



Clinical India beat Australia by 21 runs in rain-hit first Women's T20I

SYDNEY, FEB 15: India were clinical with both bat and ball as they defeated Australia by 21 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the first Women's T20 International to start their tour Down Under on a resounding note here Sunday.

Seamer Arundhati Reddy (4/22) led an excellent bowling display as India packed off Australia for 133.

Such was the Indian bowlers' performance that Australia were bundled out with two overs to spare.

In reply, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was unbeaten on a 17-ball 16 with Jemimah Rodrigues giving her company, when the heavens opened up to force an interruption.

Play could not resume after that and India, who were 50 for one in 5.1 overs, were declared deserving winners. The DLS par score after 5.1 overs was 29.

The big-hitting Shafali Verma played her part before being dismissed by Australia's new skipper So-



phie Molineux, smashing her way to an 11-ball 21.

Asked to bat first, Australia were quick off the blocks and raced to 22 in 2.2 overs when Beth Mooney (5) got a leading edge while trying to loft a Renuka Singh delivery, but only managed to sky the ball for Smriti Mandhana to complete the catch at cover.

The other opener, Georgia Voll (18 off 10 balls) followed Mooney to the dressing room soon after as she got a thin edge while attempting to play the cut shot against a wide delivery by Kranti Gaud, and wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh did the rest comfortably.

Ellyse Perry (20 off 11 balls) and Phoebe Litchfield (26 off 19 balls) steadied the ship with a brisk 41-run partnership for the third wicket but just when their association was starting to threaten India, Arundhati struck thanks to some great work by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who ran back to cover a lot of ground and pulled off a brilliant catch diving sideways.

It was a big break for India, and they had their tails up as they snared two more wickets in the form of Ashleigh Gardner (4) and Litchfield to reduce hosts Australia to 80 for five at the start of the 10th over.

Georgia Wareham (30 off 19 balls) and Nicola Carey (12) added 41 runs for the sixth wicket to halt India's charge for a brief while before the former not just missed out on a poor Arundhati delivery but got out after miscuing a ball that was going down the leg side, leaving Australia at 121 for six in the 14th over.

The score remained the same as Carey was bowled by a quick Shree Charani delivery while the batter tried to play the cut shot.

Renuka then had Annabel Sutherland brilliantly stumped by Ghosh who removed the bails in a jiffy.

Australia is beginning a new era with Sophie Molineux taking charge of the side after being appointed captain of the T20 team in January.

Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars: Vrinda, spinners fashion India's 8-wicket win over Pak

BANGKOK, FEB 15: Skipper Radha Yadav led a dominant spin display before Dinesh Vrinda hammered a blazing half-century as India A Women cruised to an emphatic eight-wicket win over Pakistan A Women in the Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars here on Sunday.

The victory marked India A's first win of the tournament after its seven-wicket defeat to United Arab Emirates A Women in the opener on Friday.

The win lifted India A to second place in Group A behind the UAE.

India's spinners choked Pakistan with relentless accuracy, sharing five wickets between them to bundle out their rivals for a modest 93 in 18.5 overs.

Radha (2/11 in 3 overs)



spearheaded the charge with two crucial strikes, while Prema Rawat (2/16 in 3 overs) and Minnu Mani (1/10 in 2.5 overs) ensured Pakistan never built any

meaningful partnerships. Pacer Saima Thakor bowled exceptionally, picking two wickets while giving away just 14 runs in her four overs.

Chasing a modest target of 94, India suffered an early jolt when Humaira Kazi fell off the very first ball, but Vrinda quickly turned the contest on its head with a stunning counterattack.

She smashed an unbeaten 55 off just 29 deliveries, peppered the boundary 12 times to take the game away from Pakistan.

Vrinda found solid support in Anushka Sharma, who compiled a composed 24 off 26 balls. The duo stitched together a match-defining 78-run stand that put India firmly in control of the chase.

After Anushka's dismissal, Tejal Hasabnis provided the finishing touches with a brisk 12 off five balls as India romped home in just 10.1 overs with 59 balls to spare.

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India edged 2-4 by Argentina at FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26

ROURKELA (ODISHA), FEB 15: India endured a 2-4 defeat against Argentina in the last match of the Rourkela leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 on Sunday at the Birs Munda Hockey Stadium, as per a release.

Tadeo Marcucci (28', 49') led the Argentinian attack with a brace, while Tomas

Domene (18') and Lucio Mendez (43') made vital contributions as well. For India, Aditya Lalage (50') and Sanjay (59') were the goal scorers in a hard-fought encounter.

Argentina controlled possession and generated most openings in the first quarter, but India managed to navigate the phase without

conceding. The South Americans registered their first attempt as early as the third minute when Lucas Martinez struck on the turn from inside the circle, beating Indian goalkeeper Suraj Karkera, only to be denied by the post.

Karkera was called into action repeatedly, including

at the 10-minute mark when he did well to keep out a powerful effort from Tomas Domene. The pressure continued to mount as Argentina earned as many as four penalty corners in the opening quarter.

India conceded early in the second quarter, and yet another penalty corner hurt the hosts.

Aquib, Sunil restrict Bengal to 249 for 5 in Ranji semis

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 15

Aquib Nabi and Sunil Kumar did their job but Sudip Kumar Gharami's masterful unbeaten 136 propelled Bengal to 249 for five on Day-1 of the Ranji Trophy semifinals, after J&K skipper Paras Dogra won the toss and decided to bowl at the Bengal Cricket Academy Ground, Kalyani today.

Bengal's innings erupted into life with left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar striking early, castling opener Sudip Chatterjee for a golden duck. Easwaran and



Gharami then steadied the ship capitalizing on fielding lapses to forge a crucial century stand.

The skipper fell shortly after, clean-bowled by Aquib Nabi for 49 off 96 balls (6x4, 1x6), but Gharami's silken strokeplay took charge. He added vital runs with Shahbaz Ahmed, pushing Bengal to stumps in 79.5 overs. Gharami batting on 136 off 227 balls (19x4, 1x6) while Shahbaz made 42 off 91 (4x4).

The J&K attack shone with Aquib Nabi and Sunil Kumar (two wickets each), Abid Mushtaq (one wicket).

Indian Army Organized Volleyball Match on National Women's Day at Pangali

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 15

On the occasion of National Women's Day a volleyball match for girls was organized in Pangali village to celebrate the strength, confidence and empowerment of women in society.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from young girls who showcased remarkable skill, teamwork and sportsmanship on the field.

The match not only promoted physical fitness but also encouraged greater involvement of girls in sports and community activities.

The villagers, along with local representatives, gathered to cheer for the players, creating an atmosphere of



support and pride.

This collective effort aimed to inspire young girls and reinforce the importance of women's empowerment.

The initiative was a testament to the community's commitment to promoting gender equality through constructive, community-driven activities.

It underscored the vital role that sports play in empowering women and breaking down societal barriers, empowering them to excel in every aspect of life.

DC XI Kathua scripts emphatic wins over DC XI Samba

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 15

DC XI Kathua registered a convincing 33-run victory over DC XI Samba in an exciting T20 encounter played Sports Stadium Kathua today, displaying fine teamwork and match temperament.

Batting first after winning the toss, DC XI Kathua put up a competitive total of 161 for 7 in the allotted 20 overs. Amit Sharma stood tall with a magnificent 56 off 42 balls, striking nine boundaries and holding the innings together with a blend of elegance and authority. Karun injected momentum with a brisk 30 off 16 deliveries, while Jimmy added 22. Amit Jasrotia's unbeaten 26 runs towards the end provided the much-needed flourish, helping the side post a challenging target.

After Anushka's dismissal, Tejal Hasabnis provided the finishing touches with a brisk 12 off five balls as India romped home in just 10.1 overs with 59 balls to spare.



sharp fielding.

The bowling attack of DC XI Kathua was spearheaded brilliantly by DC Rajesh Sharma, Vishal and Karun, who maintained tight lines and picked up timely break-

throughs.

Adding to the highlights, CPO Ranjeet Thakur executed a superb caught-and-bowled, drawing applause from players and spectators alike.

The match was marked by high energy, sportsmanship and camaraderie, with DC XI Kathua ultimately emerging victorious through a collective and spirited team effort.

One day Cricket Exhibition match organized at GDC Bhaderwah

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 15

A one-day cricket exhibition match was organized under the Nisha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan at Government Degree College Bhaderwah to spread awareness about a drug-free society and promote healthy activities among youth.

The exhibition match was held between District Health Society Doda and Sub District Hospital Bhaderwah. The programme was organized by the District Health Society Doda in collaboration with district administration and other concerned departments as part of the ongoing awareness campaign.

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson, Sangeeta Bhagat and Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh attended the programme and en-



couraged the participants. They highlighted the importance of sports in promoting a healthy lifestyle and keeping youth away from substance abuse.

The officials appreciated

the efforts of the organizers for conducting such events under the Nisha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and emphasized the need for collective action to make society drug-free.

The programme witnessed active participation from health officials, players and local youth reflecting strong support for the anti-drug awareness initiative.