

# Mighty India thrash SA to win second successive U-19 women's T20 world title

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: An utterly dominant India flaunted their embarrassment of riches to win a second successive U-19 Women's T20 World Cup title with a nine-wicket shellacking of South Africa, here, on Sunday, the triumph giving a peek into the game's most perfectly calibrated youth structure.

Having outclassed every team during their march to the final, India asserted themselves yet again, getting the job done with as many as 52 balls to spare while also becoming the first team to win the tournament without dropping a single game.

The biggest star of the day was all-rounder Gongadi Trisha, who complemented her excellent 3/15 with an unbeaten 33-ball 44 while batting.

South Africa, led by Kayla Reyneke, opted to bowl first, but their decision backfired quickly as India's three-pronged spin attack bowled them out for 82.

Left-arm spinner Ayushi Shukla was the star of the show with figures of 4-2-9-2, while leg-spinner Trisha, who has also been a revelation with the bat, further underlined her all-round capabilities with her triple strikes with the ball.

Trisha once again anchored India's chase with an unbeaten knock that was studded with eight fours.

Vice-captain Sanika Chalke (26 not out; 22 balls, 4x4) sealed the victory with a powerful heave to the square-leg boundary, forcing the young Indian players, draped in the Tricolour, to



## CAPTAIN TALK

“All of us tried to stay calm, remained down to earth and stuck to doing our job. We wanted to go out there and show what we can do. Thanks to the BCCI for giving us the best facilities. I'm feeling happy that I'm right here standing, making sure India stays on top. It's a special moment. At the start of the tournament, I mentioned we're here to dominate, to ensure India is here to stay on top. The South Africans have been playing really well, we've been playing against them for a long time, the character they've shown is nice to see, really nice to compete against them”

— Niki Prasad, India captain

“A lot of emotions within the team, but I will not take anything away from this team and management, we've worked really hard for this moment. Tough to not take the trophy home. Getting to our first-ever final is a proud moment, that's special. Cricket is a team sport, couldn't have done it without them and the management on the side. This is motivation for us to come back stronger in 2027. Mum, dad -- won't be coming home with the trophy but I've got my medallion”

— Kayla Reyneke, South Africa captain

break into wild celebrations. “I've dreamt of this moment

for the past two years, and I can't believe I hit the win-

ning runs -- it's truly surreal. My teammates' support

made all the difference, and

## SCORECARD

**South Africa:** Jemma Botha c Kamalini b Shabnam Shakil 16, Simone Lourens b Sisodia 0, Diara Ramlakan b Ayushi Shukla 3, Kayla Reyneke c Sisodia b Trisha 7, Karabo Meso b Ayushi Shukla 10, Mieke van Voorst c Kamalini b Trisha 23, Fay Cowling b Vaishnavi Sharma 15, Seshnie Naidu b Trisha 0, Ashleigh van Wyk c Vaishnavi Sharma b Sisodia 0, Monalisa Legodi b Vaishnavi Sharma 0, Nthabiseng Nini not out 2. **Extras:** 6. **Total:** 82 all out. **Fall of wickets:** 1-11, 2-20, 3-20, 4-40, 5-44, 6-74, 7-74, 8-80, 9-80, 10-82. **Bowling:** VJ Joshiha 2-0-17-0, Parunika Sisodia 4-0-6-2, Shabnam Shakil 2-0-7-1, Ayushi Shukla 4-2-9-2, Vaishnavi Sharma 4-0-23-2, Gongadi Trisha 4-0-15-3. **India:** G Kamalini c Lourens b Reyneke 8, Gongadi Trisha not out 44, Sanika Chalke not out 26. **Extras:** 6. **Total:** 84 for 1. **Fall of wickets:** 1/36. **Bowling:** Nthabiseng Nini 1-0-7-0, Fay Cowling 2-0-19-0, Kayla Reyneke 4-1-14-1, Seshnie Naidu 1-0-12-0, Ashleigh van Wyk 1-0-12-0, Monalisa Legodi 1-2-10-0, Jemma Botha 1-0-9-0. **Man-of-the-match:** Gongadi Trisha **Man-of-the-series:** Gongadi Trisha

## BCCI announces cash award of Rs 5 cr for team

PTI, NEW DELHI: The BCCI on Sunday announced a cash award of Rs 5 crore for the Indian team and its support staff after the title triumph in the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur with the board's top office-bearers hailing the achievement.

India thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in a lopsided final to land the prize for the second successive time, having also won the tournament in its inaugural edition.

“The Board of Control for Cricket in India extends its heartfelt congratulations to

the India Under-19 women's team for successfully defending their title at the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 in Malaysia.”

“To honour this remarkable achievement, the BCCI has announced a cash reward of INR 5 crore for the victorious squad and support staff, led by head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer,” the Indian cricket board said.

BCCI President Roger Binny said: “Congratulations to our girls for retaining the U-19 Women's World Cup. It has been an exemplary campaign wherein they've remained unbeaten.”

## Karan impresses on debut

India stay in Group I with 4-0 win over Togo

PTI, NEW DELHI: N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli were clinical in their effort before Karan Singh dished out an impressive show on debut as India thrashed Togo 4-0 in the play-off tie to keep their place in the Davis Cup World Group I, here, Sunday.

## DAVIS CUP

Starting the day with a 2-0 lead in pocket, India needed to win just one of the three matches of the day. The pair of Balaji and debutant Bollipalli did the job in the very first contest against M'lapa Tingou Akomolo and

Hod'abalo Isak Padio. The Indians needed only 57 minutes to dispatch the Togo team 6-2, 6-1 at DLTA Complex.

Togo replaced their best player Thomas Setodji with M'lapa Tingou Akomolo due to an arm injury. It hurt them as Akomolo could not hold serve even once in the contest.

The tie already sealed, India expectedly handed debut to youngster Karan Singh in the first reverse singles. Watched by his coach Aditya Sachdeva, the 21-year-old raced to a 6-2, 6-3 victory. Both teams decided not to play the dead fifth rubber.

## Abhishek's record 135 shakes England, India register 150-run win

PTI, MUMBAI: Irresistible Abhishek Sharma toppled records en route a 54-ball 135, the second-fastest century and the highest score by an Indian batter in T20Is, as the hosts crushed a feeble England by 150 runs in the fifth T20I to take the series 4-1 here on Sunday.

Abhishek went hammer and tongs to power India to 247/9, their highest-ever T20I total against England, after the visitors opted to bowl. Jos Buttler's men surrendered meekly, getting bowled out for just 97 in 10.3 overs.

## 5TH T20I: INDIA VS ENGLAND

India's win by 150 runs is now their second biggest by margin of runs in T20Is after their 168-run hammering of New Zealand in 2023. Phil Salt's initial onslaught of a 23-ball 55 with seven fours and three sixes kept England on track for a mammoth chase, but rest of the batters produced an uninspired show, crumbling like ninepins at the Wankhede Stadium.

The major chunk of England batters Ben Duckett (0), Buttler (7), Harry Brook (2) and Liam Livingstone (9) together made an embarrassing 18 runs on a perfect batting track.

There wasn't any resistance from the tail either. After hammering their bowlers, Abhishek returned to haunt England batters to take two wickets (2/3) in



Abhishek Sharma celebrates his century during the fifth Twenty-20 match against England at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, on Sunday

his only over, dismissing Brydon Carse (3) and Jamie Overton (1).

Mohammed Shami returned 3/25, Shivam Dube took 2/11, Varun

## SCOREBOARD

**India:** Sanju Samson c Archer b Wood 16, Abhishek Sharma c Archer b Rashid 135, Tilak Varma c Salt b Carse 24, \*Suryakumar Yadav c Salt b Carse 2, Shivam Dube c Rashid b Carse 30, Hardik Pandya c Livingstone b Wood 9, Rinku Singh lbw b Archer 9, Axar Patel run out (Salt) 15, Mohammed Shami not out 0, Ravi Bishnoi c Carse b Overton 0. **Extras:** 7. **Total:** 247-9. **Fall of wickets:** 21-1, 136-2, 145-3, 182-4, 193-5, 202-6, 237-7, 247-8, 247-9. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-55-1, Mark Wood 4-0-32-2, Jamie Overton 3-0-48-1, Liam Livingstone 2-0-29-0, Adil Rashid 3-0-41-1, Brydon Carse 4-0-38-3. **England:** Philip Salt c Samson b Dube 55, Ben Duckett c Sharma b Shami 0, \*Jos Buttler c Varma b Chakravarthy 7, Harry Brook c Chakravarthy b Bishnoi 2, Liam Livingstone c Singh b Chakravarthy 9, Jacob Bethell b Dube 10, Brydon Carse c Chakravarthy b Sharma 3, Jamie Overton c Yadav b Sharma 1, Jofra Archer not out 1, Adil Rashid c (sub) Jurel b Shami 6, Mark Wood c (sub) Jurel b Shami 0. **Extras:** 3. **Total:** 97-10. **Fall of wickets:** 23-1, 48-2, 59-3, 68-4, 82-5, 87-6, 90-7, 90-8, 97-9, 97-10. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 2-3-0-25-3, Hardik Pandya 2-0-23-0, Varun Chakravarthy 2-0-25-2, Ravi Bishnoi 1-0-9-1 0, Shivam Dube 2-0-11-2, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-3-2.

**Man-of-the-match:** Abhishek Sharma **Man-of-the-series:** Varun Chakravarthy

Chakravarthy claimed 2/25 and Ravi Bishnoi bagged 1/9.

But the night belonged to only one man as Abhishek tore into the English bowling with disdain, producing a knock of the highest quality, replete with compelling strokes against pace and spin alike as he etched his name in record books.

The 24-year-old Abhishek looked set to break Rohit Sharma's record for the fastest T20I hundred (35 balls) for an Indian batter but eventually achieved it in 37 balls for the second fastest three-figure knock, having already recorded the second quickest fifty off 17 balls for the country.

But Abhishek did break the record for the most sixes by an Indian in a T20I knock when he smacked Brydon Carse (3/38) for his 11th six in the 17th over, eventually finishing with 13 hits over the ropes.

Abhishek's monumental innings, which contained seven fours, is now also the highest individual score by an Indian in the format, going past Shubman Gill's 126 not out against New Zealand at Ahmedabad in 2023.

While scoring more than half of the team total, Abhishek also helped India set their highest T20I score against England, bettering their total of 224/2 at Ahmedabad in 2021.

This was also India's fourth-highest innings total in T20Is.

## Arsenal thrash Man City to boost title challenge, Man Utd lose to Palace

AFP, LONDON: Arsenal beat Manchester City 5-1 to keep their Premier League title hopes alive on Sunday, while Manchester United slumped to another meek 2-0 home defeat to Crystal Palace.

In the battle between the sides that have finished in the top for the past two seasons, the Gunners prevailed to move within six points of leaders Liverpool, who have a game in hand.

Arsenal were gifted the perfect start inside two minutes as Manuel Akanji lost possession and Kai Havertz squared for Martin Odegaard to open the scoring. Havertz exposed Arsenal's lack of a clinical goalscorer when he wasted a glorious chance to double the lead.

## EPL

That could have proved costly when Erling Haaland headed in his 250th career club goal early in the second half to bring City level.

But the defending champions are a pale shadow of their former selves this season and conceded within 105 seconds of the restart when Thomas Partey's shot deflected in off John Stones. Myles Lewis-Skelly would have been suspended if his controversial red card in a 1-0 win at Wolves last weekend had not been overturned. The 18-year-old made the most of that reprieve by curling in Arsenal's third for his first goal for the club.

Haaland had told Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta to “stay humble” after a bad-tempered clash between the sides ended 2-2 in September. And Lewis-Skelly celebrated his big moment by mimicking Haaland's trademark meditation celebration. Havertz fired low and hard into the far corner with City cut open at will by the Arsenal counter-attack.

And another Arsenal teenager rounded off the rout when Ethan Nwaneri curled home in stoppage time. Defeat leaves City still

in fourth but now 15 points off the top and realistically dethroned after four consecutive seasons as champions. Jean Philippe-Mateta was Palace's hero with both goals in the second half as United suffered a fifth defeat in their last six home league games.

Victory takes the Eagles above the Red Devils in the table as Oliver Glasner's side climb to 12th.

Three consecutive wins for United had lifted the mood around Old Trafford but it was back to square one for Ruben Amorim after another home display lacking in creativity and riddled with defensive lapses.

Kobbie Mainoo, who started as a makeshift centre-forward, hit the post with United's best effort of a bright opening before their attacking threat fizzled out.

Palace have lost just one of their last seven league games to recover from a miserable start to the season. The visitors missed the creative spark offered by Eberechi Eze for the first hour as an injury meant he was only fit enough for a cameo appearance off the bench.

But Eze made an instant impact as from his free-kick Maxence Lacroix's header came back off the bar and into Mateta's path to fire home.

Worse was to follow for United as Lisandro Martinez had to be stretchered off with what appeared a serious knee injury.

Palace showed no mercy to secure the three points when Daniel Munoz charged through the middle of the home side's defence and unselfishly squared for Mateta to knock in his sixth goal in five games.

Tottenham eased the pressure on under-fire manager Ange Postecoglou and fears they could be dragged into a relegation battle with a 2-0 win at Brentford. Victory lifts Tottenham to 14th and 10 points clear of the relegation zone.



Arsenal's Norwegian midfielder #08 Martin Odegaard (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal of the English Premier League match against Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday

## GOAN FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

### DBO Fatorda in quarters

RAIA: Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, defeated Dramapur SC 3-1 to enter the quarter-finals of Lourdes Soccer inter-village football tournament organised by Ambelim SC at Ambelim ground, on Sunday. Don Bosco Oratory netted a goal each through Frazer Andrade, Mevion Barbosa and Richie Vaz and for Dramapur SC Lavison Rebello netted the lone goal.

### UC Verna in last eight

RAIA: United Club of Verna got the better of Maina SC 4-1 to enter into the quarter-finals of 1st Vauradencho Ixt Trophy organised by Batora United Club in association with Margao Sports Club at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, on Sunday. Nickson Castanaha of Maina SC missed a chance to score in the 4th minute. United Club of Verna netted the first goal of the match through Beniston Barretto in the 5th minute. As the match progressed in the 15th minute, Beniston Barretto doubled the lead for United Club of Verna. United Club of Verna netted two more goals through Barriston and Josly Moniz in the second half in the 44th and 50th minute. Maina SC pulled a goal back through Joywin Carneiro in the 52nd minute. Jose Pais, Carlos Paes, Conceicao Fernandes and Caetano Mascarenhas presented the man-of-the-match award to Beniston Barretto of United Club of Verna.

## Hard to go past India, Australia in CT, says Ponting

PTI, DUBAI: The legendary Ricky Ponting feels the quality of players and recent history make India and Australia the favourites to compete in the summit clash of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.

The 50-over tournament will take place from February 19 to March 9 across three venues in Pakistan and one in Dubai.

“It's hard to go past India and Australia again,” Ponting told the ICC Review.

“Just think about the quality of players in both countries right now, and

you look back in recent history when these big finals and big ICC events have come around, and inevitably Australia and India are there somewhere,” said the former Australia captain.

India and Australia are the only teams to have won the Champions Trophy twice. India secured the crown in 2013 and shared the trophy with Sri Lanka in 2002 after the final was washed out, while Australia clinched back-to-back titles in 2006 and 2009.

Pakistan, the defending



champions after winning the 2017 edition, will also pose a strong challenge, according to Ponting.

“It's hard to go past India and Australia again. Just think about the quality of players in both countries right now, and you look back in recent history when these big finals and big ICC events have come around, and inevitably Australia and India are there somewhere”

— Ricky Ponting, former Australia captain

“The other team that is playing some really good cricket at the moment is Pakistan,” said Ponting, who

won two ODI World Cups and as many Champions Trophy titles as captain.

“Their one-day cricket over the last little bit has been absolutely outstanding. We know they're not always the most predictable team in those big tournaments, but they seem like they've sorted things out a little bit.”

Pakistan won all the three ODI series they played last year, including a 2-1 comeback win in Australia and Zimbabwe, followed by a 3-0 white-wash of South Africa.