

INDIA DEMOLISH ENGLAND TO COMPLETE CLEAN SWEEP

Shubman dazzles with seventh ODI ton, Kohli (52) and Shreyas (78) also shine with the bat; Arshdeep, Rana, Axar, Hardik claim two wickets each

PTI, AHMEDABAD: Shubman Gill dazzled with his seventh ODI hundred, while the embattled Virat Kohli got a crucial fifty as India hammered England by 142 runs in the third and final match to complete a 3-0 series sweep for a perfect end to their Champions Trophy preparations here on Wednesday.

Gill's 102-ball 112 was the highlight but middle-order mainstays Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78) were also instrumental in pushing India to a formidable 356 in the first half after being put in to bat.

Indian bowlers then took over the mantle to complete England's demolition, bundling out the visitors for a mere 214 in 34.2 overs to complete a comprehensive victory -- their second largest in ODIs in terms of runs -- against a familiar opponent.

There was no change in the script for English, who came crashing down against spin after a sparkling start against pace, which was provided by the pair of Ben Duckett (34) and Phil Salt (24) in tow.

The slowness of the surface aided Indian bowlers as strike-making became difficult as the match progressed. Duckett took charge of



Shubman Gill

England's response early on but played one shot too many. After smacking Arshdeep Singh (2/33) for four consecutive boundaries around the park in the fifth over, he again went after the left-arm seamer but was deceived by the 'pace off' knuckle ball.

The mishit was collected cleanly by India skipper Rohit Sharma at mid-off and Arshdeep soon bounced out Salt, albeit off a slower one which the batter hit meekly to Axar Patel for a simple grab.

Tom Banton gave a good example of himself playing his first ODI against India, hitting a couple of attractive reverse sweeps

against spinners but he could not push on beyond a 41-ball 38 with four fours and two sixes. Joe Root perished for just

24 when an inside edge off Axar (2/22) crashed into his stumps and Harshit Rana (2/31) hastened the end of England's resistance by getting the rid of Harry Brook (19) and Jos Buttler (6) in quick succession.

From 84/2 after 10 overs, England's resolve petered out as Indian bowlers tightened the screws with regular strikes and the visitors also lacked gumption on a pitch which remained true in its nature.

Earlier, Gill led the way with a fluent 112 while Kohli and Iyer also cashed in on ideal conditions in their last outing before the Champions Trophy, helping India set a 357-run target.

Gill anchored India's innings en route to his seventh ODI ton 112 off 104 balls (14x4s, 3x6s) which also took his average past 60 in the format while putting on two century stands with Kohli and Iyer to consolidate for India.

Injured Bumrah ruled out of Champions Trophy

PTI, NEW DELHI: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy due to a lower back injury, the BCCI said on Tuesday, putting to rest all the speculation over his participation in the premier tournament.

The senior men's team selection committee has named Harshit Rana as Bumrah's replacement for the mega event starting February 19 in Pakistan. India will open their campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on February 20.

The selectors have also included Varun Chakravarty in the team, the mystery spinner replacing batter Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was named in the provisional squad.

India will play all their matches of the tournament in Dubai under a hybrid

SQUAD

Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill (Vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarty

model agreement.

Bumrah, who has already undergone a lower back surgery in 2022, sustained another stress-related injury while bowling in the final Test against Australia at Sydney, where he pulled out after sending down 10 overs in the first innings.

It is understood that the main bone of contention was that Bumrah is yet to start bowling full tilt and

those in the know of things said that it is very difficult to get match-fit in such a short time.

Rather, he can come back for Mumbai Indians in the IPL and then lead India in England as Rohit Sharma is unlikely to be picked for Tests again.

However, the selection committee picked a fifth spinner in the squad in Varun Chakravarty, who was also added for the England series. The fall guy this time was young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who wouldn't be finding a place in the playing XI with Rohit and Shubman Gill opening the innings.

Jaiswal is among the non-travelling reserves along with Shivam Dube (like-for-like for Hardik Pandya) and Mohammed Siraj (like-for-like for Mohammed Shami).

ODI: Lanka down Australia

AFP, COLOMBO: Sri Lanka pulled off a stunning comeback against world champions Australia to clinch a 49-run victory in the first one-day international on Wednesday after a century by captain Charith Asalanka.

Defending a modest target of 215, Sri Lanka bowled out the visitors for 165 inside 34 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Asalanka smashed a career-best 127 before chipping in with the crucial wicket of Alex Carey, while Maheesh Theekshana took 4-40 to help scuttle Australia's chase.

Opting to bat first, Sri Lanka found themselves in dire straits at 133-8 in the 33rd over.

Asalanka's strike rate was just shy of a run a ball and included 14 fours and five sixes.

Starc withdraws, Smith to lead Australia in Champions Trophy

PTI, SYDNEY: Steve Smith-led Australia will be without their frontline pace attack at the Champions Trophy after fast bowler Mitchell Starc withdrew from the tournament citing personal reasons.

The ODI World Cup holders have been forced to make several changes to their 15-member provisional squad due to injuries to captain Pat Cummins, pacer Josh Hazlewood, and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, along with Marcus Stoinis' surprise retirement.

Starc, who appeared to be in discomfort due to a left ankle issue during the latter stages of the final Test in Galle last week, will also miss the upcoming ODI series in Sri Lanka.

Cricket Australia said Starc has requested privacy

and will not be commenting on his decision.

The development comes as a major blow for Australia, who will be without the three pacers -- Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc -- who played a crucial role in their 2023 ODI World Cup victory.

Smith, who is leading the side on will captain the team in the absence of Cummins and Marsh.

SQUAD

Steve Smith (capt), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: Rohit Sharma c Salt b Wood 1, Shubman Gill b Rashid 112, Virat Kohli c Salt b Rashid 52, Shreyas Iyer c Salt b Rashid 78, KL Rahul lbw b Mahmood 40, Hardik Pandya b Rashid 17, Axar Patel c Banton b Root 13, Washington Sundar c Brook b Wood 14, Harshit Rana c Buttler b Atkinson 13, Arshdeep Singh run out (Salt) 2, Kuldeep Yadav not out 1. Extras: 13. **Total:** 356 all out. **FOW:** 6-1, 122-2, 226-3, 259-4, 289-5, 306-6, 333-7, 353-8, 353-9, 356-10. **Bowling:** Saqib Mahmood 10-0-68-1, Mark Wood 9-1-45-2, Gus Atkinson 8-0-74-1, Joe Root 5-0-47-1, Adil Rashid 10-0-64-4, Liam Livingstone 8-0-57-0

Man-of-the-Match and Series: **Shubman Gill**

England: Philip Salt c Patel b Singh 23, Ben Duckett c Sharma b Singh 34, Tom Banton c Rahul b Yadav 38, Joe Root b Patel 24, Harry Brook b Rana 19, Jos Buttler b Rana 6, Liam Livingstone st Rahul b Sundar 9, Gus Atkinson b Patel 38, Adil Rashid b Pandya 0, Mark Wood c Iyer b Pandya 9, Saqib Mahmood not out 2. Extras: 12. **Total:** 214 all out. **FOW:** 60-1, 80-2, 126-3, 134-4, 154-5, 161-6, 174-7, 175-8, 193-9, 214-10. **Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 5-0-33-2, Harshit Rana 5-1-31-2, Washington Sundar 5-0-43-1, Axar Patel 6-2-1-22-2, Hardik Pandya 5-0-38-2, Kuldeep Yadav 8-0-38-1

CORRIGENDUM

In our sports news report titled 'CLEAN SWEEP ON TEAM INDIA'S WISH-LIST TODAY', published on Page 14, February 12, an error was made, incorrectly listing the India Women U-19 T20I team instead of the India Men's cricket team. We sincerely regret the mistake.

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