Vaibhav Sooryavanshi becomes youngest captain in men's T20 history

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News

Bihar's 15-year-old cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has become the youngest player to captain a side in the history of men's T20 cricket. He led Bihar against Saurashtra in their opening Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (domestic T20) match at the Holkar Stadium, Indore, on 14 November 2026, aged 15 years 232 days. The previous record was held by Croatia's Zach Vukusic, who captained his country at 17 years 311 days in a T20 International against Cyprus on 7 August 2025. Sooryavanshi made 18 off 12 balls; Bihar scored 137/9 in 20 overs and Saurashtra won by five wickets. He made his India debut in July 2026, breaking Sachin Tendulkar's record to become the youngest to play international cricket for India. He is reported to be joining India 'A' for the ACC Rising Stars tournament in Doha from 19 November.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Player	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi – Bihar (Samastipur district)
Record	Youngest captain in men's T20 history
Age	15 years 232 days
Match	Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2026 – Bihar v Saurashtra

Point	Details
Venue, date	Holkar Stadium, Indore – 14 Nov 2026
Result	Bihar 137/9; Saurashtra won by 5 wickets
Previous record	Zach Vukusic (Croatia) – 17 yr 311 days (v Cyprus, 7 Aug 2025)
IPL feat	2025 – 35-ball hundred for Rajasthan Royals (aged 14)
International debut	July 2026 – India's youngest international debutant

Background

- Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: India's domestic T20 championship, run by the BCCI. It is named after Syed Mushtaq Ali (1914–2005), who in 1936 became the first Indian to score a Test century abroad – 112 at Old Trafford, Manchester. The first-class Ranji Trophy is named after Ranjitsinhji, and the one-day Vijay Hazare Trophy after Vijay Hazare.
- Sooryavanshi's records: in April 2025 he hit a 35-ball hundred for Rajasthan Royals against Gujarat Titans at Jaipur in the IPL – the fastest IPL century by an Indian – aged 14. He made his India T20 debut in July 2026, breaking the record of Sachin Tendulkar, who debuted at 16 against Pakistan in 1989.
- Young captains: India's youngest Test captain is Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, who took charge at 21 against the West Indies in 1962. The T20 format began in England in 2003; the first men's T20 International was played between Australia and New Zealand in 2005. India won the T20 World Cup in 2007, 2024 and 2026.
- Geography: the Holkar Cricket Stadium is in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, named after the Maratha Holkar dynasty that ruled Indore. Sooryavanshi's home district, Samastipur, is in north Bihar.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's S. Venkataraghavan captained India at the first two men's ODI World Cups, in 1975 and 1979. Tamil Nadu is a strong Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy side – it won the inaugural 2006–07 edition and the 2020–21 and 2021–22 titles. Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk, is one of India's oldest Test venues (1934).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Player: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi – Bihar (Samastipur district); Record: Youngest captain in men's T20 history; Age: 15 years 232 days; Match: Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2026 – Bihar v Saurashtra.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Syed Mushtaq Ali, after whom the domestic T20 trophy is named, was the first Indian to do what?

A) Test hundred abroad

B) Test hat-trick

C) Test double hundred

D) First Test captain

Answer: A – Explanation: 112 against England at Old Trafford, Manchester, in 1936. India's first Test captain was C.K. Nayudu (1932).

2. Before Sooryavanshi, a player from which country held the record of youngest captain in men's T20s?

A) Cyprus

B) Croatia

C) Nepal

D) Afghanistan

Answer: B – Explanation: Croatia's Zach Vukusic – he led his side at 17 in a T20 International against Cyprus in August 2025.

3. Which team was Sooryavanshi playing for when he hit a 35-ball IPL hundred at 14 in 2025?

A) Mumbai Indians

B) Rajasthan Royals

C) Gujarat Titans

D) Chennai Super Kings

Answer: B – Explanation: Rajasthan Royals – against Gujarat Titans at Jaipur; the fastest IPL hundred by an Indian.

4. Which Tamil Nadu cricketer captained India at the first two ODI World Cups, in 1975 and 1979?

A) K. Srikkanth

B) M.J. Gopalan

C) R. Ashwin

D) S. Venkataraghavan

Answer: D – Explanation: S. Venkataraghavan – off-spinner, later an international umpire. India won the 1983 World Cup under Kapil Dev.

5. Who became India's youngest Test captain, at 21, against the West Indies in 1962?

A) Sachin Tendulkar

B) Kapil Dev

C) Ravi Shastri

D) M.A.K. Pataudi

Answer: D – Explanation: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi – he took over when Nari Contractor was injured. Led India's first overseas series win, in New Zealand, 1968.

Sources: PTI / The Indian Express (14 Nov 2026); Onmanorama – Malayala Manorama (14 Nov 2026); Rajasthan Royals official site (14 Nov 2026); News On AIR (8 Mar 2026); BCCI (Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.