



Assam shuttler Ashmita wins maiden BWF World Tour title at Korea Masters



ASAN (KOREA), AUG 09: India's Ashmita Chaliha produced a gritty show to secure her maiden BWF World tour title with a fighting win over fourth seed Han Qian Xi of China in the women's singles final of the Korea Masters Super 300 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

The 26-year-old from Assam, who had suffered a career-threatening knee injury two years back in Korea, overcame a slow start and a testing decider to complete a memorable victory, recovering from the loss of the opening game to stun world No. 35 Han 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 in the summit clash that lasted 53 minutes.

"I feel really great and unbe-

lievable. But then I am trying to digest it. Now, I am hungry for more," said Ashmita.

Ashmita's win marks back-to-back BWF World Tour finals for Indians, with Tanvi Sharma having won the Taipei Open last Sunday. The Indian opened up a 3-0 start and had a 9-5 lead early on but Han made a stirring comeback as the two players were locked at 11-11.

The Chinese shuttler found another gear and a run of points helped her establish control as she closed out the game comfortably to earn the bragging rights.

Ashmita responded strongly in the second game. She attacked with greater authority, using her smashes to put Han

DPL: Ranjan, Dixit power North Delhi Strikers to decisive 7-wicket win over New Delhi Tigers

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 9: North Delhi Strikers registered a comfortable seven-wicket victory over New Delhi Tigers in Match 18 of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday, powered by a captain's knock from Sarthak Ranjan and a disciplined, well-rounded bowling performance.

Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, North Delhi Strikers restricted New Delhi Tigers to 161/8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Opener Atulya Pandey gave the Tigers a brisk start with 32 off 21 balls, featuring six boundaries. However, North Delhi Strikers kept taking wickets at crucial junctures. Vikas Dixit was the standout bowler, breaking partnerships through the middle and death overs to finish with excellent figures of 3/28 in four overs.

Despite middle-order contributions from skipper Himmat Singh (24 off 17), Aaryan Sharma (25 off 21), and Hrithik Shokeen (35* off 25), the Tigers struggled to break free against a disciplined Strikers attack where all five front-line bowlers, Akhil Chaudhary (1/33), Ajay Yadav (1/32), Arjun Rapria (1/35), Mayank Dagar (1/32), and Vikas Dixit--picked up at least one wicket.

Chasing 162 for victory, North Delhi Strikers made light work of the target, reaching 165/3 in 19.1 overs. Captain Sarthak Ranjan led from the front with a masterful 65 off 43 balls, striking three fours and five towering sixes.

Ranjan shared a massive 102-run opening partnership off 70 balls with Vaibhav Kandpal, who anchored brilliantly with 41 off 36 deliveries.

Though Revant Rakyen picked up 2/26 to briefly stall the chase, quickfire cameos from Yash Bhatia (19 off 9), Bharat Sindhwani (24* off 18), and Yash Dabas (14* off 9) comfortably guided the Strikers home with five balls to spare.



'Jo khelega, woh khilega': PM Modi meets CWG medallists, lauds their performances

NEW DELHI, AUG 09: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met members of the Indian contingent that returned with medals from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and congratulated the athletes for their impressive performances at the multi-sport event.

Modi shared a short video clip of his interaction with the medallists on Instagram, describing the meeting as a special occasion and praising the athletes for making the country proud.

Among those who interacted with the prime minister was boxer Sakshi Chaudhary, who won the gold medal in the women's 51kg category at the



Games. India enjoyed a strong campaign in Glasgow, finishing with 39 medals, including 13 gold.

Sakshi, said: "Our honourable PM sir has welcomed all the medallists

from the Commonwealth Games and we are feeling very proud of this. We have really enjoyed meeting him, he is very humble."

Modi, while interacting with the athletes, said: "Jo khelega, woh khilega. Always cheer for Bharat."

The prime minister spoke to the medallists and congratulated them for their efforts.

India's boxing contingent enjoyed a particularly successful campaign, with the country's pugilists winning a record haul of 10 medals at the Glasgow Games. Sakshi was among the seven Indian boxers who returned with gold.

GraphicReference

Gill returns to action on final day, India beat SLXI in three-day warm-up match

COLOMBO, AUGUST 9: A century partnership from skipper Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal helped India secure a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka XI in the three-day warm-up match on Sunday.

After skipper Gill missed the first two days of the action due to a finger injury sustained during training, he played a crucial hand in the run-chase of 207 runs.

SL XI won the toss and opted to bat first and declared at 363/8 in the first innings. Ravindu Rasantha (71 in 143 balls, with six fours and a six), Nishan Fernando (66 in 65 balls, with 11 fours and a six) and skipper Sonal Dinusha (52 in 72 balls, with five fours and a six) made half-centuries.

Manav Suthar (2/33), Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/76) were the leading bowlers for India. Aqib Nabi, drafted as Jasprit Bumrah's injury replacement, did not bowl any overs. Meanwhile, Saransh Jain (0/54), who got his first call-up, got some action with the ball.

In response, India lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (0) early, but a 96-run stand between KL Rahul (40 in 67 balls, with five fours and a six) and Devdutt Padikkal helped them get back in the game. Ravindra Jadeja (63 in 117 balls, with seven fours) had a 74-run stand with Padikkal before he was retired hurt.



Rishabh Pant (2), Dhruv Jurel (1) were dismissed for poor scores.

Padikkal also had an 82-run stand with Manav Suthar (41 in 90 balls, with five fours and a six) and stood tall when India declared at 357/6, trailing by six runs. Padikkal made a sensational 142* in 164 balls, with 18 fours at number three.

In the lower order, Saransh (22 in 45 balls, with three fours) and Gurnoor Brar (36* in 18 balls, with four sixes) posted handy knocks.

Asanka Manoj (2/32) and Ramesh Mendis (2/77) were the leading bowlers for Sri Lanka XI.

In their second innings, SLXI declared at 200/6, with Nishan Fernando (63 in 73 balls, with 10 fours), Nipun Dhananjaya (46 in 56 balls, with five fours) and Anjala Bandara (35 in 48 balls, with four boundaries and a six) playing handy knocks.

Jadeja (2/33) and Brar (2/37) were among the top wicket-takers for India, with Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna also getting a wicket each. Nabi also got to throw five overs, conced-

Jaiswal, Gill get batting practice as India beat Sri Lanka XI by 6 wickets

COLOMBO, AUG 09: Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill struck useful runs at the top of the order before Mohammed Siraj's late blitz helped India beat Sri Lanka Cricket XI by six wickets in their three-day warm-up game here on Sunday.

Chasing 207 for victory, India completed the target in 45 overs, finishing on 214 for four with Siraj smashing 32 off just 15 balls, including three successive sixes, to bring the game to an emphatic end.

Jaiswal, who had fallen for a duck in India's first innings, responded in style with a quickfire 61 off 46 balls. He and Gill put on exactly 105 for the opening wicket to give India a flying

start to their chase.

Jaiswal retired after reaching his half-century to allow his teammates valuable time in the middle.

Gill, returning to action after missing the first two days of the fixture with a finger injury, made a useful 44 before being dismissed by spinner Keshara Nuwantha. His return to the middle was a significant positive for India ahead of the opening Test against Sri Lanka.

Dhruv Jurel chipped in with 17, while Rishabh Pant made a patient 28 before India were briefly reduced to 155 for three. History

But the target was never in serious danger, with the lower order completing the chase in the final session.

Siraj then provided the fireworks, hitting three consecutive sixes to finish the game in style.

Earlier, Sri Lanka Cricket XI declared their second innings at 200 for six in 45 overs, leaving India a target of 207. Opener Nishan Madushka, who had also scored a half-century in the first innings, top-scored with 63 off 73 balls, while Nipun Dhananjaya made 46 and Anjala Bandara contributed 35.

Ravindra Jadeja and Gurnoor Brar claimed two wickets each for India, while Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna took one apiece. History

India had earlier declared their first innings at 357 for

six after Sri Lanka XI posted 363 for eight declared.

Devdutt Padikkal was the star of India's first-innings effort with an unbeaten 142, while Jadeja scored 63 and Manav Suthar contributed 41. Gurnoor Brar remained unbeaten on 36 as India finished just six runs behind the hosts. The warm-up game provided India with useful match practice ahead of the two-Test series against Sri Lanka, with the first match scheduled to begin in Galle on August 15.

For India, the return of captain Gill to competitive action, Jaiswal's brisk second-innings fifty and Padikkal's century were among the major positives from the three-day fixture.

Huge positives for India after warm-up match win over Sri Lanka XI

COLOMBO, AUGUST 9: India put in a strong showing in their only warm-up game ahead of the two-Test ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series against Sri Lanka. Chasing a target of 207 in the final innings, India secured a convincing six-wicket victory.

The result provided several positives for India as they look to revive their campaign in the race for next year's ICC World Test Championship Final. Here are some positives from the warm-up match:

-Gill quashes injury fears after a hit to finger:

India were dealt a major injury scare when Shubman Gill was forced to sit out the first two days of the warm-up fixture against a Sri Lanka XI, as per ICC. Gill suffered a blow to his right ring finger during a training session, with the injury adding to India's growing list of fitness concerns.

However, Gill quickly eased those fears by returning to the field on Day 3 and showing strong form with the bat, scoring 44 off 54 deliveries during the run-chase. India will be hoping the 26-year-old can carry his strong form into the Test series, having crossed the 50-

run mark in five of his last six appearances across formats. India arrived in Sri Lanka with a question mark over their number three batting position. Sai Sudharsan, who had been in the role over the past year, is doubtful to take part in the Test series due to a toe injury. However, India's concerns would have been eased considerably after Devdutt Padikkal produced a high-class performance in the first innings.

The left-hander smashed a brilliant century off just 121 balls before retiring on 103. He returned later in the day and continued his impressive knock, eventually finishing with 142 runs off 164 balls. Padikkal's performance has strengthened his case for the number three position ahead of the first Test, which begins on August 15.

-Jadeja in fine form

Ravindra Jadeja once again showed why he remains one of India's leading all-rounders, making a significant impact with both bat and ball throughout the warm-up match. In the first innings, the 37-year-old was among India's best-performing bowlers, returning impressive figures of 2/64 from his

15 overs. With the bat, he combined well with Padikkal to put together an important 72-run partnership before going on to score a solid 63 off 117 balls, eventually retiring hurt.

Jadeja followed it up with another disciplined spell of 2/33 from seven overs and added 22 off 32 in the final innings before retiring out. His all-round performance once again underlined his importance to the Indian setup, and he is likely to be a key figure if India are to go on and win the series.

SouthAsians & Diaspora The series will form part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle. Led by Shubman Gill, India are currently fifth in the World Test Championship standings, having registered four wins and four losses in nine matches, with a Points Percentage (PCT) of 48.150. India's squad for the Test series against Sri Lanka is: Shubman Gill (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sai Sudharsan*, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain and Aqib Nabi.