredevils

were bowled out for just 80 runs, giving the Sunrisers a win. In their match against the Rajasthan Royals, they scored 154 runs, thanks to recruit Ben Rohrer's half-century. However, that effort was in vain as the Rajasthan Royals chased the total down with the loss of only one wicket. This loss for the Daredevils officially eliminated them from the 2013 season.

In their next match against the Royal Challengers Bangalore, Delhi managed to contain the Royal Challengers who were 106 in 16.0 overs, but Bangalore scored 77 in their last 4 overs and reached a total of 183, thanks to a 99 by RCB skipper Virat Kohli. The Daredevils lost the match by just four runs. The team next played the Chennai Super Kings who batted first and posted 168 runs. Delhi failed to gain momentum throughout the match and eventually lost by 33 runs. The following match was against the Kings XI Punjab who defeated them again, this time by seven runs, as they failed to chase down 172 runs. Their final game was against the Pune Warriors India. Delhi bowled first and the Pune Warriors posted a total of 171 runs. In the second innings, Delhi maintained the required run rate but began losing quick wickets after the tenth over. They could not chase the target and lost by 38 runs finishing last in the league table. Despite seeing a forgettable season, a few big names were added to the support staff as the season progressed. The legendary West Indies batter Sir Vivian Richards was named as their new brand ambassador,[15] former England spinner Jeremy Snape was added to the support staff, and renowned former Pakistan spinner Mushtaq Ahmed was named as their new spin bowling coach.

Ahead of the IPL 2014 auction, on 10 January 2014, the Delhi Daredevils announced that they would not retain any players from their current squad for season seven. With no players retained, the team had the most "right-to-match" cards among all the franchises at the auction—three. They also had Rs 600 million (approx US\$9.6 million)

to spend at the auction.

The Delhi Daredevils experienced another poor season in 2014. They lost their first match, against the Royal Challengers Bangalore, however, they won their next match against the Kolkata Knight Riders. This was followed by a loss against the two-time champions the Chennai Super Kings and a close match which resulted in a loss against the Sunrisers Hyderabad. The Delhi Daredevils won their next match against the Mumbai Indians, having restricted them to 125. Later, when the tournament shifted from the makeshift venue in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India, Delhi lost their next nine matches. The Delhi Daredevils won only two out of their fourteen matches, both of which took place in the adopted venue in the UAE. Despite their poor performance, South Africa all-rounder JP Duminy, the team captain scored 410 runs from 14 matches at an average of 51.25 and was the tournament's eighth highest run-scorer. The Delhi Daredevils once again finished last.

The team finished seventh in the 2015 edition of the IPL. They received fierce criticism from the Delhi fans due to their string of poor performances in the previous two years.

The Delhi Daredevils released many of their players, including the previous year's most expensive purchase, all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, whom they had bought for ₹16 crores. The Daredevils also released former Sri Lankan skipper and all-rounder Angelo Mathews, who was bought for ₹7.5 crores. New additions to the team included uncapped all-rounder Pawan Negi, who was bought for ₹8.5 crores, thereby becoming the most expensive Indian player in the IPL auction of 2016. Uncapped Indian batter, Sanju Samson and Karun Nair, who previously played for the Rajasthan Royals, were also bought for hefty amounts. South African all-rounder Chris Morris was bought for ₹7 crores. English keeper Sam Billings and Australian Joel Paris also joined the Delhi squad.

The team purchased three promising India U-19 players—local keeper Rishabh Pant, Rajasthan's pacer Khaleel Ahmed and Mahipal Lomror. After the Daredevils ended their association with South African batter Gary Kirsten, they appointed Paddy Upton as their head coach. The Indian batter and head coach of India U-19, Rahul Dravid was appointed the Daredevils' batting mentor. Former Indian pacer Zaheer Khan was appointed as the new captain of the Delhi Daredevils in the 2016 IPL season. Relative to their performance in the previous three seasons, the Delhi Daredevils improved the way they played. South African all-rounder Chris Morris got the fastest 50 (17 balls) of the tournament and was also effective in the bowling department. South African wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock was among the leading run-scorers in the season. After losing their first match against two-time champions the Kolkata Knight Riders, the Daredevils went on to dominate the Kings XI Punjab, the Royal Challengers Bangalore, defending champions the Mumbai Indians, the Kolkata Knight Riders in the second leg, and newcomers the Gujarat Lions. They won 5 of their first 7 matches, gaining 10 points. They lost their second match against newcomers the Gujarat Lions by just one run. The Daredevils were the favourites to qualify for the playoffs; however, they finished in sixth with fourteen points in fourteen games.

Delhi lost South Africans de Kock and Duminy before the tournament, placing dependence on a young batting line-up and a bowling line-up of former Indian pacer Zaheer Khan, Indian pacer Mohammed Shami, South African all-rounder Chris Morris, Aussie bowling all-rounder Pat Cummins, South African young pacer Kagiso Rabada, Indian spinner Amit Mishra, young spinner Shahbaz Nadeem, Jayant Yadav and Ben Hilfenhaus. They lost to runners-up RCB in the first game and won by big margins against RPS and KXIP. After this, they lost five consecutive games. However, they bounced back by chasing 189 and 214 against defending champions SRH and GL respectively. Keralite wicket-keeper Sanju Samson got the first century of the season.

Young wicket-keeper and local boy Rishabh Pant made 97 against GL. But the Delhi Daredevils lost to then two-time champions MI by a margin of 146 runs, which was the highest win by runs in the IPL history. During the middle of the tournament, captain and former Indian pacer Zaheer Khan was down with an injury to his hamstring which caused him to miss three matches, and young Indian batter Karun Nair was appointed as stand-in captain.

The Delhi Daredevils ended up in the sixth position again with six wins (+12 points) and eight losses for the season.

Going into the big auctions, each franchise were allowed to retain up to three players. Additionally, they could also use Right to Match cards to get back two players during the auctions.[16] Delhi Daredevils retained Shreyas Iyer, Chris Morris and Rishabh Pant.[17] Coach Rahul Dravid had to quit his job as the coach in order to protect his position as coach of India A and India U-19, following a conflict of interest debate.[18] Ricky Ponting was appointed as the new coach.[19]

The Delhi Capitals retained 14 players and traded their former player and India opener Shikhar Dhawan from Sunrisers Hyderabad. This was done by trading off the young all-rounder Vijay Shankar, and Abhishek Sharma and spinner Shahbaz Nadeem for the 12th season of the IPL. Retained players for the twelfth IPL season were: captain and Indian batter Shreyas Iyer, Indian wicket-keeper and left-handed batter Rishabh Pant, young Indian batter Prithvi Shaw, Indian spinner Amit Mishra, young pacer Avesh Khan, uncapped bowler and injured Harshal Patel, uncapped bowling all-rounder Rahul Tewatia, Jayant Yadav, Manjot Kalra, New Zealand opener Colin Munro, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult, South African all-rounder Chris Morris, young South African pacer Kagiso Rabada and young Nepalese spinner Sandeep Lamichhane.

On the IPL auction day, 18 December 2018, DC filled up their 10 available player slots (seven Indian slots and three overseas slots) with: South African batter Colin Ingram, Indian all-rounder Axar Patel, Indian all-rounder Hanuma Vihari, Sherfane Rutherford, Indian pacer Ishant Sharma, West Indian pacer Keemo Paul, and uncapped Indian cricketers Jalaj Saxena, Ankush Bains, Nathu Singh and Bandaru Ayyappa.

Delhi Capitals also brought the former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly as their official advisor[20] and later traded Jayant Yadav to the Mumbai Indians after the IPL 2019 auction.

The Capitals began their campaign with a 37-run victory over 3-time champions Mumbai. The Capitals entered the playoffs after seven years, and they won their first playoffs match against the Sunrisers Hyderabad by two wickets. They lost the second match against the Chennai Super Kings by six wickets and ended up as second runners up in the playoffs, their best-ever finish.

Delhi Capitals released Hanuma Vihari, Jalaj Saxena, Manjot Kalra, Ankush Bains, Nathu Singh, Bandaru Ayappa, Chris Morris, Colin Ingram, and Colin Munro from their 2019 roster.[21] They have added Jason Roy, Chris Woakes, Alex Carey, Shimron Hetmyer, Mohit Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Marcus Stoinis, and Lalit Yadav for their 2020 roster during the IPL Auction.[22][23][24][25] Chris Woakes, however pulled out of the tournament and was replaced by South African fast bowler Anrich Nortje.[26] Jason Roy, became the second player (and second English Player) from Capitals to pull out of the tournament due to injury concerns and personal reasons, he was replaced by Australian bowling all-rounder Daniel Sams.[27]

The team started well in the tournament, winning 7 out of the first 9 games.[28] However, a string of four losses in a row put them in a position where losing their last match could result in failure to make it to the playoffs.[29] They however, were able to defeat Royal Challengers Bangalore in the last match and thus, finished as the second ranked team in league stage.[30] Also, a win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 2 helped them reach the finals for the first time in the history of the IPL.[31] In the finals, they were defeated by Mumbai Indians—the only team that Delhi could not defeat in the tournament despite playing them 4 times.

Also, this was the most successful season for Delhi Capitals in the IPL history. In this season, all games were played in the UAE.[32]

The 2021 IPL season was held in India. All teams were scheduled to play at neutral venues (no team played at their home ground). On 30 March 2021, Delhi Capitals officially promoted Steve Smith to captain of the squad after Shreyas Iyer dislocated his shoulder while fielding a ball in the ODI series against England and consequently, was ruled out of the 2021 IPL season.[33] Delhi Capitals had 3 matches at the Wankhede Stadium, followed by 2 in Chennai, 4 in Ahmedabad and 5 in Kolkata. Delhi Capitals had won 6 games out of 8 matches and were placed at the top of the points table before the season was indefinitely suspended following a breach of the COVID-19 bio secure bubble.[34] On 4 May, the tournament was suspended indefinitely, after a rise in COVID-19 cases within the bio bubbles of some teams. At the time of the suspension, 31 of the scheduled 60 matches were still left to be played. On 29 May 2021, the BCCI announced that the remaining matches of the tournament would be played in the United Arab Emirates in September and October 2021. The schedule for the remainder of the tournament was released in July 2021.

DC franchise whose full form is Delhi Capitals has made a significant announcement

ahead of the IPL 2023. The team has named David Warner as its captain for the upcoming season, with Axar Patel as his vice-captain. The move comes after captain Rishabh Pant was ruled out of the tournament due to injury.

Delhi could not qualify for the playoffs in the 16th edition of Tata IPL and finished at the 9th spot with 5 victories and 9 losses.

Players like Prithvi Shaw, Axar Patel, and Mitchell Marsh are struggling with their form. Bowlers could not gain their momentum through the whole season.

The Delhi Capitals play their home matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium located in New Delhi.[35] They also have the modern Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, Raipur as their second home ground, however they haven't played any matches there since 2016.[36] Currently they use the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam as their secondary home ground since 2024.

Bollywood playback singer Kailash Kher was the artist for the team's anthem "Khelo Front Foot Pe" ("Play on the front foot") or "play aggressively".[37]

The Delhi Daredevils launched their new anthem "Munday Dilli Ke" ("The Lads from Delhi"), sung by Jaspreet Jasz and composed by Arijit Datta and Micu Patel, on 5 March 2012 on YouTube.[38][39]

Their anthem for the 2016 season of IPL, titled "Dhuandaar Dilli", was released on YouTube, sung by Sukhwinder Singh.[40]

In 2018, they released yet another theme song, titled "Dil Dilli hai, ab Dhadkega".

The theme song for the 2019 season for the rechristened franchise, the Delhi Capitals, was "Roar Machaa" sung by Amit Trivedi.[41]

Former India opener and Delhi local, Virender Sehwag was accorded the icon player status in the Delhi Daredevils team and was also the captain of the side during the first two seasons. However, he resigned and passed on the leadership to Gautam Gambhir for the 2010 season. But after Gambhir left the team for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the fourth edition, Sehwag was once again given the duty to captain the team. Since the start of the IPL in 2008, many international players such as Australian Glenn McGrath, South African batter and part-time keeper AB de Villiers, Sri Lankan player Tillakaratne Dilshan, Australian opener and former vice-captain David Warner, Andrew McDonald, New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori, Farveez Maharoof, Dirk Nannes, and Aussie opener Aaron Finch have donned the cap for the Daredevils. The team included Indian players like Tamil Nadu middle-order batter and keeper Dinesh Karthik and Yo Mahesh.[54]

In 2009, Mohammad Asif and Shoaib Malik left due to the ban on Pakistani players and Asif's positive drug test. Aussie opener David Warner, Andrew McDonald, English opener Paul Collingwood and Owais Shah were the new signings. Fast bowler Ashish Nehra came in from Mumbai Indians as a trade-off for Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan. For IPL 2010, Australian all-rounder Moises Henriques came in from the Kolkata Knight Riders in exchange for Manoj Tiwary and Owais Shah. Wayne Parnell was purchased at the auction for US\$610,000.[citation needed]

In 2012, they bought Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene, Jamaican all-rounder Andre Russell, Doug Bracewell, Morne Morkel and English batter Kevin Pietersen.[55] The

Daredevils also signed uncapped Indian all-rounder Pawan Negi, batters Manpreet Juneja and Kuldeep Rawal ahead of the 2012 season.[56] The Daredevils appointed Mahela Jayawardene as vice-captain for 2012.[57] On 29 February 2012, the Daredevils signed Kiwi batter Ross Taylor from the inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals in a trade for an undisclosed amount.[58] David Warner is the most valuable player and highest run scorer in 2022.

Last updated: 18 May 2024 [60]

Kolkata Knight Riders

home kit

away kit

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are a professional T20 franchise cricket team representing the city of Kolkata in the Indian Premier League. The franchise is owned by Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, actress Juhi Chawla, and her spouse Jay Mehta. Their home ground is the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.[1]

The franchise, which has gained immense popularity due to its association with celebrity owners, qualified for the IPL playoffs for the first time in 2011. They became the IPL champions in 2012, by defeating Chennai Super Kings in the final. They repeated the feat in 2014, defeating Kings XI Punjab.[2] In 2024, they won the title for the third time by beating Sunrisers Hyderabad.[3] The Knight Riders hold the record for the longest winning streak by any IPL team (14).[4]

The side's all-time leading run-scorer is Gautam Gambhir,[5] while their leading wicket-taker is Sunil Narine.[6] The official motto of the team is Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo (Perform, Fight, Win) and the official colours are purple and gold.

In 2007, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) created the cricket tournament Indian Premier League, based on the Twenty20 format of the game.[7] Eight teams participated in the inaugural tournament held in April - June 2008. The teams representing the eight different cities of India were put up on auction in Mumbai on 20 February 2008. The team representing Kolkata was eventually bought by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's company Red Chillies Entertainment in partnership with actress Juhi Chawla and her husband Jay Mehta for a price of \$75.09 million, equal to approximately ₹2.98 billion at that time.[8] Sourav Ganguly, a native of West Bengal and former captain of the Indian national team, was named the Icon player for the team. The name of the team is a reference to the popular 1980s American television series Knight Rider.[9]

According to Forbes in 2022, Kolkata Knight Riders are the 3rd most valuable team in the IPL behind MI and CSK with a valuation of \$1.1 billion.[10]

Initially, when the Kolkata Knight Riders were first introduced in 2008, the logo of the team consisted of a blazing golden Viking helmet against a black background with the name of the team written in gold next to it. However, the black background was changed to purple in the third season. It was in 2012 that the current logo, which has a blazing purple Corinthian helmet trimmed with gold, with Kolkata Knight Riders written within a shield, was introduced.[11]

The tagline of the team was "All the King's Men" during the first four seasons.[12] However, in the fifth it was replaced by "New Dawn, New Knights". The team's official colours were black and gold during the first two seasons. At the time, Khan said that "golden symbolizes spirit of life and black presents the Goddess Kali." [12] It was later changed to purple and gold during the third season and was kept so. The jersey was created by Bollywood fashion designer Manish Malhotra.[12]

The main theme of the team, Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo Re (we will act, fight, and win!), was scored by Vishal-Shekhar duo.[12] A Knight Riders album featuring several singers and music composers, including Usha Uthup and Bappi Lahiri, was also created.[13][14]

The Knight Riders have historically been a successful franchise in the IPL. This success has led them to have many rivalries with other teams.

Both teams play in major markets, with Mumbai Indians based in Mumbai and Kolkata Knight Riders based in Kolkata. Mumbai Indians is the most successful IPL franchise with five championships. However, until Mumbai's third championship, both teams were tied with two championships each. In the first two seasons of the IPL, Mumbai swept Kolkata in all four games. It wasn't until the 2010 IPL season that Kolkata won against Mumbai. Both sides have been captained by Indian cricket legends at one point (Mumbai was captained by Sachin Tendulkar and Kolkata was captained by Sourav Ganguly). This rivalry has often played out in Mumbai's favour, as they have won 22 games compared to Kolkata's seven wins. They have faced each other twice in the playoffs.[15]

In 2011, both teams played against each other in the Eliminator round, marking their first playoff appearances. This was the first time that the two teams met in the playoffs.

Mumbai won the match by four wickets and advanced to the next round, ultimately losing to the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

In 2012, both teams were chasing a playoff spot in the tournament. The game started poorly for KKR as their batting side struggled to score runs. However, KKR picked up the pace and ended the innings with 140/7. Mumbai, initially in a strong position at 60/2 with more than 10 overs left, unexpectedly collapsed, finishing their innings at 108 all out. Sunil Narine was named Man of the Match with 4 wickets, and KKR eliminated MI from the playoffs. KKR won its first championship that season. Knight Riders' owner Shah Rukh Khan was handed a 5-year ban at Wankhede Stadium, the home ground of Mumbai Indians. He was accused of walking on the field post-match and abusing the security guards.[16] In 2015, the ban was lifted.[17]

Mumbai and Kolkata faced off in the opening match of the 2015 season. Mumbai batted first and scored 168/3. This chase was led by captain Rohit Sharma with his 98 runs. Kolkata captain Gautam Gambhir scored 57 runs, leading his side to victory. Suryakumar Yadav's 46 runs were crucial to KKR's chase.

In 2017, Mumbai earned its 100th T20 win against KKR.[18] Later that season, both sides faced each other in the playoffs in the Qualifier 2 round. KKR had a poor batting performance, posting 107 runs and being all out. Mumbai was able to capitalise and won the match.[19] Mumbai went on to the finals to beat Rising Pune Supergiant to claim their third championship.

From 2015 to 2018, Mumbai Indians held an eight-game winning streak against the Kolkata Knight Riders. That streak was broken on 29 April 2019, when KKR posted a total of 232 runs and won by 34 runs. KKR's Andre Russell scored 80 runs, and MI's

Hardik Pandya scored 91 runs. KKR holds the record for highest total for an IPL match played at Eden Gardens.[20] This victory was KKR's 100th T20 win.[21] Mumbai have won all three games between them since then.

In the 2022 and 2024 seasons, Kolkata beat Mumbai in all the matches between them.

The rivalry between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore is one of the oldest in the IPL. The inaugural match of IPL was played between both the teams in which KKR won by 140 runs due to a 158* off just 73 balls by Brendon McCullum.[22]

In the IPL 2009, RCB won in both encounters against Knight Riders. During the second time they faced each other, Ross Taylor played a notable innings, scoring 81* runs off 33 balls, contributing significantly to RCB's victory by six wickets.[23]

In the 2012 edition of IPL, KKR was at the lower half of the IPL table and needed to win the crucial match against RCB. KKR won the toss and chose to bat first. Skipper Gautam Gambhir led from the front with 93 (51). In reply, RCB lost wickets at regular intervals, as only Chris Gayle managed to put up a fight with a score of 86 (58).[24] The next time they met, Gambhir again was the thorn in RCB's side as he top scored for KKR at a tough pitch, taking KKR to a competitive total of 165. RCB in reply made 129, as Lakshmipathy Balaji ripped through their line-up with a 4/18 in 4 overs.[25]

In the 2015 IPL edition, RCB and KKR took part in a match reduced due to rain. It was reduced to a 10-over match. RCB won the toss and elected to field. For KKR, Andre Russell was the top scorer as he scored 45 off just 17 balls. He took them to a score of 111/4 in just 10 overs. Mitchell Starc took one wicket for 15 runs in 2 overs. In reply, RCB were at 0-48 at 3.4 overs before Brad Hogg got Chris Gayle out. After that, RCB

stuttered and started to collapse as they were reduced to 3-81 in 7.2 overs. When Virat Kohli got out to Andre Russell, the match looked to be over for RCB. However, Mandeep Singh scored 45 off just 18 balls, hitting 3 sixes and 4 fours.[26]

In the 2017 IPL edition, Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore again faced each other twice. In the first match between them, RCB got KKR out for a score of 131 after KKR had made a strong start of 0-48 in 3.3 overs. However, KKR dismissed RCB for 49, the lowest team score in the history of IPL. Nathan Coulter Nile, Colin de Grandhomme and Chris Woakes got three wickets each.[26] In the next match, Sunil Narine scored what was then the fastest fifty in IPL (50 off 15 balls – which is now the second-fastest). KKR made the highest score made in powerplay in any IPL match, and easily chased down the target offered by RCB.[26]

The 2019 IPL saw Virat Kohli scoring 84 off 49 and AB de Villiers scoring 63 off 32, taking RCB to a total of 205/3. KKR had a strong start, scoring 28/0 in 1.3 overs, before losing wickets at regular intervals and having their run rate reduced. They were 139/4 in 15.5 overs. However, Dinesh Karthik and Andre Russell brought back the chase under control. Karthik got out after scoring 19 off 15, leaving KKR at 153/5 in 17 overs. Andre Russell, however, took KKR over the line as he scored 48 off 13, hitting Mohammed Siraj for 23 runs in one over.[26]

In the next match, RCB struck back as Virat Kohli made his 5th IPL century, scoring 100 runs in 58 balls only. Moeen Ali scored 66 runs in only 28 balls as RCB scored 213 runs. For KKR, Nitish Rana scored 85 off 46 and Andre Russell scored 65 off 25, taking the game down to the wire. However, RCB won the match by 10 runs, with Virat Kohli being Man of the Match.[27]

In 2020, RCB won both the matches played between them.

In the 2021 IPL, RCB won the 1st match between them by 38 runs in Chennai. However, in the reverse fixtures held in the UAE, KKR bowled RCB all out for 92 runs. In response, KKR chased the target with 9 wickets and with 10 overs to spare. The two teams then met again in the eliminator, which KKR won thanks to the heroics of Sunil Narine with both the bat and the ball, taking crucial wickets of the likes of Virat Kohli, Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers and then going on to smash 3 consecutive sixes off Dan Christian helping KKR win by 4 wickets.

In 2022, RCB won the sole match played between them.

In 2023, KKR won both matches played between the teams. In the first match in Kolkata, KKR were struggling at 89/5 in 12 overs, with Rahmanullah Gurbaz having scored 57 runs when the 5th wicket fell. However, late heroics from Shardul Thakur and Rinku Singh helped KKR to score 204/7. In response, RCB started quickly thanks to the opening partnership of Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis. However, the KKR's spin duo, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy, along with debutant Suyash Sharma, picked 9 wickets combined as RCB collapsed for 123 runs. In the next match in Bangalore, KKR scored 200 runs. Here too, RCB had a quick start thanks to Virat and Faf du Plessis. However, they soon lost momentum and KKR eventually won the match by 21 runs as RCB ended up scoring just 179 runs in response.

In 2024 IPL, in the first match that took place in Bangalore, RCB scored 182/6 thanks to Virat Kohli fighting 83 not out of 59 balls. In response KKR chased the target with 3.1 overs to spare. At Kolkata in the reverse fixture, KKR batted first with opener Phil Salt scoring an aggressive 48(14) and a half century from Captain Shreyas Iyer along with a

late middle order surge from Andre Russell, Rinku Singh and Ramandeep Singh as KKR scored 222/6 in their 20 overs. RCB on the other hand had a good start from Kohli and Du Plessis, however they got out in quick successions. Then, Will Jacks and Rajat Patidar each scored half centuries as RCB were cruising towards the target at one point. Then, Andre Russell took the wickets of both the batsmen in the same over and RCB once again started losing wickets in quick succession. In the final over, with Karn Sharma on strike and Mitchell Starc bowling the final over, RCB needed 21 runs off the over. Karn Sharma scored 3 sixes in 4 balls as RCB were closer to winning the match. However, in the next ball, Sharma got out as RCB needed 3 runs off 1 ball and there was a run out in the last ball as KKR won the match by 1 run.

The home venue of the Knight Riders is Eden Gardens (with the two ends of the crease called the High Court End and the Club House End). Owned by the Cricket Association of Bengal, it was the largest cricket stadium in India and had a seating capacity of over 90,000.[28] In 2011, the stadium was renovated to meet the standards set by the International Cricket Council for the 2011 Cricket World Cup; reducing its capacity to around 68,000. The renovated stadium includes a new clubhouse and players' facilities, upgrading the exterior wall, cladding the existing roof structure with a new metal skin, and general infrastructure improvements.[29] In 2013, two of the team's home matches were hosted by the JSCA International Cricket Stadium in Ranchi.

Multinational communications corporation Nokia was the official founding sponsor of the Kolkata Knight Riders and remained their principal sponsor until 2014.[30][31][32] In 2015, Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Gionee took over as their principal sponsor and signed a three-year deal worth ₹540 million (US\$6.2 million).[33] In 2018, Nokia returned as the main sponsor of the Knight Riders, signing a two-year deal.[34] Star Plus, Reebok, HDIL, Kit Kat, SB Nation, Doublemint, SAP AG, Asian Paints, Red FM 93.5,

Seiko, U.S. Polo Assn., Uber, Philips, Dish TV, Sansui Electric, Ola Cabs, Exide, SRMB Steel, Lux Cozi, Ibibo, Sprite, Pepsi, Amul Organic, Bira 91, Royal Stag, Pocari Sweat, Sony Music India, Greenply, MoneyGram, Unacademy, Colgate, The Telegraph, Radio One and Fever 104 FM have all formerly been either co-sponsors or partners.

In 2020, MPL became their principal sponsor.[35] In 2022, the principal sponsor of the Kolkata Knight Riders was the Esports app WinZO Sports.[36] For the 2023 season, their main sponsor was the fantasy sports app MyFab11.[37] As of 2024, their main shirt sponsors are Dream11 and BKT Tyres. They have co-sponsorship deals with Jio, Acko General Insurance, JSW Paints, Vikram Solar and Manipal Hospitals. They also have partnerships with Thums Up, Big Ant Studios and FanCode among others.[38]

Reebok was the official kit supplier for the Knight Riders from 2008 to 2013.[39][40] For 2014 and 2015, U.S. Polo Assn. manufactured kits for the team.[41][42] In 2021, Indian apparel brand Wrogn Active became the official merchandising partner of the Knight Riders.[43]

Sourav Ganguly, the former captain of the Indian cricket team, was the icon player and led the franchise in the 2008 and 2010 seasons. Brendon McCullum led the team in the intervening period. Both the captains were released before the 2011 season. The former team included all-rounders Chris Gayle, David Hussey, Mohammad Hafeez, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Angelo Mathews, batsman Ricky Ponting, Brad Hodge, Salman Butt, and wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha. The main bowlers were Umar Gul, Shoaib Akhtar, Ishant Sharma, Ashok Dinda, Ajit Agarkar and Murali Karthik. Australian batsman Brad Hodge and bowlers Ajantha Mendis and Charl Langeveldt were bought outside the IPL auction in late 2008.

At the 2009 auction, the team bought Bangladeshi all-rounder Mashrafe Mortaza for \$600,000. Due to the unavailability of Pakistani players starting 2009, KKR had to suspend the contract of Umar Gul, who was a key performer from the 2008 season.[44][45] On 26 April 2009, KKR administration sent back two of its players, Akash Chopra and Sanjay Bangar, due to poor performance.[46] Shane Bond was acquired after releasing Ricky Ponting, Morne van Wyk, and the Pakistani players Umar Gul, Salman Butt, Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Akhtar before the third season. Moises Henriques was traded to Delhi in return for Owais Shah and Manoj Tiwary. Thus, their overseas roster for the 2010 season consisted of Shane Bond, Mashrafe Mortaza, Brendon McCullum, Charl Langeveldt, Ajantha Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Brad Hodge, David Hussey, Owais Shah and Chris Gayle.

2011 heralded the beginning of a new era for KKR. In the 2011 season, KKR drastically revamped their squad. Former captain and icon player Sourav Ganguly was not purchased in the January auction. This led to protest rallies, signature campaigns throughout the country and abroad along with stadium protests by various fan groups, such as "No Dada No KKR",[47] which received both national and international press attention.[48][49][50] The team appointed Gautam Gambhir, who was bought for a record-breaking \$2.4 million as skipper.[51] Yusuf Pathan was also picked up for \$2.1 million.[51] Other international names who were added include Shakib Al Hasan, Brad Haddin, Jacques Kallis, Brett Lee, Ryan ten Doeschate, Eoin Morgan and James Pattinson. Haddin was replaced by Mark Boucher mid-season due to injury.[51]

In the 2012 auction, KKR bought back their former captain, Brendon McCullum. They also acquired West Indian spinner Sunil Narine and South African fast bowler Marchant de Lange.

The team later added four domestic players to their squad, including Debabrata Das and Iresh Saxena from Bengal, Saurashtra's Chirag Jani, and Sanju Samson from Kerala.[52] However, in November 2012, KKR released the latter three from their team along with Jaydev Unadkat, a key performer from the previous seasons. In the 2013 auction, the team acquired only two overseas players, Sachithra Senanayake and Ryan McLaren.

Before the February 2014 auction, the team had only retained their key performers Gautam Gambhir and Sunil Narine. From the auctions that took place, the team brought back Jacques Kallis and Yusuf Pathan with their right-to-match (RTM) card. Also keeping their place in the squad were Ryan ten Doeschate and Shakib Al Hasan. New international players were Morne Morkel, Patrick Cummins and Chris Lynn. Prominent Indian players bought included Robin Uthappa, Umesh Yadav, Manish Pandey, Suryakumar Yadav and Piyush Chawla.

KKR's impressive additions in the 2015 auction were veteran Australian bowler Brad Hogg and wicket-keeper Sheldon Jackson. Before the auction in February 2016, they released Ryan ten Doeschate, who was a part of their team for five consecutive seasons, along with pace bowler Pat Cummins. The Knight Riders were particularly noted for their change in approach from the previous auctions where they had concentrated on spinners. For the 2016 edition, however, they acquired as many as six pacers in the form of all-rounders John Hastings, Colin Munro, Jason Holder and Rajagopal Sathish as well as bowlers Ankit Rajpoot and Jaydev Unadkat, with the latter being a former player of the squad. They signed one spinner Manan Sharma.[53]

Before the 2017 auctions, they released Morne Morkel, Brad Hogg, Jason Holder, Colin Munro, John Hastings, Jaydev Unadkat, Rajagopal Sathish, Manan Sharma and

replacement signing Shaun Tait. From the 2017 Indian Premier League auction, they signed Trent Boult, English all-rounder Chris Woakes, Australian Nathan Coulter-Nile, West Indian Darren Bravo and Jamaican Rovman Powell. The domestic players signed were Rishi Dhawan, Ishank Jaggi, Sayan Ghosh and R Sanjay Yadav. At the time, Andre Russell was banned for one year for doping; he was replaced by Colin de Grandhomme for the season. In January 2018, they only retained West Indian cricketers Sunil Narine and Andre Russell. Their two-time title winning captain Gautam Gambhir was released. At the auction, they retained Robin Uthappa, Piyush Chawla and Kuldeep Yadav using RTM (Right-To-Match) card. KKR also bought back opener Chris Lynn and uncapped Indian batsman Ishank Jaggi. Other uncapped batsmen bought were Nitish Rana, Shubman Gill, Cameron Delport, Rinku Singh and Apoorv Wankhade. They also bought West Indian uncapped all-rounder Javon Searles, and uncapped Indian all-rounders Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Shivam Mavi. Other signings were veteran Indian wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik, Australian pace bowlers Mitchell Starc and Mitchell Johnson, and former Knight Riders player Vinay Kumar.

On 4 March 2018, Dinesh Karthik was appointed as the captain of KKR for IPL 2018 and Robin Uthappa was named vice-captain.[54] Mitchell Starc was ruled out before the season due to injury and Tom Curran was announced as his replacement. Ahead of the auction for IPL 2019, eight players were released from the squad including Mitchell Starc and his replacement Tom Curran.

At the auction, their high-profile buys were Carlos Brathwaite for ₹50 million (US\$570,000) and New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson for ₹16 million (US\$180,000). Other players bought were South African pacer Anrich Nortje, English duo Harry Gurney and Joe Denly as well as uncapped Indian players Nikhil Naik, Prithvi Raj Yarra and Shrikant Mundhe for their base prices of ₹2 million (US\$23,000) each. Before IPL 2020,

KKR released 11 players from their squad and also traded in Siddhesh Lad from Mumbai Indians.

At the 2020 IPL Auction, KKR bought pace bowler Pat Cummins for ₹15.5 crores. This was the biggest buy in the auction.[55] KKR also purchased Eoin Morgan, who just came off as captain of the World Cup winning England squad. He was bought for ₹5.25 crores.[56] On 16 October 2020, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik handed over Kolkata Knight Riders' captaincy to Eoin Morgan.[57]

Since 2022 was a mega auction, Kolkata Knight Riders had to release the majority of players, including top order batsman Shubman Gill, skipper Eoin Morgan and vice captain Dinesh Karthik. KKR retained 4 players: Andre Russell for ₹12 crore, Sunil Narine for ₹6 crore, and Varun Chakravarthi and Venkatesh Iyer for ₹8 crore each. With ₹48 crore in their purse, KKR bought Shreyas Iyer for ₹12.25 crore and re-signed Pat Cummins for ₹7.25 crore. KKR also bought back Nitish Rana, Sheldon Jackson, Rinku Singh, Shivam Mavi and Tim Southee. Overseas players included English wicket-keeper Sam Billings for ₹2 crore, English batsman Alex Hales for ₹1.5 crore, Afghan all-rounder Mohammed Nabi for ₹1 crore and Sri Lankan all-rounder Chamika Karunaratne for ₹50 lakh. KKR also signed top order batsman Ajinkya Rahane, Jharkhand left-handed spin all-rounder Anukul Roy and Jammu and Kashmir pacer Rasikh Salam Dar. They also bought back their former player Umesh Yadav for the base price of ₹2 crores, who last played for them in 2017. Alex Hales didn't turn up for the IPL citing personal reasons and KKR signed Australian skipper Aaron Finch as his replacement. In the middle of tournament, Rasikh suffered an injury which ruled him out of IPL tournament. Due to this, KKR signed fast bowler Harshit Rana as the replacement.

Last updated: 3 March 2025[58]

Updated as of 26 May 2024

Source: ESPNcricinfo[59]

Updated as of 26 May 2024[60]

Legend:

Kolkata Knight Riders is part of the Knight Riders Group (KRG), a global brand in cricket, with franchises in the Caribbean Premier League and Women's Caribbean Premier League (Trinbago Knight Riders), in the International League T20 (Abu Dhabi Knight Riders) of UAE, and the Major League Cricket (Los Angeles Knight Riders). In June 2015, the team's ownership group bought a stake in Caribbean Premier League's Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel,[61] and renamed it the Trinbago Knight Riders in 2016.[62] The team invested in the American T20 league Major League Cricket in December 2020.[63]

KRG had also acquired a franchise in Cricket South Africa's T20 Global League, but the league was eventually scrapped and replaced with Mzansi Super League as the board was unable to secure a broadcasting deal.[64] In 2021, the Knight Riders Group CEO, Venky Mysore, had announced their intentions to invest in ECB's new competition format, The Hundred. However, the plan failed to materialise.[65] Other Indian Premier League franchises have followed KRG's path and have franchises in T20 leagues outside India, or have shown interest for the same. In 2022, KRG announced the construction of a 10,000-seater stadium in Los Angeles, in partnership with Major League Cricket, for their franchise (Los Angeles Knight Riders).[66]

A reality show by the name Knights and Angels aired on NDTV Imagine in 2009 to pick cheerleaders for the Knight Riders for the 2009 edition of the Indian Premier League.[67][68]

In 2014, a documentary titled Living With KKR aired on the Discovery Channel. It covered the journey of the team from its disappointing first three seasons to its redemption as IPL champions in 2012.[69]

Lucknow Super Giants

Regular kit

Mohun Bagan tribute kit[1]

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) is a professional franchise cricket team based in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Founded in 2021, the team plays its home matches at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. The team is owned by RPSG Group.

The Governing Council of the Indian Premier League issued an invitation to tender for two new sides in August 2021. A total of 22 companies declared an interest, but with a high base price for the new teams, there were no more than six serious bidders. The Sanjiv Goenka-owned RPSG Group won the rights to operate the Lucknow franchise with a bid of ₹7,090 crore (equivalent to ₹80 billion or US\$910 million in 2023).[2][3]

The team launched a competition to decide its name, with Lucknow Super Giants

chosen in January 2022.South African franchise Durban's Super Giant[4]s and also in the renaming of Mohun Bagan Athletic Club's footballing division to Mohun Bagan Super Giant.[5]

At the February 2022 mega auction, the franchise purchased its first set of players. Notable players signed included KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Mark Wood and Marcus Stoinis. Later in the year, the franchise named Rahul as the captain of the team and former Zimbabwean cricketer Andy Flower as head coach.[6][7] Additionally, former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir was appointed as the team mentor.[8]

In the 2022 season, the franchise finished third in the group stage and qualified for the playoffs. They faced the fourth placed Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator match and were knocked out at that stage.[9] The 2023 season saw the side again finishing 3rd and losing the eliminator, this time to Mumbai Indians.

The Lucknow Super Giants became one of the 10 most popular cricket clubs from India. As of March 2024, the club had 4.6 million followers on social media.[10]

Last updated: 22 January 2025 [11]

Source- Cricbuzz[12]

Last updated: 18 May 2024

The team's home ground is the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. During its first season, the team was unable to play any matches at the ground due to restrictions put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 in India; all of the 2022 league stage matches

were hosted in Maharashtra.[13] These restrictions were removed in 2023 and the side played on the ground during the season. Fans in Lucknow enjoy matches of LSG and dance over Bhojpuri songs

Mumbai Indians

T20 kit

Mumbai Indians is a professional T20 franchise cricket team based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Mumbai Indians was founded in 2008 and is owned by India's biggest conglomerate, Reliance Industries, through its 100% subsidiary Indiawin Sports. Since its establishment, the team has played home matches at the 33,108-capacity Wankhede Stadium.

In 2017, the Mumbai Indians became the first franchise to cross the \$100 million mark in brand value.[2] The brand value of Mumbai Indians in 2019 was estimated around ₹809 crore (\$115 million), the highest among all the IPL franchises for the fourth consecutive year.[3]

Mumbai Indians won the 2011 Champions League Twenty20 after beating Royal Challengers Bangalore by 31 runs in the final. The team won the double by winning its first IPL title, in 2013, by defeating Chennai Super Kings by 23 runs in the final, and then defeated the Rajasthan Royals by 33 runs to win its second Champions League Twenty20 title both in the captaincy of Rohit Sharma later that year.[4][5] They won their second IPL title on 24 May 2015 by defeating the Chennai Super Kings by 41 runs in the final and became the third team to win more than one IPL title. On 21 May 2017,

they won their third IPL title by defeating the Rising Pune Supergiant by one run in the final, thus becoming the first team to win three IPL titles.[6] While playing the tournament, they won their 100th T20, becoming the first team to do so. In 2019, they repeated the same feat as they won a record breaking fourth IPL title, by beating CSK by just 1 run on 12 May 2019 in the IPL Final. They became the first team to win the IPL title for the fifth time, by beating Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets on 10 November 2020 in the IPL Final.[7]

Mumbai Indians are currently captained by Hardik Pandya.[8] Mahela Jayawardene was appointed as head coach of Mumbai Indians before the 2025 season.[9] Kieron Pollard is the batting coach and Lasith Malinga is their bowling coach.[10] Rohit Sharma is the leading run scorer of the team while Lasith Malinga is the leading wicket taker of the team.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced in September 2007 the establishment of the Indian Premier League, a Twenty20 competition to be started in 2008.[11] In January 2008, the BCCI unveiled the owners of eight city-based franchises. The Mumbai franchise was sold to the Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) for \$111.9 million, making it the most expensive team to be sold in the league.[12] RIL, owned by Mukesh Ambani, acquired the rights to the franchise for a period of 10 years.

The Indian Premier League named four players as icon players for their respective city franchises which made the players unavailable to play for any team other than their city team. Sachin Tendulkar was named Mumbai's icon player. The icon player was also entitled to earn 15% more than the next-best paid player in their team. At first player auctions for the inaugural IPL season conducted in February 2008, the Mumbai franchise bought several star international cricketers such as Sanath Jayasuriya,

Harbhajan Singh, Shaun Pollock, Lasith Malinga and Robin Uthappa.[13] The franchise named Sachin Tendulkar as the captain of the team and appointed former India cricketer Lalchand Rajput as the head coach. However, Tendulkar was injured before the start of the 2008 season due to which Harbhajan Singh took over as the captain in the initial stage of the season. The team got off to a bad start in the season, losing their first four games by comprehensive margins. Their first match was a five-wicket defeat to the Royal Challengers Bangalore on 20 April 2008 at the Wankhede. Their stand-in captain, Harbhajan, was suspended from the tournament for reportedly slapping Sreesanth during Mumbai's league match against Kings XI Punjab. After Harbhajan's suspension, Shaun Pollock assumed leadership duties until Tendulkar's return on 24 May. Under Pollock's captaincy, Mumbai won six out of their next six games, which left them needing to win two more out of the remaining four matches to qualify for the semi-finals. Mumbai had three last-over defeats in the next three games, including two off the last ball, before winning their last league match. They finished fifth in the points table with 7 wins and 7 losses, missing out on a semi-final spot by just one point.[14]

The 2009 season was played in South Africa as it coincided with multi-phase 2009 Indian general elections due to which the Government of India refused to commit the Indian paramilitary forces to provide security for the IPL. Before the start of the season, Mumbai Indians traded Robin Uthappa for Zaheer Khan with Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Ashish Nehra for Shikhar Dhawan with the Delhi Daredevils.[15] Shaun Pollock retired after the first season and became the head coach of the team. Lasith Malinga, who missed the previous season due to an injury, returned to the team. At the player auction, Mumbai bought South African batsman JP Duminy to strengthen their batting department. After winning their opening match against the Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai struggled to put up consistent performances during the season. They relied heavily on Duminy and Tendulkar's batting, and Malinga's bowling, along with

minimal contributions from other players. With only five wins from 14 matches, Mumbai finished on seventh place in the league table.

At the 2010 players auction, Mumbai Indians bought Trinidadian all-rounder Kieron Pollard for \$750,000 following a secret tiebreaker. After the auction, they signed up ten uncapped Indian players out of whom seven were former ICL players. Former India cricketer Robin Singh was named as the head coach of the team as Pollock took up the role of bowling coach. Mumbai had to shift their home venue to Brabourne Stadium for the season since the Wankhede was undergoing renovation to host some matches of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. Mumbai won seven of their first eight games to take the top spot in the points table. Their success was mainly due to the efforts of Tendulkar, Malinga, Harbhajan, Ambati Rayudu and Saurabh Tiwary. They won three of the remaining six league games and finished with 20 points from 14 games at the top of the points table. They beat the Royal Challengers Bangalore by 35 runs in the semi-final, thanks to Pollard's all-round efforts (33* from 13 balls and 3/17). At the final, they were defeated by the Chennai Super Kings by 22 runs. The Mumbai team management was criticised for the "strategic errors" during the final, such as sending Abhishek Nayar and Harbhajan at batting positions 3 and 4 respectively, while Duminy and Pollard were sent at 7 and 8. Mumbai skipper Sachin Tendulkar, who scored 618 runs at an average of 47.53 and strike rate of 132.6, won the Orange Cap for scoring most runs in the season. Mumbai qualified for the 2010 Champions League Twenty20 where they were eliminated in the group stage with two wins and two defeats in four matches.

In 2011, with the addition of two new teams to the IPL, the IPL Governing Council declared that each franchise could retain a maximum of four players of their 2010 squad, and the rest of the international players would be auctioned. Mumbai Indians

retained Tendulkar, Harbhajan, Pollard and Malinga for a sum of \$4.5 million. This retention left the franchise with the power of spending \$4.5 million at the auction, where they purchased Indian batsman Rohit Sharma for \$2 million, former Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds for \$850,000, and pacer Munaf Patel for \$700,000. Mumbai won eight of their first ten league games, but later experienced a loss of form that led to three consecutive defeats and a last-ball win in their last league match. They finished third on the points table with 18 points from 14 games and qualified for the Eliminator. The Eliminator was played at the Wankhede where Mumbai faced the Kolkata Knight Riders. After winning the toss and electing to bowl first, Mumbai restricted Kolkata to 147 in 20 overs and chased down the target for the loss of six wickets with four balls to spare. Munaf Patel won the Man of the Match for his bowling figures of 3/27. With this win, Mumbai qualified for the Qualifying final against Royal Challengers Bangalore, the winner of which would play the Super Kings in the final. Mumbai skipper Tendulkar won the toss again and put their opposition into bat who set Mumbai a target of 186. Mumbai lost wickets at regular intervals from the start of their innings and scored only 142/8, falling short by 43 runs. The top two leading wicket-takers of the season were Mumbai Indians pacers Lasith Malinga and Munaf Patel with 28 and 22 wickets respectively.

Mumbai qualified for the 2011 Champions League Twenty20 held in India. Before the start of the tournament, six first-choice Indian players in the Mumbai squad, including Tendulkar, Sharma and Patel, were ruled out of the tournament due to injuries, and two more Indian players were ruled out based on medical reports. This left their 14-member squad with only six Indian players, while the tournament allowed a maximum of four overseas players and minimum of seven local players in the playing eleven. An exception was made for the Mumbai Indians, which permitted them to field five overseas players during the tournament. Harbhajan was named the stand-in captain in

the absence of Tendulkar. Mumbai was placed in Group A alongside Chennai Super Kings, New South Wales Blues, Cape Cobras and Trinidad & Tobago. Mumbai had two wins, one defeat and one no result in the group stage, which gave them second place on the group points table with five points. They qualified for the semi-final and Mumbai batsman Suryakumar Yadav returned to the squad after recovering from his injury. This led to the withdrawal of the concession given by the Champions League for the Mumbai Indians to field five overseas players. Mumbai faced Somerset County Cricket Club in the semi-final at Chennai. Batting first, Mumbai made 160/5 in 20 overs. Somerset's chase was dented by Malinga who picked four wickets for 20 (all bowled) to help Mumbai restrict Somerset to 150 and win the match by 10 runs. The final was also played in Chennai where Mumbai met Royal Challengers Bangalore. Mumbai batted first and managed only 139 in 20 overs. Bangalore started strongly in the run-chase, putting 38 for the first wicket before Malinga broke the partnership. Harbhajan then picked up the key wickets of Chris Gayle and Virat Kohli, triggering a batting collapse, and eventually Bangalore were bowled out for 108, giving Mumbai a 31-run victory and their first-ever title. Harbhajan was named player of the match, and Malinga won the man of the tournament award. Andrew Symonds retired from all forms of cricket in early 2012.

Before the start of the 2012 season, the Mumbai Indians traded Dinesh Karthik from Kings XI Punjab and Pragyan Ojha from the Deccan Chargers for undisclosed sums. At the auction, the franchise bought five players, including R. P. Singh, Thisara Perera (both for \$600,000) and Mitchell Johnson. Tendulkar stepped down from captaincy hours before the season's first game following which Harbhajan was appointed as the captain. In the first half of the league stage, Mumbai had four wins and four defeats, including three losses at home. Mumbai did not have a fixed opening combination, with Tendulkar missing out four matches due to an injury and other opening batsmen failing to show consistency. Johnson was ruled out of the rest of the season in late April with

an injury and Dwayne Smith was named his replacement in the squad. Mumbai fared better in the second half of the league stage, winning six of their eight matches. They finished third on the points table with 20 points from 16 matches and qualified for the Eliminator against the fourth-placed Chennai Super Kings at Bangalore. Mumbai won the toss and put Chennai in to bat first. After losing two wickets inside the first two overs, Chennai managed to put up 187/5 in 20 overs mainly because of their captain MS Dhoni's unbeaten 20-ball 51. Mumbai's chase had started solidly with the score reading 47/0 in the fifth over, before they started losing wickets at regular intervals to end at 149/9 and lose the match by 38 runs. They gained direct qualification to the 2012 Champions League Twenty20 in South Africa, along with the three IPL teams that finished at the top that season. Mumbai, placed in Group B, was winless in the tournament with three defeats and one no result.

The 2013 IPL saw Anil Kumble being appointed as the chief mentor after he quit a similar position from Royal Challengers Bangalore. Due to a slump in batting form of Ricky Ponting, he was eventually dropped from the playing eleven and Rohit Sharma took over the leadership of the team. With the experienced advice of Anil Kumble, Jonty Rhodes and Sachin Tendulkar, the team emerged victorious in IPL 2013.

In 2013, Mumbai Indians started off by losing against the Royal Challengers Bangalore due to the efforts of Chris Gayle and pace bowler Vinay Kumar. However, they were able to make a comeback in that match because of Dinesh Karthik, and Mumbai lost by just one run. In the second match against the Chennai Super Kings, the openers were dismissed but due to the efforts of Dinesh Karthik and Kieron Pollard, Mumbai managed to put a defendable score on the board. The Mumbai Indians bowlers started off well by dismissing Murali Vijay and the match went till the last over. The Super Kings needed 16 runs off the last over with MS Dhoni on strike and Munaf Patel to bowl; Patel

dismissed Dhoni on the first ball and Mumbai won the match comfortably by 9 runs. In their third match against the Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai once again lost their openers Ricky Ponting and Sachin Tendulkar. Dinesh Karthik again brought the match within Mumbai's grasp, with the help of Rohit Sharma, which helped the Mumbai Indians reach the formidable score of 209/5. At one stage, it looked like David Warner would snatch the game away from Mumbai, but the Mumbai Indians bowlers dismissed him. The Delhi Daredevils then collapsed, allowing the Mumbai Indians to win comfortably by 44 runs. In the next match against the Pune Warriors India, Mumbai got off to a flying start with a 54-run opening stand between the so-called Pon-dulkar (Ricky Ponting and Sachin Tendulkar). This was followed by a strong performance from Rohit Sharma due to which Mumbai scored 183/3 and won the match comfortably by 41 runs. In the next match against the Rajasthan Royals, Mumbai was bundled out for just 92, giving the Rajasthan Royals an 83-run victory. As a result, Ricky Ponting stepped down as the captain and retired from all forms of cricket. With Rohit Sharma in good batting form, he was made the captain. Under his captaincy, the Mumbai Indians improved substantially and won their first IPL title.

They continued their winning streak in the Champions League Twenty20. However, they had a slow start in the tournament and had to win their final match of the league stage against the Perth Scorchers by a margin. They did it by the combined efforts of Nathan Coulter-Nile, Dwayne Smith and skipper Rohit Sharma. In the final, Glenn Maxwell scored a quickfire 14-ball 37. Mumbai posted 202/6 and won the match comfortably by 33 runs.[17]

In 2014, Mumbai Indians lost five of their early matches in the UAE leg against Kolkata Knight Riders, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Daredevils by big margins. They did well in their 5th match against Sunrisers Hyderabad but

consequently lost the matches against their respective opponents.

In the Indian leg, they made a comeback by beating Kings XI Punjab who were at the top of the table at that time. After that, they were inconsistent with their performance. They won against Royal Challengers Bangalore but lost against Chennai Super Kings. They won against the Sunrisers Hyderabad but again lost against Kolkata Knight Riders. But after losing against the Kolkata Knight Riders, they won against Kings XI Punjab and the Delhi Daredevils respectively.

In the match against Kings XI Punjab, Lendl Simmons scored a hundred due to which they won comfortably by seven wickets.

With one game left to play, Mumbai Indians were fifth in the table with 12 points. In the last league-stage match of the season against Rajasthan Royals, who were fourth in the league table with 14 points, Mumbai needed to win by a big margin to leapfrog them and secure the fourth playoff spot. Rajasthan Royals set a target of 190 runs. Mumbai Indians had to reach the target in 14.3 overs in order to improve the net run rate and claim the fourth position in the table, but they just managed a tie with the Rajasthan Royals in 14.3 overs. So, the Mumbai Indians needed a boundary off the next ball to push Rajasthan Royals below and claim that fourth spot. Aditya Tare hit a six to a full toss bowled by James Faulkner. Due to that six, they reached the play-offs of the IPL but lost against the Chennai Super Kings in the eliminator, which ended their IPL 2014 campaign.

The Mumbai Indians qualified for the qualifier round of the CLT20 2014. Due to injury to their skipper Rohit Sharma, Kieron Pollard was named as their captain.

In the first match, they faced the FBT20 2014 champions Lahore Lions but lost against them, with Lahore Lions winning by 6 wickets in 18.4 overs. In the second match, they faced the Southern Express, who had a slow start and lost wickets regularly but managed to score 161/6 in 20 overs. The Mumbai Indians started off with an excellent opening partnership of 139 runs in just 14 overs. They lost their first wicket on the 4th ball of the 15th over, but skipper Kieron Pollard finished in a blistering way, scoring 20 runs from just 7 balls. But in the last match against the Northern Knights, they managed to score only 132 runs. Northern Knights comfortably chased down the target, winning by 6 wickets with 16 balls to spare. In this way, Mumbai's CLT20 2014 campaign ended.

Mumbai Indians won their second IPL title in 2015 after they defeated Chennai Super Kings by 41 runs. They started the season with 4 IPL defeats mainly due to their bowling. They lost Aaron Finch and Corey Anderson due to injury for the rest of the season, which meant Lendl Simmons got a chance back into the team. With the help of 6 half-centuries, he gave the team solid starts throughout the season. He was the top scorer for Mumbai with 540 runs and joint second (with Ajinkya Rahane) in total for the season behind David Warner. The introduction of another strike bowler, Mitchell McClenaghan, in the team provided good support to Lasith Malinga upfront. Mumbai went on to win 9 out of their last 10 matches to win the title, thanks to solid batting performances from Simmons, Rohit Sharma, Ambati Rayudu and Kieron Pollard, and good bowling from Malinga, McClenaghan and Harbhajan Singh.

In the IPL 2016 Auction, Mumbai Indians bought Tim Southee, Nathu Singh, Jos Buttler, Jitesh Sharma, KP Kamath, Krunal Pandya and Deepak Punia. They finished the season in the fifth spot in the points table.

In IPL 2017, the Mumbai Indians finished at the top of the points table, winning 10 out of 14 matches. They went on to win the trophy after beating Rising Pune Supergiant in a nail-biting finish.[18] This was their 3rd IPL title, making them the most successful team in the history of IPL.

In IPL 2018, the Mumbai Indians finished fifth after winning 6 and losing 8 matches.

[19]

[20][circular reference]

In IPL 2019, Mumbai Indians defeated Chennai Super Kings in the final by 1 run to clinch their record fourth championship. The final saw Chennai Super Kings needing 2 runs off the last delivery. Mumbai Indians bowler Lasith Malinga took a wicket on the final delivery, securing the victory for Mumbai Indians.[21] This win further solidified Mumbai's position ahead of the rest of the league in terms of championships.

Hardik Pandya scored 91 runs off 34 balls against Kolkata Knight Riders and made the fastest 50 off 17 balls in that match.

Alzarri Joseph recorded the best bowling figures (6/12) in the IPL history in the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, which was also his IPL debut.

In IPL auction 2020, Mumbai Indians added six new players to the squad: Chris Lynn (₹20 million), Nathan Coulter-Nile (₹80 million), Saurabh Tiwary (₹5 million), Mohsin Khan (₹2 million), Digvijay Deshmukh (₹2 million), and Balwant Rai Singh (₹2 million).[22]

In 2020, the matches were played in the UAE due to the rising cases of COVID-19 in

India. Despite having a strong team, Mumbai Indians were underrated due to their past records in the UAE and a superstition about winning titles in odd years. However, Mumbai Indians emerged as the season's most successful team, and clinched their fifth title.

Before the 2021 Auction, Mumbai Indians released Mitchell McClenaghan, Sherfane Rutherford, Digvijay Deshmukh, Prince Balwant Rai Singh, James Pattinson and Nathan Coulter-Nile.

In the 2021 Auction, Mumbai Indians got back Nathan Coulter-Nile (₹50 million), Adam Milne (₹32 million), Piyush Chawla (₹24 million), Marco Jansen (₹2 million), James Neesham (₹5 million), Arjun Tendulkar (₹2 million), and Yuvraj Singh Chahal (₹2 million).

In the initial matches, Mumbai Indians struggled on the slow pitch of Chennai which was one of the neutral venues for IPL 2021. They lost 3 out of their first 5 games. The main reason was the failure of their lower middle order. However, Mumbai Indians won their next two games, with the middle order showing some improvement and making crucial contributions to secure the victories.[23] They eventually ended the season at the fifth spot.

In 2022, two new teams were introduced. Ahead of 2022 IPL mega auctions, the team retained four players: Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kieron Pollard and Suryakumar Yadav. They left Hardik Pandya who was one of their core players for a long time. In the mega auctions, they purchased back Ishan Kishan for a hefty sum of ₹15.25 crore, which is the second highest bid for an Indian player till date.

They lost their first eight matches of the seasons, the worst in the history of the IPL. They ended the tournament with 4 wins out of 14 matches, making the 15th season as their worst by finishing at the bottom of the points table.

The 2023 season was a topsy-turvy one for the Mumbai Indians. With their spearhead Jasprit Bumrah sidelined due to injury, the pace attack was led by English spearhead Jofra Archer and consisted of several domestic bowlers, including purchases from the 2023 auction. Despite a slow start, losing 2 out of their first 3 matches, the tournament saw Mumbai Indians rally back with solid performances from emerging bowler Akash Madhval and young talent Tilak Varma. The Mumbai Indians qualified for the playoffs, securing the 4th spot with 8 wins and 6 losses. After eliminating the Lucknow Super Giants during the Eliminator, the Mumbai Indians went on to lose to the Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 to end their season.[24]

The 2024 season saw the homecoming of one of their core players, Hardik Pandya. He was made captain after much controversy over replacing their previous skipper, Rohit Sharma.[25] Due to the massive fan split over the captaincy change and the team's disjointed performance, Mumbai finished the season in last place with only 4 wins.

The Mumbai Indians played home games at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai for the first two

IPL seasons. In the third season, in 2010, they played all seven home games at the Brabourne Stadium while the Wankhede Stadium underwent renovation to host group matches and the final of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. Mumbai Indians won six out of the seven matches at the Brabourne Stadium that season.

Mumbai Indians now play their home games at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The

stadium is named after former BCCI President S. K. Wankhede. The stadium is owned by the Mumbai Cricket Association and has a seating capacity of 33,108.

The motto of the team is "Duniya Hila Denge Hum...", which translates to We will rock the world.[26] The first anthem of Mumbai Indians was based on this motto, wherein the Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan was enlisted for a promotional video campaign.[27]

The team logo is the Sudarshan Chakra (or Razor) as initially the name of the team was supposed to be "Mumbai Razors" before Sachin Tendulkar suggested to keep it Mumbai Indians.[28]

The team's primary colour is blue with golden stripes on either sides of the jersey.[29][30] The team colour was almost the same in 2008 and 2009, with Idea as the principal sponsor, except for the colour shade and additional sponsors. In 2010, a new kit with golden stripes was unveiled. In 2011, kit used in 2010 is being used with Hero Honda as the main sponsor. The 2011 jersey also has three gold stripes going towards the back on the side of the jersey for the new players in the team. The kit manufacturer was Adidas from the start of IPL in 2008 till 2014.[31] In 2015, Performax, an in-house brand of Reliance Trends, replaced Adidas as the kit manufacturer.

During the player auction in 2008, the Mumbai Indians successfully bid for seven players, including two members of the Indian Twenty-20 World Cup winning side, Harbhajan Singh and Robin Uthappa. Sanath Jayasuriya, Lasith Malinga, Luke Ronchi, Dilhara Fernando and Shaun Pollock were other cricketers who were successfully bid for by the franchise.[32]

Outside of the player auction, the franchise also signed up Ajinkya Rahane and

Abhishek Nayar (both from Mumbai), Yogesh Takawale (WK-batsman from Maharashtra), and Pinal Shah (WK-batsman from Baroda).[33] Saurabh Tiwary and Manish Pandey, members of the U-19 World Cup winning team, were the random picks drafted in during the second auction. Dominic Thorneley was also signed by the Mumbai Indians for a sum of \$30,000. South African fast bowler André Nel was signed in place of Dwayne Bravo who left the tournament early.[34]

In the 2009 player auction, the Mumbai Indians signed up South African player JP Duminy for \$950,000. He was the third most expensive pick after Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff (both signed up for \$1.55 million by Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings respectively). In addition, the MI management bought Kyle Mills for \$150,000 and Mohammad Ashraful for \$75,000. The team also signed Graham Napier and Ryan McLaren at the pre-auction signings.

In the IPL 2010, Mumbai Indians bought West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard for \$750,000 (\$2,750,000) after a silent tie-breaker with Chennai Super Kings, Royal Challengers Bangalore and the Kolkata Knight Riders. Pollard had impressed the teams with his performances at KFC Twenty20 Big Bash and Champions League Twenty20.

In 2011, as two new teams were added to the IPL, the IPL Governing Council declared that each franchise could retain a maximum of four players of their squad, only three of whom can be Indian players, and the rest of the international players would be put in the mega-auction. The Mumbai franchise, keen to have the same set of core players, retained captain Sachin Tendulkar, vice-captain Harbhajan Singh, all-rounder Kieron Pollard and fast bowler Lasith Malinga for a total of \$4.5 million. The retention left them with the power of spending only \$4.5 million at the mega-auction. At the auction, they purchased Rohit Sharma as one of the costliest players in the auction along with Munaf

Patel, Andrew Symonds, Aiden Blizard, a hard-hitting Australian batsman, and James Franklin, an all-rounder from New Zealand.

At the 2012 IPL player auction, Mumbai Indians signed South Africans Richard Levi and Robin Peterson for \$50,000 and \$100,000 respectively, Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson for \$300,000, Indian fast bowler R. P. Singh for \$600,000, and Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera for \$650,000.

After the auctions, Mumbai Indians managed to get South African explosive opener Richard Levi, who gained attention after hitting the fastest century in T20 international cricket and hitting a record 13 sixes, after a bidding war with Pune Warriors India. Richard Levi was brought in as a replacement for Andrew Symonds, who retired from all forms of the game citing family reasons. Sachin Tendulkar stepped down as Mumbai Indians captain ahead of the IPL 2012 season-opener against Chennai.

At the 2013 IPL player auction, former Australian captain Ricky Ponting was purchased by Mumbai Indians for \$400,000 and he became the new captain for the sixth edition of IPL. Additionally, at the auction, Glenn Maxwell, Phillip Hughes, Nathan Coulter-Nile, and Jacob Oram were purchased by the MI management.

In the 2021 Auction, Mumbai Indians bought Adam Milne for ₹3.2 crore (equivalent to ₹3.6 crore or US\$410,000 in 2023), Piyush Chawla for ₹2.4 crore (equivalent to ₹2.7 crore or US\$310,000 in 2023), James Neesham for ₹50 lakh (equivalent to ₹56 lakh or US\$64,000 in 2023),

Nathan Coulter-Nile for ₹5 crore (equivalent to ₹5.6 crore or US\$640,000 in 2023), and also bought Arjun Tendulkar, Marco Jansen and Yuvraj Singh.

Last updated: 18 May 2024 [35]

American multinational corporation – MasterCard was the official founding sponsor of the Mumbai Indians,[36] while Adidas was their official apparel sponsor until 2014.[37] Since then, the UAE's national carrier Etihad Airways signed a three-year contract and took over as one of the principle sponsors of Mumbai Indians. In 2015, Performax, the in-house brand of Reliance Trends, took over as the apparel sponsors. Associate sponsors and official partners include Bridgestone, Dheeraj and East Coast LLC, Kingfisher, Wrigley's Orbit, Wrigley's Boomer, Royal Stag, Air India, MSN and Red FM 93.5.[38]

Hero MotoCorp was also one of the main sponsors of Mumbai Indians for 2011 and 2012 seasons. The principal sponsors of Mumbai Indians are Videocon d2h since 2013. In 2015, companies such as USHA, Jack & Jones, HTC, Tiny Owl, Paytm, Ola Cabs, DNA and Fever 104 FM came on board. From 2016, DHFL and Samsung joined as the new associate sponsors. Along with them, Pepsi, yatra.com, Radio City, LYF smartphones and Guvera came in as the new official sponsors. The global fashion brand Diesel's first ever association with cricket will produce a limited edition collection which will be available globally across popular cricket playing nations.

Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians have played against each other more times than any other two teams in the IPL.[42] They are the two most successful IPL teams and often termed as "big spenders" at the players auction.[43][44] The two sides have met each other at the final of the IPL four times, with Mumbai winning three times and Chennai winning once. The rivalry is often referred to as the El Clasico of IPL.

Both teams play in major markets, with Mumbai Indians based in Mumbai and Kolkata Knight Riders based in Kolkata. Mumbai Indians is the most successful IPL franchise

with five championships. However, until Mumbai's third championship, both teams were tied with two championships each. In the first two seasons of the IPL, Mumbai swept Kolkata in all four games. It wasn't until the 2010 IPL season that Kolkata won against Mumbai. Both sides have been captained by Indian cricket legends at one point (Mumbai was captained by Sachin Tendulkar and Kolkata was captained by Sourav Ganguly). This rivalry has often played out in Mumbai's favour, as they have won 22 games compared to Kolkata's seven wins. They have faced each other twice in the playoffs.[45]

In 2011, both teams played against each other in the Eliminator round, marking their first playoff appearances. This was the first time that the two teams met in the playoffs. Mumbai won the match by four wickets and advanced to the next round, ultimately losing to the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

In 2012, both teams were chasing a playoff spot in the tournament. The game started poorly for KKR as their batting side struggled to score runs. However, KKR picked up the pace and ended the innings with 140/7. Mumbai, initially in a strong position at 60/2 with more than 10 overs left, unexpectedly collapsed, finishing their innings at 108 all out. Sunil Narine was named Man of the Match with 4 wickets, and KKR eliminated MI from the playoffs. KKR won its first championship that season. Knight Riders' owner Shah Rukh Khan was handed a 5-year ban at Wankhede Stadium, the home ground of Mumbai Indians. He was accused of walking on the field post-match and abusing the security guards.[46] In 2015, the ban was lifted.[47]

Mumbai and Kolkata faced off in the opening match of the 2015 season. Mumbai batted first and scored 168/3. This charge was led by captain Rohit Sharma with his 98 runs. Kolkata captain Gautam Gambhir scored 57 runs, leading his side to victory.

Suryakumar Yadav's 46 runs were crucial to KKR's chase.

In 2017, Mumbai earned its 100th T20 win against KKR.[48] Later that season, both sides faced each other in the playoffs in the Qualifier 2 round. KKR had a poor batting performance, posting 107 runs and being all out. Mumbai was able to capitalise and won the match.[49] Mumbai went on to the finals to beat Rising Pune Supergiant to claim their third championship.

From 2015 to 2018, Mumbai Indians held an eight-game winning streak against the Kolkata Knight Riders. That streak was broken on 29 April 2019, when KKR posted a total of 232 runs and won by 34 runs. KKR's Andre Russell scored 80 runs, and MI's Hardik Pandya scored 91 runs. KKR holds the record for highest total for an IPL match played at Eden Gardens.[50] This victory was KKR's 100th T20 win.[51] Mumbai have won all three games between them since then.

In the 2022 and 2024 season, Kolkata beat Mumbai in all the matches between them. As of 2024, in the 34 matches both sides have played so far, Mumbai Indians are leading ahead with a staggering 23 wins while Kolkata only has 11 victories.[52]

Mumbai Indians have supported the social cause of education to the underprivileged. They have raised funds for the cause via selling merchandise like wristbands signed by their players. The NGOs supported are Pratham, Ummeed, Akanksha, Teach For India and Nanhi Kali.[53]

Last updated: 18 May 2024

Last updated: 4 May 2024[54]

In the 2019 Netflix documentary series Cricket Fever: Mumbai Indians, the journey of the team was covered. This was the first sports related show from India to be produced by Netflix and also the first IPL side to be featured in a documentary by Netflix.[55]

Punjab Kings

T20 kit

Punjab Kings (PBKS) formerly Kings XI Punjab (KXIP), is a professional franchise cricket team based in Mullanpur, Mohali, Punjab, that plays in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The franchise is jointly owned by Mohit Burman, Ness Wadia, Preity Zinta and Karan Paul. The team plays its home matches at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, although since the 2010 season, they have played some matches at the Dharamsala and Indore. Apart from the 2014 season when they topped the league table and finished runners-up, the team has made only one other playoff appearance.

The franchise played in the now-defunct Champions League Twenty20 once, in 2014 when they finished as semi-finalists. The team name was changed to Punjab Kings in February

2021. In 2025 IPL auction, the franchise made the then highest-ever bid for a player in the IPL, paying ₹26.75 crore (US\$3.1 million) for Shreyas Iyer.[1]

In 2007, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) created the cricket tournament the Indian Premier League, based on the Twenty20 format of the game. Franchises for eight cities were made available in an auction held in Mumbai on 20 February 2008.

The team representing Punjab was bought by the Dabur group's Mohit Burman (46%), the Wadia group's Ness Wadia (23%), Preity Zinta (23%), and Saptarshi Dey of the Dey & Dey Group (minor stake). The group paid a total of \$76 million to acquire the franchise.

As the Kings XI Punjab, the franchise's catchment areas were the regions of Kashmir, Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana—evident from the letter sequence "K J H P H" in the banner of the team's old logo.[2][3]

Following the controversy surrounding the BCCI and Lalit Modi in 2010, the Indian Premier League announced on 10 October 2010 that it had terminated the franchise contracts of Kings XI Punjab and the Rajasthan Royals. The teams announced that they would take legal action to remain in the Indian Premier League.[4] Initially, the team tried to negotiate a solution with the league, but when one could not be reached, they decided to file a case in the Bombay High Court. They accused the IPL of getting rid of the two teams so that when the bidding process would start for the 2012 IPL season, the contract would be given to a more lucrative bidder.[5]

The termination order was stayed by the Bombay High Court,[6] and the legal dispute between the BCCI and the franchise ended in 2012.[7]

On 17 February 2021, Kings XI Punjab was renamed to Punjab Kings, ahead of the 2021 Indian Premier League.[8][9][10] Ness Wadia explained the reason for changing the franchise name was to "relook at things" and rebrand after 13 seasons of the IPL. He expressed his disappointment over the franchise for "not being able to win a title" and expected them to "start afresh" after a name change. He added that the name change had been planned two years ago and COVID-19 had just delayed the

announcement.[11]

Last updated: 19 May 2024[12]

The 2008 tournament got off to a slow start for the Kings XI Punjab, with the team losing their first two games. However, 94 runs by Kumar Sangakkara helped them to win the third game. Despite the absence of Brett Lee and Simon Katich (who were committed to tour the West Indies with Australia), the team found its groove. Powered by their balanced bowling line-up[13] and effective top order,[14] the team won nine of its next 10 matches, clinching a berth in the semi-final, where their run in the tournament came to an end with a comprehensive nine-wicket loss to the Chennai Super Kings.

Shaun Marsh was arguably KXIP's star player in the inaugural IPL.[15][16] The opener from Western Australia was overlooked in the IPL player auctions and was signed by the franchise on 9 April.[17] He finished the tournament as the Orange Cap holder—the award for the player with the most runs across the competition—with an average of 68.44 and a strike rate of 139.68 in 11 innings. Marsh managed to hit one century and five half-centuries across the course of the tournament.[18]

Finishing as semi-finalists in 2008, Kings XI Punjab started with ambitions to win the trophy. These were supported by their new sponsors Emirates. With two available slots to fill, the Kings XI Punjab made bids on Jerome Taylor and Yusuf Abdulla at the second IPL auction.

The team took a hit as most of their Australian cricketers were unavailable. The team lacked available pace bowlers after Jerome Taylor backed out at the last minute with an

injury.

The team lost badly to the Delhi Daredevils and the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), however, they returned to form by beating the Royal Challengers, the Rajasthan Royals and the Mumbai Indians. Then the team witnessed a roller-coaster ride in their next eight matches with four wins and four losses. The team's semi-final hopes were crushed after losing to the Chennai Super Kings in their last match.

Kings XI Punjab lost six matches to the Kolkata Knight Riders, the Delhi Daredevils, the Royal Challengers Bangalore, the Deccan Chargers, the Rajasthan Royals and the Mumbai Indians but managed to win a match against Chennai Super Kings when the scores were level and the match went to a Super Over. Kings XI Punjab were boosted by the return of Brett Lee against Kolkata, but he was not at his best. Shaun Marsh returned in the match against the Mumbai Indians. In spite of his good performance, which included a half century, the team lost the match. They ended the 2010 IPL in the last position.

The 2011 IPL season looked promising when they brought a full strength team with Michael Bevan as coach and Adam Gilchrist appointed as the captain.

Kings XI Punjab missed out on the playoffs by two points (or one victory). This meant they finished fifth in the points table.

Kings XI Punjab finished in sixth place overall, winning eight matches out of sixteen.

Kings XI Punjab failed to qualify for the play-offs, but batsman David Miller played one of the innings of the tournament in the 51st match against the Royal Challengers

Bangalore, as he smashed 101 off 38 deliveries and included eight fours and seven sixes. Coming in at no. 5 when Kings XI Punjab was struggling with only 51 runs in the scoreboard in the eighth over and chasing a target of 190, Miller rectified the game and led Punjab to a six-wicket win with two overs remaining. Adam Gilchrist retired at the end of the season.

Australia's T20I captain George Bailey was leading the squad for the seventh season. Other buys featured the likes of Virender Sehwag, Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Johnson. Kings XI Punjab began the tournament by winning their first five games which were held outside India in UAE due to the general elections. The stand out player was Glenn Maxwell with his unorthodox and powerful hitting, scoring 95, 89 and 95 in his first three innings with a strike rate of over 200 who got equal contribution from South African David Miller, both of them making the side look invincible. There were many innings from the veteran Indian batsman Virender Sehwag and young star Manan Vohra which made the middle order batting easy and allowed the team to qualify for the playoffs. Due to a 122 run knock from Virender Sehwag against the Chennai Super Kings in the semifinal, KXIP made their way to the final. There they faced the Kolkata Knight Riders where they batted first and set a good target of 199 owing to Wriddhiman Saha's 115.[19] However, due to Manish Pandey's 94 off 50 balls and his teammates' consistently high strike rate, including Piyush Chawla's 13 off five balls, KKR were able to win the final by three wickets in the final over of the match.[20]

Kings XI Punjab qualified for the 2014 Champions League Twenty20 as they finished runners-up in the 2014 IPL. They were placed in Group B along with the Hobart Hurricanes (Australia), the Barbados Tridents (West Indies), the Cape Cobras (South Africa) and the Northern Knights (New Zealand).

Kings XI's first match was in their home stadium, the PCA Stadium, Mohali where they beat Hobart Hurricanes by five wickets, overhauling Hobart's 144-6 in 17.4 overs. Thisara Perera was named the Man Of The Match with 2-17 and 35. Glenn Maxwell top scored in the game with 43. They also won the second match beating the Barbados Tridents by four wickets. They won their third match of the competition against the Northern Knights and qualified for the semi-finals. They continued to win their final group match against the Cape Cobras but were knocked out of the tournament at the semi-final stage with a disappointing defeat against their IPL rivals the Chennai Super Kings,[21] who went on to win the tournament.

George Bailey continued to lead the side during the 2015 season. The team won just three of the 14 games and finished eighth in the league. David Miller finished the season as top scorer with 357 runs and Anureet Singh finished the season as the top wicket taker with 15 wickets.

David Miller and Murali Vijay captained the team in the first and second half of the 2016 season respectively. The team finished eighth once again with only four wins. Murali Vijay was the top scorer with 453 runs and Sandeep Sharma was the top wicket taker with 15 wickets.

Virender Sehwag joined as head coach as the team looked to recover from two back-to-back last-place finishes in the league. Glenn Maxwell was appointed as the captain. Eoin Morgan, Darren Sammy and Hashim Amla joined the likes of David Miller in the team. The team missed out on a place in the play-offs by a last game defeat to the Rising Pune Supergiant and ended the season in fifth, winning seven out of their 14 games. Hashim Amla finished the season as top scorer with 420 runs including two centuries, and Sandeep Sharma was the top wicket taker with 17 wickets.

The Kings XI Punjab squad for the 2018 IPL season included internationals such as: Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuvraj Singh, KL Rahul, Aaron Finch and Chris Gayle. Ashwin was appointed as captain and Brad Hodge as coach. The Tournament started well with KL Rahul scoring a fine fifty off 14 balls to guide KXIP home against Daredevils. Riding on KL Rahul and Chris Gayle's red hot form at the top and Andrew Tye and Mujeeb Ur Rahman with the ball, the team went on to win 5 out of their first six games, eventually becoming favourites to the title. Their weakness in Indian core was however exposed as they could manage just one win in the next eight and ultimately not being qualified for the playoffs despite a dream start from the beginning.

Franchises confirmed the names of retained players for the 12th season of Indian Premier League. KXIP retained the following players for the 2019 season: KL Rahul, Chris Gayle, Andrew Tye, Mayank Agarwal, Ankit Rajpoot, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Karun Nair, David Miller and Ravichandran Ashwin. On the auction day (18 December 2018), KXIP snapped up new 13 players: Varun Chakaravathy, Sam Curran, Mohammed Shami, Prabhsimran Singh, Nicholas Pooran, Moises Henriques, Hardus Viljoen, Darshan Nalkande, Sarfaraz Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Agnivesh Ayachi, Harpreet Brar, and Murugan Ashwin.[22] Kings XI Punjab ended up in sixth position in the league table. KL Rahul was the highest run scorer for the team with 593 runs in 14 matches.

Kings XI Punjab released Varun Chakravathy, Andrew Tye, Sam Curran, Prabhsimran Singh (who was rebought), David Miller, Moises Henriques and Agnivesh Ayachi from their 2020 roster. They have bought Glenn Maxwell, Deepak Hooda, James Neesham, Prabhsimran Singh, Chris Jordan, Tanjinder Dhillon, Ravi Bishnoi, Ishan Porel, Sheldon Cottrell for their 2020 squad. The retained players include KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Mohammed Shami, Nicholas Pooran, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Chris Gayle, Mandeep Singh,

Mayank Agarwal, Hardus Viljoen, Darshan Nalkande, Sarfaraz Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Harpreet Brar and Murugan Ashwin.[23] They also transferred their former skipper R Ashwin to Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals traded their all rounder Krishnappa Gowtham to Kings XI Punjab successfully.[24]

On 20 September, the Kings XI started their season campaign. KL Rahul, the Kings' new captain, elected to field first. This thrilling match ended in a tie. Delhi started with a win in the tournament, defeating Punjab's team in the Super Over. Delhi scored 157-runs for the loss of 8 wickets in 20 overs. The team had lost early wickets, but Marcus Stoinis' brilliant innings helped the Delhi Capitals to build a 157-run target. In response to 158 runs, Punjab also scored 157-runs in 20 overs on Mayank Agarwal's knock of 89 runs.

On 24 September, Kings XI Punjab won their first match of the season defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore by 97-runs. KL Rahul lost the toss and was put to bat. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal build the Kings XI innings with a 57-run stand for the first wicket. Rahul scored 132 off 69 balls with 14 fours and 7 sixes and helped the Kings XI finish the innings at 206/3 in 20 overs. Chasing a target of 207, the Royal Challengers had lost three wickets in a first four overs. Kings XI's new ball pair of Sheldon Cottrell and Mohammed Shami continued their good work from the first match and Royal Challengers were eventually bowled out for 109. Rahul became the fastest Indian batsman to complete 2000 runs in IPL. However, they were ousted against Rajasthan Royals who successfully chased down 223 and then continued to lose five matches. The losing streak was broken when Punjab defeated Bangalore for second time and then defeated Mumbai Indians in the Super Over and continued to win three more matches against Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata. However, they lost two matches at the end of the tournament. Their last match was against Chennai Super Kings who won

comprehensively by 9 wickets, therefore knocking Punjab out of the tournament. They finished the season at the sixth place. KL Rahul was again the highest scorer for the team with 670 runs, while Mohammed Shami topped the bowling charts for the franchise, with 20 wickets from 14 matches.

Rajasthan Royals

Regular kit

PinkPromise special kit

Rajasthan Royals (often abbreviated as RR) are a professional franchise cricket team based in Jaipur, Rajasthan, that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL).[2] Founded in 2008 as one of the initial eight IPL franchises, the team is owned by Manoj Badale and The Royals Sports Group.[3] The Royals team is based at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.[4][5] It plays its home matches at Sawai Mansingh Stadium and at ACA Stadium, Guwahati.[6] The Royals are known to unearth obscure and high potential talent.[7][8]

The team won the inaugural edition of the IPL under the captaincy of Shane Warne, despite being written off as a title contender by the media and fans. The Royals were also the runners-up of the 2013 Champions League Twenty20 under Rahul Dravid's captaincy,[6][9] and the runners-up of the 2022 Indian Premier League under the captaincy of Sanju Samson and leadership of Kumar Sangakkara. The team has qualified for playoffs in 2024 Indian Premier League but lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad in qualifier 2 by 36 runs under the captaincy of Sanju Samson and leadership of Kumar

Sangakkara. The team has announced former team India coach and ex-Rajasthan Royals player and mentor Rahul Dravid as a Head Coach for IPL 2025.[10]

On 14 July 2015, the verdict reached by a panel appointed by the Supreme Court of India suspended Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings for two years over a 2013 betting scandal, meaning they could not participate in both the 2016 and 2017 IPL tournaments. The team returned to the competition with the 2018 season.

The team's record run-scorer is Sanju Samson with 3403 runs,[11] while the leading wicket-taker is Shane Watson, with 67 wickets.[12]

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the establishment of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in September 2007, a Twenty20 competition to be started in 2008.[13] The Rajasthan Royals were one of the original eight teams in the inaugural season of the IPL in 2008. Emerging Media gained ownership of the Jaipur-based franchise team with a bid of \$67 million, making it the least expensive team in the league.[2]

As of 2024,[14] the franchise is owned by the Royals Sports Group (Emerging Media Sporting Holdings Limited), which holds a 65% stake. Key minority stakeholders include Lachlan Murdoch and RedBird Capital Partners.[15] There have been past controversies regarding the ownership of the franchise, leading to a brief expulsion of the team from the league in 2010.[16] The franchise made a pre-tax profit of \$7.5 million in 2009.[17]

In 2010, the BCCI decided to expel Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals from the IPL.[18] The expulsion baffled captain Shane Warne who stated that he suspected that there might be some foul play and that the BCCI might possess some ulterior

motives.[19] The Rajasthan Royals filed an appeal against the decision and the two parties went to the Bombay High Court.[16] The Bombay High Court adjourned that case until 29 October 2010,[20] but it was revised to 15 November because they didn't want it to coincide with Diwali celebrations from 1 to 14 November.[21]

Later, it was announced by the Royals that they told the Bombay High Court that they would be negotiating with an arbitrator to see if they could reconcile with the IPL.[22] The arbitrator announced that while the investigation was ongoing, the Royals would remain a part of the IPL for six weeks and the BCCI would not be allowed to change rules which might go against the Royals. The six-week period included the player auction in which Rajasthan Royals participated.[23] After this, the Bombay High Court rejected the appeals of the BCCI against keeping the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL for six weeks while the case was sorted out.[24] It was estimated that because of the losses in court cases and damage to its reputation, the BCCI decided not to pursue further legal action against the Rajasthan Royals or Kings XI Punjab – the teams were allowed to remain in the IPL.[25]

In 2015, the team was banned for two years following the Lodha Committee inquiry.[26]

Rajasthan Royals became the source of controversy when inappropriate and fictitious bids were made, violating the BCCI norms.[27] Ranjit Barthakur and Fraser Castellino were the only two shareholders of the team, which was completely unknown to the BCCI at the time.[28][29] An out-of-court settlement between the two ensued.[citation needed] In 2015, Rajasthan Royals were banned for two years by the BCCI, with its owner Raj Kundra banned for life.[30]

Before the start of the inaugural IPL season, many considered the Royals as possibly

the weakest team in the IPL, giving them little chance of competing well in the tournament.[31] Evidence of the latter opinion seemed to be confirmed when the team lost its first match against the Delhi Daredevils in a 9 wicket loss.[32] The fears were confirmed that the team was likely to struggle.[33]

In their first home game ever at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, they played against the Kings XI Punjab and won by 6 wickets as Shane Watson was declared the man of the match for his unbeaten 76 off 49 balls in what was a successful run chase. That was followed by a crucial 3 wicket win against the season favourite, Deccan Chargers, in Hyderabad. The victory proved to be a huge morale booster. Yusuf Pathan won the first man of the match award for his bowling figures of 2/20 in 4 overs and a 28-ball 61.

The next game against the Kolkata Knight Riders was won by 45 runs where Swapnil Asnodkar received his first man of the match award for a fine knock of 60 off just 34 balls.

They further managed to defeat the Chennai Super Kings in Jaipur but lost to Mumbai Indians in Navi Mumbai. The Royals continued to win the next five games in a row. They were the first team to book a place in the semi-finals with their 65 run win over the Royal Challengers Bangalore and were pitted against Chennai Super Kings for the finals. The Royals won by 3 wickets in the final played on 1 June 2008.

The all-rounder Shane Watson won the man of the tournament award for scoring as many as 472 runs and picking 17 wickets.

Shane Warne's captaincy and coaching were praised and well received by everyone,[34][35] including opposition teams.[36][37]

Each player and representative in the team was awarded a medal. The team was presented with the DLF Indian Premier League trophy along with a cheque for US\$1.2 million prize money. Many of the Royals players also took home individual awards for their performance during the tournament; Yusuf Pathan claimed the Man of the Match award for the final match, Sohail Tanvir finished the tournament in possession of the Purple Cap (the IPL's leading wicket-taker), and Australian all-rounder Shane Watson was declared the Man of the Series.

The Royals were the defending champions. Sohail Tanvir was ineligible to play for the team as PCB failed to provide NOC for Pakistani players playing in the competition. Shane Watson was unavailable for the whole season as Australia toured to UAE for the ODI series against Pakistan. Without these two, the team looked slightly weaker than the previous season and players such as Graeme Smith, Shaun Tait, and Shane Warne had to be relied on.[38]

The defending champions got off to the worst possible start by losing their opening match by 75 runs to Royal Challengers Bangalore in a match which saw The Royals record what was at the time the lowest total (58 all out) in the history of the IPL and to date is still the second lowest.[39][40] The same match also saw the Royals pick-up the unwanted record of the lowest ever powerplay total (14/2) in the IPL.[41] They remained defeated by Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Kings XI Punjab, and Chennai Super Kings but they won over Delhi Daredevils and Deccan Chargers. The Royals were at the end of the points table. Mohammed Kaif, Dinesh Salunkhe, Paras Dogra, Anup Revandkar, Shrideep Mangela, Ashraf Makda, and Azhar Malik were dropped from the team and sent home.[42]

Rajasthan Royals ended 6th out of the 8 teams in the competition, winning 6 matches

out of the 14 they played. The Royals failed to make it to the semi-finals after losing their last two matches against Delhi Daredevils and Kolkata Knight Riders.[38]

On 14 May 2009, it was announced that Rajasthan Royals would meet Middlesex Crusaders in a one-off Twenty20 for the British Asian Cup. It was the first time that an annual charity series was to be played between the Twenty20 champions of the two countries. The match took place on 6 July 2009. The teams were announced on 3 July 2009 with Rajasthan Royals including Mohammad Kaif and the comeback of Sohail Tanvir.

The match was won by Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs after scoring 162/5 in 20 overs and successfully defending it by 46 runs (Middlesex 116/7). The Man of the Match was Dimitri Mascarenhas.[43]

The Royals were back in India after their average outing in South Africa. This time they seemed to be a better outfit as they were to play in conditions that should have suited them the most. But they had to suffer an unfortunate start to the competition, with a narrow 4 run defeat to the Mumbai Indians at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai. The highlight of this match though, was Yusuf Pathan hitting the fastest ever hundred in IPL history, off only 37 balls. Even some of the Mumbai fans were disappointed not to see Rajasthan win, by the end of it all.[33][44]

They went on to lose to the Delhi Daredevils by 6 wickets in one of their new 'home' grounds, Ahmedabad. And were again bruised badly by the Royal Challengers Bangalore, who won by 10 wickets. The team remained inconsistent throughout the whole season, winning their next four matches consecutively. One of the young Turks of the erstwhile ICL, Abhishek Jhunjunwala impressed against the franchise representing

his home state, Kolkata Knight Riders as his 36-ball 45 helped the Royals win by 34 runs.

Followed by which the Western Australian batsman Adam Voges hit 45 runs off 24 balls to help Rajasthan beat Punjab in Mohali by 31 runs. The team seemed to have adapted to the Ahmedabad conditions better with wins against Deccan Chargers by 8 wickets as Yusuf Pathan continued his good form against the team, while they beat Chennai Super Kings by 17 runs, thanks to wicket-keeper batsman Naman Ojha's 49-ball 80.

But they lost against Chennai in their return clash as Murali Vijay's hundred took the game away from them as well as were crushed in Delhi by 67 runs. But they managed to escape a Deccan Chargers attack, with a narrow 2 run victory in Nagpur and continued their unbeaten run in Jaipur though, as the out of sorts Kings XI Punjab were duly beaten by 9 wickets with English opener Michael Lumb winning the man of the match award for his 43-ball 83.

Once again, Rajasthan Royals ended the tournament miserably with losses to Mumbai Indians and the Royal Challengers Bangalore at home and the Kolkata Knight Riders in the last round-robin game in Kolkata. Consequently, they failed to make it to the playoffs for the second consecutive season as they finished 7th out of the 8 teams in the competition, winning 6 games out of 14 played.[33]

The Rajasthan Royals, and the Kings XI Punjab were temporarily ejected from the league due to issues with their unreported ownership changes. The teams were reinstated with involvement from the High Court.[45] Their owners were broken into several legal entities when the BCCI required the incorporation of the companies.[46][47] Kochi was also at risk of ejection for the same reasons before BCCI

cleared their new ownership pattern for the tournament.[48]

The team management decided to retain the Australian duo of Shane Warne and Shane Watson for the following three seasons of the IPL, although Warne's future continued to be uncertain. Yet, he decided to make this his final season for the Rajasthan Royals on the insistence of the team owners who felt that he was the ultimate source of inspiration for the team on and off the field.

In the auction, the team's funds were reduced since they were penalised by the BCCI in 2010 and as a result, had to pay a certain amount of bank guarantee as fixed by the High Court. But they possessed an adequate amount of money to buy some of the world's finest T20 players, which they did not exactly.

They managed to buy back Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait for US\$300,000 as well as South African bowling all-rounder Johan Botha for US\$950,000. The other star players which they picked were New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor for US\$1 million as well as 'The Wall' Rahul Dravid for half that price. England's World T20 2010 winning skipper Paul Collingwood was also purchased for a mere US\$250,000. The other players were mostly from the domestic circuits but were confident individuals following Rajasthan winning the Ranji Trophy that year.

Rajasthan Royals began the IPL 2011 in grand fashion, beating the Kumar Sangakkara-led Deccan Chargers by 8 wickets, with the young Indian pacer Siddharth Trivedi adjudged the man of the match for his spell of 3/15 and the Royals continued their fine record against the Chargers. While Shane Warne defied age with a fine piece of bowling to assist Rajasthan in defeating a weakened Delhi Daredevils side by 6 wickets, with figures of 2/17.

However, their confidence was dented with two back-to-back defeats to the new-look Kolkata Knight Riders in three days. In the clash at Jaipur, they lost by 9 wickets, due to a 100-run partnership between Gautam Gambhir and Jacques Kallis. Whereas, in Kolkata, Lakshmipathy Balaji picked 3/15 in 4 overs on a minefield pitch in Eden Gardens to help his team pull off an 8 wicket victory.

The match against the Royal Challengers Bangalore in Bangalore was washed out due to rain, which made Rajasthan's task of making it into the last four much tougher. Shaun Marsh was in great nick and his 42-ball 71 resulted in the Royals losing to Kings XI Punjab in Mohali by 48 runs. However, they pulled together a string of a hat-trick of home wins, as Rajasthan chased successfully in all the three matches. The first was against the Kochi Tuskers Kerala, winning by 8 wickets. Followed by Mumbai Indians, the No. 1 team then on the points table as they chased down a total of 100 with 7 wickets to spare. And then the Pune Warriors India were undone by Ross Taylors' 35-ball 47 not out, as Rajasthan won by 6 wickets.

But again it was inconsistency which let the Royals down badly. They were given a proper thumping by the eventual champions Chennai Super Kings in both the matches they played against each other, within five days. The in-form Royal Challengers Bangalore thrashed them by 9 wickets, while they were bowled out for 97 in their 8-wicket defeat to the Kochi Tuskers Kerala.

Although this time they ended their round-robin matches well with a win against the Mumbai Indians in Mumbai and in the process, giving Shane Warne a fitting farewell, Rajasthan were dismissed from the competition since they ended at the 6th position out of the 10 teams in the tournament, having again won 6 out of their 14 matches played,

with one being a no result.[33]

Rajasthan Royals finished in seventh place among the points table in season 5 of the IPL, winning only seven matches out of sixteen.[49]

Rajasthan Royals qualified for the playoff stage by finishing third in the group stage, thus grabbing a spot in 2013 Champions League Twenty20. They won against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eliminator but lost to Mumbai Indians in the second qualifier, which led to their exit from the tournament.[50][51] Shane Watson was declared the Man of the Tournament.

On 16 May 2013, three Rajasthan Royals players Sreesanth, Ankeet Chavan and Ajit Chandila were arrested from Mumbai by Delhi Police along with eleven bookies on charges of spot-fixing in the tournament. The fixing happened in the matches against Pune Warriors on 5 May, Kings XI Punjab on 9 May and Mumbai Indians on 15 May.[52] Later, BCCI suspended the three players.[53]

Rajasthan Royals retained five players – Sanju Samson, Ajinkya Rahane, Shane Watson, James Faulkner and Stuart Binny – for the seventh season of the IPL. James Faulkner scored 65 runs off the last 17 balls at a strike rate of 382.35 to win the match against RCB.[54] Shane Watson led the side and Rahul Dravid played the role of a mentor.[55][56]

In the 2015 IPL, Rajasthan Royals qualified for the playoffs by finishing fourth in the league stage, but lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the eliminator, which led to their exit from the tournament.[57][58]

In 2018, the Rajasthan Royals made a comeback to the IPL after two years of suspension. Prior to the 2018 IPL auction, the Royals retained Steve Smith for ₹120 million (US\$1.4 million), announcing him as captain for the 2018 season.[59] Following the ball tampering controversy in March 2018, Smith stepped down as Royals captain with Ajinkya Rahane appointed. Smith was subsequently banned from playing in the 2018 IPL season.[60][61][62][63] Following Steve Smith's ban, Heinrich Klaasen was announced as replacement.

On 2 May 2018, in a match against the Delhi Daredevils, Jos Buttler scored the fastest ever 50 for Rajasthan Royals, off just 18 balls. This was also the fifth-fastest in IPL history. However, RR lost the match by four runs after failing to make the revised target of 151 from 12 overs due to rain. Buttler also equalled Virender Sehwag's record for most consecutive fifties in the IPL, with 5 consecutive fifties.

The Royals managed to secure fourth place in the regular season, with 14 points. However, they crashed out of the playoffs in the eliminator against Kolkata Knight Riders, losing by 25 runs in Eden Gardens.

Ahead of 2019 IPL Auction, Royals retained 16 players and released 9 players. During the auction, Rajasthan bought 9 players.

Paddy Upton was named the Royals coach ahead of 2019 Indian Premier League. Steve Smith made a comeback to the IPL on 25 March 2019 after he was banned by BCCI to participate in the 2018 season due to Australian ball-tampering controversy. Ajinkya Rahane retained his captaincy at the start of the season, however, on 20 April 2019 Steve Smith replaced Ajinkya Rahane as captain of Rajasthan Royals after a string of poor results.[64]

Ahead of 2020 IPL Auction, Royals retained 11 players and released 11 players. Royals have traded Ajinkya Rahane, Krishnappa Gowtham, Dhawal Kulkarni to Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab and Mumbai Indians respectively. Royals bought Mayank Markande, Rahul Tewatia and Ankit Rajpoot via trade from Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab.[65]

Andrew McDonald was named the Royals head coach of 2020 Indian Premier League replacing Paddy Upton. Steve Smith was named to continue as captain of Royals.[66]

The team started off really well in the season by winning their first two matches.[67] However, they could not keep the momentum and succumbed to four consecutive losses after it, and ended their season at the bottom of the points table after winning six out of fourteen matches.[68] Despite Rajasthan ending at the bottom, their bowler Jofra Archer was named the most valuable player of the season.[69]

On 20 January 2021, ahead of the auction for the 2021 Indian Premier League, Rajasthan released eight players, including their captain Steve Smith. On the same day, they also announced that Sanju Samson would be the captain for the 2021 season.[70] In his first match as captain Samson smashed a century (119 off 63 deliveries) but failed to win the match for his team as Royals lost to Punjab Kings by 4 runs in a high scoring encounter.[71] Samson was the highest run scorer for the team for the season with 484 runs in 14 innings and Chris Morris was the highest wicket-taker for the team with 15 wickets in 11 innings. Rajasthan failed to qualify for the play-offs and finished 7th in the points table after winning only 5 matches out of 14 matches.

On 30 November 2021, ahead of the auction for the 2022 Indian Premier League, Rajasthan retained their captain Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler, and youngster Yashasvi

Jaiswal and released all the other players from their squad[72][73]

Royals bought a set of experienced international stars including Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult, Shimron Hetmyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, James Neesham, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Rassie van der Dussen, Daryl Mitchell

After doing well in the league stage and finishing second in the points table, the team lost twice to Gujarat Titans within the space of six days, first in Qualifier 1 and then in the final to finish as runners up. Jos Buttler earned the MVP award, as well as the Orange Cap with a tally of 864 runs in 17 innings, while Yuzvendra Chahal won the Purple Cap for taking the most wickets (27) in the season.

Rajasthan Royals started their 2023 campaign with a 72 runs victory margin against Sunrisers Hyderabad.[74] The excellent form of talented young Yashasvi Jaiswal was the biggest achievement for RR. Jaiswal who was the 'Emerging Player of the Season' award winner, made 625 runs in 14 games with an elegant average of 48.07 and a superb strike rate of 163.61.[75]

After an excellent first half of the tournament winning 4 of its first 7 matches Royals failed to qualify for the play-offs after winning only 3 of its last 7 matches and ended up 5th on the points table. Jaiswal was the highest run-scorer for the team with 625 runs and Yuzvendra Chahal finished the season with 21 wickets.

The Royals started off their season well winning their first four matches. The streak was broken when they lost to the Titans on the last ball of the match.[76] They followed this with a close win against Punjab.[77] In the next match against KKR, the Royals equaled the highest ever chased in the IPL when they scored 8/224 courtesy of Jos Buttler

scoring an unbeaten 107.[78] After which they went on another winning streak.

Royals won 8 of its first 9 matches but went on to lose next 4 of its last 5 matches with their last league match being washed off in rain, RR managed to qualify for playoffs. In the eliminator they defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore, they lost against Sunrisers Hyderabad by 36 runs in the second qualifier. The highest run scorer of this season from this team was Riyan Parag (573). The highest wicket taker of this season from this team was Avesh Khan (19).

Royals retained Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer and Sandeep Sharma ahead of the 2025 IPL mega auctions.[79] They released marquee players like Jos Buttler, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult ahead of the auctions.

The team anthem was called 'Halla Bol'. In the first IPL season, the song was sung by Ila Arun.[80] In the second season, it was sung by Sunidhi Chauhan.[81] The anthem was sung by Amit Trivedi and Mame Khan for the 2023 season.[82]

The team's mascot is a lion named Moochu Singh.[31]

The rivalry between Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings is a long-standing one. Known as the Northern Derby, it is often a high-scoring encounter. In 25 matches, the Royals have come out on top 14 times; the Kings have won 11.[83]

During the fourth match of the 2019 season, Ravichandran Ashwin, who at the time played for Punjab, ran out Jos Buttler at the non-striker's end.[84] This caused tensions to flare between

the teams.

In 2020, thanks to a brilliant opening stand between KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal, Punjab scored 223/2 from their 20 overs. Rajasthan got off to a good start in the chase, but wickets began to fall, and the required run rate grew. Rahul Tewatia (at the time on 8 runs off 19 balls) hit five sixes in Sheldon Cottrell's 18th over to narrow the gap. Tom Curran hit the winning runs in the final over to give Rajasthan a famous comeback victory,[85] setting the record for the highest successful run chase in IPL history until Punjab Kings themselves broke the record in 2024.

Traditionally, the Rajasthan Royals usually purchase relatively unknown or uncapped cricketers, meaning those who have not played for their nation, at cut-throat prices. The Royals are famous for their frugal spending in the IPL auctions, even during the mega-auctions held once in 3 years. They have even bought players who had previously never played first-class cricket such as Dinesh Salunkhe and Pravin Tambe. The team has also purchased leading world cricketers such as Shane Warne, Rahul Dravid, Shane Watson, Jos Buttler and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Many of the cricketers who have played for the Royals, having been bought by them as relatively unknown players, have ended up as leading international cricketers partly due to their strong performances in the IPL and backing from the Royals management. In the initial seasons, such players included Taruwar Kohli, who was acquired by the franchise in 2008 under the Under-19 player quota, and Yusuf Pathan, the elder brother of the Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan, who was relatively unknown in cricketing circles unlike his more-celebrated younger brother. Yusuf's brilliant performances in the initial seasons of the IPL earned him a place in the Indian cricket team and he was a member of the Indian squad which won the 2011 Cricket World Cup. Even Australian Shane

Watson, who has played for the Royals ever since its inception, became a permanent, consistent and leading member of the Australian cricket team soon after his brilliant first season with the Royals in 2008. In the later seasons, these players have included Indian cricketers such as Ajinkya Rahane, wicket-keeper-batsman Sanju Samson, leg-spinner Tambe, whose performances for the Royals earned him a Ranji Trophy debut for Mumbai at the age of 42,[86] Stuart Binny and Dhawal Kulkarni, as well as international cricketers like James Faulkner, Steve Smith and Tim Southee. Even off-spinner Ajit Chandila, who played only 2 first-class matches and was also convicted in the spot-fixing scandal, was one of the top bowlers for the Royals during the 2012 and 2013 seasons.[87]

Last updated: 20 May 2024[88]

*Steve Smith filled in as captain for Shane Watson in 2014 and 2015 before replacing Ajinkya Rahane in 2019 and his full captaincy season was in 2020.

The home venue of the Royals is the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. The stadium was built during the reign of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II. It is situated at one corner of the Rambagh Circle. The stadium seats 24,000 after the 2006 renovation. The Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad has also hosted Rajasthan Royals' home matches.[89] The Assam Cricket Association Stadium, Guwahati in Assam has also hosted the Rajasthan Royals' matches for the 2023 season.[90]

The Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur once again started to host the Royals' home games from the 2018 IPL season onwards after their return from a two-year suspension which also saw the stadium being banned from hosting matches for four years.

₹1.1 crore (US\$130,000)

Royal Challengers Bangalore

Regular kit

Go Green Initiative kit

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, formerly known as Royal Challengers Bangalore, commonly known as RCB, is a professional franchise cricket team based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, competing in the Indian Premier League. Founded in 2008 by United Spirits, the team is named after the liquor brand, Royal Challenge. The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru is their home ground.

As of 2024, the team was captained by Faf du Plessis and is coached by Andy Flower. Royal Challengers have finished as runners-up on three occasions, in 2009, 2011, and 2016, and have qualified for the playoffs in nine seasons. The franchise has competed in the Champions League Twenty20, finishing as runners-up in the 2011 season. As of 2024, RCB was valued at \$117 million,[4][5] making them one of the most valuable IPL franchises.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru also holds two IPL records, for the lowest total score made in an innings (49, against Kolkata Knight Riders) and for the highest total score conceded in an innings (287, against Sunrisers Hyderabad).[6]

In September 2007, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the

establishment of the Indian Premier League (IPL), a Twenty20 competition set to begin in 2008.[7] On 24 January 2008, an auction was held in Mumbai for the league's teams, which represented eight different cities in India, including Bengaluru. The Bangalore franchise was acquired by Vijay Mallya for US\$111.6 million, making it the second-highest bid, slightly less than Reliance Industries' US\$111.9 million bid for the Mumbai Indians.[8]

Ahead of the 2008 player auction, the IPL designated Rahul Dravid as the icon player for the Bangalore franchise. This designation ensured that Dravid would be paid 15% more than the highest bid player at the auction.[9] The franchise acquired several prominent Indian and international players, including Jacques Kallis, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Mark Boucher, Dale Steyn, and Cameron White.[10] In the second round of the auction, they also signed Ross Taylor, Misbah-ul-Haq, and India under-19 World Cup-winning captain Virat Kohli.[11] The franchise named Dravid as the captain of the team and appointed Venkatesh Prasad as the head coach.[12] The team struggled in the inaugural season, winning only four out of their 14 matches and finishing seventh in the eight-team table.[13] Dravid was the sole player to score more than 300 runs in the tournament, and the team even had to bench their most expensive foreign player, Kallis, for several matches due to his poor form.[14][15] Midway through the season, the string of failures led to the sacking of CEO Charu Sharma, who was replaced by Brijesh Patel. Mallya publicly criticised Dravid and Sharma for their selection of players at the auction, stating that his "biggest mistake was to abstain from the selection of the team."[16] Eventually, the chief cricketing officer of the franchise, Martin Crowe, resigned and Prasad was replaced by Ray Jennings as the head coach.[17]

At the 2009 player auction, the franchise signed Kevin Pietersen for a record US\$1.55 million, making him the most expensive player alongside Andrew Flintoff (Chennai

Super Kings).[18] They also traded Zaheer Khan for Robin Uthappa with the Mumbai Indians and brought in local batsman Manish Pandey.[19][20] Due to general elections in India, the tournament was held in South Africa.[21] Pietersen was named captain, but after a string of initial losses, Anil Kumble took over the captaincy when Pietersen left for national duty.[22] RCB's performance improved under Kumble, winning six of their last eight matches to finish third in the league table.[23] They defeated Chennai Super Kings in the semi-final but fell short by six runs in the final against Deccan Chargers.[24][25]

In 2010, the Royal Challengers, under Kumble's captaincy, secured seven wins from 14 matches, accumulating 14 points. Tied with three other teams for a playoff spot, their superior net run rate qualified them for the semi-finals.[26] In the semi-final, they were defeated by the table-toppers, the Mumbai Indians, by 35 runs.[27] However, the Royal Challengers secured a convincing nine-wicket win over the defending champions, the Deccan Chargers, in the third-place playoff, thus qualifying for the 2010 Champions League Twenty20.[28] Kumble retired at the conclusion of the Champions League, having led the team to the semi-finals of both the IPL and the CLT20 that year.[29]

On 8 January 2011, the IPL Governing Council held the auction for the fourth season of the league. Franchises had the option of retaining a maximum of four players for a sum of US\$4.5 million.[30] However, RCB retained only Virat Kohli, leaving their other players to re-enter the auction pool. During the auction, Bangalore made significant acquisitions, including Tillakaratne Dilshan, Zaheer Khan, AB de Villiers, Daniel Vettori, Saurabh Tiwary, Dirk Nannes, and Cheteshwar Pujara.[31] Daniel Vettori was named captain for the season.[32] RCB began their campaign with a win over the newly formed Kochi Tuskers Kerala.[33] However, they faced three consecutive defeats against Mumbai Indians, Deccan Chargers, and Chennai Super Kings.[34][35][36] Dirk

Nannes was replaced by Chris Gayle because of an injury.[37] Gayle's inclusion led RCB to a seven-match winning streak.[38][39] In their final league match, RCB defeated defending champions Chennai Super Kings, securing the top position in the points table.[40] They lost the final, again facing the Super Kings, by 58 runs. Chris Gayle was named Man of the Tournament.[41] Royal Challengers Bangalore reached the 2011 Champions League Twenty20 semi-finals after finishing runner-up in the IPL. They won their final group match against Southern Redbacks on the last ball and beat New South Wales Blues in the semis.[42][43] They lost the final to Mumbai Indians.[44]

Before the 2012 auction, RCB retained Chris Gayle and secured Andrew McDonald from Delhi Daredevils.[45][46] In the auction, RCB acquired Vinay Kumar and Muttiah Muralitharan.[47] RCB began the 2012 IPL season without Chris Gayle, who was recovering from an injury.[48] AB de Villiers and Muttiah Muralitharan contributed to a winning start against Delhi Daredevils.[49] RCB won eight out of their sixteen games but failed to qualify for the playoffs.[50][51] Gayle was the highest run-scorer of the tournament with 733 runs, including a century.[52]

Before the 2013 auction, RCB released Mohammad Kaif, Charl Langeveldt, Dirk Nannes, Luke Pomersbach, and Rilee Rossouw.[53] At the auction, they acquired Christopher Barnwell, Daniel Christian, Moises Henriques, Ravi Rampaul, Pankaj Singh, R. P. Singh, and Jaydev Unadkat.[54] Virat Kohli replaced Daniel Vettori as captain and remained in that role until 2021.[55][56] During the IPL season, RCB finished fifth in the group stage points table with 9 wins from 16 matches, failing to qualify for the playoffs.[57] Chris Gayle was the second highest run scorer of the tournament, behind Michael Hussey of the Chennai Super Kings, while Vinay Kumar was the team's highest wicket-taker with 23 wickets.[58][59]

Before the 2014 auction, RCB retained AB de Villiers, Chris Gayle, and Virat Kohli from previous seasons.[60] The players bought in the 2014 auction included Albie Morkel, Mitchell Starc, Parthiv Patel, Ashok Dinda, Nic Maddinson, Varun Aaron, Yuzvendra Chahal, Vijay Zol, and Yuvraj Singh, who was the most expensive player at ₹14 crore (equivalent to ₹22 crore or US\$2.6 million in 2023), among others.[61] Daniel Vettori replaced Ray Jennings as the head coach of the team.[62] The first phase of the IPL was held in the UAE and the second phase in India.[63] RCB finished 7th in the points table and did not qualify for the playoffs.[64] De Villiers was the highest run-scorer for the team with 395 runs, while Varun Aaron took the most wickets, claiming 16.[65][66]

Before the 2015 auction, RCB secured Manvinder Bisla from Kolkata Knight Riders and Iqbal Abdulla from Rajasthan Royals, as well as Mandeep Singh from Kings XI Punjab during the transfer window.[67] In the auction, they bought Daren Sammy, Sean Abbott, Subramaniam Badrinath, Sarfaraz Khan, and Dinesh Karthik, among others.[68] Royal Challengers started their season with a win against KKR at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.[69] During the group stage, they won a total of seven out of fourteen matches, finishing in third place on the points table.[70] In the playoffs, they defeated Rajasthan Royals in the Eliminator by 71 runs.[71] However, in the second qualifier against the Chennai Super Kings, RCB lost by 3 wickets, knocking them out of the tournament.[72] AB de Villiers, Virat Kohli, and Chris Gayle were the 4th, 5th, and 6th highest run-scorers of the season, respectively, while Yuzvendra Chahal was the team's highest wicket-taker and the 3rd highest overall in the season.[73][74]

Amid financial scandals involving owner and chairman Vijay Mallya, Amrit Thomas became the chairman of the Royal Challengers.[75] In the 2016 season, RCB introduced different jerseys for home and away matches.[76] During the player auction, they acquired Shane Watson, Kane Richardson, Stuart Binny, Travis Head, and Samuel

Badree, among others.[77] Additionally, KL Rahul and Parvez Rasool joined RCB from Sunrisers Hyderabad.[78] RCB won their first match of the season against Sunrisers, with AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli scoring 82 and 75 runs, respectively.[79] However, they struggled in the next six matches, securing only one win against Rising Pune Supergiant, which made it challenging to qualify for the playoffs. However, RCB qualified for the playoffs, losing only one match in their next seven games.[80] They set a record by defeating the Gujarat Lions with a winning margin of 144 runs, the highest in IPL history.[81][a] RCB finished the group stage in second place on the points table with 16 points.[83] In the playoffs, they faced Gujarat Lions in Qualifier 1 at their home ground, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, and won by 4 wickets, advancing to their third final in nine seasons.[84] In the final against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bangalore, RCB lost by 8 runs, ending the season as runners-up for the third time in IPL history.[85] Yuzvendra Chahal and Shane Watson were the second and third highest wicket-takers of the tournament, while Virat Kohli won the Orange Cap for scoring the most runs in the tournament, amassing 973 runs—the highest ever in IPL history.[86][87][88]

In the 2017 player auctions, the Royal Challengers acquired Tymal Mills, Aniket Choudhary, Pawan Negi, Praveen Dubey, and Billy Stanlake.[89] Mitchell Starc parted ways with the team to rehabilitate ahead of the Champions Trophy, prompting the management to replace him with Tymal Mills.[90][91] The season for RCB was impacted by injuries, with skipper Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers missing the initial matches. This led to Shane Watson stepping in as the interim captain. Batsmen KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan were also ruled out for the season due to prolonged injuries.[92] RCB finished at the bottom of the table, losing ten out of their fourteen matches.[93] In a match against the Kolkata Knight Riders, RCB was all out for just 49 runs, marking the lowest score ever in an IPL match.[94][95] Virat Kohli was the leading run-scorer for the team with 308 runs in the tournament, while Pawan Negi took the

most wickets, claiming 16.[96][97]

Ahead of the 2018 IPL, RCB retained Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, and Sarfaraz Khan.[98] During the auction, they acquired notable players such as Brendon McCullum, Chris Woakes, Colin de Grandhomme, Moeen Ali, Quinton de Kock, Umesh Yadav, and Yuzvendra Chahal, among others.[99] In January 2018, Gary Kirsten was appointed as the batting coach, and Ashish Nehra took on the role of bowling coach.[100] In the group stage, RCB finished sixth in the points table, failing to qualify for the playoffs.[101] Virat Kohli was the team's leading run-scorer, while Umesh Yadav took the most wickets.[102][103]

In August 2018, Gary Kirsten was appointed as the head coach of the Royal Challengers Bangalore, replacing Daniel Vettori.[104] During the 2019 IPL auction, the team acquired Shivam Dube, Shimron Hetmyer, Heinrich Klaasen, and Devdutt Padikkal, along with other key players.[105] During the season, Dale Steyn joined the team, replacing the injured Nathan Coulter-Nile.[106] Steyn played only two games before being ruled out of the tournament due to a shoulder injury.[107] In the group stage, RCB played 14 games, winning five, and finished at the bottom of the table.[108] Virat Kohli was once again the highest run-scorer for the team, while Yuzvendra Chahal was the highest wicket-taker.[109][110]

In August 2019, Simon Katich replaced Gary Kirsten as the head coach of the team, and Mike Hesson was appointed as the director of cricket operations.[111] Ahead of the 2020 IPL auction, RCB released several players, including Colin de Grandhomme, Dale Steyn, Heinrich Klaasen, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Akshdeep Nath, Marcus Stoinis, Shimron Hetmyer, and Tim Southee.[112] During the auction, RCB added Aaron Finch, Chris Morris, Joshua Philippe, Kane Richardson, Pavan Deshpande, Dale Steyn, Shahbaz

Ahmed, and Isuru Udana to their squad.[113] They also released a new logo ahead of the season.[114] The 2020 IPL season was postponed and eventually held in the UAE due to the COVID-19 pandemic.[115] RCB qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2016, finishing fourth on the points table with 14 points.[116] They faced Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator but lost by six wickets.[117] Devdutt Padikkal was the team's leading run-scorer with 473 runs, followed by Virat Kohli with 466 runs and AB de Villiers with 454 runs.[118] Yuzvendra Chahal was the highest wicket-taker, taking 21 wickets, followed by Chris Morris and Mohammad Siraj, who each took 11 wickets.[119]

During the 2021 IPL auction, RCB acquired Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Sachin Baby, Kyle Jamieson, Srikar Bharat, Rajat Patidar, Dan Christian, and Suyash Prabhudessai.[120] The season was suspended midway due to a sudden rise in COVID-19 cases among players and resumed in September in the UAE.[121][122] Before the season's resumption, the team's head coach, Simon Katich, resigned, and Mike Hesson took over as head coach.[123] RCB qualified for the playoffs by finishing third in the points table but failed to lift the trophy once again, losing to fourth placed Kolkata Knight Riders in the Eliminator.[124][125] Harshal Patel finished the season with 32 wickets, equalling Dwayne Bravo's record for the highest number of wickets taken in a season and winning the Purple Cap.[126][127] Glenn Maxwell was the highest run-scorer for the team with 513 runs, the fifth highest in the season.[128] Virat Kohli became the first-ever batsman to score 6,000 runs in the IPL during this season.[129] This season marked AB de Villiers's last in the IPL, as he announced his retirement in November 2021.[130]

In the 2022 season, the Royal Challengers underwent significant changes. Faf du Plessis was announced as the new captain following Virat Kohli's decision to step down from

the role after the 2021 season.[131] Additionally, Sanjay Bangar was appointed as the new head coach.[132] During the auction, RCB acquired several key players, including Wanindu Hasaranga, Harshal Patel, Finn Allen, Mahipal Lomror, Dinesh Karthik, Josh Hazlewood, and Jason Behrendorff.[133] The season also saw the expansion of the league to include two new teams, making it a 10-team competition. RCB managed to advance past the eliminator stage for the first time in two seasons but ultimately fell short of winning the title, losing to Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2.[134] du Plessis finished the season as the team's highest run-scorer with 468 runs, while Hasaranga was the leading wicket-taker with 26 wickets.[135][136]

Ahead of the 2023 season, RCB acquired Reece Topley, Will Jacks, Rajan Kumar, Avinash Singh, Sonu Yadav, Himanshu Sharma, and Manoj Bhadange in the auction.[137] The team won seven of their fourteen matches, finishing sixth in the group stage and failing to qualify for the playoffs.[138] Faf du Plessis was the top run-scorer, while Mohammed Siraj took the most wickets for the team.[139][140]

The Royal Challengers struggled in the first half of the season, losing seven of their first eight games. However, they managed to qualify for the playoffs by winning their next six matches.[141] In the Eliminator against Rajasthan Royals, RCB lost the match by four wickets, failing once again to lift the trophy.[142] Virat Kohli won the Orange Cap, scoring 741 runs, while Yash Dayal became the team's highest wicket-taker with 15 wickets.[143][144]

Vijay Mallya wanted to associate one of his top-selling liquor brands, either McDowell's No.1 or Royal Challenge with the team.[145] The latter was chosen, hence the name.

The logo initially consisted of the RC emblem in yellow on a circular red base with the

black text "Royal Challengers Bangalore" in standard format surrounding the circular logo. The RC crown emblem with the roaring lion placed on the top of the logo was derived from the original Royal Challenge logo. No significant changes took place in the design of the logo except for the replacement of colour yellow with gold from 2009. This logo also had a dotted white circle around the RC emblem. The team also uses an alternate logo for the Game for Green matches where the green plants surround the logo and the text Game for Green is placed below the logo. The logo was redesigned in 2016 with the inclusion of black as a secondary colour. The lion emblem in the crest was enlarged and the shield was omitted in the new design. In 2020, a new logo was unveiled featuring a bigger lion and the crown returning from the previous logo. The RC emblem was omitted for this crest.[146]

The jersey colours of the team in 2008 were red and golden yellow, the same as the unofficial Kannada flag, with player names printed in white and numbers printed in black in the rear. Yellow was replaced with gold in the future seasons. Starting from 2010, blue was introduced on the apparel as a tertiary colour. The jersey design saw tweaks every season, major being the one for 2014 where blue dominated over gold. From 2014, the player names and numbers were printed in gold. As of 2015,[update] more yellowish shade of gold was used on the jerseys. Black replaced blue as the tertiary colour in 2016. Also from 2016, two versions of the jersey were used, one for home matches and the other for away ones. The kit design remained the same until 2019. The home and away concept was scrapped from 2020 and a darker shade of blue replaced black. A design similar to the previous "home" version of the jersey was adopted for 2020 and 2021. A completely redesigned jersey with the deep blue as a dominant shade with gold accents was used in 2022 while red was seen predominantly on the trousers.

RCB also have a tradition of replacing red with green on the kits for the "Game for Green" matches which occur once a season. In 2020, as a tribute to the COVID-19 frontline workers, a match was played by RCB with sky-blue colour replacing red on the kits.

Reebok manufactured kits for the team from 2008 to 2014 and Adidas supplied the kits in 2015. Zeven manufactured the kits for the team from 2016 to 2019.[147] Wrogn manufactured the kits in 2020 while Puma became the official kit manufacturer since 2020.

Katrina Kaif was the brand ambassador for the team in 2008. Deepika Padukone, Ramya, Puneeth Rajkumar, Shiva Rajkumar, Uendra and Ganesh have been the ambassadors for the team in the later seasons.[148]

The rivalry between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore is one of the oldest in the IPL. The inaugural match of IPL was played between both the teams in which KKR won by 140 runs due to a 158* off just 73 balls by Brendon McCullum.[149]

In the IPL 2009, RCB won in both encounters against Knight Riders. During the second time they faced each other, Ross Taylor played a notable innings, scoring 81* runs off 33 balls, contributing significantly to RCB's victory by six wickets.[150]

In the 2012 edition of IPL, KKR was at the lower half of the IPL table and needed to win the crucial match against RCB. KKR won the toss and chose to bat first. Skipper Gautam Gambhir led from the front with 93 (51). In reply, RCB lost wickets at regular intervals, as only Chris Gayle managed to put up a fight with a score of 86 (58).[151] The next time they met, Gambhir again was the thorn in RCB's side as he top scored for KKR at a

tough pitch, taking KKR to a competitive total of 165. RCB in reply made 129, as Lakshmipathy Balaji ripped through their line-up with a 4/18 in 4 overs.[152]

In the 2015 IPL edition, RCB and KKR took part in a match reduced due to rain. It was reduced to a 10-over match. RCB won the toss and elected to field. For KKR, Andre Russell was the top scorer as he scored 45 off just 17 balls. He took them to a score of 111/4 in just 10 overs. Mitchell Starc took one wicket for 15 runs in 2 overs. In reply, RCB were at 0-48 at 3.4 overs before Brad Hogg got Chris Gayle out. After that, RCB stuttered and started to collapse as they were reduced to 3-81 in 7.2 overs. When Virat Kohli got out to Andre Russell, the match looked to be over for RCB. However, Mandeep Singh scored 45 off just 18 balls, hitting 3 sixes and 4 fours.[153]

In the 2017 IPL edition, Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore again faced each other twice. In the first match between them, RCB got KKR out for a score of 131 after KKR had made a strong start of 0-48 in 3.3 overs. However, KKR dismissed RCB for 49, the lowest team score in the history of IPL. Nathan Coulter Nile, Colin de Grandhomme and Chris Woakes got three wickets each.[153] In the next match, Sunil Narine scored what was then the fastest fifty in IPL (50 off 15 balls - which is now the second-fastest). KKR made the highest score made in powerplay in any IPL match, and easily chased down the target offered by RCB.[153]

The 2019 IPL saw Virat Kohli scoring 84 off 49 and AB de Villiers scoring 63 off 32, taking RCB to a total of 205/3. KKR had a strong start, scoring 28/0 in 1.3 overs before losing wickets at regular intervals and having their run rate reduced. They were 139/4 in 15.5 overs. However, Dinesh Karthik and Andre Russell brought back the chase under control. Karthik got out after scoring 19 off 15, leaving KKR at 153/5 in 17 overs. Andre Russell, however, took KKR over the line as he scored 48 off 13, hitting Mohammed Siraj

for 23 runs in one over.[153]

In the next match, RCB struck back as Virat Kohli made his 5th IPL century, scoring 100 runs in 58 balls only. Moeen Ali scored 66 runs in only 28 balls as RCB scored 213 runs. For KKR, Nitish Rana scored 85 off 46 and Andre Russell scored 65 off 25, taking the game down to the wire. However, RCB won the match by 10 runs, with Virat Kohli being Man of the Match.[154]

The rivalry is also called "Kaveri derby", "Southern derby" and "South Indian derby".[155][156][157] The Super Kings beat the Royal Challengers in the final of the 2011 IPL, the only meeting between the two teams at an IPL final.[158]

Another notable rivalry involving RCB is with the Hyderabad franchises, first with the Deccan Chargers and now with the Sunrisers Hyderabad. The Deccan Chargers won six out of the 11 clashes between the two and the Sunrisers currently lead with 12 games to 11. There is also a notable trend where the Hyderabad franchise has jeopardised RCB's campaigns in some way or the other. In the 2009 and 2016 seasons, they were beaten in the finals by Chargers and Sunrisers respectively. In the 2020 season, Sunrisers knocked RCB out of the tournament in the eliminator. In the 2021 season, Sunrisers, who did not qualify for the playoffs, were able to beat RCB, causing them to finish in 3rd place and forcing them to play the eliminator, which they lost to KKR.[159] Their 2022 IPL campaign was also affected by SRH, whom they lost to by 9 wickets after scoring 68 in their first encounter, putting them under pressure because of their negative run rate throughout their otherwise strong campaign.[160]

In the latest chapter of the rivalry between the two in IPL 2024, like the Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad were the first to break the 263-run record set by RCB, which seemed insurmountable at the time as a result of Chris Gayle's 175. In a more

humiliating turn, SRH again broke RCB's record against RCB themselves on their home ground, scoring 287 runs, thanks to a 39-ball century by Travis Head and a 30-ball 67 by Heinrich Klassen. Although there was a valiant effort by RCB, spearheaded by Dinesh Karthik's 83 off 35 and captain Faf du Plessis's 62 off 28, RCB still lost by 25 runs.[161] SRH would break RCB's 263 record for the third time and score 266 against the Delhi Capitals after setting an all-time T20 record by scoring 125 runs inside the power-play.

The Royal Challengers have a huge and passionate fan base all over India and especially in the city of Bangalore. The fans, known to be loyal and vocal in their support,[162] often turn up in large numbers for RCB's home matches, turning the stadium into what is called a "sea of red".[163][164][165] They are well known for their chants of "R-C-B, R-C-B" and chants of "A-B-D, A-B-D" for their maestro batsman AB de Villiers,[166][167] and the co-ordinated Mexican wave at the Chinnaswamy.[168] The stadium organisers also provide the home team fans with cheer kits, RCB flags and noisemakers among other items.[169] Royal Challengers Bangalore have formed a fan-following group named as Bold Army.

During the 2014 IPL, the Royal Challengers became the first team to provide free Wi-Fi connectivity to fans at their home ground. 50 access points were set up using fibre-optic cables to provide the connectivity to fans on match days at the Chinnaswamy.[170]

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Sunrisers Hyderabad

T20 kit

Sunrisers Hyderabad, aka SRH, are a professional franchise cricket team based in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, that plays in the Indian Premier League.[4] The franchise is owned by Kalanithi Maran of the SUN Group and was founded in 2012 after the Hyderabad-based Deccan Chargers were terminated by the IPL.[5] The team is currently coached by Daniel Vettori and captained by Pat Cummins. Their primary home ground is the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad, which has a capacity of 39,000.[6]

The team made their first IPL appearance in 2013, where they reached the playoffs, eventually finishing in fourth place. The Sunrisers won their maiden IPL title in the 2016 season, defeating the Royal Challengers Bangalore by 8 runs in the final. The team has qualified for the play-off stage of the tournament for five consecutive seasons between 2016 and 2020. In 2018, the team reached the finals of the Indian Premier League, but lost to Chennai Super Kings. In 2024, the team reached the finals of the Indian Premier League, but lost to Kolkata Knight Riders. The team was considered one of the best bowling sides, often admired for its ability to defend low totals, but now has shifted to a remarkable batting side, according to many cricket pundits. The team also holds the record for the highest-ever IPL total with 287 runs.[7] David Warner is the leading run scorer for the side, having won the Orange Cap three times, in 2015, 2017, and 2019.[8] Bhuvneshwar Kumar is the leading wicket-taker having won the Purple Cap twice, in 2016 and 2017.[9][10] The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the brand value of the Sunrisers Hyderabad which saw a decline of 4 percent to US\$57.4 million in 2020 as the overall brand value of the IPL decreased to US\$4.4 billion, according to Brand

Finance.[11]

Sunrisers Hyderabad replaced the Deccan Chargers in 2012 and debuted in 2013. The franchise was taken over by Sun TV Network after the Deccan Chronicle went bankrupt. The squad was announced in Chennai on 18 December 2012. The team is owned by Sun TV Network who won the bid with ₹85.05 crore (US\$9.7 million) per year for a five-year deal, a week after the Chargers were terminated due to prolonged financial issues. Sun TV Network Limited, which is headquartered in Chennai, is one of India's biggest television networks with 32 TV channels and 45 FM radio stations, making it India's largest media and entertainment company.[12]

The team jersey was unveiled on 8 March 2013, and the team anthem composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar was released on 12 March 2013. The logo was unveiled on 20 December 2012, along with the announcement that the team's management would be led by Kris Srikkanth, now replaced by veteran Muttiah Muralitharan, Tom Moody and V. V. S. Laxman.[13][14]

Sunrisers Hyderabad made their IPL debut in the 2013 season.[4] They retained 20 players from the Chargers, which left slots open for 13 players (eight Indian, five overseas). They filled six of these with Thisara Perera, Darren Sammy, Sudeep Tyagi, Nathan McCullum, Quinton de Kock and Clint McKay. Kumar Sangakkara captained SRH for nine matches and Cameron White was captain for the remaining seven, as well as the eliminator match in the playoffs.[15] In their inaugural season, the team reached the playoffs but were eliminated after losing against Rajasthan Royals by 4 wickets at Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi on 22 May 2013.[16] The team played all of their home games in Hyderabad.

For the 2014 season, Pune Warriors India was defunct and not replaced, leaving only eight teams in the league. The team retained two players, Dale Steyn and Shikhar Dhawan.[17] As a result of this retention, the team had an auction purse of ₹380 million (US\$4.3 million) and two right-to-match cards.[18] Shikhar Dhawan and Darren Sammy were named as captain and vice captain respectively.[19] Due to the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, the season was partially held outside India with the opening 20 matches hosted in the United Arab Emirates[20] and the remaining matches played in India from 2 May onwards.[21] The team finished in 6th place with six wins and eight losses, failing to secure a place in the playoffs. Dhawan led the team for the first ten matches while Sammy led the team for remaining four.[19]

For the 2015 season, SRH retained 13 players and released 11.[22] David Warner was appointed as the captain for this season and led the team in all matches played.[23] Muttiah Muralitharan was appointed the team's bowling coach as well as mentor. Sunrisers Hyderabad played their first three home games at Visakhapatnam and the remaining four home games at Hyderabad.[24] The team again finished 6th with seven wins and seven losses, failing to reach the playoffs. Warner won the first Orange Cap for SRH.[25]

For the 2016 season, SRH retained 15 players and released nine.[26][27] After the auction, SRH traded two players.[28] Sunrisers Hyderabad were crowned champions under David Warner's magnificent captaincy after defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore in the final and ending the season with 11 wins and six losses. This was their maiden, and to date only, title. Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first Sunrisers Hyderabad player to win the Purple Cap.

For the 2017 season, SRH retained 17 players and released six from the title-winning

squad. The team then spent ₹45.1 crore (US\$5.2 million) at the auction, leaving ₹20.9 crore (US\$2.4 million) remaining.[29] As the defending champions, as per IPL norms, SRH hosted both the opening and closing ceremonies of the season. The team finished 3rd on points in the table. They lost against the Kolkata Knight Riders in the eliminator match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore. The team made a below-par total of 128-7 in 20 overs, but the Kolkata Knight Riders' innings was reduced to just six overs due to rain. The revised total was 48, which the Knight Riders met with seven wickets and four balls remaining. Bhuvneshwar Kumar was able to retain the Purple Cap[30] while David Warner won the Orange Cap.[31]

For the 2018 season, the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals were reinstated in the league after serving a two-year suspension from the competition due to the involvement of their players in the 2013 IPL betting scandal.[32] The IPL governing council decided that a maximum of five players can be retained by each IPL team. SRH retained only two players and released all remaining players from the squad. The retention of two players meant SRH went in to the 2018 IPL auction with ₹59 crore in their auction purse and three right-to-match (RTM) cards. The salary deduction for every retained player from the franchise's salary purse was stipulated to be ₹15 crore, ₹11 crore and ₹7 crore if three players were retained; ₹12.5 crore and ₹8.5 crore if two players were retained; and ₹12.5 crore if only one player was retained. For retaining an uncapped player, salary deduction was set at ₹3 crore.[33][34] David Warner had stepped down from captaincy on 28 March 2018 and the BCCI announced that he will not be allowed to play in IPL 2018 following the Australian ball-tampering controversy.[35] On 29 March, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was chosen to lead SRH for the 2018 season. On 31 March, England batsman Alex Hales was announced as replacement for the banned Warner.[36][37][38] SRH finished the 2018 season as runners-up of the competition after losing to Chennai Super Kings in the final

with 10 wins and seven losses.[39] Williamson won the Orange Cap with 735 runs.[40]

Ahead of the auction, SRH traded Shikhar Dhawan to Delhi Capitals in favour of Shahbaz Nadeem, Vijay Shankar and Abhishek Sharma. SRH retained 17 players and released nine players. On auction day (18 December 2018), SRH bought three new players; Jonny Bairstow, Martin Guptill and Wriddhiman Saha, the latter of which was bought back in the auction after initially being released. David Warner made a comeback to IPL on 24 March 2019 after he was banned by BCCI to participate in 2018 season due to Australian ball-tampering controversy. SRH decided to stay with Kane Williamson as captain and Bhuvneshwar Kumar as vice-captain. Before start of the season, Williamson was nursing an injury and Kumar led the team in the first game against Kolkata Knight Riders and from the third game till the sixth game. SRH ended the 2019 season with 6 wins and 9 losses. They lost against Delhi Capitals in the Eliminator at Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam. Warner won the orange cap in this season.[41]

Ahead of the auction, SRH retained 18 players and released 5 players. On auction day (19 December 2019), SRH bought 7 new players including the likes of Mitchell Marsh and Priyam Garg among others. SRH parted ways with Tom Moody and Simon Helmot and named Trevor Bayliss and Brad Haddin as Head coach and Assistant Coach respectively. On 27 February 2020, Warner was reinstated as captain of SRH replacing Kane Williamson.[42] SRH ended their 2020 campaign with 8 wins and 8 losses. In the playoffs, they beat the Royal Challengers Bangalore before losing to the Delhi Capitals in the Qualifier 2 at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi with Warner as their highest run-scorer for the season.

Ahead of the 2021 auction, SRH retained 22 players and released 5 players. On auction

day (18 February 2021), SRH bought 3 players – J Suchith, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Kedar Jadhav. In addition, SRH added Tom Moody back to the staff team as the Director of Cricket. Following the team's poor start to the season with 1 win from 7 games, SRH announced Kane Williamson as their captain for the remainder of the season replacing David Warner.[43]

Tom Moody and Simon Helmot became the head coach and assistant-coach respectively for their second stint following the departure of Trevor Bayliss and Brad Haddin as Head coach and assistant coach respectively. Dale Steyn has been appointed as the Fast bowling coach for SRH while Muttiah Muralitharan remained as the spin bowling coach. Ahead of the Mega auction, SRH retained Kane Williamson, Abdul Samad, and Umran Malik and has released other players including Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Rashid Khan, Manish Pandey, Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul for the 2022 Mega auction. SRH has bought Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T. Natarajan, Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram, Rahul Tripathi, Abhishek Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Washington Sundar, Nicholas Pooran and Glenn Phillips during the IPL 2022 Mega auction. Kane Williamson led the team in the 2022 season. They finished in 8th place on the points table. After initial success, the team lost five back-to-back matches and didn't qualify for the playoffs.[44]

SRH appointed Brian Lara as the head coach ahead of the 2023 season replacing Tom Moody.[45] SRH have announced Aiden Markram as the new captain for 2023 season replacing former captain Kane Williamson following a poor 2022 season. Ahead of the auction, SRH retained 12 players while the franchise released their captain Kane Williamson and other players including Nicholas Pooran, Jagadeesha Suchith, and Romario Shepherd. On the auction day, their significant buys were Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaasen and Adil Rashid.[46] The team disappointed, managing only

4 wins over the season (including a solitary win at the home ground) while many players had difficult campaigns, including Brook, Agarwal and Malik with Heinrich Klaasen, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mayank Markande performances being the positives.

Following the 2023 season debacle, SRH announced Daniel Vettori as the head coach replacing Brian Lara and released the likes of Harry Brook, Adil Rashid, and Kartik Tyagi ahead of the IPL 2024 auction. SRH traded Mayank Dagar to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and got Shahbaz Ahmed in return ahead of the players retention/release deadline. On the auction day, SRH purchased the likes of Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jaydev Unadkat. SRH announced Pat Cummins as the new captain for the 2024 season replacing former captain Aiden Markram following a poor 2023 season.

The team started off their campaign with a narrow defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders. On 27 March 2024, Sunrisers Hyderabad surpassed Royal Challengers Bengaluru's 11-year-old record of the highest-ever IPL total of 263 runs by scoring 277 against Mumbai Indians, & securing a 31-run victory at the in Hyderabad.[47][48] Following this, the team endured another narrow defeat to Gujarat Titans. The team then went with a 4 match winning streak against Chennai Super Kings, Punjab Kings, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals with the last 3 being at their respective home grounds.

On 15 April 2024, Sunrisers Hyderabad broke their own record for the highest IPL total with a sensational 287 for three against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Bengaluru. SRH's total is also the second-highest T20 cricket, only behind Nepal's 314/3 against Mongolia in 2023. In reply, RCB racked up 262 for seven in a 25-run defeat, the highest T20 score ever to end up on the losing side.[49]

Following the 4 match winning streak, the team had recorded its solitary home defeat against Royal Challengers Bangalore followed by a defeat against CSK in Chennai. SRH pulled off a 1 run win against Rajasthan Royals at home with Bhuvneshwar Kumar defending 12 runs (needed for Rajasthan to clinch the win) and dismissing Rovman Powell on the final delivery off the match. The team then lost to Mumbai Indians in Mumbai. The team has returned to Hyderabad for their final 3 league games, the team has chased down Lucknow Super Giants total of 165 in 9.4 overs without losing a single wicket, followed by a washout against Gujarat Titans and have finished off the league stage with a win against Punjab Kings at home and ended at number 2 position in the table marking a return to playoffs after 4 years.

The team played against Kolkata Knight Riders at Ahmedabad in Qualifier 1, which they lost by 8 wickets and played the qualifier 2 against Rajasthan Royals in Chennai, won the match by 36 runs and advanced to finals to play Kolkata Knight Riders in Chennai. The team ended the season as runners up with Kolkata Knight Riders winning by 8 wickets, the team has finished with 9 wins, 7 losses and 1 No result.

Last updated: 26 May 2024 [50]

The Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium is the principal cricket stadium in Hyderabad and is the home ground of the SRH. It is owned by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). It is located in the eastern suburb of Uppal and has a seating capacity of 40,000.

In 2015, the 30,000-capacity Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, which is located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, was selected as the secondary

home ground for Sunrisers Hyderabad and the team played their first three home games there during that season.

During the 2017 season, as the Sunrisers Hyderabad were defending IPL champions, they hosted the season opener and final. SRH selected their primary home ground to host their home games.

During the 2019 season, Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium was selected to host the IPL final after the BCCI decided to shift the match from M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai after TNCA failed to secure permission to open three locked stands for the match.[51] Hyderabad Cricket Association won the award for best ground and pitch during the IPL 2019 and IPL 2024 seasons.[52]

This section include records against other teams at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in IPL.

There is a notable rivalry between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and the Hyderabad franchises, first with Deccan Chargers and now with Sunrisers Hyderabad. The clashes between Bengaluru and Hyderabad have been intense with the latter ultimately dominating the former. Deccan Chargers had won 6 out of the 11 clashes between the two and Sunrisers currently lead with 13 games to the 11 games won by RCB as per the latest edition. There is also a notable trend where the Hyderabad franchise has jeopardised RCB's campaigns in some way or the other. The 2009 Indian Premier League final was won by Deccan Chargers and the 2016 Indian Premier League final was won by Sunrisers Hyderabad. Their 2020 clash was also at a high-stake eliminator, where a fifty by Kane Williamson trumped RCB to knock them out of IPL 2020. Even with their abysmal 2021 season, SRH were able to beat a rising RCB. RCB had the

opportunity to reach the top 2 but ended up in 3rd place, forcing them to play the eliminator, where they eventually lost to KKR, knocking them out of IPL 2021. RCB's 2022 IPL campaign was also affected by SRH, whom they lost to by 9 wickets after scoring 68 in their first encounter, putting them under pressure because of their negative run rate throughout their otherwise strong campaign.[54]

In the latest chapter of the rivalry between the two in IPL 2024, like the Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad were the first to break the 263-run record set by RCB, which seemed insurmountable at the time as a result of Chris Gayle's 175. In a more humiliating turn, SRH again broke RCB's record against RCB themselves on their home ground, scoring 287 runs, thanks to a 39-ball century by Travis Head and a 30-ball 67 by Heinrich Klassen. Although there was a valiant effort by RCB, spearheaded by Dinesh Karthik's 83 off 35 and captain Faf du Plessis's 62 off 28, RCB still lost by 25 runs.[55] The loss also worsened RCB's already unfavourable odds in their dismal IPL 2024 to qualify for the playoffs. SRH would break RCB's 263 record for the third time and score 266 against the Delhi Capitals after setting an all-time T20 record by scoring 125 runs inside the power-play.

Deccan Chargers

Deccan Chargers (abbreviated as DC) is a defunct IPL franchise which was based in the city of Hyderabad.[1] The franchise was one of the eight inaugural members of the IPL in 2008 and winner of 2009. It was owned by Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. After finishing at the bottom of the points table in the first season, they won the second season held in South Africa in 2009 under the captaincy of former Australian wicket-keeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist. Gilchrist was the captain of the team for the

first three seasons of the IPL with Rohit Sharma as his deputy. From the fourth season, Kumar Sangakkara led the team and Cameron White played as his deputy. The team was coached by former Australian cricketer Darren Lehmann.[2]

The owners put the franchise up for sale in 2012 due to constant banning of team players in previous seasons but declined the sole bid. On 14 September 2012, the IPL governing council terminated the franchise for breaching contract terms.[3] Subsequently, the Sun TV Network won the bid for the Hyderabad franchise, the BCCI confirmed on 25 October 2012.[4] The new team was named as Sunrisers Hyderabad.[5]

In July 2020, a Bombay High Court-appointed arbitration tribunal ruled that the termination of Deccan Chargers by BCCI was illegal. Deccan Chronicle Holding Ltd was awarded a compensation of ₹4814.67 crore plus 10% interest from 2012 by the BCCI.[6]

The Hyderabad franchise was bought by Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. The media group acquired the franchise for US\$107 million on 24 January 2008.[7] The Chargers logo is a charging bull.[8] From the 2009 season, the team changed the colour of the jersey (from beige and black to sparkling silver and blue) and the logo (from gold and red to white and blue). There was no Icon Player for the team as the former captain V.V.S. Laxman rejected the offer to be an icon player in order to free funds and enable the franchise to buy and encourage younger players.

The Deccan Chargers were a franchise cricket team based in Hyderabad, India. The team was created in 2009 by the Deccan Chronicle group and played in the Indian Premier League (IPL) until 2013.

The idea of starting a cricket team under the banner of Deccan Chronicle was first discussed on 11 November 2008 at a meeting with BCCI officials by K. K. Tiwari, Editor-in-chief of the newspaper and its owner T.Venkat Ram Reddy. It was decided that the team would be based in Hyderabad and have an affiliation with CSK for their training facilities. The decision to name it "Deccan Chargers" came from two sources: one being T.Venkat Ram Reddy's desire to give back to society after his success as an entrepreneur; and second, his love for horses which is reflected in his horse racing business called "Deccan Horse Racing".

Due to financial problems Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd, the team owner of Deccan Chargers announced a sale of their team by auction. The sale, announced in a newspaper advertisement on Thursday, was to be through a bidding process that was to be completed on 13 September, with the winning bid to be announced on the same day.[9] However the auction for the franchise on 13 September 2012 ended with no results as the team's owners rejecting the sole bid they received from PVP Ventures.[10] It was reported that Deccan Chargers owner rejected the bid by PVP ventures as DCHL's bankers were not happy with PVP's plan to divide the bid amount in two parts over the next ten years.[10] Later on 14 September 2012, the BCCI announced that the Deccan Chargers IPL franchise was terminated due to BCCI codes by DCHL[10] and the tender will be called for new team.[11] DCHL moved to court to sort their issues with BCCI on termination.[12]

The franchise initially acquired star players Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Shahid Afridi, Scott Styris and Herschelle Gibbs. The main bowlers purchased by the franchise were R.P. Singh, Nuwan Zoysa and Chaminda Vaas. The other Indian players are Rohit Sharma, Venugopal Rao, and Pragyan Ojha.[13]

Despite the fact that the team was one of the favorites to win the inaugural edition of the IPL, the team finished last. Andrew Symonds, who was Deccan's most expensive player, batted only 3 innings before leaving to play for the Australian national team. In addition, the team captain V.V.S. Laxman had an injury which ended his season after 6 games. Only three bowlers R. P. Singh, Pragyan Ojha and Shahid Afridi took more than 4 wickets in the competition. In this 14 match period, the team went on a losing streak at home and only managed 2 wins overall, one against the Mumbai Indians and one against the Chennai Super Kings and as a result they finished at the bottom of the table.

After the debacle of 2008, the team management sacked the entire administration associated with the tournament in that year. They removed their CEO J. Kalyan Krishnan, Coach Robin Singh and the Captain V.V.S. Laxman and replaced them with Tim Wright, the former Australian batsman Darren Lehmann and former Australian Wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist respectively. Many new players were taken from domestic circuit and also few new international players were signed. The 2008 sponsor Jaypee Group withdrew its sponsorship due to the 2008 debacle. After this, the Deccan Chargers went through a complete makeover, including changing the colours of the team from pale brown to vibrant blue and a new logo displaying a more vibrant charging bull with Deccan Chronicle as the primary sponsor for the team. Among the other members of the support staff, their physio Sean Slattery and performance analyst Unni Krishnan were retained and were part of the team to win the IPL second edition in 2009 which was held in South Africa.

In low key trading of players, the Deccan Chargers management had placed Shahid Afridi and Herschelle Gibbs up for sale, a direct result of their below par performance

during the 2008 season. However, no franchise owners were interested in purchasing these two players. Later, the Deccan Chargers management severed all ties with Shahid Afridi, due to his disagreement with former team captain V.V.S. Laxman. Also, Former Indian all-rounder Sanjay Bangar was transferred to the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Before the second player auction took place the management signed Queensland all-rounder Ryan Harris owing to a strong recommendation from coach Darren Lehmann. In the resulting auction the Deccan Chargers franchise acquired two West Indian players, Fidel Edwards for a fee of \$150,000, and Dwayne Smith for \$100,000. Seven new domestic players were also signed up including batsmen Tirumalasetti Suman and Abhinav Kumar, and bowler Shoaib Maqsoodi from the Hyderabad team after their consistent performances on the domestic circuit. Baroda batsman Azhar Bilakhia and two fast bowlers from Punjab, Jaskarandeep Singh and Harmeet Singh were also signed on.

With the below-par performance in the inaugural season and finishing at the bottom, Deccan staged an inspired comeback in 2009 by winning the second IPL season. After having an undefeated run in the initial league stage, the team suffered minor setbacks by losing some close matches. But the return of Andrew Symonds, Rohit Sharma regaining form and the continuing exuberance of captain Adam Gilchrist bolstered the side. Some luck came in Charger's way towards the end of the league stage, with Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals losing key matches, enabling the Chargers into the semi-finals. During the semi-finals against the Delhi Daredevils, who were at the top of the table, few gave the Chargers a chance of an outside win. But against the odds, Gilchrist scored a sensational 85 off just 35 balls to put the Daredevils out of the competition and give the Chargers their first IPL final against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

In the final match, Gilchrist got out for a duck in the first over; however, the Chargers managed to recover and posted a total of 143 for the loss of 6 wickets. Many felt that a good defending total could have been a further 20–30 runs. The Chargers came out with all guns blazing right from the first ball, and this spirited effort ensured that they successfully defended the total, winning the game by 6 runs and lifting the prized IPL trophy.

On 11 August 2009, Dinesh Wadhwa, former Regional Manager of ICICI Bank was appointed chief operating officer for 2010.

After winning 2009, there were high expectations on Chargers. Team opened with a loss in their inaugural match against KKR but subsequently won next three matches. But thereafter Chargers went on to lose the next five matches. With a situation where many doubted whether Chargers will be able to make to next round but they did it by winning next five consecutive matches and qualifying for playoffs. But Chargers lost both games in play-offs i.e. Semifinals and third place. Pragyan Ojha won the Purple Cap by becoming the highest wicket taker for them in the same season.

Before the start of auction Chargers decided not to retain any players and have put all the players in auction. The much awaited Auction on 8 and 9 January 2011 lived up to the expectation; in fact it exceeded in many ways. Daniel Christian was termed as million dollar baby as he was hardly known to the world cricket at that point of time. Chargers also picked up Cameron White, JP Duminy, Ishant Sharma, Dale Steyn and skipper Kumar Sangakkara, but at lost RP Singh, Rohit Sharma, and Andrew Symonds and Gilchrist.

Team started the campaign by losing first 2 games but team won next match. There after team started losing badly despite winning some games and was therefore eliminated from the competition. But team bounced back by showing pride by winning final 3 matches which did not allow a chance for other teams for qualifiers. Team disappointing performance was clearly due to inexperience in the squad especially due to lack of Indian international batsmen. Fans of DC have criticized management for not holding back Rohit Sharma during player retention. Chargers got to play IPL matches at Hyderabad after almost 3 years, but dismal performance at their home ground continued with a win against RCB being the only exception. However, in the away matches, Chargers did manage to beat Delhi Daredevils, Mumbai Indians, Knight Riders, Pune Warriors and Kings XI Punjab. They ended on a high with 3 consecutive wins but could not scale above 7th position in the league standings.

In 2012 Indian Premier League, Chargers named new fielding coach Trevor Penney replacing Mike Young.

In the trading window which opened in December, Chargers traded off Kevin Pietersen, Harmeet Singh and Pragyan Ojha to Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians respectively. During player auctions, Chargers had tried to bid Ravindra Jadeja for entire \$2m but eventually lost to the Super Kings in tie breaker. Later they acquired following players-

Daniel Harris (\$70,000), Darren Bravo (\$100,000), Parthiv Patel (\$650,000)

After the auction, they signed up a few uncapped players such as TP Sudhindra, Tanmay Srivastava, Biplab Samantray, Akshath Reddy and Ashish Reddy owing to their strong domestic performances.

Michael Lumb, Jaydev Shah, Ishan Malhotra

The Chargers failed to deliver on a consistent basis in 2012 with narrow and consecutive defeats. Shikhar Dhawan, Dale Steyn and Cameron White were the only players who helped the team put up a fight. Team weakness was the bowling and fielding department, with fast bowler Ishant Sharma being ruled out due to injury and spinner Pragyan Ojha traded to Mumbai Indians. Deccan finished eighth out of the nine teams in the league stage points table, after languishing at the bottom for most part of the season. Deccan Chargers came into the season being characterized as 'underdogs', and they are yet to lose that name.

The Twenty20 Champions League was an international Twenty20 cricket competition between clubs from India, Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and West Indies. The competition was launched in 2008 as a response to the success of national Twenty20 domestic cricket leagues, most notably the Indian Premier League.

On account of emerging as the winners of the 2009 season of the Indian Premier League, the team participated in the inaugural edition of the T20 Champions League, along with two other Indian teams: the runners-up of IPL 2009, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Delhi Daredevils, the toppers of the league-stage points table.

They were knocked out in the group stages after losing to the Somerset Sabres and Trinidad and Tobago, who they were drawn against in Group A.

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Gujarat Lions

T20I kit

Gujarat Lions was a franchise cricket team based in the city of Rajkot, that represented the Indian state of Gujarat in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The team played in the IPL, along with Rising Pune Supergiant for two seasons between 2016 and 2017 as one of the replacements for Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals who were both suspended for two seasons due to illegal betting by their respective owners.[5] The franchise was owned by Intex Technologies.[5][6][7][8]

The team played five of their home matches at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot and two of their home matches at Green Park Stadium, Kanpur in the IPL 2016.[9] In IPL 2016, the team won 9 matches, and topped the points table.[10]

In 2017, the team won four matches out of fourteen, and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team did not receive an extension to play in further seasons of the tournament,[11] and has been defunct since 2017.[12] In 2022, another Gujarati team, the Gujarat Titans, entered the IPL.

The team logo featured a lion. The team song is called "Game mari che" (The Game is ours, in Gujarati).[13]

Kochi Tuskers Kerala

Kochi Tuskers Kerala is a now defunct franchise cricket team that played in the Indian Premier League (IPL) representing the city of Kochi, Kerala. The team was one of two new franchises added to the IPL for the 2011 season, alongside Pune Warriors India. The team franchise was owned by Kochi Cricket Pvt Ltd., which was a consortium of multiple companies.

The KTK only played for one season, in 2011, and was terminated the following year.[1][2]

The auction for expanding the initial eight franchises for the Indian Premier League was held on 22 March 2010. The cities involved were Pune, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Nagpur, Kanpur, Dharamsala, Visakhapatnam, Rajkot, Cuttack, Vadodara, Indore and Gwalior. Two new teams were selected out of 12 cities. Sahara Group made the highest bid in the auction and chose to base its team in Pune, at the cost of US\$370m (₹1702 crore).[3] Rendezvous Sports World made the second highest bid of US\$333.2m (₹1533 crores), and elected to base its team in Kochi.[4] The two new franchises were sold for a combined sum greater than the combined purchase price of the original eight franchises.[5]

The franchise initially announced that the name of the team would be "Indi Commandos". This led to negative responses worldwide.[6] The franchise management suggested that a move to Ahmedabad was possible, moving the team away from Kochi,[7] due in part to a comparatively high entertainment tax in Kerala (36%).[8] This

invoked a mass response on social networks, particularly on Facebook,[9] forcing management to change the team name and logo. A poll on the franchise's official website eventually determined the team name.[10][11] The decision to move the home ground was dropped when the Corporation of Kochi waived 50% of the entertainment tax levee.[12]

Due to a dispute amongst the team owners, the franchise failed to pay the 10% bank guarantee element of the franchise fee which was supposed to be paid before the 2011 season began. The BCCI claimed that it had sent several requests for payment to the franchise owners but received no response.[13] On 19 September 2011, then BCCI president N. Srinivasan announced that the franchise was being terminated because it had failed to provide the bank guarantee.[14] On 14 October 2011, the IPL Governing Council announced that there would be only nine teams participating in 2012 after the Kochi franchise was expelled.[15] The players from the side were auctioned to other franchises in the 2012 IPL player auction. Players who attracted no bids had their salaries covered via the team's bank guarantee from the previous season.[16]

On 13 January 2012, the BCCI asked overseas players who had signed a contract with the franchise to sue the owners, with the BCCI included as a party to each case.[17][18]

In February 2012, Rendezvous Sports World announced that it would take the BCCI to court over its termination from the IPL.[19] In July 2015, a court-appointed arbitrator Justice Lahoti ordered the BCCI to pay ₹550 crore (US\$63 million) as compensation for terminating the franchise agreement. ESPNcricinfo reported that the franchise owners had requested the BCCI to permit the team to return to the IPL, instead of the compensation awarded by the arbitrator.

The team's shirt colours were purple and orange with orange trousers.[20]

The franchise's signature song was composed by veteran film score composer Ouseppachan. The music video for the song was filmed by Priyadarshan and his cinematographer Thiru. The song was shot at various locales including Paravur, Cherrai, Varapuzha backwaters and the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. It features almost all the leading players in the team as well as Malayalam movie actress Rima Kallingal.[21][22][23]

The two home grounds of the Kochi Tuskers Kerala were the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi and Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore. Five home matches were held at Kochi and two at Indore. The Greater Cochin Development Authority completely over-hauled the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to cater for hosting IPL matches.[24]

Federal Bank, a major Indian commercial bank in the private sector, with its headquarters in Aluva, Kerala, was the principal sponsor of Kochi Tuskers Kerala.[25] Lotto, an Italian sports goods manufacturer, was the apparel sponsor,[26] V-Guard, an electronics company, and AVT, a tea brand, were the associate sponsors with Elite Foods, Parinee Developers and Anchor Earth are the other main sponsors.

Pune Warriors India

Pune Warriors India was a franchise Twenty20 cricket team that represented the city of Pune in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The team was one of two IPL franchises from the Indian state of Maharashtra, the other being Mumbai Indians. It was one of two new franchises added to the IPL for the 2011 season, alongside the also-defunct Kochi

Tuskers Kerala. The team was owned by Sahara Group Sports Limited, a group company of the Indian business conglomerate Sahara India Pariwar.[2] The team's home ground was the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium[3][4] located in Gahunje, Pune.[5]

In May 2013, Pune Warriors India withdrew from the IPL over financial differences with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) stemming from the valuation of the league's annual franchise fee.[6] Their last match was on 19 May 2013 against Delhi Daredevils. The franchise was officially terminated by the BCCI five months later, in October 2013.[7]

The team were unsuccessful in their three years in the tournament despite having the services of numerous top cricketers, finishing second from last in their inaugural season and in their final season and last in 2012. Overall, the team played 46 matches, winning 12 and losing 33, with one match a no-result due to rain. The side's leading run scorer was Robin Uthappa[8] and its leading wicket-taker was Rahul Sharma.[9]

On 21 March 2010, Sahara Adventure Sports Limited successfully bid ₹17.02 billion (US\$370 million) for the Pune franchise, the highest bid by any company in the history of IPL.[10] The Videocon Group, an Indian consumer appliance manufacturer, also bid for the team, but were unsuccessful. Along with Kochi Tuskers Kerala, the team joined the existing eight IPL teams for the 2011 season as Sahara Pune Warriors, then BCCI wrote to the franchise that the team name cannot be used as a promotion which is against IPL clauses. So they were introduced to the league as Pune Warriors India.

Being a new team in the IPL with a fresh auction purse, Warriors bid aggressively in the 2011 IPL auction held on 9 January 2011. They signed a number of top international

cricketers including Yuvraj Singh, Robin Uthappa, Jesse Ryder, Angelo Mathews, Murali Kartik, Ashish Nehra, Graeme Smith, Mitchell Marsh, Callum Ferguson, Alfonso Thomas, Wayne Parnell and Jerome Taylor[11] as well as a number of uncapped Indian players who had previously played for others franchises, including Rahul Sharma, Abhishek Jhunjunwala, Mithun Manhas, Mohnish Mishra, Ganesh Gaikwad, Manish Pandey and Kamran Khan. Yuvraj Singh was appointed as captain,[12] while former Australian opener Geoff Marsh was appointed as the team's coach.[13] On 3 May 2011, the Pune Warriors selected former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly to play for them as a replacement for the injured Ashish Nehra.[14] This marked Ganguly's comeback to the IPL. Ganguly had been discarded by his former team Kolkata Knight Riders prior to the 2011 IPL auction and was not bought by any of the teams in the auction.[11]

The Warriors got off to a successful start in the 2011 Indian Premier League by defeating Kings XI Punjab and Kochi Tuskers Kerala at home. Following this successful start, however, the team's performance went downhill and they only won another 2 matches that season, which were against Kings XI Punjab and Deccan Chargers, both away. Their final match of the season against Delhi Daredevils away was abandoned due to rain.[15] Pune finished 9th and second-last that season with 4 wins, 9 losses and 1 no-result in 14 matches.

Sahara withdrew Pune Warriors India from the IPL along with the sponsorship of the Indian cricket team just hours before the 2012 IPL auction was about to start, providing a major blow to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the IPL, which was already reeling after the disbanding of Kochi Tuskers Kerala in late 2011.[16] They also boycotted the auction held on 4 February 2012. The main reason for the withdrawal was due to a problem in the amount of franchise fee to be paid by the Pune team. Sahara insisted that it had bid a huge amount for the Pune franchise under the notion

that there would be 94 matches in the 2011 IPL season. As the BCCI later reduced the number of IPL matches to 74, Sahara demanded for a reduction in the amount of franchise fee to be paid by them to maintain viable IPL proposition.[17] Other reasons included disputes between Sahara and the BCCI regarding the IPL rules, such as player retention and the 4-foreign player rule and also the refusal on the part of the BCCI to allow Pune to add Yuvraj Singh's price to their auction purse so that they could buy another player as a replacement for Yuvraj. Yuvraj was set to miss the whole 2012 season as he was undergoing treatment for germ cell cancer.[16] On 6 February 2012, Subrata Roy, the chairman of Sahara India Pariwar, said that Sourav Ganguly will take a call on reconciliation.[18] A week later, the BCCI announced that they have allowed Yuvraj Singh's replacement for Pune Warriors India for the 2012 season, though a deadlock still persisted between the two parties on long-term sponsorship.[19]

On 16 February 2012, the BCCI and Sahara ended their differences and announced that Pune Warriors India will play in IPL 5.[20] The BCCI agreed to give Sahara a total purse of \$3.4 million, \$1.6 million from the money that they had for the auction and \$1.8 million as compensation due to the absence of Yuvraj. It was also decided that Pune could replace Yuvraj with one player, whose fees would be up to \$1.8 million. IPL's trading window was extended up to 29 February 2012 to allow the team to purchase players. Pune was also allowed the compensation of playing 5 foreign players in the squad, subject to the consent of the other 8 franchises. The BCCI also allowed Sahara to have a strategic partner in the franchise. Pune's new stadium would be allowed to host one of the play-off matches, provided Royal Challengers Bangalore gave consent, because according to a BCCI rule, the right to host the play-off matches is given to the finalist of the previous edition. (RCB were the runners-up in the previous tournament).[21] BCCI agreed to negotiate with Sahara regarding the amount of franchise fee to be paid and also agreed to start arbitration proceedings for the

same.[17]

Though Pune boycotted the IPL auction, they signed international cricketers outside the auction including Marlon Samuels, Luke Wright, Steve Smith, Tamim Iqbal, James Hopes and Michael Clarke. They also signed Indian players including Raiphi Gomez, Ali Murtaza, Ashok Dinda, Anustup Majumdar and Mahesh Rawat. Due to Yuvraj's unavailability for the entire season, Ganguly was made the captain of the franchise.[22] He was also made part of the coaching staff as a mentor.[23] Former South African fast bowler Allan Donald and former Indian batsman Praveen Amre were also roped in as bowling and batting coaches respectively, replacing Marsh who had resigned to become the Sri Lankan coach.[23]

The team started off their IPL 2012 campaign with wins against Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab away and at home respectively. But just like in 2011, the team could not maintain the initial momentum and again won only two more matches that season, against defending champions Chennai Super Kings at home and Delhi Daredevils away. Midway through the season, Ganguly was sacked as captain and was dropped from the team due to lack of results, but was retained as mentor.[22] However, this decision was later reversed and he returned to the team as captain. For the home match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Ganguly rested himself, with Steve Smith taking up the captaincy, but still, the team lost by 35 runs. Pune finished last that season with 4 wins and 12 losses in 16 matches.

For the 2013 season, Pune Warriors India retained Steve Smith, Tamim Iqbal, Marlon Samuels and Luke Wright but released Clarke, James Hopes, Callum Ferguson, Alfonso Thomas, Murali Kartik and Jesse Ryder. Ganguly announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in October 2012,[24] leaving the franchise without a captain. In the

auction which was held on 3 February 2013, Clarke was bought back by the franchise for \$400,000.[25] The team also bought international players like Ajantha Mendis and Kane Richardson and signed domestic players like Abhishek Nayar, Tirumalasetti Suman, Ishwar Pandey, Parvez Rasool and Udit Birla for the 2013 season. The franchise also swapped a player with the Delhi Daredevils, trading Nehra for New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor.[26] Yuvraj also returned to the team following his recovery from cancer. Unfortunately for the franchise, Clarke, who was the frontrunner to lead the team, was ruled out of the entire season with a recurring back and hamstring injury, which was aggravated during the Australian tour of India held earlier.[27] On 28 March 2013, the franchise named Sri Lankan Test and ODI captain and all-rounder Angelo Mathews as the captain for the 2013 season[28] and also signed Australian batsman Aaron Finch as a replacement for Clarke.[29]

The team's performance in the 2013 season was pathetic and mirrored its performance in 2012 with 4 wins and 12 losses in 16 matches, finishing 8th and second-last in the league. The only matches the team won were against Rajasthan Royals (home), Chennai Super Kings (away), Kolkata Knight Riders (away) and Delhi Daredevils (home). The Warriors were thoroughly humiliated in their away match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, courtesy Chris Gayle's 175 not out off only 66 balls and later became the first team in the 2013 season to be knocked out of contention for the playoffs after a loss to Chennai Super Kings at home. Like the previous seasons, the main cause for the team's poor performance was their constant squandering of winning chances and the lack of balance in the side, with more than 30 players being used during the season. The team was the only IPL franchise to use three captains that season. Mathews was sacked as captain following a poor start by the Warriors in the tournament and his own poor form and was replaced by Taylor for the away match against Chennai Super Kings. Following this match, Taylor was also sacked as captain due to his poor form, in spite of

the team winning in Chennai, and was replaced by Finch, who captained the Warriors for the rest of the season.

On 21 May 2013, just two days after finishing its league campaign, Sahara withdrew Pune Warriors India from the IPL for the second time in three years.[6] The reason, according to BCCI, was the encashing of the team's bank guarantee after Sahara defaulted on paying the entire franchise fee.[6] BCCI sources said that Sahara paid 20% of the franchise fee in January 2013 and had promised to pay the remaining amount by 19 May 2013 but they failed to do so.[30] But Sahara blamed BCCI for the decision to pull out the Pune franchise from the IPL. In a statement from Sahara after pulling out Pune Warriors India from the IPL, it stated that Sahara had to pull out of IPL due to the BCCI's stubborn and disinterested attitude towards the reduction of the Pune team's franchise fee.[17] It also stated that Sahara was "disgusted" by the unsporting and biased attitude of the BCCI towards it and the Pune franchise despite its supporting of Indian cricket for more than a decade,[17] the decision to withdraw from the IPL was final and it will not return to the IPL even if the entire franchise fee is waived by the BCCI.[17] However, it added that Sahara would remain the sponsor of the Indian cricket team until December 2013, when its contract with the BCCI expires, following which it asked the BCCI to find a new sponsor for the team.[17] Speaking to the media on 24 May 2013, Subrata Roy said that the attitude of BCCI president and India Cements chairman N. Srinivasan towards Sahara and the Pune franchise was the main reason for the withdrawal of Sahara from IPL and Indian cricket and also added that Sahara would never be associated with Indian cricket as long as Srinivasan is at the helm of BCCI affairs.[31]

On 26 October 2013, the BCCI officially terminated its agreement with the team, bringing an end to the team's IPL sojourn.[7]

In their inaugural season in 2011, the team played their home matches at the DY Patil Stadium at Navi Mumbai, as their designated home venue, the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, was still under construction. Only from the 2012 season onwards did the team actually begin to play their home matches in Pune at the Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium, named after the Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar. It is located at Gahunje, a village located about 23 kilometres (14 mi) north-west of Pune on the Mumbai Pune Expressway.[5] It has a seating capacity of 37,000 spectators.[3]

The stadium became a source of contention between Sahara India Pariwar and the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA). In early 2013, Sahara moved court over the termination of the agreement between it and the MCA over the stadium by the latter. MCA had terminated the agreement on the ground due to Sahara defaulting over payments to the MCA and had renamed the stadium as the MCA Pune International Cricket Centre.[32] Sahara decided to play all their home matches outside Pune till the issue was resolved.[33] On 15 March 2013, the issue was finally resolved, with Sahara agreeing to pay all existing dues within three months.[34] The stadium was renamed back to Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium and MCA also allowed Pune Warriors India to play all its home matches in the stadium.[33][34]

The Pune franchise named the team Pune Warriors India in honour of the Maratha Empire which once ruled from the city. The Pune Warriors India logo was a spear wielding, attacking cavalry-warrior (warrior on horse) in the hue of the Indian tricolour.[35]

In their inaugural season, the team's jersey was black with tricolor stripes and silver accents on the either sides. The jersey also incorporated the attacking warrior logo in

the top-left corner of the shirt. From the 2012 season onwards, the primary colour of the jersey was changed to turquoise blue. Adidas was the kit manufacturer for the first two seasons, but for the third season, T. K. Sportswear was the kit manufacturer. Indian online fashion clothing brand American Swan was the official lifestyle clothing partner for the team.[36]

For their first two seasons, the main sponsor for the team was TVS Motors.[37] TVS was replaced as the team's main sponsor for their final season by Sansui Electric, a Japanese consumer appliance manufacturer.[38] The other sponsors were Lux Cozi, Nissan, UB Group, Linc Pens, Oakley Inc., YOU Broadband, Killer Jeans and Finolex Group. For the 3 seasons of Exide BMW is the main sponsor. BMW will be replaced by Britannia as the main sponsor. The other sponsors are Indigo Airlines, Seagrams, Jockey, Reynolds, Raymond Group, Fastrack, Airtel and Ashirwad Pipes.

The team's official theme song was "Sahara Saharaa", a Hindi song sung by playback singer and music composer Shankar Mahadevan. The video of the song showed a warrior riding on a horse and inspiring the Pune residents to come to the stadium where they witnessed the team cricketers. Then the team cricketers as well as the residents performed the Sahara salute (putting the right hand over the heart and saying "Jai Sahara").

Pune Warriors India was the only IPL franchise which used Indian cheerleaders unlike the other franchises which use foreign cheerleaders. Known as Cheer Queens, these cheerleaders were dressed up in traditional Indian attire designed by famous Bollywood designer Neeta Lulla and performed traditional Indian dances choreographed by ace choreographers Ganesh Hegde and Tanusree Shankar, not the traditional gymnastic routines which are usually associated with cheerleading.[39] In the words of Subrata

Roy-

With Pune Warriors India's Cheer Queens, we intend to showcase and bring recognition to the rich and diverse culture of India at an international platform. The opportunity, which we want all the franchisees of IPL to avail collectively, so that the rich cultural heritage of India is presented in an innovative way to the world.[39]

Adidas was the kit manufacturer for the first two seasons, but for the third season, TK Sports Pvt Ltd was the kit manufacturer. Indian online fashion clothing brand American Swan was the official lifestyle clothing partner for the team.[36] For their first two seasons, the main sponsor for the team was TVS Motors.[37] TVS was replaced as the team's main sponsor for their final season by Sansui Electric, a Japanese consumer appliance manufacturer.[38]

Rising Pune Supergiant

IPL kit

Rising Pune Supergiant (often abbreviated as RPS) was a franchise cricket team based in Pune, Maharashtra, that played in the Indian Premier League in 2016 and as a finalist in 2017.[1][2] It was the second team representing Pune after Pune Warriors India. The team, along with Gujarat Lions, featured as two-season replacements for Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, who were suspended due to their involvement in illegal betting by their respective owners.[3]

The Rising Pune Supergiant franchise was owned by RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group controlled

by Sanjiv Goenka.[4] The team name was announced (as Pune Supergiants) on 18 January 2016 by Goenka in Kolkata and Raghu Iyer was appointed CEO.[5] The owners changed the team name to Rising Pune Supergiant on 26 March 2017.[6] The team lost the 2017 IPL Final to Mumbai Indians by 1 run, which was the team's last game in the IPL.[7][8]

However, the same owner bought another franchise Lucknow Super Giants in October 2021. It is now among the 10 teams of the league and take part in it.[9]

The Rising Pune Supergiant's home ground was the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune. However, controversies arose over holding 2016 IPL games in Maharashtra due to water usage of the cricket stadiums during severe drought and the Bombay High Court ordered all matches in May to be shifted out of the state.[10] On 15 April 2016, it was reported that the Rising Pune Supergiants were considering the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vishakhapatnam as an alternate home ground.[11]

[12][13]

The Rising Pune Supergiant made an excellent start to the season, convincingly winning their first game against the defending champions, Mumbai Indians, by 9 wickets.[14] However, they went on to lose their next four games - against the Gujarat Lions, Kings XI Punjab, Royal Challengers Bangalore and the Kolkata Knight Riders.[15][16][17][18] The inclusion of Ashok Dinda, in their 6th game of the season, provided a brief inspiration as the Supergiants beat the Sunrisers Hyderabad by 34 runs.[19] They lost the next two games - against the Gujarat Lions and the Mumbai Indians - at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune.[20][21] The Supergiants were also briefly bolstered by the arrival of Australian batsmen Usman Khawaja and George

Bailey against the Delhi Daredevils at the Feroz Shah Kotla and went on to win the game by 7 wickets.[22][23] Pune's last game of the season was against Kings XI Punjab, with the loser finishing at the bottom of the points table. RPS was struggling to chase down a total of 172 despite a good start from the openers and they kept losing wickets at constant intervals. RPS needed 23 runs from the last over which was bowled by Axar Patel with captain MS Dhoni on the crease. After a wide, four, six and two dot balls, RPS were left requiring 12 runs from the last two balls. It seemed the game was over but Dhoni hit two sixes off the last two balls. This win ensured RPS didn't finish at the bottom of the points table.[24] At the end of the 2016 IPL, the Supergiants won only 5 games out of 14, and won only 2 of their 7 home games - 4 at the MCA Stadium in Pune and 3 at their new home ground, the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vishakhapatnam. They finished at seventh place in the IPL points table.[25][26]

After the auction, Pune axed MS Dhoni as captain and Steve Smith was appointed captain barely months before the start of the 2017 season.[27] The franchise then changed their name to Rising Pune Supergiant, removing the 's', on 26 March 2017.[28] Washington Sundar replaced Ravichandran Ashwin who was ruled out of the tournament with a sports hernia.[29] RPS bought Ben Stokes for ₹14.5 Crore at the auction, making him the most expensive overseas player in the history of IPL at the time (this record was later broken when Kolkata Knight Riders bought Australian pacer Mitchell Starc for ₹24.75 Crore in the 2024 IPL Player Auction).[30] Imran Tahir was recruited by RPS to replace Mitchell Marsh, who was once again ruled out of the tournament due to a shoulder injury.[31] This decision proved to be extremely decisive, as Imran Tahir went on to take 18 wickets in 12 games for RPS before leaving for his national team, along with Faf du Plessis.

RPS once again got off to a great start in IPL 2017 by beating the Mumbai Indians by 7

wickets in their first game.[32] However, losses against Kings XI Punjab, Delhi Daredevils and Gujarat Lions followed and it seemed like Pune were repeating what took place last year.[33][34][35] However, results picked up and RPS won 7 out of their next 8 games, all of them by close margins, with the top performers being Rahul Tripathi, Jaydev Unadkat, Ben Stokes, MS Dhoni and Imran Tahir. But a 6-day gap left them rusty and RPS lost to Delhi Daredevils by 7 runs,[36] forcing them to win their last game vs Punjab to qualify. In their do-or-die game vs Punjab, RPS skittled them out for 73 and won comfortably by 9 wickets, thus finishing in second place with 18 points and qualifying for the play-offs.[37][38]

RPS faced the Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 1 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, with a win securing them a spot in the final. RPS batted first and posted a slightly below-par total of 162-4, with 41 runs coming from the last two overs, thanks to well-paced innings from Manoj Tiwary and Ajinkya Rahane and a late surge from MS Dhoni. Washington Sundar ripped apart the middle order of the Indians and finished with career best figures of 3-16 in 4 overs. Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat chipped in as Pune beat the Mumbai Indians comfortably by 20 runs.[39]

RPS faced the Mumbai Indians for the fourth time in the season, in the final at Hyderabad. This was Rising Pune Supergiant's last game in the IPL. RPS had a psychological edge over Mumbai, considering RPS had beaten them on all three meetings in the season. Rohit Sharma won the toss and decided to bat first. Jaydev Unadkat and Adam Zampa took key wickets as Mumbai crumbled to 79-7 but a late surge from Krunal Pandya meant that Mumbai finished with a slightly below par score of 129-8. RPS looked comfortable after the powerplay but over-cautious batting cost them dearly. Ajinkya Rahane scored runs easily but captain Steve Smith struggled and things took a turn when Rahane got out for 44. MS Dhoni arrived but was quickly removed for

10 and Pune were left requiring 11 runs from the last over with Smith and Manoj Tiwary at the crease. Tiwary hit a four on the first ball off Mitchell Johnson's bowling and RPS looked to have the trophy in the bag. But Smith and Tiwary got out off consecutive deliveries which left RPS requiring 7 runs from 3 balls. A single from Washington Sundar and a double from Daniel Christian meant RPS required 4 runs from the last ball. Unfortunately, RPS could only complete two runs before Sundar was run out. Thus, Mumbai Indians won by 1 run to get their 3rd IPL title.[40][41]