



Sachin Tendulkar Hits Bullseye On Why Batters 'Find It Difficult To Pick' Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Mumbai, 31 May : Former India great Sachin Tendulkar believes Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has unlocked a new level in IPL 2026 through his clever use of the 'wobbly seam', a variation that has made it difficult for batters to read him throughout the season.

Bhuvneshwar has been one of the standout performers for RCB this season, claiming 26 wickets in 15 matches to help the franchise reach the IPL 2026 final against the Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday. Ahead of the title clash, Tendulkar explained how the veteran seamer's subtle change in method has become his biggest weapon.

"This season, if you look at Bhuv's seam, I think it is a wobbly seam. So when a wobbly seam comes, a bats-



man often doesn't know whether the ball is going to fall out or in. And that is what Bhuv has been doing," Tendulkar said in a video released on X.

The batting legend noted that Bhuvneshwar has consciously moved away from relying heavily on conventional swing and instead focused on bowling straighter lines while letting the seam

create uncertainty.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been bowling really well this season. The previous season, when Bhuv was bowling, he had a long outswinger or inswinger. He has developed this variation; it is his conscious decision, but he has been bowling as straight as possible. When a bowler wants to bowl a long outswinger or inswinger, the

seam is always pointing towards the first or second slip for an outswinger. And when you want to inswing, the seam goes towards the leg slip to a right-hander. And the wrist position also changes," he said.

Tendulkar also lauded the accuracy of Bhuvneshwar, which helps him stick to his plan and deceive the batters with a wobbly seam. "He has been very, very accurate. If you see, his lines have been very, very tight, either off-stump or at the most towards the fourth stump. And from there, he tries to bowl a straight ball with a wobbly seam," the 53-year-old said.

"That ball either goes out or in. So that becomes a little difficult to pick because the signal is less from the wrist. What happens in a wobbly seam is that when the

seam lands one way, the ball goes out, and when it lands another way, it goes in or stays straight. So that has been Bhuv's success mantra, I think, for this season. He has been bowling exceedingly well. Well done, Bhuv," he added.

RCB will be hoping Bhuvneshwar can once again deliver with the new ball when they face the Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2026 final as the Bengaluru-based franchise chases its second consecutive IPL title. With 26 wickets already to his name, the experienced pacer could prove decisive in the biggest match of the season.

GT captain Shubman Gill said, "We would have batted first, honestly. It looks like a good wicket and final game, so hopefully have some runs on the board and put them under pressure.



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's players celebrate after the wicket of Gujarat Titans' Rahul Tewatia during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 Final T20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Sunday.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Snubbed As Ambati Rayudu Picks This Duo As India Openers At T20 World Cup 2028

Mumbai, 31 May : Former wicketkeeper-batter Ambati Rayudu has made some bold predictions regarding India's squad for the 2028 T20 World Cup. In the ongoing IPL season, several players have delivered outstanding performances, making selection a challenging task for the selectors. The 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been a standout performer, amassing a remarkable 776 runs in 16 matches. Apart from him, players like Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, and Sanju Samson have also impressed with consistent performances. However, Rayudu believes that Gujarat Titans openers Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan should lead the batting line-up for India at the marquee event.

Gill and Sudharsan have emerged as the most formidable opening pair of IPL 2026. With 885 runs together this season, they are just 54 runs short of surpassing the record held by Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers (939 runs) for the highest runs scored by an opening pair in IPL history.

Rayudu stated that having Gill and Sudharsan as India's openers would be a significant advantage, as their style of play is well-suited to the conditions in Australia and New Zealand. "I think we are witnessing a pair that might travel to Australia and tackle the conditions there. The wicket was very similar in pace and bounce. And the ease with which these two are batting...I'll be surprised if both of them don't go there," Rayudu said on ESPN-Cricinfo.

"If conditions suit them, if you take a Gill, you would like to take Sudharsan as well, because they both complement each other beautifully. You are seeing it in the partnership; they both know



each other's game very well. It's a great add-on if you want them to excel in different conditions," he added.

It is worth noting that Gill was dropped from India's T20I squad for the series against New Zealand and was later omitted from the 2026 T20 World Cup squad just before the IPL.

However, former Australia cricketer Tom Moody cautioned about the high level of competition and pressure that comes with playing in a World Cup.

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R Ashwin's Massive Claim: RCB "30 Per Cent Closer" To IPL Title Right After Winning Toss vs GT

Mumbai, 31 May : Ravichandran Ashwin made a massive claim on social media right after Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar won the toss and opted to bowl first against Gujarat Titans in the final of IPL 2026 in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Patidar flipped the coin in the air and GT captain Shubman Gill got the wrong call.

As the toss result went in RCB's favour, the former India spinner took to X and said that it took Patidar and Co. thirty per cent closer to a second title. Notably, RCB are defending their crown this season, having won their first-ever trophy in IPL 2025. While RCB retained their playing XI from the previous game, Gujarat Titans made one change with left-arm pacer Arshad Khan coming in for left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore.

"We'll bowl first. It's a pretty good wicket. The ball will come nicely on the bat, but to be honest, it will not change in the 40 overs. So we'll try to get them early as possible," said Patidar after winning the toss.

"A lot of memories last year, but I think it was in 2025. It's 2026. We have to do our best to win this match," he added.

GT captain Shubman Gill said, "We would have batted first, honestly. It looks like a good wicket and final game, so hopefully have some runs on the board and put them under pressure. (It's a) typical wicket. I think this is our third match we are playing on this wicket. It's been a really good wicket.

Rishabh Pant To Leave LSG? Team Director Makes Brutal Confession On Rs 27 Crore Star: 'Need A Reset'

Mumbai, 31 May : Rishabh Pant's future at Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) is up in the air. Pant stepped down as LSG captain on Friday after two unsuccessful IPL seasons, following the franchise's blockbuster Rs 27 crore purchase of the player.

However, LSG Global Director of Cricket Tom Moody remained tight-lipped on Pant's future at the franchise as a player. Speaking after the announcement of Pant's departure as captain, Moody revealed that it would take a "long time" to review the failure of IPL 2026, after which they will decide which players to take forward.

Moody acknowledged the question mark regarding Pant's future at the franchise, but stressed on other issues first.

"Yeah, look, that's an obvious question, but we as a



franchise recognise that the tournaments aren't even finished yet. It's going to take a long time for us to debrief, review the whole squad and what we are looking to do - what brand of cricket do we want to play and who's going to play a role in that moving forward," Moody said, speaking on ESPNcricinfo.

Moody admitted that Pant's request to step down from captaincy didn't come as a huge surprise, given that the

franchise were already considering a change in leadership.

"I think I made the statement at the end of our last game that we needed to consider a leadership reset, and I think everyone knew that. The last three years for the franchise - they've come seventh, seventh and 10th, so we need to look at things. I've only just moved into this position over the last few months.

It's one of the things I think that from a holistic point of view, I need to look at every department of cricket to make sure that we return to a side that is competing in finals," Moody explained.

With LSG finishing rock-bottom in the IPL 2026 points table, it will be interesting to see what steps the franchise takes ahead of the IPL 2027 auction.

"If you don't play the occasion it brings the best out of us and that's what we spoke about. Let's take the occasion out and play some good cricket. Whether we win or lose, we should play good cricket," he said while revealing GT's mantra. The IPL final this year will be a repeat of the Qualifier 1 in which defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru had beaten Gujarat Titans by 92 runs.

"I Don't Like It": AB De Villiers Fumes At Ashish Nehra's 'Defensive' Tactic In IPL 2026 Final vs RCB

Mumbai, 31 May : Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers was critical of Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra over his 'defensive' move in the IPL 2026 final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday. After GT lost the early wicket of captain Shubman Gill, Nehra decided to promote southpaw Nishant Sindhu ahead of the dangerous Jos Buttler. While De Villiers admitted that GT were trying to preserve Buttler's wicket in the high-pressure final, he also deemed the move to be 'too defensive' for his liking.

"Don't want to risk Buttler early, pushing him back. I can relate to this because I was in that position throughout my career. So, there are two sides of the story, and they have decided to go ahead with that tonight. Push Buttler back, make the batting lineup seem a bit deeper," de Villiers was heard as saying



on-air. "It's defensive, and I don't like it. Is that clear enough?" he added. Meanwhile, defending champions RCB won the toss and opted to bowl against GT in the summit clash.

RCB, who are eyeing back-to-back titles, remained unchanged for the final while GT made one change as Arshad Khan replaced R Sai Kishore. RCB captain expressed confidence, saying the

team is focused on giving their best on match day.

Speaking during the toss, Patidar revealed RCB's plans, stating, "We'll bowl first. It's a pretty good wicket. Don't think it'll change much. A lot of memories from last year. We have to do our best to win this match. It's important to be in the present. Let's control the controllables. Always love to play at this stadium. Same team."

On the other side, Gujarat captain Shubman Gill revealed his preference for batting first, highlighting the pitch conditions and a squad change.

"We would have batted first. Typical wicket, third match we are playing here. There could be some movement for the fast bowlers in the first three overs. One of the biggest stadiums in the world. We've got one chance. Arshad (Khan) comes in for Sai (Kishore)," Gill said.

Lamine Yamal Plays Down Comparisons With Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo: "Want To Find My Own Way"

Spain, 31 May : Barcelona star Lamine Yamal has set his sights on joining the ranks of football's all-time greats, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, not by being compared to them, but by being mentioned alongside them. In an exclusive interview with FIFA, the young Spanish star said, as quoted by Goal.com, "My goal is not to be compared to them, it is to be mentioned alongside them. So the next time someone is asked that question, my name will be there with theirs." Yamal, who has already impressed at club and international levels with his skill and maturity beyond his years, emphasised the importance of carving his own path in football.

has become one of the brightest young talents in world football, with his ambition and focus hinting at a long and influential career ahead.

"If you get caught up comparing yourself to others, you can shoot yourself in the foot. I want to find my own way, enjoy the game and give people something to smile about. And when I'm retired, I hope people still enjoy going back and watching me play," he added.

Yamal also made it clear that his ultimate goal is to reach the sustained heights achieved by the two men who defined modern football for two decades. The Spanish forward also does not want to be complacent about his national team's status as one of



the tournament's champions after successfully becoming Euro champions two years ago.

"It's funny, because at the EURO it was the other way round. Nobody really had us down as champions, and that worked for us. Being

the favourites doesn't mean anything once you're on the pitch. It doesn't give you an edge or help you score more goals. You still have to take it match by match. There are a lot of strong teams - Argentina, France, Portugal, England - and everyone is at

their best at the World Cup. For us, it's about giving everything for Spain and trusting the way we play because, in my book, we play the best football," Yamal stated.

Spain will play warm-up matches against Iraq and Peru before beginning their World Cup Group H campaign in the United States, where they will face Cape Verde on June 15 in Atlanta.

James Rodriguez didn't just score goals, he set the tempo. The volley against Uruguay wasn't just technique, it was the arrival of a young maestro. The timing, instinct, and calm in the middle of noise. For a few weeks, he wasn't just Colombia's star. He was football's new 'Galactico'.

"Can Still Win Medals At Olympics": Vinesh Phogat's Reaction After Asian Games Trials Heartbreak

Mumbai, 31 May: Vinesh Phogat's dream of returning to competitive wrestling ended in heartbreak on Saturday after she lost in the semi-finals of the Asian Games selection trials. Competing in the 53kg category, this marked her first appearance on the mat since her devastating disqualification at the Paris Olympics. Facing Meenakshi Goyat in the semi-final at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi, Vinesh went down 4-6. Even reaching the trials was a challenging journey for Vinesh, as she had to fight a legal battle to secure the opportunity to compete in the 53kg category.

After the defeat, Vinesh spoke to RevSportz, opening up about her struggles and what continues to motivate her to move forward.

"I cannot begin to tell you how difficult it is to deal with these hindrances every single day. I am thankful to the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court for giving me this chance. Otherwise, it is an everyday battle. It is even more difficult because I have my maternal responsibilities to take care of alongside all of this.

Getting a fair chance would set a good example for women athletes in the future, as they too would have the courage to fight in court if needed," said Vinesh.

"I try to avoid the outside noise as much as possible, and my little one helps me do that. Looking at him and his smile gives me the strength to overcome all the negativity and distractions. My team and the love I receive from my country are also undeniable factors that keep me going," she added.

Speaking about athletes in general, Vinesh said that India has the potential to win multiple gold medals if the system stands by its sportspersons during difficult times.

"Wrestling is a male-dominated sport that relies heavily on power and stamina, so even after going through my maternity phase, I wanted to return to the sport, only to face immense resistance from the system itself. I believe that once the system stands with its athletes, India will not have to wait long to win Olympic gold medals," she said.

"I love wrestling deeply and still feel that drive within me. I believe I can still win medals at the Olympics, and that is the sole reason I came back after maternity. I do not want to live with regrets, and I will continue to give my best as long as I feel I have it in me," she said.

"The day I feel I no longer do, I will thank every one and leave the sport happily. But under no

circumstances will I say goodbye to my favourite sport because of external pressure or force," she added.

He added that while he relishes the challenge of preparing to defend his world title later this year against Javokhir Sindarov, the expectations that come with being champion can at times feel overwhelming.

"And, I think, just the process itself preparing for a world championship, and preparing against this one specific opponent (Sindarov) for months... this whole process, for me, I just love the process.

"... (But) it's hard for me to deal with the expectations, which I hope to handle better in the next months as well," he said. For world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, a five-time Classical world champion and multiple-time Rapid and Blitz champion, the burden of expectations was one of the less enjoyable aspects of being world champion, admitting that towards the end he often felt he was winning titles to satisfy others' expectations rather than for his own fulfilment.

"Personally, for me, the hardest thing was that there were a lot of expectations for me to find the World Championship as important as others did. I never really felt that way," said Carlsen.