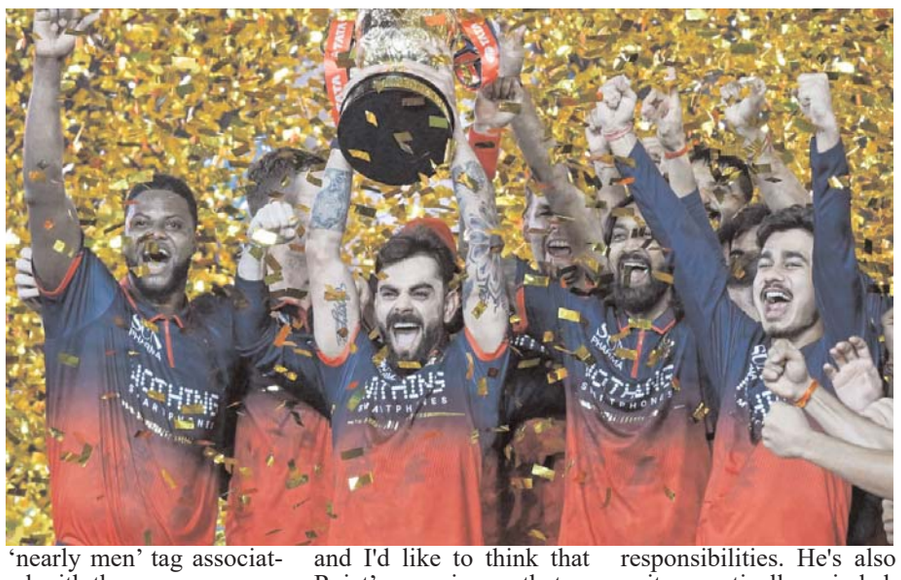
IPL 2026: RCB to not come to Bengaluru as Bobat, Patidar hail use of data and analytics in title win



Ahmedabad, June 1 : Royal Challengers Bengaluru's players and support staff will disperse to their respective homes and holiday time from Ahmedabad rather than return to Bengaluru immediately to celebrate their second successive Indian Premier League (IPL) crown.

"Well, firstly, I don't think any of us are going to Bangalore, unfortunately. I'm traveling back to the UK tomorrow. Rajat, I'm sure, will be heading home to his family and I think Andy's got a holiday planned. So we'll have to wait a little bit longer before we can get back amongst our fans and to enjoy some of their excitement and happiness, which is always nice to experience," Mo Bobat, RCB's Director of Cricket, told IANS in a virtual press conference on Monday.

With the afterglow of the championship win still high, Bobat and skipper Rajat Patidar stated that the franchise's balanced approach to data and analytics, especially roping in Freddie Wilde as their lead analyst, has been a key factor in them transforming as a title-winning unit since 2025.

For the longest time, RCB were the IPL's biggest underachievers – a star-studded unit who would always fall short of winning the trophy when it mattered the most. But since 2025, that narrative has undergone a dramatic shift by becoming only the third IPL side to win back-to-back IPL titles.

The turnaround has not come not from one marquee signing or a dramatic tactical overhaul. Instead, it has been shaped by a measured, data and evidence-based approach for constructing the squad and preparing for matches.

Under Bobat, Wilde, head coach Andy Flower and batting coach-cum-mentor Dinesh Karthik, data and analytics have now become central to how RCB operate and compete as a unit, which in turn has helped them shed the 'nearly men' tag associated with them.

"In terms of the sort of data related questions, both Andy and I are very similar in our views in that we don't overly focus on data. Data is obviously quite a hot topic in elite sport at the minute. We don't focus too much on that. But what I do think we share in common is a desire to have evidence-based decision making and therefore, by definition, if you want evidence to support your decisions or to inform your decisions, then you're going to pay attention to the data that's available to you.

"So we really value and we recognize the importance of our judgment as decision makers. We make important decisions about players' careers, about their dreams, about their livelihoods. So, we both think it's our responsibility to do that with an element of rigour. "If you're going to do that, then you will pay attention to evidence, information, data, expert opinion, whatever you want to call it. Philosophically, we both believe in that information being a combination of the more objective kind of numbers that can tell you a story, but also what some of our expert eyes and ears see and hear and what they can tell us as well, because it's all information that helps us make those evidence-based decisions. "So very balanced view in our sort of in our ways of working and I'd like to think that Rajat's experiences that as captain and that we will share insights with him that might be data informed, as well as some of our own gut feel and intuition. A part of the reason why we engaged DK in the role that we engaged him in is that he has a very active tactical mind and we can learn from his many experiences as a person as well," elaborated Bobat.

Wilde is the lead analyst of current ILT20 holders Desert Vipers and The Hundred franchise London Spirit, after being with the England men's team. He also came into limelight after authoring a chapter in the Cricket 2.0: Inside the T20 Revolution book titled 'Why CSK win and why RCB lose.'

Cut to now, and Wilde has played a key role in turning around RCB's fortunes. "So a real mix there and you referenced Freddie and it's important to recognize the quality of his work. We've worked with Freddie for a few years now. He's an outstanding analyst and the things that stand him out, I think, would be he is able to kind of manoeuvre between thinking like an analyst and also thinking and operating a bit like a coach and that's quite nice territory. "As someone who can do that, that also means we can trust him in his communication with players and groups in a way that you might not always give sort of analyst responsibilities. He's also quite practically minded. He realizes that the numbers won't always tell the full story.

"So he appreciates that there is subjectivity and context that binds a lot of the analytics that we'll do. But in short, his contributions have been huge, particularly if you think about things like the importance of building a squad and auction planning, which we invest a lot of preparation and time into.

"Then we have quite a rigorous planning and review process as we go through the season and Freddie leads a lot of that work alongside Andy. So, obviously, I can't speak much more glowingly about Freddie's work."He's been excellent and a real value add for the franchise, helps players, support staff, coaches on a number of levels. But the headline would be that we're kind of we're very balanced in our view – the human and the machine are probably both key parts of our process," explained Bobat. Flower, who added another IPL title to his growing cabinet of winning franchise T20 league trophies as the head coach, gave a little hint about how being data reliant sparked Patidar's turnaround in being a ferocious pace hitter in this season. "I'm not going to answer anything, but I really want to hear Rajat's answer about the use of data."As per statistics from Cricket-21, Patidar has emerged as one of the most destructive batters against pace in IPL 2026, with his numbers showing a remarkable jump from last season. In 2025, Patidar managed 190 runs in 13 innings against pacers at an average of 23.8 and a strike rate of 143, hitting just six sixes and recording a boundary percentage of 58.9, while his boundary per ball (BPB) ratio stood at 5.3.

But in 2026, the turnaround has been emphatic this year. Across the same number of innings, Patidar has piled up 377 runs against pacers at an average of 62.8 and a strike rate of 189. He has cleared the ropes 28 times, with his BPB improving to 3.6 and boundary percentage soaring to 73.2. Patidar credited Wilde's expertise for helping him sharpen his batting against pacers, apart from retaining his strengths of bashing spinners. "To be honest, it was beautifully explained by Mo regarding Freddie and I can say from my personal experience as well. Four or five times in the IPL, I called Freddie and he said, 'Freddie, I need some videos of the bowlers, especially spinners who are like Rashid Khan, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy, where you have to pick their balls from the hand.'

"So on some days, I was feeling some difficulties in reading them from the videos. So I called Freddie by saying, 'Freddie, please help me. What's the difference in these bowlers who are bowling two or three deliveries, or different deliveries and from where I can pick him? So what's the difference?'

"So I think Freddie helped me a lot in this and that's why I give credit to Freddie. So people always used to say to me that Rajat is a spin basher. But to be honest, I always like to play fast bowling. But if I talk about spin and picking up the bowlers from their hands, the credit goes to Freddie because he helped me a lot," concluded Patidar.

Kohli knows how to pace a chase right through the innings and finish it off: de Villiers



Ahmedabad, June 1 : Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting stalwart AB de Villiers hailed Virat Kohli's match-winning knock of 75 not out in the IPL 2026 final, saying the talismanic batter 'knows how to pace a chase right through the innings and finish it off,' as the side clinched their second successive title with a five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans.

At the Narendra Modi Stadium, Kohli smashed a majestic 42-ball 75 not out, laced with nine fours and three sixes, as RCB completed a chase of 156 to retain the title they won at the same venue in 2025.

"In a final, if you take him out of that chasing batting order, then everything looks a bit different. With Rashid Khan firing from one end, and some of the other GT bowlers also doing really well, he just brings that calmness.

"He knows how to pace a chase right through the innings and finish it off. And it's very fitting that he was there right at the end, scoring the winning runs. GT were a bit naughty in feeding him into his strengths.

"A lot of deliveries were on the legs in his first 20-30 runs. If you give one of the best players of all time a start like that, he's always going to punish you. Once he started flowing, it was just plain sailing, one-way traffic. To be there at the end and call those final moments was absolutely phenomenal," said de Villiers on JioHotstar.

Kohli will be next seen in action when India take on Afghanistan in a three-game ODI series starting on June 13 in Dharamshala. De Villiers also lauded RCB's composure and confidence in sealing back-to-back title wins. "It was a lot easier than last year, that's for sure. Last year was emotional, and we weren't sure what was going to happen.

"This year, when I saw Virat before the start of the game, there was quiet confidence. We've been here before, we know how it works and what the formula is. And what a remarkable achievement, back-to-back champions. I couldn't be prouder," he added.

ICC suspends Cricket Canada; Women's Champions Trophy 2027 rescheduled to February



New Delhi, June 1: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended Cricket Canada with immediate effect over what it described as serious breaches of membership obligations, marking one of the key decisions taken during its board meetings in Ahmedabad.

The suspension follows concerns over governance and administrative shortcomings within Cricket Canada. However, the ICC clarified that Canadian players and national teams will not be affected by the move and will remain eligible to participate in ICC events during the suspension period.

To ensure cricketing activities continue, the ICC will allow Cricket Canada to access funding through a controlled mechanism overseen by ICC management. The funding will be restricted to approved national team programmes.

The global governing body will also provide Cricket Canada with a set of conditions that must be met for reinstatement. Compliance with these measures will be monitored by the ICC Normalisation Committee, with membership restoration dependent on the Board's satisfaction that all governance concerns have been addressed.

The decision came as the ICC Board approved a range of measures aimed at strengthening governance, supporting women's cricket, enhancing competition structures and introducing innovations to the game, including a pink-ball trial in Test cricket and changes to playing conditions from October 2026.

The ICC Board has also approved several recommendations from the Chief Executives Committee, including trialling the use of a pink ball in Test Matches, with prior agreement from both teams, to maximise play in case of anticipated bad light.

Undertaking research on lighting technology for match officials and venues to reduce lost play due to poor light, with ICC co-funding R&D projects alongside Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Enabling match officials to access Hawk-Eye data when considering reporting an illegal bowling action.

The ICC Board also approved a change to the window for the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027, moving the tournament from June-July to 14-28 February 2027.

Furthermore, the ICC will pilot the Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026 as a 10-team event featuring five Full Members and five Associate Members, selected based on rankings and prior T20 World Cup qualification.

The ICC Board has also endorsed the recommended qualification pathway for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2028, to be hosted by the PCB, with India matches played at a neutral venue.

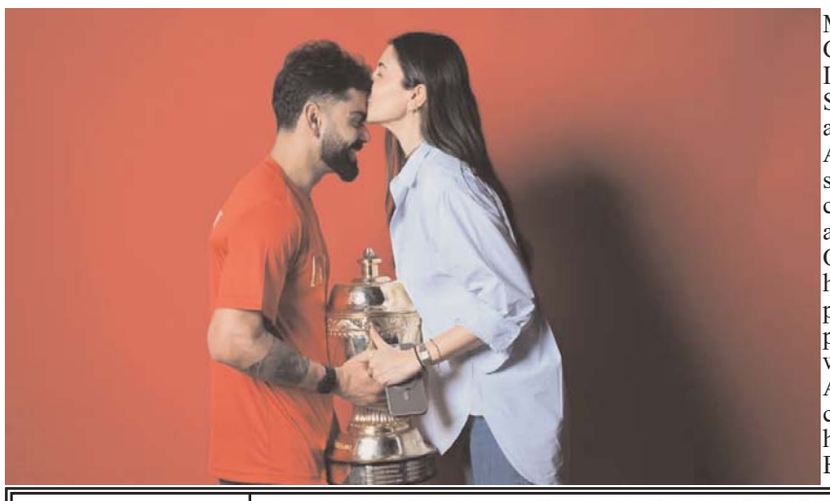
For Associate Members, the ICC Board has approved the recommendation to establish a Global Qualifier for ICC Men's T20 World Cups. Management has been tasked with finalising a competition structure and qualification pathway for a 16-team Global Qualifier. This will be presented to the relevant Committees for consideration at the next round of ICC meetings.

As per ICC media release, Two ICC Board representatives, Dr Mohammed Moosaje (Cricket South Africa) and Tavengwa Mukuhlani (Zimbabwe Cricket), are scheduled to visit Bangladesh to engage with stakeholders regarding the situation in Bangladesh, including the BCB electoral process. In Sri Lanka, ICC Deputy Chair Imran Khwaja and Devajit Saikia (BCCI) have visited and met with relevant stakeholders to assess ongoing developments.

The Board expressed concern regarding the growing expanse of franchise cricket and resolved to form a committee to assess the harmonisation of franchise cricket with the international calendar within the current structure.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah said: "Our discussions in Ahmedabad have reinforced the ICC's commitment to governance, administration and the growth of cricket globally. From women's cricket and emerging nations to the management of franchise competitions, today's discussions and decisions aim to ensure that cricket remains fair, competitive, and exciting for fans worldwide."

Anushka Sharma celebrates RCB's IPL win with a sweet kiss on Virat Kohli's forehead



Mumbai, June 1 : The Royal Challengers Bengaluru lifted the IPL trophy for the second time on Sunday after a stunning victory against the Gujarat Titans.

Actress Anushka Sharma decided to share the historic moment with her cricketer husband Virat Kohli with an adorable social media post.

On Monday, the 'PK' actress took to her official Instagram handle and published a picture of lovingly planting a kiss on Kohli's forehead while he held the trophy.

Anushka simply dropped a fingers-crossed, a red heart, and a folded hands emoji as the caption.

Earlier, she uploaded a photo of Virat with his back towards the camera on social media after RCB's five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. We could also see former RCB player and batting coach Dinesh Karthik as part of the celebration.

"One felt nice, you did it twice," read the text on the post.

The 'Band Baaja Baaraat' actress was unable to contain her excitement from the stands as Kohli's unbeaten 75 guided RCB to register their second win in IPL.

In one of the many videos doing rounds on social media, Anushka was seen cheering and clapping as Virat finished off the match with a six.

The 'Sultan' actress was also caught exchanging flying kisses with her cricketer husband from the stands.

Another clip showed Virat and Anushka dancing the night away while celebrating Royal Challengers Bengaluru's victory with the team, flaunting their electrifying chemistry.

For the unversed, Anushka first met Virat back in 2013 as the two came together to shoot for an advertisement. After dating for a few years, the lovebirds finally tied the knot in 2017 in an intimate ceremony in Italy.

They embraced parenthood for the first time in 2021 as they welcomed their daughter, Vamika. The couple became parents for the second time in 2024 as they were blessed with their son, Akaay.

TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Ltd.)

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APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6)] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to Truhome Finance Limited (formerly M/s Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Physical Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 20.06.2026 between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table.

Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of Inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
1. MR.SRINIVASU DIDDE S/O MR.DIDDE VEERA SWAMY 2. MRS. VINAYA KUMARI YEDLA S/O MR.SRINIVASU DIDDE BOTH ARE R/0 13-13-29 GANDI NAGAR 3RD STREET GANDI NAGAR NIDADAVOLE WEST GODAVARI ANDHRA PRADESH INDIA 534301 LOAN ACCOUNT NO. SHLHRJMD0000976 & SULHRJMD0000977 **Date of Possession & Type** 17th Nov. 2025, Physical Possession **Encumbranches known** Not Known	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE 08-02-2024 Rs.3449680/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Only) & Rs.200684/- (Two Lakhs Six Hundred and Eighty Four only) as on 28-02-2025 under reference of Loan Account No. SHLHRJMD0000976 & SULHRJMD0000977	Rs.22,40,000/- (Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Only) **Bid Increment:** Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Rs.)** Rs.2.24.000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 19-06-2026 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.**	**20-JUNE-2026 & Auction Time: 11.00 P.M. to 1.00 p.m.**	**Mr. SATISH & Anjibabu 9849225412(M) &9966365296** **Property Inspection Date : 09-Feb -2026**

Description of Property

Nidadavolu Town Taluk in Nidadavolu Municipal Area of Nidadavolu Mandal which is included in Nidadavolu Sub-D of East Godavari District is RS No. 198/4, R.S.No. 199/3 Door No.12-16-1/B Dakhala Total area 1032 Sq. East : Dr. Boorugupalli Apparao etc. wall -67, South: Uppaluri Venkateswara Rao's taluk wall-141 , West: Municipal Road-65, North: Boundary wall of Namtullah Khan-141 Between these boundaries, sq. 1032 undivided joint right of land including 47 square meters or 39,292 square meters of land including all easement rights B.SCHEDULE: "DHARANI ENCLAVE" ,FIRST FLOOR , Flat No.F3 ,Sq.A.1059 (Including Common Area, Car Parking Area) Boundaries: East : Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky West: Fiat No.F2, North: Lin & Common Corridor 1059 between these boundaries (including common area, car parking area) consisting of two bedrooms, plot, doors, doors, windows, cupboards, all buildings, car parking, electrical service collections, electrical fitting, common easement rights, you are selling this property.

All easement rights including unspecified rights of parking, car, walking and use of common vehicular parking, car, walking and use of stairwell, elevator and stilled floor. This makes the classified peat more vulnerable

1) **For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website.**
2) **The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230.**

Place : Nidadavolu
Date : 02.06.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited
(Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)