



## 2nd T20I: Ireland create history, humble World T20 champions India by 1-run to win series 2-0

**BELFAST, JUNE 28:**

Jai Moondra, a software engineer from Rajasthan's Tonk, rocked a star-studded batting line-up filled with IPL stars as Ireland did the unthinkable, shocking reigning T20 World Champions India by one run to complete a historic 2-0 series win here on Sunday.

It is easily the greatest moment in Irish cricket since Kevin O'Brien's epochal century when they beat England in the 2011 ODI World Cup.

But humbling of the mighty India will certainly be at a different level for them.

In a slightly nippy, blustery conditions, Moondra (3/32 in 4 overs), who still holds an Indian passport, removed Sanju Samson (0), Abhishek Sharma (0) for first-ball ducks with icing on the cake being skipper Shreyas Iyer's wicket.

India managed only 153 for 9, chasing 155 at the Stormont ground on an eventful Sunday, after the hosts made 154 for eight.

Towards the end, Harshit Rana (21 off 10 balls) tried his best before being dismissed off the penultimate delivery of the match.

The series defeat also put a stop to India's 16 T20I series winning streak that started mid-2023.

Under mercurial head coach Gautam Gambhir, Indian men's cricket team has



achieved some embarrassing firsts.

After a home 0-3 white-wash in Tests against New Zealand in 2024 and a first ODI series defeat against New Zealand in early 2026, getting completely annihilated by a minnow is one of the lowest ebbs that one could have hit.

Once it became 19 for 3, it was always a catch-up game for India.

Vice-captain Tilak Varma (55 off 46 balls) respected the conditions where the ball was swinging and seaming. There was a bit of spongy bounce and the odd ball stopped.

The IPL prima donnas decided to throw caution to the winds and never for once realised that they are not play-

ing on the highways masquerading as cricket pitches which are on offer during the Indian Premier League with support of an Impact Player.

With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, Samson recorded his second successive first-ball duck against Moondra, who got one to shape in.

Three balls later, Abhishek, got a delivery bowled on hard length outside the off-stump and the southpaw's wild swig resulted in Matt Hollard running back from his short third-man position to grab the catch. Shreyas Iyer looked loose on both days, something not expected from a new captain.

Moondra slipped a stock

left-armed delivery that was pushed in with the angle and he got an inside edge onto the stumps playing away from his body.

Ishan Kishan (12) was back due to a brilliant direct throw by Ross Adair that found him way short of the crease.

At 35 for 4, it seemed all over for India when former vice-captain Axar Patel and current deputy Tilak Varma joined forces on a pitch that had a bit of carry and off the surface movement.

Earlier, debutant Prince gave an impressive account of himself with three scalps while Shivam Dube bowled a double wicket over as India restricted Ireland to what seemed like a below par 154 for 8.

## Perry, Gardner knock India out of Women's T20 WC; Aussies in semis

**LONDON, JUNE 28:**

Ellyse Perry oozed class and Ashleigh Gardner was all muscle as Australia notched up a smooth six-wicket win to knock an underwhelming India out of the ICC T20 Women's World Cup here on Sunday.

The defeat could well mean the end of Harmanpreet Kaur's time as India's T20 skipper.

Perry (56, 38b), who is playing her 10th World Cup, and Gardner (53 not out, 29b), added 100 runs for the fourth wicket as the six-time champions chased down 171 in 19 overs to enter the semifinals.

The Aussies (10 points) topped Group 1 with an all-win record, while 50-over champions India ended third with six points.

South Africa also progressed to the last four with eight points after they defeated Bangladesh by four wickets earlier in the day.

However, the Aussies were staring at the wrong end of the barrel at 68 for three in 9.1 overs after the Indian bowlers dislodged openers Phoebe Litchfield, Georgia Voll and veteran Beth Mooney for precious little.

Voll, in fact, fell in the first over itself, failing to negotiate a Renuka Singh delivery that jagged back sharply.

But thereafter, Perry and Gardner took apart the In-



dian bowlers with ease. They summoned years of vast experience to pick their bowlers and spots on the field to amass runs without taking undue risks.

Gardner punished left-arm spinner Sree Charani and Shafali Verma for sixes, while Perry was subtle in her ways. The 35-year-old pulled and cut Sree Charani, Shafali and Deepti Sharma with ease and her knock was studded with eight fours.

But the effect was the

same as Perry reached her fifty in 33 balls and Gardner in four balls less.

Perry fell to Sree Charani, this tournament's highest wicket-taker, eventually but by then the Aussies had their one foot on the shores.

Earlier, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur made a quick 56 off 27 balls but rest of the line-up struggled for acceleration as India posted a slightly under par 170 for four, perfectly mirroring their batting group's struggle all along this ICC show-piece.

India did start well through openers Smriti Mandhana (38) and Shafali Verma (34), who added 66 runs but safety appeared their first concern rather than scoring fast as the run-rate never really went above 7. There were occasional flares of aggression like Shafali's two sixes off off-spinner Ashleigh Gardner or Mandhana's successive fours off pacer Kim Garth.

## Messi becomes first player to score in 7 straight World Cup games, extends goals record

**ARLINGTON, JUNE 28:**

Lionel Messi became the first player to score in seven consecutive World Cup games while extending his all-time scoring record with his 19th goal in Argentina's group stage finale against Jordan.

Messi scored on a free kick after being taken down just outside the penalty box in the 80th minute. The low kick, just above the grass surface, split two Jordan defenders into the left corner of the net. It was his 72nd career goal on a free kick and 12th for Argentina. Messi now has 123 international goals - second all-time to Cristiano Ronaldo's 145 - in 202 appearances.

The 39-year-old had been one of only three



players to score in six consecutive World Cup games along with France striker Just Fontaine and Brazil great Jairzinho.

Messi didn't start with Argentina already set as the Group J winner and Jordan already eliminated from the knockout stage.

He entered in the 60th minute for Lautaro Martinez, who scored on a penalty kick in the first half.

## Australia knock India out of Women's T20 World Cup 2026 with record chase

**LONDON [UK], JUNE 28:**

Australia Women defeated India Women by six wickets in the final Group A match at Lord's on Sunday, to knock the Women in Blue out of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026.

India entered the match in a do-or-die situation, needing a win to progress to the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Australia Women and South Africa Women led the Group A points table after the Proteas Women secured a win over Bangladesh in the earlier fixture of the day.

With this result, India is eliminated from the tournament, having also suffered a key group-stage defeat earlier to South Africa. Aus-

tralia, meanwhile, progressed to the semi-finals unbeaten, maintaining their strong record in ICC events.

It is the highest successful run chase in Women's T20 World Cups.

Chasing 171, Australia Women displayed their trademark composure and batting depth. Even though India managed to pick up wickets at regular intervals, the Australian batters ensured the required run rate never spiralled out of control. Their top and middle order combined smart strike rotation with timely boundaries to keep the chase on track.

The defending champions eventually overhauled the target in the 19th over, finishing at 172/4 with six

balls to spare. Renuka Singh Thakur gave India a dream start as she swung the ball in to trap Georgia Voll lbw in the first over.

However, Australia took the attack to India in the last couple of overs to surge to 49/1 in the powerplay. They were marginally ahead of India, who scored 43/0 in the first six overs.

Deepti Sharma then bagged the prized scalp of Beth Mooney to become the highest wicket-taker in women's international cricket. She now has 356 international wickets.

India restricted Australia to 72/3 in 10 overs. From there, a 100-run partnership between Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner helped the Aussies roar

back from 68/3. Perry and Gardner slammed half-centuries to lead the Australian fight-back. The duo took Australia within touching distance of the target at 166/3 in 18 overs.

The match was played in front of a star-studded crowd at Lord's, but despite strong support, India fell short in a crucial knockout-style clash.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur led from the front with a blistering half-century, while openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma laid a solid platform as India posted a competitive 170/4 against Australia in their must-win Group A match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Lord's on Sunday.

## In historic first, Army duo clinch World Rowing Cup gold for India in Switzerland's Lucerne

**CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28:**

Two Indian Army sportspersons have won India's first-ever gold medal at the World Rowing Cup 2026 being held at Lucerne, Switzerland, topping the men's Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x) category.

"Historic! India's First Ever. Hav Lakshay and Hav Ujjwal Kumar Singh won India's first-ever World Rowing Cup gold in LM2x at Lucerne - 6:26.09. Proud moment for the Indian Army and the nation!" the Indian Army said on Sunday.

The duo, who have won several international medals in the past, were trailed by Hong Kong and the Netherlands. About 650 rowers from as many as 42 nations are competing across various men's and women's categories at the championships in Lucerne.

The LM2x, according to sports literature, is one of the most highly contested



and dynamic boat classes at the Lucerne regattas. The rowers have strict weight limits - where individual scullers cannot weigh more than 70 kg and the crew average must be 70 kg or less, which requires a carefully calibrated blend of explosive power and elite technical efficiency.

The championships are being held on the legendary Rotsee course in Lucerne, often referred to by rowers as "God's Lake" for its well sheltered flat water surface

that provides an ideal and fair racing environment.

The two sportspersons belong to the Army Rowing Node (ARN), Pune. It is located at the College of Military Engineering (CME) in Pune and is India's premier international-standard rowing facility with a specific mission to train the Indian Armed Forces' rowing teams for international competitive events, including the Olympics.

Established in 2001 as part of the Army's Mission

Olympics, ARN features a man-made rowing channel measuring 2,200 m long and 135 m wide, making it the only facility in India capable of hosting international competitions.

The facility can support around 300 athletes and features a boathouse, a fully-equipped gymnasium, and sports science facilities and is staffed by a professional team comprising coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists and sports psychologists.

## Javed Rana attends Dr Masud Choudhary Memorial Championship finals

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 28**

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today attended the finals of the Dr. Masud Choudhary Memorial Championship League at O.P. Hill Ground, Mendhar.

During the matches, Jatt 11 emerged victorious in the final defeating Mendhar 11 in an exciting summit clash held amid enthusiastic participation from the sports lovers and local youth.

Batting first after winning the toss, Mendhar 11 posted a challenging total of 167

runs in the allotted 15 overs. In reply, Jatt 11 chased down the target of 168 runs in 14.2 overs to clinch the championship trophy. Ranjeet Singh played a match-winning knock for Jatt 11 and was adjudged the Man of the Match for his outstanding performance.

Javed Rana, who attended the finals as a chief guest, congratulated both the teams for displaying exemplary sportsmanship and competitive spirit.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the growing enthusiasm among the youth towards sports is a positive development and

reflects the immense talent present in the border areas. He said the government is committed to create better sports facilities to enable young sportspersons to excel at various levels.

Rana announced that several sports infrastructure projects would be taken up in Mendhar to provide a robust platform to the youth. He informed that a number of projects, including an Indoor Stadium, Synthetic Track and Cricket Ground, are already under execution in the area and the next Championship will be played on the new ground.

The Minister appreciated

the efforts of the organizers for successfully conducting the championship. He said that such events play a vital role in promoting discipline, teamwork and healthy competition among the youth. He reiterated the government's commitment towards the promotion of sports and assured full support for the development of sporting infrastructure in border districts, particularly Rajouri and Poonch.

Prominent citizens, sports enthusiasts, local representatives and members of the organizing committee were also present on the occasion.