

Tilak Varma: India's Next Cricket Superstar in the Making

Published on 11 Feb 2026 | By IFI Correspondent



Indian cricket's next generation continues to take centre stage, and among the brightest young talents is **Tilak Varma** — a 23-year-old left-handed batter whose aggressive yet composed batting has marked him out as a future cornerstone of India's batting lineup.

Varma's rise to prominence has been shaped by several standout performances on big stages, most notably during the **2025 Asia Cup final**, where he played a crucial unbeaten knock of **69 runs from 53 balls** against arch-rivals Pakistan. That innings helped steer India to a title victory and showcased his ability to thrive under high pressure — a quality that sets great players apart.

A Journey of Patience and Power

Originally making a name for himself in India's domestic circuit and under-19 competitions, Varma took time to find his rhythm at higher levels. In 2022, his potential was rewarded when **Mumbai Indians** selected him in the Indian Premier League (IPL), a decision that accelerated his development. He soon became a regular contributor for the franchise, consistently scoring runs across seasons and rapidly improving his strike rate and adaptability in different match situations.

The departures of veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma from India's T20 setup gave Varma further opportunities on the international stage. He responded emphatically, making consistent contributions that showed not just raw talent, but the **maturity and discipline** required to succeed at the highest level.

Mindset and Discipline

Varma's commitment to strengthening his game is matched by his off-field discipline. Inspired partly by role models who prioritise fitness and clean living, he made personal sacrifices — such as giving up chocolate — to sharpen his focus on performance and health, reflecting his belief that dedication is key to sporting success.

His coach and peers have spoken about his hunger to improve, suggesting that even as he enjoys early success, he remains focused on unlocking even greater potential in the years ahead.

A Future Star for India

As Indian cricket transitions into a new era, Varma's blend of flair, temperament, and consistency makes him one of the most exciting young players on the international scene. With memorable innings already to his name and a growing list of performances under his belt, he's widely seen as a player with the skill and mentality to shape India's future success across formats.