

India Clinch 7-Run Victory in Nail-Biter vs England, enter final

Mumbai: India have entered the final of the T20 World Cup 2026, clinching a dramatic seven-run victory over England in a nail-biting semi-final at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. Sanju Samson smashed 89 off 42 balls, and was aided by some excellent cameos, as India piled up 253/7 in 20 overs after being put into bat by England skipper Harry Brook.



the breathtaking assault by Jacob Bethell at the Wankhede Stadium.

In response, England stayed alive in the chase right through to the end, thanks largely to 22-year-old Jacob Bethell's incredible 105 off 48. Excellent death overs by Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, and Axar Patel's incredible fielding helped India get over the line. India will face New Zealand in the summit clash on Sunday.

If one innings captured the fearless mood of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, it was

was power, certainly, but also a remarkable sense of range. He moved across the crease, opened up angles and repeatedly targeted the shorter boundaries, showing the kind of adaptability that defines the new generation of T20 batsmen. Against an experienced Indian attack, he played as if the pressure simply did not exist.

When the surface is true at the Wankhede Stadium and the ball comes nicely onto the bat, it often rewards batsmen who trust their timing. On Thursday night, Sanju Samson did exactly that, leading India to a commanding 253 for seven against England in the second semifinal of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

Samson's 89 off 42 balls was an innings built as much on clarity as it was on power. Eight fours and seven sixes told the story of a batsman

who understood the conditions quickly and played the percentages well, particularly through the leg side where he looked most assured.

India did lose Abhishek Sharma early for nine, but Samson didn't allow that to dictate the tempo. Alongside Ishan Kishan, he put together a 97-run partnership that effectively shifted the game's balance in India's favour. Kishan's 39 from 18 balls complemented Samson perfectly — aggressive, uncomplicated batting that ensured England never settled. By the end of the powerplay, India had raced to 67, which on this ground often means the batting side is well placed to dictate terms.

What stood out about Samson's innings was the control. Even when the boundaries came regularly, there wasn't a sense of recklessness.

All England Open 2026: Lakshya Sen enters quarterfinals



Birmingham, (UNI)

India's Lakshya Sen overcame the disappointment of missing out on four match points in the second game to dominate the decider against Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus to reach the quarterfinals of the All England Open 2026 here on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Indian, who has upset top seed and defending champion Shi Yu Qi in the opening round, prevailed over NG 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 in an hour and 21 minutes.

This was also Sen's first win over NG in their four meetings, though the last time they faced each other was back in the 2023 Malaysia Masters.

Sen, the 2022 All England finalist, began aggressively against his Hong Kong opponent and kept his nose ahead through out the opening game. NG, however drew level at 19-19 after winning three

straight points but Sen took the next two to pocket the game.

It looked like Sen would breeze through the second game when he opened up a 11-4 lead but NG slowly but surely crawled back in the match.

The experienced campaigner from Hong Kong saved three straight match points from 17-20 and then saved another at 20-21 but taking the match in the decider.

But Sen seemed determined to not let go of another opportunity as he took control of the game early with powerful cross court smashes and though NG saved one match point at 20-9, the gap was too big for him to recover.

Sen, the only Indian left in singles, will now face the winner of the match between sixth seed Li Shi Feng of China and Nhat Nguyen of Ireland.



Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina storm into quarterfinals at ITF W35 Kalaburagi

Kalaburagi, (UNI)

Indian players Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina produced commanding performances to move into the quarterfinals of the women's singles at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium on Thursday.

Third seed Vaishnavi Adkar cruised past Anna Siedysheva with a dominant 6-2, 6-0 win. The match began with comfortable service holds from both players before Adkar began to apply pressure with sharp returns in the sixth game to create three break points, Adkar eventually broke after a deuce battle and backed it up with a confident service hold to move 5-2 ahead.

She secured the first set 6-2 with a decisive overhead smash after another tight game. Carrying that momentum into the second set, Adkar broke early as Siedysheva began committing more errors, while the Indian maintained consistent pressure on serve. Despite a few powerful hits from Siedysheva, Adkar remained clinical to wrap up the second set without conceding a game.

Eighth seed Ankita Raina also advanced comfortably, defeating Milana Maslenskova 6-2, 6-1. Raina made an early statement by breaking in the second game and held that advantage through the remainder of the set. In the eighth game, sustained pressure forced a long shot from Maslenskova, handing Raina the first set 6-2.

The Indian raised her level further in the second set, securing three break points in the fourth game with a series of crisp winners before an error from Maslenskova gave her a 3-1 lead.

Flamengo names Jardim as new manager

Rio De Janeiro, (UNI)

Former Monaco and Sporting Lisbon manager Leonardo Jardim has been appointed head coach of Flamengo, the Brazilian Serie A side said.

The 51-year-old replaces Filipe Luis, who was dismissed on Tuesday after an inconsistent start to the 2026 season.

"The Portuguese coach has signed a contract until December 2027 and has already taken charge

of his first training session," read a statement on Flamengo's official website on Wednesday.

Jardim, who guided Monaco to the French Ligue 1 title in 2017, had been out of work since parting ways with Cruzeiro in December last year, according to Xinhua.



Flamengo is currently 11th in Brazil's 20-team Serie A standings with four points from the first three games of the season.

Indian youth team leaves for World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 in Bangkok

New Delhi, (UNI)

India's promising young boxing talents are set to compete on the international stage as the Indian Youth boxing team departs tomorrow for the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from March 8 to March 15.

The tournament will bring together some of the most talented youth boxers from across the world, offering them a key platform to gain international exposure and test themselves against top competition in their age group.

The Indian team will compete in the Youth Olympic weight categories, making the tournament an important



The Futures Cup serves as a key developmental event in the global boxing calendar, providing young athletes valuable international competition experience.

ing Futures Cup is an important platform for our young boxers to gain international exposure and compete against top talent from across the world. Competing in the Youth Olympic weight categories makes this tournament even more significant, as it provides our athletes valuable experience and preparation on the pathway to the Youth Olympic Games. We are confident this team will compete with determination and make the most of this opportunity."

The competition will be hosted by the Thailand Boxing Association under the aegis of World Boxing, with bouts scheduled to take place at the Indoor Stadium Huamark in Bangkok.

Speaking ahead of the tournament, Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh said, "The World Box-

Leverkusen edge past Hamburg to boost Champions League push

Berlin, (UNI)

Bayer Leverkusen strengthened its push for UEFA Champions League qualification with a 1-0 win over Hamburger SV in a rescheduled Bundesliga match from the 17th round.

Leverkusen started brightly. Montrell Culbreath headed wide from Ibrahim Maza's cross in the eighth minute and Martin Terrier then struck the crossbar with a volley.

Hamburg struggled to pose much threat before the break, while Leverkusen's pressure eased as halftime approached. The pattern changed little after the restart. Edmond Tapsoba sent a header straight at Hamburg goalkeeper Daniel Heuer Fernandes, while at the other end Leverkusen goalie Janis Blaswich reacted calmly to deny Nicolai Remberg's close-range effort, according to Xinhua.

The breakthrough came in the



72nd minute when Maza chipped a precise pass into the area and Christian Kofane drove a powerful left-footed finish in under the crossbar.

Leverkusen stays sixth with 43 points, three behind third-place Hoffenheim and fourth-ranked Stuttgart, who occupy the Champions League places. Hamburg is 11th on 26 points, four clear of the relegation playoff spot.

"That was a deserved win. Credit to the team, we were brave and proactive and put Hamburg under pressure," said Leverkusen captain Robert Andrich.

S. Korea eases past Philippines at AFC Women's Asian Cup

Sydney, (UNI)

South Korea is all but assured of a quarterfinal spot in the AFC Women's Asian Cup after a 3-0 win over the Philippines at Gold Coast Stadium on Thursday.

South Korea has been living up to its title-contending reputation as it strives to go one step further than the runner-up finish at the last Asian Cup in 2022.

After a comfortable 3-0 opening win over Iran, South Korea was even sharper as it scored two goals within the first 15 minutes en route to a victory that puts the team on the brink of qualification for the last eight.

After a gritty defensive performance against host Australia on Sunday, the Philippines was cracked open by a ruthless South Korean side, according to Xinhua.

In the 12th minute, Jeon Yugeong found herself open in the center of the box and produced a



turn before blasting a stunning goal past goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel. South Korea doubled its lead almost immediately when Park Soo-jeong fired a long-range strike into the top right corner.

Mun Eun-ju added another in the second half as South Korea cruised to victory. South Korea will play Australia on Sunday in a game that will likely determine top spot of the group, while the Philippines faces Iran.

Head falls late but SA take day-one honours over NSW in Sheffield Shield

Sydney, (UNI)

Travis Head (5) fell late on day one of South Australia's Sheffield Shield clash with New South Wales, but the hosts still hold the advantage thanks to a maiden five-wicket haul from fast bowler, Henry Thornton.

Opening the batting in the competition for the first time this season, Head was dismissed by fellow Australian T20 World Cup squad member Sean Abbott (1-8) in some late drama at Karen Rolton Oval.

The Australian Test opener copped a blow to the finger from Liam Hatcher (0-12) in the over prior to his dismissal, before Abbott found the edge of Head's bat with the first ball he bowled to him.

Lachlan Shaw snaffled the catch at second slip to give the visitors a much-needed breakthrough, as SA ended day one at



1-20 in reply to NSW's 269.

Returning to Shield cricket for the first time since November, Thornton (5-71) was the star of the show for SA, taking wickets in every session to help his side gain the ascendancy in Adelaide. Earlier in the day, NSW won

the toss and chose to bat before losing four wickets in the first session of play.

In an eventful start to the day, Sam Konstas (37) was dropped by SA skipper Nathan McSweeney at third slip off the fourth ball of the innings.

The 20-year-old and Will Salzmann (6) put on 19 runs for the first wicket, before Jordan Buckingham (1-74) bowled Salzmann with a ball that nipped back sharply and rattled his stumps.

Coming off three hundreds in his last four outings for NSW in domestic cricket, Kurtis Patterson (12) joined Konstas in the middle and hit his first ball to the rope. The left-hander looked in ominous touch, but he was caught by Manenti at second slip to give Thornton his first scalp.

Four balls later, Lachlan Shaw (4) found Henry Hunt at point to give Liam Scott (1-29) his first breakthrough of the match as NSW slipped to 3-72.

Nathan McAndrew (2-55) was then brought back into the attack with immediate success, as Konstas feathered the first delivery of his second spell through to the wicketkeeper, Alex Carey.

Veteran German skier Forster embraces pressure ahead of Milan-Cortina Paralympics



Berlin, (UNI)

Anna-Lena Forster laughs when asked about the challenge awaiting her at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

"I feel the burden of my age before every start," the 30-year-old German Paralympic skier said ahead of the Games, which run from March 6 to 15.

"You stand there and realize a run at the speed of 100 kilometers per hour is ahead of you," the four-time Paralympic gold medalist said. "The challenge to overcome your reflections has grown over the years," she

added, laughing as she offered a simple solution: "You've got to tell yourself, just go and do it."

Despite her relaxed demeanor, Forster faces a demanding schedule in Italy, where she is set to compete in five events. After winning two gold medals and two silvers at the 2022 Beijing Paralympics, expectations have risen. German coach Justus Wolf said that "five medals are within range for Anna-Lena."

Forster described the organization and atmosphere of the Beijing Games as "unique," but said the 2026 edition carries special significance, according to Xinhua.

"It will be something special due to the location," she said, with the Paralympic Winter Games returning to Europe after 20 years.

"I am looking forward to attending the Games with family and friends around." Germany is sending 40 athletes and eight guides, its second-largest Paralympic winter team since the 1994 Games.