



Wolvaardt guides SA to 23-run win over India, seals series by 4-1

BENONI, APRIL 27: An explosive 92 from skipper Laura Wolvaardt and some sensational bowling from South Africa propelled the hosts to a 23-run win over India in the final T20I at Benoni on Monday.

With this win, South Africa has taken the series in a thumping fashion by 4-1. Wolvaardt has been declared the 'Player of the Series' for top-scoring with 330 runs in five innings at an average of 82.50, with a strike rate of 168.36, including a century and three fifties, while the other batters struggled to even reach 200.

SA won the toss and elected to bat first. Wolvaardt put on a 75-run opening stand with Sune Luus (23 in 23 balls, with two fours and a six). But Shree Charani and Deepti Sharma reduced SA to 82/3, getting Luus, Tazmin Brits (2), Annerie Dercksen (0) in



quick succession.

Later on, double-digit cameos came from Chloe Tryon (12 in 10 balls) and Sinalo Jafta (16* in eight balls, with two fours), with

the skipper Wolvaardt unbeaten at 92* in 56 balls, with 11 fours and two sixes. Shree Charani (2/22), Deepti (2/37), Renuka Singh Thakur (2/21) were

top class with the ball, reducing SA to 155/6 in 20 overs.

During the run-chase of 156 runs, India went down to 38/3 in 7.3 overs, with Shafali Varma (4), Anushka Sharma (17) and Jemimah Rodrigues (1) falling quickly.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (22 in 22 balls, with two fours) put on a 38-run stand with Bharti Fulmali, taking the game in positive direction for India. But dismissal of Bharti at score of 40 in 30 balls, with three fours and two sixes at score of 99 as the fifth wicket swung back things in SA's favour. India needed 57 runs in 27 balls.

Richa Ghosh (25* in 15 balls, with three fours and a six) delivered an important cameo, but did not find enough support, restricting India to 132/8.

Nonkululeko Mlaba (2/15) and Nadine de Klerk (2/26) were the top bowlers for SA.

First-Ever 'Dogra Legacy Half Marathon' Successfully held at RS Pura

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 27**

The Maharaja Ranbir Singh Sports Club successfully organized the inaugural edition of the "Dogra Legacy Half Marathon" at R.S. Pura on Sunday, The 26th April. Held under the inspiring theme "Say No to Drugs," the event aimed to promote physical fitness, raise awareness against substance abuse, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Dogra community.

The marathon was conducted in collaboration with the Border Security Force (BSF) and the R.S. Pura Administration as part of the ongoing 100 Days Mission of Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 450 runners across three race categories - 21.1 km Half Marathon, 10 km Run, and 5 km Run.

The race commenced at 5:00 AM from Shaurya Resorts, Kullian, and concluded at Suchetgarh Octroi Post. The event was flagged off by former Cabinet Minister Shri Sham Lal Choudhary, while Inspector General, BSF Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the winners.

Highlights of the



Event
Half Marathon (21.1 km):

Men (18-35 years): Ajay secured first place with a timing of 1:21:06, followed closely by Sunil Kumar and Sonu Singh.

Women: Rimpi Devi claimed first position with a timing of 2:02:52, followed by Alisha Kour.

In the 35-50 age category, Kuldeep Kumar and Kirti emerged as winners.

In the 50+ category, Paramjeet Singh and Samita Sharma secured top honors.

10 km Run:

Men (18-35 years): Sohan Lal finished first (36:11), followed by Manvir Singh and Bunty Sharma.

Women: Abhiprerna Awana secured first position, followed by Aana Jamwal.

Winners in the 35-50 category included Naresh Kumar and Seema Sharma.

In the 50+ men's category, Naresh Sharma secured first place.

5 km Run:

Below 18 category winners included Aryan Sharma and Sunakshi Thakur.

In the 18-35 category, Ansh Dubey and Shamshad Bano emerged winners.

In the 35-50 category, Bikram Kumar and Manddeep Kour secured first positions.

In the 50+ category, Anand Kumar and Dr. Ritu

Ahal led their divisions.

The event was professionally managed by Real Time Sports, Jammu, ensuring high standards of organization and safety throughout. The marathon was dedicated to the memory of Late Shri Pranav Mahajan, fondly remembered as "Shan-e-R.S. Pura," for his invaluable contributions to promoting fitness and sports in the region. The Maharaja Ranbir Singh Sports Club expressed gratitude to all participants, sponsors, security personnel, and volunteers for making the event a grand success, and reaffirmed its commitment to organizing more such initiatives in the future.

ITTF World Team Table Tennis C'ship: Manika, Manav to headline Indian contingent

**LONDON [UK],
APRIL 27 (ANI):** Olympians Manika Batra, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai will be headlining a 10-member Indian contingent for the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Team Table Tennis Championships being held in London from Tuesday.<

The matches for the World Championships will be played in London and will feature separate men's and women's competitions, Swaythling Cup and the Corbillon Cup, respectively. The ties will consist of upto five single matches, and the first team to win three rubbers will progress to the next round, as per Olympics.com.

There are a total of 64 teams, divided in four groups of 16, will feature in each of the men's and women's events.

The top two seeded groups, featuring the top seven teams plus hosts England, start in Stage 1a; the remaining teams play in Stage 1b.

All eight teams from Stage 1a will move to Stage 2, which will consist of knockout games. However, they still play group games to determine the seedings in the next stage. Meanwhile, from Stage 1b, the 14 group winners and six best second-placed teams qualify for Stage 2.

The remaining eight second-placed teams will have to play extra preliminary round of matches to determine four further qualifiers. The knockout stage will start from round of 32 stage onwards and will go on till the finals.

The Indian men's challenge is led by world number 38 Thakkar and India is



drawn in group seven of stage 1b alongside Slovakia, Tunisia and Guatemala. The women's team will be led by world number 49 Manika, and they will lock horns with Ukraine, Uganda and Rwanda in Group 6 of Stage 1b.

The World Team Table Tennis C'ships were first hosted as a standalone competition back in 2000, and since then, China has been a dominant force at the competition. Other than Sweden's men's title triumph in 2000 and Singapore's

women's title win in 2010, China have won all other titles.

The World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026 will conclude on May 10.

*World Table Tennis Championships 2026: India squad

-Men's team: Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, G Sathiyam, Harmeet Desai, Payas Jain

-Women's team: Manika Batra, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Syndreela Das.

Virat Kohli just 11 runs away from 9,000 IPL runs; still 'Ace of Chases' for RCB

NEW DELHI, APRIL 27: Legendary Indian and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli is just 11 runs away from becoming the first player to reach 9,000 Indian Premier League (IPL) runs ahead of his side's clash against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

In 274 matches and 266 innings, Virat has made 8,989 runs at an average of 39.95 and a strike rate of 133.76, with eight centuries and 66 fifties and a best score of 113*. At the time of writing, Virat is sixth in the Orange Cap race, having made 328 runs in seven matches at an average of 54.66 and a strike rate of 162.18, including three fifties and a best score of 81. Virat has been a model of consistency while chasing

totals. Since the 2023 season, which marked his return to form after a slump in 2022, Virat has fallen for single digit just once in 21 innings while chasing, having made 1,087 runs at an average of 72.46 and a strike rate of 155.5, including a century and 11 fifties.

14 of these innings have ended in successful run-chases, with 881 runs at an average of 110.12 and a strike rate of 154.02, including a century and 10 fifties. Since 2023, RCB has a win percentage of 91.67 whenever Virat scores a fifty, while it dips down to 33.33 when he does not, as per a Cricbuzz stat.

Despite the growing reliability in the batting line-up with a powerplay hitter like Phil Salt, an Indian core of

skipper Rajat Patidar, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma and Krunal Pandya and finishers like Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Virat, remains the 'King' of chases and the carrier of his team's hopes.

Also, Virat, who has delivered three back-to-back 600+ run seasons in the IPL since 2023 and looks headed for a fourth one, is just 72 runs away from reaching 400 runs during a single IPL season for 11th time, a record-extending number.

Squads:
Delhi Capitals Squad: Pathum Nissanka, KL Rahul(w), Nitish Rana, David Miller, Sameer Rizvi, Axar Patel(c), Tristan Stubbs, Kuldeep Yadav, T Natarajan, Mukesh Kumar, Aaquib Nabi Dar, Vipraj

Nigam, Lungi Ngidi, Ashutosh Sharma, Dushmantha Chameera, Karun Nair, Mitchell Starc, Kyle Jamieson, Rehan Ahmed, Prithvi Shaw, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Tripurana Vijay, Abishek Porel, Sahil Parakh, Madhav Tiwari

Royal Challengers Bengaluru Squad: Jacob Bethell, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar(c), Jitesh Sharma(w), Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Romario Shepherd, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Suyash Sharma, Rasikh Salam Dar, Jordan Cox, Mangesh Yadav, Vicky Ostwal, Venkatesh Iyer, Philip Salt, Jacob Duffy, Nilwan Thushara, Abhinandan Singh, Swapnil Singh, Vihaan Malhotra, Kanishk Chouhan, Satvik Deswal. (ANI)

Rajouri ignites sporting spirit with grand opening of League of Classics U-17 Volleyball Tournament

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 27**

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Rajouri today kick started the League of Classics Under 17 Boys Inter District UT Level Volleyball Tournament under the Youth Engagement Programme.

Additional District Development Commissioner Malikzada Shaeraz Ul Haq, the chief guest inaugurated the event, marking a vibrant beginning of a major sporting event in the district.

BSF Commandant/OPS Parthvee Singh; BSF Commandant Kamal Rawat; BSF Assistant Commandant Tej Pal Singh; DEPO Sardari Lal Datta and DYSS (retd) Gulzar Ahmed



were the guests of honour.

A total of 18 districts from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are participating in the tournament.

On the occasion, a strong message against drug abuse was delivered through a Nasha Mukta pledge administered by the chief guest,

encouraging youth to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

Adding a cultural vibrancy to the event, students presented a colorful cultural programme that was well appreciated by the audience.

In the opening match, Pulwama defeated Rajouri

convincingly by 3-0. Abrar Farooq from Pulwama was declared the Player of the Match for his outstanding performance. In the second match, Ganderbal registered a 3-0 victory over Ramban, with Tahir Latief from Gandarbal being adjudged as the Player of the Match.

DC Baramulla inaugurates T20 Hazil Memorial Cricket Tournament

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 27**

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F Hamid, today inaugurated the T20 Hazil Memorial Cricket Tournament at Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla.

The tournament is being organized by Baramulla Cricket Forum in collaboration with the District Administration under the banner of Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

A total of 64 cricket clubs from across the district are participating in the tournament, with all matches scheduled to be played at Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with the players and appreciated the efforts of Baramulla Cricket Forum for organizing the tournament in memory of an individual who recently passed away due to cardiac arrest.

Highlighting the significance of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the DC emphasized that



such sporting events play a vital role in engaging youth in positive activities and steering them away from substance abuse.

The event witnessed participation

from Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Chairman Save Youth Save Future, officials, and sports lovers, marking a vibrant start to the tournament.