



SA skipper Wolvaardt climbs to career-high No. 2 in T20Is after heroics against India

JOHANNESBURG [SOUTH AFRICA], APRIL 28: South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt has been rewarded for her recent heroics against India as she reached a career-best of number three on the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings.

Wolvaardt was at her brilliant best against the reigning ICC Women's Cricket World Cup winners, with the right-hander scoring a superb century in the third game of the five-match series and chipping in with a century and trio of half-centuries to finish with a total of 330 runs and the Player of the Series award in South Africa's impressive 4-1 triumph.

It saw Wolvaardt jump two places to third overall for T20I batters behind top-ranked Georgia Voll, with the in-form South African earning a career-high rating courtesy of her hot form on the eve of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales from June 12.

Just last month, Wolvaardt suggested she was in a bit of a slump, but her current run of form is sure to be crucial for South Africa's title hopes at the T20 World Cup if she can replicate the same efforts.

"I am very happy with my



form at the moment," Wolvaardt said after the final game of the series against India on home soil, as quoted by ICC.

"After a tough tour to New Zealand, it has been really nice to turn it around. I cannot really tell you what has changed that much. That is the funny thing about cricket. In New Zealand, I was nine (runs) off 16 (balls) in the one game, and now I am batting quite a lot better and do not really know why," she added.

Wolvaardt is not the only player on the rise following

the series between South Africa and India, with Richa Ghosh (up two slots to 22nd) and Sune Luus (up six rungs to 29th) also making gains on the list for T20I batters following some strong efforts across the five matches.

It is a tight race at the top of the rankings for T20I bowlers that is still headed by Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal, with India all-rounder Deepti Sharma (up one place) and South Africa spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba (up two rungs) sharing fourth spot ahead of the T20

World Cup.

Just outside the top 10, there is a new career-high rating for India youngster Shree Charani, with the left-arter gaining 12 places to rise to 11th following her two-wicket haul in the series finale against the Proteas in Benoni.

There are also some changes in the latest ODI rankings following the completion of Bangladesh's home series with Sri Lanka, and it is a number of players from the home side who rise in the updated charts.

Experienced Bangladesh duo Nigar Sultana (up three spots to 35th) and Sobhana Mostary (up five rungs to 45th) make gains on the list for ODI batters, while Nahida Akter (up two slots to 11th) and Marufa Akter (up six places to 37th) are the big improvers on the updated rankings for ODI bowlers.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu jumps one place to ninth on the updated rankings for ODI all-rounders and seven spots to equal 34th for ODI bowlers, while teammate Harshitha Samarawickrama (up three spots to equal 20th) is the eye-catcher from the island nation on the list for ODI batters.

TUC 2026: Indian women go down 0-5 against China in final Group A tie

HORSENS [DENMARK], APRIL 28: The Indian women's team came up with a spirited performance against defending champions China in their final Group A clash of the Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark on Monday night, but could not avoid a 0-5 loss.

Facing a must-win situation to stay in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth, former world champion PV Sindhu returned to play the first singles and had her chances against world no 2 Wang Zhi Yi, according to a release.

Sindhu led Wang for most of the third game and even opened up an 18-12 lead in the decider.

The Chinese then took seven consecutive points to take the lead and wrapped up the match a couple of points later.

India's other two singles players, Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag, also built pressure on their much-fancied Chinese opponents but could not carve out a win.

Isharani lost to former



Olympic Champion Chen Yu Fei 20-22, 13-21, while Devika went down 21-19, 17-21, 10-21 against Xu Wen Jing.

India's scratch women's doubles combination of Tanisha Crasto and Kavipriya Selvam raised hopes of winning a point when they took the opening game against Luo Xu Min

and Zhang Shu Xian, but ended on the losing side of a 10-21, 21-12, 21-19 score line.

India had lost their first group game against Denmark 2-3 and then blanked Ukraine 5-0.

Result:

Women: India lost to China 0-5 (PV Sindhu lost to Wang Zhi Yi 16-21, 21-19,

19-21; Priya Konjengbam/Shruti Mishra lost to Liu Sheng Shu/Tan Ning 11-21, 8-21, Isharani Baruah lost to Chen Yu Fei 20-22, 13-21; Tanisha Crasto/Kavipriya Selvam lost to Luo Xu Min/Zhang Shu Xian 21-10, 12-21, 19-21; Devika Sihag lost to Xu Wen Jing 21-19, 17-21, 10-21). (ANI)

Leagues of Classics Cricket Tournament begins at Padder with grand opening

KISHTWAR, APRIL 28:

The League of Classics-An Inter District UT Level Cricket tournament for U/17 Boys began today at Sports Stadium Padder amid a grand inaugural ceremony. The Department of Youth Services & Sports has organized the sports event under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The tournament is witnessing the participation from 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting a remarkable spirit of unity, discipline and healthy competition among young cricketers from across the Union Territory.

The inaugural function was attended by local SDPO Vijay Bhagat as the Chief Guest, who formally declared the tournament open.

The Chief Guest encouraged the participating players to exhibit sportsmanship, discipline and dedication while utilizing sports as a constructive tool to stay away from social evils, particularly drug abuse.

He appreciated the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organizing such a prestigious event in the remote region of Padder and



thanked all departmental officials for their dedicated efforts. Earlier, the inaugural ceremony began with the recital of the National Anthem, followed by the administration of the Nasha Mukh pledge, where players, officials and spectators collectively pledged to work towards building a drug-free society.

The event was organized

under the direction of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and guidance of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by officials from civil and police departments, besides officials

from Army, whose presence added grandeur to the occasion.

The inaugural match of the tournament was played between Jammu and Bandipora amid great enthusiasm and cheering from spectators. The match set the tone for an exciting tournament ahead and showcased the talent and competitive spirit of the young players.

Indian TT team gets Rs 90 lakh support, overseas camp by SAI ahead of centenary World C'ships

NEW DELHI [INDIA], APRIL 28 (ANI): The Sports Authority of India (SAI) put in place a comprehensive support worth over Rs 90 lakh to ensure the Indian table tennis team put their best foot forward at the milestone centenary International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Team Table Tennis Championships (WTTC), which gets underway in London on Tuesday.

The event is scheduled from April 28 to May 10 at the OVO Arena in Wembley. A 19-member Indian contingent, comprising 10 players, three coaches, three support staff and three sparing partners, is representing the country at the prestigious global event, with leading names such as Manika Batra, Gnanasekaran Sathiyam, Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai spearheading the challenge across men's and women's competitions, as per a press release.

The Indian men's are drawn alongside Slovakia, Tunisia and Guatemala, while the women's team will take on Ukraine, Uganda and Rwanda in the group



stages. The group stage matches are scheduled between April 28 and May 1. The Indian teams will be looking to go further this time around; both the men's and women's teams advanced to the knockout stages but exited in the Round of 32 in the 2024 edition of the competition in Busan.

Table Tennis will not feature in the Commonwealth Games 2026, but the WTTC London will provide a good litmus test ahead of the

Asian Games 2026 in Japan, and also determine India's preparation and bench strength as the games set to return at the centenary Commonwealth Games 2030 in Bharat.

In the lead-up to the 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships, the Sports Authority of India sanctioned a series of preparatory camps to fine-tune the team's performance. A national coaching camp was held at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports

Centre in Bengaluru from April 13 to 19 at a cost of Rs 13.26 lakh, followed by an overseas training stint in Sheffield from April 21 to 26, backed with Rs 20.92 lakh. This phased preparation, combining domestic conditioning with international exposure, was done with the aim of sharpening match readiness and adapting Massimo Constantini's players to the European playing conditions.

SAI also released a total fund of approximately Rs 60.1 lakh to the Table Tennis Federation of India to ensure the team's participation, including airfare, boarding and lodging, out-of-pocket allowances and entry fees, for our athletes and officials in the event.

Teams for ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026:

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

Women's team: Manika Batra, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Syndrela Das
Coaches: Massimo Costantini (Foreign Expert), Sourav Chakraborty, and Somnath Ghosh. (ANI)

Stoinis' late-innings blitz of 22-ball 62* helps PBKS to 222/4 against RR

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28: Punjab Kings (PBKS) all-rounder put on a clinical display of big-hitting as he helped his team post a formidable total of 222/4 in their 20 overs against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in both teams' Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 encounter on Tuesday at New Chandigarh.

With the help of Stoinis' pinch-hitting, PBKS scored 41 runs in the last two overs to set a chal-

lenging target of 223 for the Riyan Parag-led RR.

After being sent in to bat first, the Shreyas Iyer-led PBKS began with an aggressive statement from opener Priyansh Arya. Showing no signs of nerves, Arya dismantled the RR opening attack, racing to 29 runs off just 11 deliveries before Jofra Archer provided the Royals with their first breakthrough in the third over. Priyansh's whirlwind cameo, consisting of five

boundaries and a six, provided PBKS with the early momentum they needed, reaching 37/1 in 3 overs.

Youngster Cooper Connolly kept the momentum going, smashing 30 off 14 deliveries, but it was Prabhsimran Singh who anchored the middle phase.

Prabhsimran played a composed yet aggressive knock of 59 off 44 balls, ensuring the scoreboard kept ticking even as the Royals' spinners tried to apply the brakes.

While captain Iyer contributed with a 27-ball 30-run innings, it was Marcus Stoinis who was the undisputed star of the evening, turning what looked like a competitive score into a mammoth one. Coming in late, the Australian all-rounder bludgeoned an unbeaten 62 off just 22 balls, striking at a massive 281.82. In his innings, he hit six maximums and four boundaries, helping PBKS to 222/4 in 20 overs.

Vinesh Phogat confirms registration for 2026 Senior Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda

NEW DELHI [INDIA], APRIL 28: India's ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat has confirmed that she has successfully registered for the upcoming 2026 Senior Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda, set to be held from May 10 to May 12.

In an X post, Phogat said her registration for the upcoming ranking tournament was completed on Tuesday morning after she missed the deadline yesterday when the link had closed. She thanked everyone for their support and

expressed excitement about returning to competition for the first time in 20 months.

"My registration to participate in the upcoming ranking tournament was done this morning. I could not complete the registration yesterday as the link was closed. Thank you for the support from everyone. I am looking forward to competing in my first competition after 20 months," Vinesh said on X.

Vinesh, who had announced her retirement

from wrestling in 2024, announced her return in December 2025, after an 18-month hiatus to chase her Olympic dream, confirming that she has come out of retirement from professional wrestling.

In 2024, Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling after being disqualified in the 50 kg freestyle final at the Paris Olympics. Phogat had advanced to the gold medal bout by defeating Cuba's Yusneily Guzman Lopez 5-0 in the semi-finals. She was set to compete against

the United States' Sarah Ann Hildebrandt for the gold medal, but was disqualified for breaching the weight limit.

In a fine career, Phogat has secured two World Championships bronze medals (2019 and 2022), an Asian Games gold (2018) and bronze (2014) and three Commonwealth Games gold medals (2014, 2018, 2022). She was also a gold medalist at the 2021 Asian Championships and has won silver and bronze at the continental level. (ANI)