



Sunil Gavaskar: Women’s ODI WC win has to go down as one of the best wins in history of Indian cricket

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03:

It was third time lucky for the Indian women as they kept their nerve to win the coveted ICC ODI World Cup. They had been in two finals before and had lost narrowly the last time to England at Lord's, where, for the first time in decades, the English supporters outnumbered the Indian supporters at the ground. The loss by nine runs was hard to take, as the Indians were cruising to a win till Harmanpreet Kaur, who was batting beautifully, got caught at deep square leg. After that, panic and indecision seemed to set in, resulting in a few run-outs and poor shot selection, which ultimately led to the loss.

This time, it was Harmanpreet who was the captain, and she sealed the win with a spectacular catch. This has to go down as one of the best wins in the history of Indian cricket — both in the men's and women's game. The determination shown by



the women was incredible. If one may be permitted to say so, it is a 'khadoos attitude' that Mumbai cricket is famous for. The coach, Amol Muzumdar, being from Mumbai, must have influenced it a great deal, for to bounce back the way they did after losing three close games is nothing short of remarkable.

The win once again emphasised, if ever it was needed, that sporting intelligence wins trophies, not fancy degrees from universities. It also proves that it will invariably be Indian coaches who get the best results since they know the players — their strengths, weaknesses, and tempera-

ment — and understand the nuances of Indian cricket better than any foreigner, however accomplished he or she may be.

There were some who tried to compare this win with the men's team winning the World Cup in 1983. The men had never progressed beyond the group stage in earlier editions, and so everything from the knockout stage onward was new to them, while the women already had a better record, having been in two finals before this magnificent triumph.

Just as the '83 win galvanised Indian cricket and gave it a voice that was heard around the world,

this victory will make the countries that started women's cricket long before India did realise that their era of domination has been shaken.

The '83 win also encouraged parents of aspiring cricketers to let their children take up the game. The IPL took it to another level, of course, and that's why today's Indian men's team includes players not just from the metros but from across the country.

Similarly, this win will give new wings to women's cricket, bringing more girls into the game from the remotest parts of India. The WPL has already begun that process, as parents now see the sport as a genuine career option for their daughters and are more willing to support them.

This is a win to savour, a win to cherish, a win for the ages. Well done, Harmanpreet Kaur and the girls. You have made the country proud — may this be the first of many trophies to come to India.

Korea Masters: 21-year-olds Sankar, Isharani to spearhead Indian challenge

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Twenty-one-year-olds Sankar Subramanian and Isharani Baruah will be spearheading the Indian challenge at the Korean Masters starting from Tuesday.

The competition, a Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 300 tournament, will be played at the Wonkwang University Cultural and Sports Centre in Jeonbuk State, as per Olympics.com.

The two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu is not taking part due to injury, while other stars like Olympics semifinalist Lakshya Sen and popular men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty will be skipping the meet. Other notable names like Ayush Shetty, Unnati Hooda,



Aakarshi Kashyap, Anupama Upadhyaya, Sai Pratheek K are also not participating, while the veteran Kidambi Srikanth, initially a part of the main men's singles draw, has withdrawn. From women's singles, Anmol Kharb and Tanya Hemanth have also withdrawn.

Sankar is world number 65 in men's singles, while Isharani 53rd in women's

singles rankings, will be spearheading a five-member squad in South Korea.

Sankar had caused an upset by defeating Lakshya last week at the Hylo Open last week and is the lone Indian men's singles shuttler and will be starting off against top-seeded Jia Heng Jason Teh of Indonesia.

Baruah will be joined in women's singles main draw by world number 69

Devika Sihag, 20, who finished as runners-up in Indonesia Masters last month after loss to Nozomi Okuhara.

The Indian challenge will be capped off by 17-year-old Naishaa Kaur Bhatoye, who will play her maiden Super 300 appearance in the women's singles qualifiers. Notably, she also played a young Saina Nehwal in Olympic medalist's biopic film 'Saina'.

There will be no Indian players in the doubles events at Korea Masters this year. No Indian has ever secured a Korea Masters title.

Korea Masters 2025 badminton: India squad

Men's singles: Sankar Subramanian

Women's singles: Isharani Baruah, Devika Sihag, Naishaa Kaur Bhatoye (Q).

Labuschagne continues red-hot domestic run with third One Day Cup ton

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Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne continued to unleash torrent of runs in domestic circuit, slamming his third ton of the ongoing One Day Cup for Queensland against New South Wales at Sydney on Monday.

Following last two years of indifferent form in international cricket, especially Tests, Australia's second-most premier batter after Steve Smith continues to be hell-bent on proving that his class is permanent and runs would soon flow, as he smashed 101 in 111 balls, with six fours and a six, striking at 90.99.

His total helped Queensland reach 287/9 in 50

overs, with spinner Tanveer Sangha (3/64) being the pick of the bowlers for NSW. Later during the defence of the total, he also picked two wickets, with Lachlan Shaw (60 in 64 balls, with six fours and a six) and Sam Konstas (47 in 74 balls, with three fours) being top contributors as NSW was restricted to 191 all out, losing by 96 runs.

Marnus is the top run-getter in the tournament, with 338 runs in four innings at an average of 84.50, with three centuries and a strike rate of over 99, with best score being 130.

This is his fifth century in past eight innings in domestic cricket across for-

mats, having already slammed two Sheffield Shield centuries as well. He rules the batting charts of Aussies' most premier red-ball tournament as well, with 341 runs in four innings at an average of 85.25, a healthy strike rate of 77.67 and two centuries, with best score of 160.

Marnus, after showcasing poor ODI form, was dropped from the ODI leg of the home series against Australia, but later picked as all-rounder Cameron Green sustained an injury. However, he did not get a game.

The right-hander is without a century in his past 49 international matches, having scored just 12 fifties in 57 innings at an average

of less than 30. His form has been even worse in red-ball cricket, with his last Test century coming against England back in July 2023. Since then, he has been able to muster just 668 runs in 16 matches and 30 innings at an average of 24.74, with seven fifties and a best score of 90.

Labuschagne also did not feature in any Test of the tour to West Indies, despite being a part of the squad from second Test. With the first ball of the home Ashes to be bowled on November 21 at Perth, Labuschagne would be aiming to continue with his domestic grind, score a truckload of runs to earn back his place in the team.

Lucknow Super Giants set to appoint Tom Moody as global director of cricket

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Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) is set to appoint former Australian all-rounder Tom Moody as their global director of cricket, which will put him charge of 'Super Giants' group of franchises, LSG in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Durban Super Giants (DSG) in SA20 and their Manchester-based franchise in The Hundred.

Moody, who turned 60 in October, is amongst the best coaches in the game, having been active in international cricket and franchise teams for over two decades, serving as the overseer of Oval Invincibles' hat-trick of titles in The Hundred competition. He also led



Desert Vipers to runners-up finishes in International League T20 (ILT20) in 2023 and 2025, as per ESPN-Cricinfo.

It is also understood that Surrey and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), the owners of Mumbai Indians who got a 49 per cent stake in the Oval Invincibles this year wanted

to retain Moody, but the former Aussie star opted to take the LSG offer with a larger role in his hands.

LSG owned by RP Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) are yet to make Moody's appointment public and the tenure of his deal is yet to be confirmed.

Moody will be making his return to the IPL after leaving Sunrisers Hyder-

abad (SRH) back in 2022, which was his second time serving a coaching role with the time. His earlier tenure with the Men in Orange was between 2013 and 2019, which also saw them capture 2016 title. He returned to the franchise as a Director of Cricket in 2021 but was given the head coach position next season after another Aussie Trevor Bayliss left the franchise.

At LSG, Moody will be taking over the role previously occupied by Indian pace legend Zaheer Khan in IPL 2025 season. Zaheer was appointed for two season and Zaheer parted ways with the team prematurely in September.

for the highly anticipated series. Following his departure, Head became the latest player to leave Australia's T201 squad after Josh Hazlewood, who left the team after the second game. Hazlewood will spearhead New South Wales' bowling attack, which will also comprise seasoned spinner Nathan Lyon, against Victoria.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Wushu Ranking Tournament for the forthcoming 20th Asian Games 2026 commenced today at the Indoor Hall, Bhagwati Nagar, here witnessing an impressive display of skill and determination by athletes from across the country.

Over 100 athletes, including top eight ranked players from various states, showcased their performances during the pre-quarterfinals, quarterfinals, and semifinals held today. Notably, several junior athletes delivered remarkable performances, defeating higher-ranked players in a strong display of emerging talent.

"The Wushu Association of India (WAI) will shortlist 15 probable under the Target Olympic Podium (TAGG) Scheme and select four athletes for the national coaching camp to be conducted at a Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre. Furthermore, the Association is preparing to submit a proposal to SAI for a 60-day foreign exposure training camp in China, tentatively scheduled to commence in mid-December," informed general secretary of WAI, Vijay Saraf.

The final bouts of the



tournament will be held tomorrow at 10 am.

Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated by Vijay Saraf, general secretary of WAI, in the presence of Suhel Ahmed, CEO, WAI, and Kuldeep Handoo, Chief Coach and selector WAI. Handoo further informed that the national coaching camp is proposed to begin from November 15. Based on the athletes' performances and the recommendations of the selection committee, the best performers will be shortlisted, while non-performers may be replaced by new talent in respective weight categories to strengthen the national squad.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Handoo expressed gratitude to the WAI for selecting J&K as the venue for this prestigious National event.

MIET Jammu Clinches Inter-Collegiate Football (Men) Championship Title 2025-26.

the Afghanistan Cricket Board, I extend our sincere gratitude to Jonathan Trott for his dedicated service and the professionalism he brought to our national team. His efforts have supported a crucial period in the development of Afghanistan cricket, and we wish him every success in his future endeavours."

ACB CEO Naseeb Khan added, "Jonathan has played an important role in our journey, helping our players grow in confidence and compete against the world's strongest sides. As

we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, this transition is part of our broader plan to take Afghanistan cricket to its next level."

Head Coach, Jonathan Trott, also shared his sentiments, "It has been a privilege to work with the Afghanistan National Team and to witness their passion, resilience, and hunger to achieve greatness. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I will always remain a supporter of Afghan cricket. I wish the team and the Afghan people continued success in the years ahead."

The Afghanistan Cricket Board expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Trott for his commitment, discipline, and contribution to the national team and extends its best wishes for the journey ahead. The process for appointing a new head coach will begin after the ICC T20 World Cup 2026.

Wushu Ranking tourney for 20th Asian Games begins

of their seats. Earlier in the tournament, GDC Udhampur had defeated the PG Department, University of Jammu, while MIET Jammu registered a narrow 2-1 victory over GDC Kathua to reach the finals.

Earlier in the tournament, GDC Udhampur had defeated the PG Deptt. JU by 4-3, while MIET Jammu registered a narrow 2-1 victory over GDC Kathua to secure their place in the final. The third place was claimed by the PG Deptt. JU who beat GDC Kathua by 2-1 goals.

The matches were efficiently officiated by Sh. Rahul Sharma, Sh. Dheeraj Menia, Sh. Dil Bahadur, Sh. Kartik, Sh. Shivam Gupta, Sh. Ramesh Chander, and Sh. Gagan Kumar, who ensured smooth conduct, fair play, and adherence to the rules and regulations of the game.

The tournament was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, whose dedicated team played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful conduct of the event with a strong emphasis on discipline, fair play, and organizational excellence.