

# THE RISE

OF THE

## INDIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM

From pioneers to global icons



## The Rise of the Indian Women's Cricket Team

Over the past two decades, Indian women's cricket has risen from limited recognition to the centre of the nation's sporting identity.

The launch of the Women's Premier League (WPL), surging broadcast audiences and record stadium turnouts have accelerated its growth. This report takes a closer look at the milestones, players and momentum driving its remarkable rise.

## EARLY DAYS TO TURNING POINT

**1973**

Women's Cricket Association founded

**1976**

First Test match

**Nov 1976**

First Test win

**1978**

First World Cup appearance

**2006**

BCCI takes over

- Better infrastructure
- Professional training
- Global exposure

## KEY MILESTONES

**x7**

**Asia Cup Champions**  
(Latest in 2022)

**First Asian Games Gold**

**In 2024 versus Sri Lanka**

**2017 ICC World Cup Finals**

**Narrow loss to England**

~156M people in India watched the tournament





## WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE



A domestic cricket league similar to the Indian Premier League, the WPL was a landmark commercial step for Indian cricket, boosting the visibility of the players.

### Valuation

**£123–131M**

### Viewership (2025)

**300M**

### Franchise rights (5 teams)

**£433M**

### Media rights (2nd globally)

**£19.2M**

1	WNBA	£20.5 million
2	WPL	£19.2 million
3	WSL	£7.9 million
4	UWCL	£6.6 million

### Location

**Gujarat**

### Followers

 **94.9k**



### Location

**Dehli**

### Followers

 **4.5M**



**WPL  
TEAMS**



### Location

**Utter  
Pradesh**

### Followers

 **112K**



### Location

**Mumbai**

### Followers

 **18.1M**



### Location

**Bengaluru**

### Followers

 **21.3M**



# Mithali Raj

Trailblazer and icon  
of Indian women's cricket

Highest run-scorer in  
women's ODIs  
7,805 runs



**1.8M**  
Followers



MITHALI RAJ

# PIONEERS

# Jhulan Goswami

One of the greatest fast bowlers  
in women's cricket history

All-time highest wicket-taker  
in women's ODIs  
255 wickets



**293k**  
Followers



JHULAN  
GOSWAMI



# Harmanpreet Kaur

Current captain of the Indian women's team

Iconic 171 vs Australia in 2017 World Cup semi-final proved India could dominate on the world stage



**2.3M**  
Followers



# PIONEERS

SMRITI  
MANDHANA

## Smriti Mandhana

Star batter with global recognition and fan appeal

ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year  
2018 & 2021

Fastest Indian ODI century  
50 balls



**12.4M**  
Followers



# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup



India & Sri Lanka



30 September - 2 November 2025

India's women cricketers are redefining what's possible, breaking barriers and setting new standards.

From the trailblazers of the past to the stars of today, their journey mirrors the ambition of a nation on the rise.

The 2025 World Cup is more than a competition; it is their moment to shine, to inspire, and to claim their place among the world's best.

