



Shine Star Clinch Thrilling 1-Wicket Victory

Mohit's 4-wicket haul and Anmol's half-century steer dramatic chase

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 18

In an edge-of-the-seat encounter in the ongoing 1st Jammu Lochan T20 Cricket Tournament, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) at Maulana Azad Stadium, Shine Star Cricket Club registered a nail-biting one-wicket victory over Hunter Cricket Club today.

After winning the toss, Hunter Cricket Club skipper Vikas Charak elected to bat first. However, his side could manage 133 runs before being bowled out in 19.3 overs. Vikas Charak contributed a quick 19 runs off 13 balls, laced with three fours and a six, while Arvind Chouhan added 23 runs off 30 deliveries. The standout performer with the ball for Shine Star was Mohit, who claimed an impressive four wickets, conceding just 30 runs in 3.3 overs.

In reply, Shine Star Cricket Club chased down



the target of 134 runs in a tense finish, reaching the total in 19.2 overs with nine wickets down. Anmol Kumar played a crucial innings, scoring a composed 50 runs off 43 balls, anchoring the chase under pressure. Rohit chipped in with 15 runs off 12 balls to sup-

port the effort.

For Hunter Cricket Club, Vikas Charak led from the front with the ball, taking three wickets for 15 runs in his four overs, while Arvind Chouhan picked up two wickets, conceding 30 runs.

With nerves held till the final moments, Shine Star

Cricket Club emerged victorious by a slender margin of one wicket. For his exceptional bowling performance, Mohit was rightly adjudged Player of the Match. The award was presented by Neete Kour Kalsa, General Secretary of JK-MGA.

IPL 2026: KL, Stubbs fifties, clinical finishing from Miller guides DC's win over RCB in last over thriller

BENGALURU, APRIL 18: Fifties from KL Rahul, Tristan Stubbs and a clinical finish by David Miller helped Delhi Capitals (DC) overcome a fine bowling display, beating Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by four wickets in a last-ball thriller at Bengaluru on Saturday.

With this win, DC has climbed to the fourth spot with three wins and two losses, giving them six points. RCB is at the second place, with four wins and two losses, giving them eight points.

When RCB was put to bat first, they could put up just 175/8 in 20 overs, with Phil Salt (63 in 38 balls, with four boundaries and three boundaries) being the only massive contributor as wickets fell regularly. Lungi Ngidi, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel took two wickets. During the run-chase, DC slipped to 18/3 courtesy a fine spell from Bhuvneshwar, but fifties from KL (57 in 34 balls, with six fours and two sixes), Stubbs (60* in 47 balls, with four boundaries) and finishing from Miller (22* in 10 balls, with a four and two sixes) guided DC to a brilliant win.

During the run-chase of 176 runs, Bhuvneshwar Kumar gave RCB just the start they wanted, trapping Pathum Nissanka for just one run on the fourth ball of the first over, then getting Karun Nair (5) and Sameer Rizvi (2) courtesy sensational catches from Phil Salt and wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma. DC looked down and out at 18/3 in 2.5 overs.

The fifth over saw KL reliving some pressure, with a six and a couple of fours against Josh Hazlewood, getting 14 runs from the over. DC ended their power play at 50/3 in six overs.

Rahul collected a couple of boundaries against Suyash Sharma in the eighth over, bringing up the 50-run stand in 29 balls. He continued to take down Suyash, bringing up his second half-century of the season in 30 balls, with five fours and two sixes. Halfway through their innings, DC was 87/3, with KL (57*) and Tristan Stubbs (18*) unbeaten.

Starting off the second half, Krunal removed KL



for a 34-ball 57, with six fours and two sixes. Virat Kohli took a fine diving catch. DC was down 87/4 in 10.1 overs.

Skipper Axar Patel started off with a four on the first ball and, along with Stubbs, took DC to the 100-run mark in 11.5 overs.

Rasikh Dar Salam's 13th over removed some pressure from DC, as Axar and Stubbs collected three fours.

At the end of 14th over, DC was 130/4, with Axar (24*) and Stubbs (36*) unbeaten. In the next three overs, RCB bowlers exerted massive pressure on DC, with Krunal giving away five runs in the 15th over, Bhuvneshwar giving five in the 16th over, and Hazlewood continuing the squeeze with a four-run 17th over.

Axar was off the field due to cramps at score of 19-ball 26, with three fours. On the fourth ball of Bhuvneshwar's 18th over, Stubbs dispatched him for a six over deep square leg, breaking a boundary-less streak of 24 balls. He reached his half-century in 41 balls, with three fours and a six. With two overs left, DC needed 25 runs, with Stubbs and David Miller at the crease.

Stubbs and Miller took the chase forward, collecting 10 runs from Rasikh's penultimate over, including a four by Stubbs. DC needed 15 in the final over.

Romario Shepherd came to deliver the final over. After a single on the first two balls, Miller produced two successive sixes and a four to take DC over the finish-

ing line with a ball left. DC ended their chase at 179/4 in 19.5 overs, with Miller (22*) in 10 balls, with a four and two sixes) and Stubbs (60* in 47 balls, with four boundaries and a six) unbeaten.

Bhuvneshwar (3/26) was the pick of the bowlers for RCB, while Hazlewood (0/38) and Rasikh (0/40) also delivered some fine bowling towards the end stages. Krunal Pandya also delivered a fine spell of 1/24 in four overs. Earlier, RCB set a modest target of 176 runs for Delhi Capitals (DC) despite starting well at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Asked to bat first, RCB got off to a flying start with the openers, Phil Salt and Virat Kohli adding 52 runs for the first wicket. The highlight of the partnership included Phil collecting two fours and a six against Aquib Nabi in the fifth over, bringing the 50-run mark in five overs.

Kohli failed to hit his 300th IPL six and departed after making 19 runs with the help of three boundaries, falling to Lungi Ngidi while going aerial, handing a catch to Pathum Nissanka at deep cover. The hosts added 59 runs in the power play.

Devdutt Padikkal came in to bat at number three and started with a few boundaries, but lost his wicket to the DC skipper Axar Patel. He made 18 runs off 13 balls, with the help of one six and a four. RCB was 99/2 in 10 overs.

Salt kept hitting boundaries from one end and

completed his half-century in 30 balls, with five fours and three sixes. He made 63 runs off 38 balls with the help of seven boundaries before Kuldeep Yadav got him caught by Tristan Stubbs. RCB was 105/3 in 10.4 overs.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar started with a six, but Mukesh Kumar got him caught behind. He made just eight runs off four balls. Another wicket fell in quick succession, with RCB at 131/4 in 12.4 overs.

Tim David (26 off 17 balls) hit three fours and one six, but lost his wicket to Patel. Half of the RCB wickets were gone at 146 runs in 15.4 overs.

Shepherd failed to hit big sixes and departed after making just one run to Kuldeep. RCB was 149/6 in 16.3 overs.

Jitesh failed to accelerate in the death overs and made just 14 runs off 20 balls. Krunal Pandya contributed with 12 runs, including a beautiful straight six, but was run out due to miscommunication by Jitesh. Despite all efforts from the tailenders, RCB finished with 175/8.

For DC, Lungi Ngidi (2/39), Kuldeep Yadav (2/32) and Axar Patel (2/18) picked two wickets each, whereas Mukesh Kumar grabbed one wicket of Patidar.

Brief Score: RCB - 175/8 (Phil Salt - 63 off 38 balls, Tim David - 26 off 17 balls, Axar Patel 18/2) lost to DC: 179/4 in 19.5 overs (Tristan Stubbs 60*, KL Rahul 57, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/26) by six wickets. (ANI)

We're short of runs, need to capitalise better: Jemimah Rodrigues

DURBAN, APR 18: Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues admitted they were short of runs in the opening women's T20I but said the series presents a valuable opportunity for the batting unit, especially the all-rounders, to prepare for the upcoming World Cup.

India failed to build sustained momentum and finished with 157 for seven, a total that South Africa chased down comfortably to seal a six-wicket win in the series opener here on Friday.

"I feel, starting off in batting, we were around 15-20 runs short. With the kind of start we got, I think Shafali Verma, the way she batted was great," Rodrigues told reporters.

"Then two wickets falling in two overs, but then Harmanpreet Kaur and I getting that partnership back. I think when we had built that momentum and removed the difficult part of it, when time came to capitalise, we were not able to capitalise."

"And also, the conditions were a little bit tricky in the first innings. There was slight hold on the wicket. But yeah, definitely we were 15 runs short."

Harmanpreet Kaur (47 not out off 33 balls) and Rodrigues (36; 29b) shared a 71-run stand (51b) in the middle overs to steady the innings.

However, Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh (5) fell in quick succession, denying India a late flourish.

"I know Harman and I could have gone deep.



"Even Richa, little here and there, it was a six. So, sometimes when you come in, in such a position, you need to back yourself. It is like 1 out of those 10 times where it will go for a catch," Rodrigues said Richa's dismissal.

"But I know 9 out of 10 times, she will hit it in the stands. So, I think we can definitely work on that because coming to the World Cup, we have batting till the end, a lot of all-rounders."

"But also, the all-rounders coming later have not got so much match time and experience. So, I think playing here in South Africa is going to be really great for us as a preparation also for the World Cup and for our entire batting order too."

India were also sloppy with the ball, conceding 14 wickets as South Africa overhauled the target in 19.1

overs. Laura Wolvaardt (51 off 39) laid the foundation for the chase.

Annerie Dercksen (44 not out off 34) then powered the hosts home with an authoritative finish.

"Coming in the second innings, I think our bowlers did really well to get it to the last over. Like Shreyanka Patil bowled really well, Shree Charani bowled really well," Rodrigues said.

"A little more better execution and I think we are going to come back stronger in the next game."

Rodrigues said the wicket was tricky and stressed the need to capitalise on good starts.

"I felt in the first innings, the ball was gripping a bit. It was not coming as nicely on the bat. I feel Harman and I, the partnership we had was really good. It was just that

when the time came for us to capitalise, I got out at the wrong time," she said.

"Because for set batters, it is easier to bat through and take it deep. So, in the next match, I will come back and take that responsibility again."

Looking ahead, Rodrigues said the team would focus on better execution.

"In the next game, for us as a batting unit, I think in the day, again we know what the conditions will be like. We know that this pitch might have slight turn and slight hold. And in the day time, it is also going to play the same in both the innings."

"So, that is one positive where it is not much on the toss. And the second thing would be, as a bowling unit, we will work a lot more on our execution and come back stronger."

India seek better finishing, sharper pace attack against SA in 2nd Women's T20I

DUBAI, APR 18: A scratchy India will look to address their batting frailties in the backend and hope for an improved show from the pacers as they aim to bounce back against South Africa in the second women's T20I here on Sunday.

India never really got any momentum and from 119 for 2 in the 15th over, the visitors ended up with 157 for seven, a target that was comfortably chased down with five balls to spare, with South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt smashing a 39-ball 59.

India got off to a flier with Shafali Verma (34 off 20) leading their charge, but her more accomplished opening partner Smriti Mandhana (13 off 14) did not last long. The fall of two wickets late in the power-play put the brakes on India's scoring rate.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (47 not out off 33) and Jemimah Rodrigues (36 off 29) then steadied the innings with a 71-run stand off 51 balls in the middle overs, but India failed to produce the final flourish, managing only 33 runs in the last five overs while losing three wickets.

Come Sunday, India will need to capitalise on the foundation, with the onus on the lower order to deliver in the backend and provide a defensible total.

"We could not capitalise as a batting unit. But positives for us is that even though we lost our way in the bowling innings, we came back really well to take this match to the last over. A lot of learnings for



sure," Mandhana said.

India, who have won their last four series, were also wayward with the ball, conceding 14 wickets—their second-highest tally in T20Is. Pacers Renuka Singh Thakur (0/25), Arundhati Reddy (1/28) and Kashvee Gautam (0/29) struggled for control in their three overs each, while spinners Shreyanka Patil (2/26) and Shree Charani (1/26) were effective.

India were also sloppy in the field, with Renuka Singh and substitute Anushka Sharma dropping catches at the death — an area they would look to improve.

"We've had one month almost after the Australia series. Everyone's getting into the groove, so I'm sure this match, we'll all go back and think about what we have to work on and come back stronger," Mandhana said. "Next match, day match, we had two sessions in the afternoon here when

we came. So, I'm sure that all the girls will be well prepped." With the T20 World Cup scheduled in the UK in a couple of months, the ODI champions India will look to maximise this five-match series. South Africa, on the other hand, were disciplined in all three departments, with Wolvaardt setting up the chase with a clinical fifty and Chloe Tryon and Annerie Dercksen completing the job with some big hits towards the end.

The hosts carried the momentum of restricting India below 160 into the chase, with Sune Luus providing a brisk start with three boundaries in her seven-ball cameo. Wolvaardt then added 48 and 52 runs with Tazmin Brits (10) and Dercksen (44) respectively as South Africa never looked under pressure.

In the bowling department, pacer Ayabonga Khaka (3/16) produced a

Player of the Match performance, including the wicket of Mandhana, while Tumi Sekhukhune impressed with timely strikes, dismissing Shafali and Rodrigues.

Nonkululeko Mlaba was the pick of the spinners.

Teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, Anushka Sharma, Deepti Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Shree Charani, Kashvee Gautam, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Renuka Singh Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Shreyanka Patil.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (captain), Anneke Bosch, Kayla Reyneke, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marx, Chloe Tryon, Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafta, Tebogo Macheke, Ayanda Hlubi, Ayabonga Khaka, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune.