

India look to break Ahmedabad jinx in ICC T20 World Cup final against New Zealand

Ahmedabad, (UNI)
The scars of November 19, 2023 are still fresh for a billion Indian cricket fans. On that day, Pat Cummins famously kept his promise to silence the roaring crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium as Australia defeated India in the final of the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup. India found some redemption in the months that followed, lifting the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup in Barbados.
Now, nearly 18 months later, India return to the same Ahmedabad venue with a chance to defend their T20 World Cup crown, this time against a confident New Zealand side chasing its first ICC white-ball title since 2000.



India can draw confidence from their recent success against the Kiwis. On March 9, 2025, they defeated a similar New Zealand lineup in the ICC Champions Trophy final in Dubai.

However, India's record at the Narendra Modi Stadium has been far from convincing. Even in the ongoing T20 World Cup, they suffered their only defeat of the competition here against South Africa

in the Super Eight stage before victories over Zimbabwe and West Indies helped them progress to the semifinals, where they narrowly overcame England in Mumbai.

New Zealand, on the other hand, arrive for the summit clash brimming with confidence after a commanding nine-wicket win over the Proteas in the first semifinal. Interestingly, the Black Caps had entered the tournament following a 1-4 bilateral series defeat to India in January.

Yet history suggests that New Zealand have often held the upper hand in ICC events. The two sides first met in a T20 World Cup during the inaugural

edition in 2007, where MS Dhoni's India lost by 10 runs. In 2016, New Zealand again prevailed, beating India by 47 runs in Nagpur in a low-scoring encounter. Their most recent T20 World Cup meeting came in 2021 in Dubai, where the Kiwis handed India an eight-wicket defeat.

Beyond T20 World Cups, New Zealand have also dealt India painful blows on the global stage. They famously knocked India out in the semifinal of the 2019 ICC ODI World Cup in Manchester and later defeated them in the final of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship Final 2021 in Southampton.

India Women trail Australia Women by 20 runs in Test



Perth, (UNI)

Annabel Sutherland's record-breaking fourth Test century and a dominant display from quicks with the pink ball under lights have Australia firmly on track for victory

over India in the day-night Test. Fresh off her 171-ball innings of 129, Sutherland (2-15 off six overs) combined with first-gamer Lucy Hamilton (3-32 off eight) to reduce India to 6-105 at stumps on day two at the WACA Ground.

Pratika Rawal (43no) and Sneha Rana (14no) will resume on Sunday with India still 20 runs shy of making Australia bat again.

The first half of Saturday belonged to Australia's two most accomplished Test batters, as Sutherland and Ellyse Perry, who scored 129 and 76 respectively, shared in a 128-run fourth-wicket stand as the hosts established a 125-run first-innings lead. At one point the pair were threatening to bat through the day, before India's hit back with four quick second-session wickets to curtail the Australian batting effort.

A dogged ninth-wicket stand

between Alana King and Lucy Hamilton ensured India's top-order would commence their second innings at twilight, however, and Australia's quicks duly ran riot with the pink ball.

Darcie Brown celebrated her 23rd birthday by knocking Smriti Mandhana's off stump out of the ground, dismissing the superstar batter for two, and Hamilton had her opening partner Shafali

Verma caught at slip for five, leaving India reeling at 2-10.

Unsurprisingly, it did not take Sutherland long to be in the thick of the action. She had an lbw call overturned in her first over, but was not to be denied, enticing Jemimah Rodrigues (14) into an ill-advised lap that spiralled high off the top edge, and a running Beth Mooney did the rest with the gloves.

Sutherland then had India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (11) edging to slip, leaving India 4-64, before Deepthi Sharma joined Pratika Rawal for 9.2 overs of resistance as they looked to stretch the Test into a third day.

Impressive Raducanu into Indian Wells third round



California, (UNI)

Emma Raducanu made an impressive start to her Indian Wells campaign by recording a comprehensive straight-set victory over Russian Anastasia Zakharova.

British number one Raducanu was all smiles as she waved to the crowd after completing a 6-1 6-3 win at the prestigious WTA 1,000 event in California.

The 23-year-old, who received a first-round bye as the 25th seed, will face world number six Amanda Anisimova in the third round if the American can overcome Russian Anna Blinkova.

"I think my game was in a really good place," Raducanu told BBC Sport. "I hadn't necessarily felt so good for the last month, so I'm really pleased with the work we did for the last week and just for it to transfer on the match court

like that. It gives you huge confidence that you are doing the right thing."

"Today's match was a great display for myself of how I want to be playing, of what I want to be feeling like when I'm on the court."

Following Raducanu's second-round exit at the Australian Open in January, the 2021 US Open champion reached only the second final of her career in Cluj but then failed to win a match in Doha or Dubai.

In a dominant first-set display against Zakharova, she won 80 per cent of points behind her first serve and conceded just six points across four service games.

The 86th-ranked Zakharova, 24, resisted a break point in the opening game of the second set - but Raducanu held to love before forcing the breakthrough at the next opportunity.

There would be pressure, I cannot deny that: SKY ahead of T20 WC final

Ahmedabad, (UNI)

On the eve of the ICC T20 World Cup title clash against New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, India skipper Suryakumar Yadav struck a relaxed and confident tone, while admitting that there would be added pressure on him as he leads the home side to a title defence.

"The mood in the camp is very relaxed. Leading such a wonderful side on home soil. It's a special feeling, and everyone is excited for the T20 World Cup final," he added. The 35-year-old, currently the second-highest run-scorer for India in the tournament, acknowledged the pressure that comes

with leading the team in a World Cup final but said he intends to embrace the moment.

"As a leader, there would be pressure; I cannot deny that. Definitely, there would be added pressure, the excitement is there of playing a World Cup final that too in India," said Suryakumar.

India and New Zealand are familiar rivals, having faced each other in a five-match T20I series before the tournament, which India won 4-1. While both teams are well aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses, Suryakumar said he has not followed New Zealand's World Cup matches closely.

Hyderabad ready to host Women's Hockey World Cup qualifiers at Gachibowli

Hyderabad, (UNI)

Telangana State Government Sports Advisor A P Jitender Reddy on Saturday said excellent arrangements have been made for the Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifying Tournament to be held at the Gachibowli Hockey Stadium on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Addressing a press conference along with the captains of the eight participating teams, Jitender Reddy said the tournament aims to revive India's national sport, hockey, and encourage greater participation of women in sports.

He added that with the support of the Telangana government, Hyderabad is emerging as a gateway for hosting both national and international sporting events.



Sports Authority of Telangana Managing Director Soni Baladevi said all arrangements for the tournament have been made at

the Gachibowli Hockey Stadium in accordance with international standards.

She noted that the Sports Au-

thority worked for nearly two months to ensure the successful conduct of the prestigious event.

Captains of the eight participating teams expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Telangana government and thanked the organisers for their hospitality.

They also praised the Gachibowli Astro Turf, describing it as an excellent venue for international hockey competitions.

The teams participating in the Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers include India (Salima Tete), Austria (Johanna Czech), Italy (Sara Puglisi), Korea (Yuri Lee), Scotland (Sarah Robertson), Uruguay (Manuela Vilar), Wales (Elizabeth Bingham), and England (Lily Walker and Flora Peel).

BUSINESS

DGFT extends export obligation period for Advance, EPCG Authorisations

New Delhi, (UNI)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced a facilitation measure for exports by extending the Export Obligation (EO) period for certain export promotion schemes, an official statement said here today.

DGFT has provided for automatic extension of the Export Obligation (EO) period or Block-wise EO fulfillment period up to August 31, for specified Advance Authorisations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Authorisations where the EO pe-



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riod is expiring between March 1 and May 31.

The step has been taken due to prevailing geopolitical developments impacting global shipping routes, logistics

corridors and international supply chains.

The 'EO period' refers to a mandatory timeframe, typically 18 months for Advance Authorisation or six years

for EPCG schemes, within which an exporter must fulfil their export commitments after importing duty-free raw materials or capital goods.

The relaxation applies to Advance Authorisations, including Advance Authorisation for Annual Requirement and Special Advance Authorisation, as well as EPCG Authorisations.

The extension shall be granted automatically, and exporters will not be required to submit any separate application or pay any composition fee to avail the benefit.

This measure has been introduced to provide additional operational flexibility to exporters facing disruptions arising from current geopolitical developments.

The extension granted under the Public Notice will be in addition to the existing provisions under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and Handbook of Procedures (HBP).

It will allow exporters to seek EO period extensions upon payment of prescribed composition fees, the Ministry of Commerce statement added.

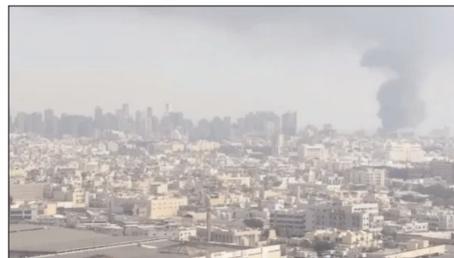
Middle East conflict may impact India's oil imports, remittances and trade: SBI report

New Delhi, (UNI)

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East could have significant implications for India's energy security, remittance inflows and trade with West Asian nations if tensions escalate further, according to a report released by SBI here on Saturday.

The report noted that the Israel-Iran conflict has already begun influencing global energy markets, pushing Brent crude prices sharply higher to above USD 89 per barrel in early March from around USD 70 per barrel just days earlier.

The surge reflects concerns over supply disruptions following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's



most critical oil transit routes. The US Energy Information Administration has described it as 'world's most important oil transit checkpoint.'

For India, the situation has particular significance as the country imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil requirements. "India imports nearly 90 pc of its crude oil re-

quirements. About two million barrels per day of India's oil imports—out of roughly 5.5 million barrels per day—pass through the Strait of Hormuz," it said.

Any prolonged disruption in the waterway could, therefore, affect supply chains and lead to higher import costs for the country.

Telangana Govt working towards USD 3 trillion economy with strong industry partnership: Vivek

Hyderabad, (UNI)

Telangana Labour, Employment and Mines Minister G Vivek Venkataswamy said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, is working with a clear vision to transform Telangana into a USD 3 trillion economy in the coming years.

Speaking at the annual meet of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Hyderabad on Saturday, the minister said the government is maintaining continuous engagement with industry leaders and stake-



holders to achieve this ambitious goal.

Vivek said the government is placing strong emphasis on skill development to prepare youth for emerging industrial opportunities. He added that the Employment Department has estab-

lished Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to train young people in line with the needs of modern industries. Discussions have also been held with CII to identify the specific skills required for upcoming industries. He noted that Telangana

is witnessing a steady inflow of investments and several new industries are expected to be established in the state. In this context, the government is introducing new training courses aligned with evolving industrial requirements to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce.

The minister said that while the government is committed to "improving the ease of doing business, equal importance is being given to the speed of doing business" so that investments can be transformed into functional projects quickly.

In an industry with mostly men, expertise gave me credibility, says Telcos leader Rachna Kango

New Delhi, (UNI)

In an industry with mostly men, expertise gave her credibility, says Rachna Kango, Business Head - Telecom Power Solutions at Delta Electronics India Private Limited, as she reflects on her professional journey and the growing opportunities for women entrepreneurs in India.

Sharing her experience in the telecom sector which is largely male-dominated with UNI, Kango said that developing deep technical knowledge and consistently taking on challenging assignments helped her build a strong professional identity in a male-dominated industry.

She noted that mastering the technological aspects of telecom became her biggest strength and



enabled her to earn credibility within the organisation.

"I focused on building strong technical knowledge in telecom and understanding the technology deeply. In an industry dominated by men, expertise gave me credibility," she said.

Kango explained that she deliberately chose difficult projects that others were hesi-

tant to take up, which helped her gain valuable experience and visibility within the organisation.

According to her, each challenging assignment contributed to her professional growth and helped her establish a leadership role.

At the same time, she stressed that leadership is not only about individual success but also about nurturing teams and building strong professional relationships.