



## Australia seal 19-run win over India in second T20I; level three-match series 1-1

**CANBERRA, FEBRUARY 19** : A comprehensive all-round bowling performance helped Australia Women secure a 19-run victory over India Women in the second T20I of the three-match series at the Manuka Oval on Thursday. The hosts outclassed the visitors with both bat and ball to take control of the contest and level the three-match T20I series 1-1. Earlier, the Women in Blue won the opening T20I by 21 runs (DLS Method) on February 15 in Sydney. The final match of the series will be held on February 21 at Adelaide Oval in Adelaide.

Australian opener Georgia Voll was named Player of the Match for stitching a century with Beth Mooney and scoring 88 runs in the match.

After being asked to bat first, a brilliant knock by opener Georgia Voll (88 off 57 balls, with 11 fours and one six) guided Australia to post a challenging score of 163/5 in 20 overs.

Apart from Georgia Voll, wicketkeeper-batter Beth Mooney scored 46 off 39 balls, with four boundaries. The Australian openers also stitched a superb 128-run stand for the first wicket.



For India, Renuka Singh Thakur (1/27) and Arundhati Reddy (2/30) were among the wicket-takers.

After scoring 46 runs, Mooney surpassed legendary Meg Lanning to become the highest run-getter for Australia in T20Is. The wicketkeeper-batter has 3432 runs in 114 matches and 108 innings at an average of 41.85.

Lanning, who is now second, has amassed 3405 runs in 132 matches and 121 innings at an average of 36.61. The former Aus-

tralian captain notched up two centuries and 15 half-centuries.

Chasing 164, Indian openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana stitched a 57-run partnership for the first wicket.

Verma departed after scoring 29 off 23 balls, with five fours. Mandhana made 31 off 24 balls, with four boundaries. Both failed to convert their starts.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur got out on 36 off 30 balls, with five fours. Wicketkeeper-batter Richa

Ghosh made 19 off 20 balls, with three fours. Jemimah Rodrigues (4), Amanjot Kaur (3) and Deepti Sharma's two-ball duck had a forgetful day as India made 144/9 in 20 overs, losing the contest by 19 runs.

With the ball, Ashleigh Gardner (3/22) picked up a three-wicket haul. Kim Garth (2/16), Annabel Sutherland (2/18), and captain Sophie Molineux (2/37) scalped two wickets apiece in Australia's 19-run victory. (ANI)

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

**Three top J&K women cricketers have made it to the North Zone squad for the Senior Women's One-Day Tournament.**

The selections made during a meeting which was convened by the Member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of J&K Cricket Association (JKCA), Meenu Singh Slathia at Hostel Ground, here today.

Members of the selection panel comprised Reema Malhotra (DDCA), Rajni Kumari (HCA), Rajwinder Kour (PCA), Surinder Mehta (HPCA), Amit Prashar (UTCA), and Anuradha Sharma (JKCA).

From a competitive 15-member squad, the selec-



tors unanimously picked explosive batting all-rounder Rubia Syed, gritty off-spinner Sandhya Sayal, and stylish batting all-rounder Chitra Singh Jamwal from J&K. Standby player Rudrakshi

Chib (JKCA) also earned a spot.

These seasoned performers dominated the league phase with Chitra making 245 runs with two half-centuries and Rubia scored 221

runs, including two fifties. Sandhya took 12 wickets in the tournament.

North Zone Squad: Priya Punia (DDCA), Pragya Rawat (WK DDCA), Shweta Sehrawat (Captain DDCA), Tanisha Ohlan (HCA), Rubia Syed (JKCA), Ridhima Aggarwal (PCA), Ayushi Soni (DDCA), Nazma (DDCA), Sandhya Sayal (JKCA), Triveni Vashishtha (HCA), Sushma Verma (WK) (HPCA), Chitra Singh Jamwal (JKCA), Tarunika (UTCA), Nandini Sharma (UTCA) Subject to fitness, Kashvee Gautam (VC) (UTCA) Subject to availability and fitness.

Standbys: Soni Yadav (DDCA), Suman Guliya (HCA), Shivani Singh (HPCA), Pragati Singh (PCA), Sheetal Rana (HCA), Jyoti Thakur (HPCA), Rudrakshi Chib (JKCA)

## PG JU emerges overall champion in Athletics

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 19

The combined side of Post Graduate (PG) Departments of University of Jammu (JU) clinched the overall championship trophy securing highest 61 points in the 48th annual athletics meet of JU held on the main campus, here today.

Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur remained overall runners-up with 50 points. The men's overall trophy bagged by GDC Udhampur with 47 points whereas the women's title trophy went to Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur with 36 points.

Uttkarsh Barnwal of GDC Udhampur was adjudged best athlete in the men section while the Taniya Devi of GDC Billawar named best



women athlete.

Dr Vikram Singh Sahi, Director, Central Library, JU was the chief guest in the valedictory function, who presented the title trophies and other individual prizes in the presence of Director Sports, JU. He congratulated the Directorate of Sports for the successful conduct.

Sharat Chander Singh, general secretary, and Ravinder Singh, vice president of J&K Amateur Ath-

letics Association were the special guests.

Dr. Mandeep Singh, Assistant Professor, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, JU presented vote of thanks.

The technical panel comprised Ravinder Singh, Nirpal Singh, Gurucharan Singh, Chamel Singh, Harvinder Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Amit Sharma and Parveen Singh

Prominent among others present were Dr. Vimal

Kishore, Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ravish Vaid, Vikas Karlopiya, Gagan Kumar, Padam Dev Singh, Jai Bharat, Balbir Singh, Ajay Malik, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Dr. Danish Kumar, Dr. Jaswant Singh, Dr. Vikesh Sharma, Dr. Rupali Slathia, Alyas, Goutam Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Tanpreet Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Harinderpal Singh, Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Mahak, Dr. Devesh Kumar, Rishiv Sharma and Richa Mandla.

## All-round Australia defeat India by 19 runs in 2nd match to level women's T20I series

**CANBERRA, FEB 19:**

A record opening stand between Georgia Voll and Beth Mooney paved the way for Australia to level a three-match T20I series with a 19-run victory against India in the second match here on Thursday.

Voll and Mooney added 128 runs for the first wicket to register Australia's highest opening stand against India in T20Is, with the hosts posting 163 for 5.

India, despite making a sparkling start to the chase, crumbled in the end to finish at 144 for nine. Ashleigh Gardner claimed 3/22, while Kim Garth, Annabel Sutherland and Australia captain Sophie Molineux took two wickets each.

The series-deciding third T20I will be played at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

India were 65/1 in the ninth over when their slide began as the visitors lost six wickets for seven runs towards the end.

India were off the blocks quickly as Shafali Verma's early fireworks was followed by Smriti Mandhana opening up. The two Indian openers put on 54 in the powerplay to put the team



on track of the chase.

But Molineux applied the brakes when she pinned Shafali leg-before for a 23-ball 29 (5 fours) and Gardner got the key wicket of Jemimah Rodrigues (4).

India's run-rate slowed down with the two consecutive wickets and a third followed soon when Mandhana was caught sharply down the leg by Mooney off Garth.

With India struggling at 71 for three, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (30) and Richa Ghosh (19) joined forces and did well to add 55 runs for the fourth wicket.

However, the asking rate kept moving up which in turn forced the Indians to take unwanted risks. Harmanpreet was caught by her

counterpart Molineux off Garth on the penultimate ball of the 17th over at extra cover, and three balls later, Ghosh was stumped off Gardner.

India's hopes suffered another big blow when Gardner had Deepti Sharma (0) caught by Sutherland in the 18th over, with India slipping to 128 for six.

Earlier, Voll (88) and Mooney (46) recorded the best-ever opening partnership for Australia of 128 runs against India as the hosts posted 163 for five.

Arundhati Reddy, who saw a catch being dropped off her final ball in the innings off Ashleigh Gardner (10 not out), once again delivered the goods dismissing both the Australian openers

to return 4-0-30-2.

Voll and Mooney bettered the first-wicket stand in women's T20Is for Australia against India, which was of 115 runs set by the pair of Alyssa Healy and Mooney in March 2020 at Melbourne.

With the right-handed Voll taking charge of the scoring from the word go, the senior pro Mooney played a perfect second fiddle but missed her milestone by a narrow margin.

Voll made the most of some wayward bowling from Indians to strike 11 fours and one six, scoring 88 off only 57 balls. She picked gaps with precision and displayed an array of strokes on either side of the wickets to get her runs. Mooney was caught at mid-on by Shafali Verma off Arundhati on the penultimate ball of the 15th over. The left-handed opening batter struck four fours during her 39-ball knock for 46 runs.

Brief Scores: Australia Women 163 for 5 in 20 overs (Georgia Voll 88, Beth Mooney 46; Arundhati Reddy 2/30) beat India Women 144/9 Harmanpreet Kaur 36; Ashleigh Gardner 3/22 by 19 runs.

## T20 WC: Afghanistan thrash Canada by 82 runs

**CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 19** : A commanding all-round performance powered Afghanistan to a dominant 82-run victory over Canada in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash in Chennai on Thursday.

Riding on Ibrahim Zadran's fantastic knock and a clinical bowling display led by Mohammad Nabi, Afghanistan outplayed Canada in all departments to secure a comprehensive win.

Put into bat, Afghanistan's opening pair once again started well, putting on 47 runs. However, star batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz fell for 30, and Afghanistan slipped to 49/2 in the power play.

Ibrahim Zadran led the



Afghanistan rebuild with a gritty half-century, his second successive fifty at the World Cup. His 95-run partnership with Sediqullah Atal (44) gave Afghanistan the perfect platform to launch the final few overs.

Carrying the bat through, Zadran scored his personal best knock of 95 off 56, which is also the highest score by an Afghanistan player in this edition of the World Cup. In a well-paced

innings, he struck seven fours and five sixes. Afghanistan posted a challenging score of 200/4 in 20 overs.

For Canada, Jaskarandeep Singh was the most successful bowler and ended with 3/52 in four overs.

Chasing 201, the last match centurion, Yuvraj Samra departed for 17 runs off 14 balls, with three fours by off-spinner Mohammad Nabi.

Captain Dilpreet Bajwa (13) was clean bowled by Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Navneet Dhailwal departed after a five-ball duck to Azmatullah Omarzai. Canada

crawled to 34/3 in six overs.

Wickets continued to fall for Canada after the power play. Mohammad Nabi removed Nicholas Kirton (20) during the eighth over, and wicketkeeper-batter Shreyas Movva (2) was dismissed to Rashid Khan in the next over as Canada reached 48/5 in nine overs.

Saad Bin Zafar (28), Dillon Heyliger (3), Jaskaran Singh (7\*) and Ansh Patel (2\*) also had forgetful day as Canada crawled to 118/8 in 20 overs, losing the one-sided contest by 82 runs.

For Afghanistan, Mohammad Nabi (4/7), captain Rashid Khan (2/19), Azmatullah Omarzai (1/18) and Mujeeb Ur Rahman (1/23) were among the wicket takers.

**BENGALURU (KARNATAKA), FEBRUARY 19** : Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, an emerging tennis player from Coimbatore, is competing in the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 Bengaluru 2026.

The 16-year-old faltered in the first round of the singles main draw, losing to fifth seed Polina Iatcenko in three sets, but paired up with compatriot and close friend Shrivalli Rashmikka Bhamidipaty to defeat another Indian pair and advance to the Quarterfinals in the Doubles, according to a release.

Coming on the back of another appearances Mumbai and Pune, Maaya continues to make steady strides on the international tennis circuit, drawing from strong early foundations in India and elite training at the Rafa Nadal Academy.

Maya's tennis journey began at a young age in Coimbatore, with her parents encouraging her to take part in sports. Due to the availability of tennis academies closer to home, she decided to pursue tennis and what started as an extracurricular activity quickly turned into a professional sport.

"I started taking tennis more seriously when I was 10 years old. Winning the Under-12 Nationals in 2022 was an eye-opener; it made me feel that maybe I could do something with the sport



because I was enjoying it and felt happy on court. And when I entered the ITF juniors, I had a 25-match winning streak, won four tournaments in a row, and reached major quarterfinals and semifinals. Winning the J300 in Delhi also brought me closer to the Grand Slams, so it had been a great start for me so far," she recalled.

At the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 Bengaluru 2026, Maaya has shown occasional signs of brilliance and remains confident in her game.

"I feel it's been a good period of positive growth.

Right now, the focus is on amassing experience, competing against better players, and growing physically and mentally. Rankings and results will follow," she reflected on her recent outings in the country.

Expressing her fondness for the city of Bengaluru and noting its significance in her development, Maaya said, "My first-ever tennis tournament was in Bangalore, an Under-10 tournament. I lost in the first round, but I still had a lot of fun and stayed at the venue the entire day. "I've always liked playing in Bangalore. In the Under-14s, I had one of my

better results here, and most of the times I've played these courts, it's been very good for me."

Ahead of the French Open, Maaya now plans to play on clay courts after her return to the Rafa Nadal Academy. "The environment is great at the Rafa Nadal Academy because you are surrounded by athletes, and I study there as well. It's turned into a second home. I will now look to play more on clay courts, with the French Open coming up. The immediate aim is to do well in the Junior Grand Slams," she stated. (ANI)