

Clinical India crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs to win Women's Tri-Nation tournament

■ **AGENCY**
COLOMBO: India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here on Sunday.

After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Ananjoy Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the damage.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu (51 off 66 balls) and Nilakshika Silva (48 off 58) were the chief contributors for the hosts.

Earlier, battling cramps in humid conditions, elegant left-hander Mandhana, who had returned to form with a fifty in India's last match against South Africa, struck a majestic 116 off 101 balls to lay the foundation for India's imposing total after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat.

Her knock was laced with 15 fours and two sixes, including four successive boundaries off Athapaththu to bring up her 11th ODI hundred in style.

After the early dismissal of Pratika Rawal for 30, Mandhana shifted gears smoothly.



The stylish Mandhana made Sri Lanka pay for dropping her on 21 as was involved in two big partnerships - 70 for the first wicket with Pratika and 120 for the second with Harleen Deol.

She brought up her 32nd ODI fifty with a stylish sweep behind square.

The left-hander added 120 runs in 106 balls with Harleen (47 off 56; 4x4) for the second wicket to steady the innings before falling while attempting a lofted cover drive.

But her dismissal set the stage for a strong finish as Jenimah Rodrigues, coming off a career-best 123 against South Africa, smashed a quick-fire 44 off 29 balls (4x4), while Harmanpreet contributed a brisk 41 off 30 (4x4, 1x6) as India piled on 90 runs in the last 10 overs.

There was a brief phase where India looked to have lost steam in the final overs, but cameos from Deepti Sharma (20 not out off 14) and Ananjoy Kaur (18 off

12) helped them surge past 340.

For Sri Lanka, Sugandika Kumari was the pick of their bowlers with 2/59, while Dewmi Vihanga (2/69) and Malki Madara (2/74) also picked two wickets each.

Set a formidable target, the home team needed a strong start, but instead, they lost Hasini Perera to Ananjoy in only the third ball of the Sri Lankan innings.

Attempting to play through mid-off, Perera ended up playing down the wrong line as the ball crashed onto the off-stump.

Sri Lanka were one down without a run on the board and an onerous task awaited the duo of captain Athapaththu and Vishmi Gunaratne (36 off 41 balls).

They seemed to be succeeding, as Athapaththu and Vishmi put Sri Lanka's chase back on track after the early blow. The pair negated the difficult phase well before opening up to hit boundaries.

However, Deepti's introduction put the brakes on Lankan scoring as the senior off-spinner bowled three economical overs on the trot before Ananjoy gave India their second breakthrough by bowling Vishmi around her legs after the batter had shuffled a long way across.

India could have had another wicket but wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh, standing up to debutant pacer Kranti Goud, could not hold to an edge from Athapaththu

when she was on 25.

Kranti then missed a catch off her own bowling after Nilakshi's leading edge off a slower delivery.

However, soon after getting to her fifty, Athapaththu was bowled by Rana, who dropped the batter off her own bowling in her previous over.

With the required run rate mounting, the match was as good as over after Nilakshika's dismissal to Rana.

SCOREBOARD	
INDIA WOMEN	
Pratika Rawal c Piumi Wathsala b Ranaweera	30
Smriti Mandhana c Samarawickrama b Vihanga	116
Harleen Deol c & b Vihanga	47
Harmanpreet Kaur (c) c Madara b Kumari	41
Jenimah Rodrigues c Silva b Kumari	44
Richa Ghosh † c sub (H Karunaratne) b Madara	08
Ananjoy Kaur c sub (H Karunaratne) b Madara	18
Deepti Sharma not out	20
Kranti Goud not out	00
Extras	18
Total	342/7
SRI LANKA WOMEN	
Hasini Perera b AB Kaur	00
ishmi Gunaratne b AB Kaur	36
Chamari Athapaththu (c) b Rana	51
Nilakshika Silva c Deol b Rana	48
Harshitha Samarawickrama c Mandhana b AB Kaur	26
Dewmi Vihanga c Rana b Shree Charani	04
Anushka Sanjeevani † c AB Kaur b Rana	28
Piumi Wathsala run out (AB Kaur/† Ghosh)	09
Sugandika Kumari run out (Mandhana/Rana)	27
Malki Madara b Rana	00
Inoka Ranaweera not out	00
Extras	16
Total	245/10

India's Nirupama Devi finishes 4th in Asian Weightlifting C'ships

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JIANGSHAN: Two failed clean and jerk attempts cost Indian weightlifter Nirupama Devi a bronze medal as she finished fourth in the women's 64kg category at the Asian Championships here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old, an Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships medallist, managed 115kg in clean and jerk as she faltered in her attempts to heave 120kg and 125kg, adding to her 91kg snatch for a total of 206kg in the non-Olympic category.

A successful 125kg lift would have taken the Manipur lifter past South Korea's Mun Min-hee, the 2018 Asian Games medallist, who claimed bronze with a total of 214kg (94kg +120kg)

China's Li Shuang won the gold with an effort of 239kg (105kg+134kg) while Filipina lifter Elreen Ann Ando clinched the



silver for her 232kg (102kg+130kg) effort.

India has sent a two-member team to the Asian Championships, which most of the elite weightlifters are giving a miss

Dilbag Singh will be competing in the men's 96kg event on Tuesday.

India's men's 4x400m, mixed 4x400m teams miss out on World C'ships qualification

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

GUANGZHOU: India's campaign at the World Athletics Relays ended in disappointment as the men's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m teams missed out on qualifying for the World Championships, to be held in Tokyo later this year.

The mixed 4x400m team of Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Rupal Chaudhary, Themmarasu Kayalvizhi Vishal and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.81 seconds to finish fourth in heat number 2.

The top three teams in each of the two heats qualified for the Worlds -- scheduled for September 13-21 in the Japanese capital.

On Saturday, the Indians had clocked 3:16.85 seconds to finish fifth in heat number 3. They got another chance on Sunday to book the World Championships berth but failed to do so.

Eight teams booked their World Championships berths on Saturday.

The men's 4x400m quartet of Jay Kumar, Dharmveer Choudhary, Thekkinalil Saji

Manu and Rince Joseph did worse than their female counterparts, finishing seventh with a time of 3:04.49.

On Saturday, the Indian men's 4x400m team had clocked 3:03.92 to finish fifth in their heat. They got another chance on Sunday to book the World Championships berth but failed to do so.

The top 14 teams in each of the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m, plus the mixed 4x400m, will secure their place at the Tokyo World Championships.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting was about to take off for home when the ceasefire between India and Pakistan came into force.

Despite that, the Australian legend had the option to fly back to Australia but he chose not to, making a last-minute disembarkation from the Qantas plane packed with anxious passengers.

Ponting stayed back in Delhi but he also ensured that the PBKS' foreign players, who were edgy considering the possibility of a

full scale war between two nuclear-armed countries, were convinced about returning to India with the event likely to resume later in the week.

"It shows Ponting's character. Only he could have pulled that off. Not only he voluntarily decided to stay back, he gave a motivational talk to the foreign players who had left for their respective destinations but now will be joining the team at the earliest," Punjab Kings CEO Satish Menon told PTI.

Considering the heightened security at the Delhi

IPL likely to resume on May 16 or 17, final could be moved out of Kolkata

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Suspended due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to resume either on May 16 or 17 with the possibility of the final being moved out of Kolkata.

The announcement of ceasefire on Saturday paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended on May 9 for one week.

The IPL Governing Council members and the BCCI officials discussed the resumption plan on Sunday.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said the board is still working on creating a suitable schedule.

"As of now there is no decision on IPL. BCCI officials are working out on the solutions. BCCI secretary, IPL Chairman are in talks with franchisees and everyone, so very soon we will know about the decision, efforts are being made to resume the tournament early," said Shukla.

An IPL source said the league will resume with the match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow -- the game which was supposed to be played on May 9.

"All the teams have been asked to call back their

players, the tournament will resume either on May 16 or 17 in Lucknow. The final schedule will be shared tomorrow (Monday)," a source told PTI.

"Most likely the matches will be held at four venues and Delhi and Dharamsala won't get to host more matches. All the equipment has already been removed from these venues," added the source.

The source also said that there won't be any change in the venue for Qualifier 1 and Eliminator that Hyderabad was supposed to host but Kolkata may miss out on hosting the final, most likely on June 1, due to rain forecast on that day in the city.

"As of now there is no change in venues for the play-off stage but it seems rain can affect the final in Kolkata. In that case the final could be played in Ahmedabad," said the source.

Speaking to PTI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added:

"In the next few days, we will begin consultations with the franchisees, broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations slated to host the remaining matches before crystallizing to a decision on the league's resumption. "Given that the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take

the nod of the Government of India before finalising the time for its restart."

It is possible that the two teams will be awarded a point each. Punjab Kings had raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when the game in Dharamsala had to be stopped due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

The players were ferried in bus to Jalandhar in Punjab from where they travelled to Delhi by train.

If only four venues are chosen to host the remaining 16 games then Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians will miss out on their home games.

It means the remainder of the tournament will be restricted to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Lucknow.

CSK, RR and SRH are already out of the reckoning and the battle for sealing the four play-offs spots is among seven teams.

Gujarat Titans as of now are leading the table with 16 points and superior NRR of 0.793, followed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (16 points, 0.482), Punjab Kings (15), Mumbai Indians (14), Delhi Capitals (13), Kolkata Knight Riders (11) and Lucknow Super Giants (10).

Home-bound Ponting deboards plane after ceasefire announcement, gives pep talk to foreign players

Airport, the franchise officials had to make plenty of phone calls to ensure Ponting's luggage was off-loaded from the plane.

The anxious batch of players, who had to make a nervous road/train journey from Dharamsala to Delhi following the abandonment of the IPL game on May 8, included Marcus Stoinis, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis and Xavier Bartlett (all from Australia).

South Africa's Marco Jansen and Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai have camped themselves in Dubai which is a short

flight from India.

"The foreign players are not used to something like this (war like situation). So, it was natural for them to feel anxious. Led by Stoinis, they all wanted to leave at the earliest and understandably so. But Ponting has convinced them to come back post ceasefire which I think is remarkable," said a source in the team.

With the announcement of IPL resumption imminent, Punjab find themselves well-placed with majority of their star Indian and foreign players already in the

country and on standby.

With Ponting galvanising the team from a nervous situation, it could motivate the squad to do something special in this IPL.

In the first season of Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting era, Punjab stand on the cusp of its first play-off berth since 2014.

The other stranded team in Dharamsala was Delhi Capitals after the game was abandoned after Punjab Kings raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs. The match will resume from that position at a yet to be decided venue and date.

Bhullar finishes 39th as Herbert wins in Japan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHIBA: Gaganjeet Bhullar opened and closed the final round with a double bogey but still managed one-under 70 to finish tied-39th in the USD two million International Series Japan here on Sunday.

The other Indian in the fray, SSP Chawrasia opened and finished with a birdie to card 73 and finish tied-68th.

Bhullar had five birdies, four of them in a row from the 13th to the 16th on the final day, as he ended the tournament at three-under 281, while Chawrasia, with two birdies against four bogeys on Sunday, went 3-

over 287 for the tournament. Lucas Herbert scripted a grandstand finish with an eagle on the par-five 18th hole for the second day in a row, extending his winning margin to a dominant five shots.

At the Par-71 Caledonian Golf Club in Chiba, the 29-year-old Australian won his maiden title on the Asian Tour and The International Series. Once he moved into the solo lead, he was never challenged as he closed with a seven-under-par 64 to reach 20-under for the week, five ahead of his playing partners Yuta Sugiyama (69) and Younghun Song (69),

both of whom carded 15-under.

American Cameron Tringale (66) rolled in a 15-foot eagle putt on the last hole to finish sole fourth at 14-under, one ahead of Thailand's Atiruj Winaichareonchai (65) and Japan's Shunya Takeyasu (67).

With this win, Herbert moved to the top of The International Series Rankings as well as the Asian Tour Order of Merit. It was also the LIV Golf player's first international victory in almost two years, having won the 2023 ISPS Handa Championship, also in Japan.

Our pacers keep getting injured, need to work on that: Harmanpreet

■ **AGENCY**

COLOMBO: India women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Sunday expressed her concerns about her pacers' frequent tryst with injuries and said the support staff is looking to address it before the ODI World Cup comes calling.

Harmanpreet was speaking after India's title triumph in the Tri-Nation ODI series following their 97-run win over Sri Lanka in the final here. "Proud of the entire team, especially the batters, we wanted to play good cricket, were looking to bat first if we win the toss and pretty happy with how we played," Harmanpreet said at the presentation ceremony.

India put up an imposing 342/7 batting first and then bowled out Sri Lanka for 245.



power India's charge before the likes of Jenimah Rodrigues, Sneha Rana, Ananjoy Kaur and Harmanpreet herself joined the party.

"We can never stop improving, lots of areas where we can keep doing better, be it batting, bowling or fielding. Our pacers keep getting injured, that's something we need to keep care of, the coaches are working on it."

Harmanpreet added, "The way the other batters apart from Smriti and me, the

way they batted was a big positive. The way Sneha Rana bowled was also a big positive. There are a lot of positives to talk about, but just want to enjoy the moment right now.

"Enjoyed the conditions here in Sri Lanka, we did struggle to get accustomed to the heat, but we then got used to it and nice to win this trophy."

Rana was declared the Player-of-the-Series for taking 15 wickets, while Mandhana was named the Player-of-the-Match.

Neeraj-led four Indians to compete in Doha Diamond League on May 16

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DOHA: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will have the company of three other compatriots in the Doha leg of the prestigious Diamond League Meeting on May 16 as the country will have maximum representation ever in a DL event.

Chopra, who won the title here in 2023 (88.67m) and finished second in 2024 (88.36m), will be joined by Kishore Jena in the men's javelin throw. Jena took part in 2024 also and had finished ninth with a throw of 76.31m.

The star-studded field in the men's javelin throw will have the likes of two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze winner Anderson Peters of Grenada, 2024 winner Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, Julian

Weber and Max Dehning of Germany, Julius Yego of Kenya and Roderick Genki Dean of Japan.

The other two Indians in the fray are national record holder Gulveer Singh, who is making his Diamond League debut, in men's 5000m and Parul Chaudhary in the women's 3000m steeplechase.

Chaudhary is the national record holder in the women's 3000m steeplechase.



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The NCC cadets of GGM Science College held a web seminar with the aim of educating NCC cadets about their duties and responsibilities, especially during times of war.

The session was held under the guidance of Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta (Principal GGM Science College) and Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma (ANO GGM Science College).

The highlight of the seminar was a detailed

lecture delivered by the SUO Yuvraj Singh Parihar, who emphasized the crucial role cadets can play during wartime, including support in logistics, first aid, communication, and civil defense.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta (Principal GGM Science College) addressed the cadets with an inspiring message on the importance of leadership, discipline, and national service in shaping responsible citizens. Emphasizing the role of

youth in nation-building, the Principal encouraged cadets to uphold the values of unity and integrity in every circumstance.

Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma (ANO GGM Science College) further motivated the cadets, offering words of encouragement and motivation to remain courageous, disciplined, and committed during tough and challenging times. The seminar aimed to instill a sense of readiness, discipline, and patriotism among the cadets.

Aryna Sabalenka advances at Italian Open by beating American Sofia Kenin

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

ROME: Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka fought back from a set down against Sofia Kenin to advance at the Italian Open on Sunday.

Kenin, the No. 31-seeded American, won the first set of the third round match in Rome 6-3, but Sabalenka powered back to take the next two sets by the same score.

U.S. Open champion Sabalenka will play Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk in the next round.

Coco Gauff was playing Magda Linette later on Sunday in the women's

draw.

On the men's side, Carlos Alcaraz was playing Laslo Djere and defending champion Alexander Zverev was playing Lithuanian qualifier Vilius Gaubas.