



CABI

Cricket Association
for the Blind in India

Affiliated to World Blind Cricket Ltd. (WBC)

IndusInd Bank

A Report on

INDUSIND FIRST - EVER BILATERAL SERIES

15th - 26th July, 2018



Cricket for the Blind

India adores cricket as a game with increasing fan-dom every minute and everyone wanting to be a part of the game. Cricket always proved to be an exhilarating experience for all the followers leaving none behind. To truly not leave anyone behind and to provide a similar experience to people with visual impairment, cricket for the blind rose beyond all barriers and is witnessing a surging encouragement in the entire nation in the recent years. Imparting the experience to cricketers with visual impairment and making them a part of the game, blind cricket is performing at its best. It is a different version of the sport, adapted to suit the constraints of partial and complete visually impaired players and Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), an initiative of Samarthanam Trust governs blind cricket in India.

CABI believes that cricket for the blind is a rightful pursuit and it forms a platform for the physical and social development of the players with visual impairment. CABI strives to make the most popular game accessible to people with visual impairment, nourish their talent, provide opportunities and promote the game across the world.

Key Achievements in the last two years- Indian Blind Cricket:

- ▶ Second T-20 World Cup Tournament in 2017 – where Indian Blind Cricket team won the coveted title after defeating Pakistan in the final match.
- ▶ 5th One Day International World Cup Championship in 2018 – India won the title with increasing appreciation from the entire world
- ▶ Shekhar Naik, former Captain of Indian Blind Cricket team received the prestigious Padmashree Award, honoring his contributions to blind cricket, from former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee
- ▶ Indian Blind Cricket team received CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Award for Outstanding Contribution to Brand India



CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Award

IndusInd first ever Bilateral Series

For making the Indian team and selecting the players, four Zonals and one National Tournament was organized during October and November 2017.

Zones	Venue
North	Dehradun
East	Calcutta
West	Ahmedabad
South	Calicut



The winners and runners from each zone participated in the national tournament held in Mumbai from the 30th Oct to 3rd Nov 2017. Based on the performances of the players in both Zonal and National tournament, 56 best players were selected who further participated in the selection trial tournament held in Pune from 13th to 15th of November 2017.

The 17-player Indian Squad was thus determined from the 56 players for representing India in the 5th ODI Blind Cricket World Cup held in Dubai, UAE. The exhilarating world cup tournament garnered appreciation from the entire cricket community as the India team defeated Pakistan in the Final match of the game. Team India, courtesy IndusInd Bank bagged the title of 'World Champions' and made the country proud.

CABI appreciates IndusInd Bank valuable support

The objective of the First-ever Bilateral series India vs Sri Lanka, courtesy IndusInd was to promote and develop Blind Cricket in Sri Lanka apart from motivating the Sri Lankan Cricket Board and Government extend their support to Blind Cricket.

IndusInd Bank has always been our most cherished supporters. They not only supported Team India for the World Cup but also extended their continuous support in promoting the game of Blind Cricket. IndusInd encouraged the team by supporting their necessities and making the experience remarkable for the entire CABI unit who travelled to Sri Lanka. After thorough deliberation and consideration, 26-players were selected for IndusInd Bilateral series. Only seven players from the 5th ODI World Cup Squad were retained for this series while nine new talents were introduced by keeping in mind the forthcoming World Cup tournaments in 2020 and 2022. Of the nine new players, seven made their international debut in the series while two players Amol Karache from Maharashtra and Golu Kumar from Jharkhand from the B1 category last represented India in the Asia Cup of 2016.

The India Squad for the Bilateral Series

New Players

B1: Shaukat Ali, UP; Akbar Ansari, Delhi; Tanumoy Bhowmik, West Bengal

B2: Bhaskar K, Karnataka; Abdul Munaz, Kerala; Gaurav Singh, Delhi

B3: Lingaraj Rautara, Orissa

Players from the previous World Cup Squad

B1: Naresh Tumda, Gujarat

B2: Ajay Reddy (Captain), Andhra Pradesh; Ganesh Muhudkar, Gujarat

B3: Sunil Ramesh, Karnataka; Rambir Singh, and Deepak Malik, Haryana





The Match Schedule for the First-Ever Bilateral Series

The match schedule of Bilateral Series

Training Camp for Indian Squad, Courtesy IndusInd Bank

12th and 13th July 2018; Venue: SPT Ground, Bangalore

Three ODI Matches

15th, 16th, and 17th July 2018; Venue: BRC Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Five T20 matches

19th, 20th, 23rd, and last two T20 on the 24th July 2018; Venue: BRC Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

ODI MATCH REPORT:

Sri Lanka upset India in the 1st ODI, 12th July 2018

Sri Lanka upset world champions India by two wickets in a rain-affected match. Sri Lanka put India to bat after winning the toss. Opener Deepak Malik scored a quick fire half-century but wickets kept falling at the other end.

Handy contribution from the lower-middle-order pair of Durga Rao (63) and Rambir (50) propelled the score to 260 as the visitors were bowled out in the 37th over.

Chasing a target of 261, Sri Lanka gave a blazing start Opener Ajith Silva top scored with 68. Due to rain, the hosts were set a revised target of 233 from 33 overs. Though they lost wickets at regular intervals, all-rounder Dinesh scored a match-winning 65 to go with his 4 wickets that included a hat-trick to guide the hosts to an upset win over the reigning world champions.

Brief Scores: India : 260/10 in 37.2 overs
Deepak 54, Durga 63, Rambir 50. Dinesh 4/35.
Sri Lanka : 233/8 in 28.2 overs
Ajith 68, Dinesh 65. Durga 3/32
Man of the Match: Dinesh Mathugama, Sri Lanka



Sri lanka players in action

II ODI, 16th July 2018

Sri Lanka wins the ODI Series

Sri Lanka beat India by 7 wickets in the rain-curtailed 2nd ODI taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the 3 match ODI series. The match was delayed for almost 5 hours due to rain. Sri Lanka's luck with the toss continued for the second game running and they opted to bowl again as the game was reduced for 20 overs per side. Captain Ajay Reddy and all-rounder Sunil scored half-centuries to take the score to 195 at the end of the 20th over.

Chasing a huge target Sri Lanka again got off to a flier with opener Ajith Silva scoring his second half-century. He was supported by middle order batsman, Sahan Kumara who also notched up a well composed fifty marking Sri Lanka's first series win against India.

Brief scores: India 195/3 in 20 overs.

Ajay Reddy 66, Sunil 59*

Sri Lanka 197/3 in 17.2 overs

Ajith Silva 90*, Sahan Kumar 70*

Sri Lanka beat India by 7 Wickets. Man of the Match: Ajith Silva

III ODI, 17th July 2018

India end the series on a high

India beat Sri Lanka by 66 runs in the 3rd ODI to make it 1-2 in the 3 match ODI series. Sri Lanka won the toss and opted to bowl first. India posted a total of over 300 as they finished on 323 at the loss 8 wickets. Ganesh top scored with 86 and was well accompanied by Sunil who scored his second consecutive half-century.

Chasing a huge target Sri Lanka lost early wickets. Though they had some useful partnerships, regular wickets kept the run rate in check. Ajay Reddy and Rambir picked up 2 and 3 wickets respectively, while Sahan Kumara top-scored for the hosts with 84.

Brief scores: India 323/8 in 40overs.

Ganesh 86, Sunil 54, Lingaraj 40

Sri Lanka 257 All Out in 34.1 overs.

Sahan 84, Ajay 2/36, Rambir 3/40

India beat Sri Lanka by 66 runs. Man of the Match: Ganesh

Man of the series: Ajith Silva, B1, Sri Lanka, Ajay Reddy, B2, India, Durga Rao, B3, India



T20 MATCH REPORT:

World Champions India wins the First T20 Match of the IndusInd First-ever Bilateral Series against Sri Lanka

India beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets in the first T20 match taking a 1-0 lead in the 5 matches T20 series. For the first time in the series, India won the toss and they put Sri Lanka to bat. The Indian bowlers justified the captain's decision to bowl first as they restricted the hosts for a below par 168 runs in their 20 overs.

Chasing the target India made a steady start and were always ahead with balls to spare. A 3rd consecutive half-century of the tour from all-rounder Sunil Ramesh, a B3 player from Karnataka who orchestrated the visitors' comfortable seven-wicket victory. Sunil scored a quick half-century (52 runs) off 32 balls. He also bagged one of the crucial wickets of the match which made him the 'Man of the Match.' The Indian Captain, Ajay Reddy remained unbeaten at 25 while Ganesh scored 34 runs.

Team India winning the toss for the very first time in the Bilateral Series paved the way for India to turn the tables around unlike the ODI series.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 168/8 in 20 overs.

Ruwan 39, Chandana 24, Naresh 1/22

India 169/3 in 18.4 overs.

Sunil 52*, Ganesh 34, Ajay 25*

India beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets. Man of the Match: Sunil

II T20, 20th July 2018, BRC Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

India wins a thriller by beating Sri Lanka in the second T20 Match of the Bilateral Series



**Sunil Ramesh
in Action**

India beat Sri Lanka by 3 runs in the second T20 to take a 2-0 lead in the 5 match T20 series. Sri Lanka won the toss and they put India to bat. Indian Captain Ajay Reddy and Durga Rao gave a flying start with a partnership of 42 runs that ended with the Run Out of Durga Rao. The valuable contributions from the middle order propelled the score to 180/8 at the end of the 20th over.

Chasing a good target Sri Lanka made a decent start but some brilliant bowling from the Indians ensured the quick fall of wickets. Though Sri Lanka was running short of balls, they gave a good fight making it close and having lost by just three runs. This was certainly one of those games which left the spectators glued to their seats as anything was possible till the last ball.

All-rounder Sunil Ramesh was declared the Man of the Match. He scored a brilliant 42 while two of his crucial catches seemed pivotal in Team India's win.

Brief scores: India 180/8 in 20 overs.

Sunil 42, Ajay 31, Ganesh 27.

Sri Lanka 177/8 in 20 overs.

Ajith Silva 64*, Chandana 41, Amol 2/18

India beat Sri Lanka by 3 runs. Man of the Match: Sunil Ramesh, India

III T20, 23rd July'2018, BRC Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka pulls one back by winning the third T20 Match of the First-ever Bilateral Series

Sri Lanka beat India by 9 runs in the third T20 reducing the margin to 2-1 in the five-match T20 series. India won the toss and put Sri Lanka to bat. The Sri Lankan got off to a good start and ended up with a total of 190/8 in 20 overs.

Though it was an easy target to chase and the openers provided the much-needed momentum by maintaining the run rate at nine. The unfortunate run out of the Indian Captain, Ajay Reddy proved to be the turning point of the match. Durga Raju followed the Indian Captain after a doubtful 'Leg Before Wicket.' The run rate drastically fell after these two crucial wickets putting the middle order under pressure. All-rounder Sunil tried his best to achieve the required run rate batting exceptionally well. However, the other men in blue fell 9 runs short of victory.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 190/8 in 20 overs.

Ajith Silva 74, Chandana 43, Sunil 1/37

India 181/6 in 20 overs.

Sunil 51*, Sahan 2/38, Ajith 2/42

Sri Lanka beat India by 9 runs. Man of the Match: Ajith Silva, Sri Lanka

IV & V T20 Matches, a doubleheader on the 24th July'2018, BRC Ground, Colombo, Sri Lanka

India clinch the series

India beat Sri Lanka twice in the doubleheader to win the 5 matches T20I series by 4-1. India won the toss and put Sri Lanka to bat. The Sri Lankan batsmen struggled from ball one and could muster only a below-par total setting a target of 149. Chasing the modest target the Indians got off to a flier and won the game with 8 wickets and nearly 5 overs to spare.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 148/9 in 20 overs

Chandana 30, Ajay 2/20, Amol 2/27.

India 152/2 in 15.2 overs.

Durga 68*, Ajay 37, Naresh 30

India beat Sri Lanka by 8 wickets. Man of the Match: Durga Rao, India

India won the toss in the afternoon game and opted bowl first. The Lankans set a target of 190 runs. Chasing the huge target the Indian openers reserved their best for the last. A century from **Sunil** and a **half-century from captain Ajay Reddy help the team clinch the series 4-1 with out the lose of wickets.**

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 189/5 in 20 overs.

Ajith Silva 64, Chandana 80, Akbar 1/19

India 190/0 in 16 overs.

Sunil 107*, Ajay 66*

India beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets. Man of the match: Sunil Ramesh



Post-match Bilateral Series Presentation

Former Sri Lankan Captain and Minister of Ports and Shipping, Sri Lanka, Arjuna Ranatunga was the chief guest of the grand prize distribution ceremony. The World Cup-winning captain of Lanka has always patronized the game of blind cricket. During the ceremony, he expressed that Blind Cricket has developed year-on-year. He also reminisced his fond memories in India of the first T20 World Cup.

Man of the Series: ODI

B1: Ajith Silva, Sri Lanka

B2: Ajay Reddy, India

B3: Durga Rao, India

Man of the Series: T20

B1: Ajith Silva, Sri Lanka

B2: Ajay Reddy, India

B3: Sunil Ramesh, India

The Epilogue of First-ever India vs Sri Lanka Bilateral Series

It was nothing short of a treat to the enthusiasts of Indian Blind Cricket as Team India wrapped the T20 of the Bilateral Series with an easy 4-1 win. The World Champions had a shaky start where they lost the first two games of the ODI matches. The series hosted by Sri Lanka cricket association of the visually handicapped while IndusInd bank was the primer supporter of team India.



Former Sri Lankan Captain and Minister of Ports and Shipping, Sri Lanka, Arjuna Ranatunga at the post-match Presentation of the last T20 of India vs Sri Lanka Bilateral Series

Moment of Honor:



A few players of the Indian squad in meeting with the Sri Lankan President, Maithripala Sirisena. Shri Mahantesh GK, President, CABI, and WBC, Shri John David, Head Coach, Team India were highly appreciated by His Excellency for their contributions towards the game of Blind Cricket in India and across the globe.

The team meeting the Hon President of Sri Lanka Shri Maithripala Sirisena was very productive. Shri Mahantesh GK, President, CABI, and WBC requested Shri Maithripala Sirisena to provide all possible support to Blind Cricket. In fact, the Lankan government is looking forward to supporting the game but gradually which will also boost the confidence of Sri Lankan Blind Cricket.

CABI is committed to organizing at least one bilateral series against Sri Lanka every year. This series would not have been possible without our cherished supporters IndusInd bank who are in fact, the backbone of CABI.

Courtesy IndusInd bank, the new players making their debut in this international series garnered wonderful experiences. Right from the two-day break during the T20 Matches when they were able to tour the beautiful island for some of the youngsters christening their flight experience to a foreign country. The team and the management of CABI are forever indebted to IndusInd for enabling this series which was of a 'first of its kind' impacting the lives of the many blind cricketers.



Indian Blind Cricket team and John David, Gen Secretary of CABI, Aswini Sahoo, CEO, World Blind Cricket with Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka H.E Taranjit Singh Sandhu



Shri Mahantesh G K, President, CABI & WBC with Shri Arjuna Ranatunga, the Former World Cup-winning Sri Lankan Captain and the current Minister of Ports & Shipping, Sri Lanka





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Cricket for the Blind

A game with no boundaries!