

# Mixed day for Indian teams

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**CHENNAI:** Asian powerhouse China proved to be the stumbling block for the Indian men's and senior teams on the second day of the HCL-42nd World bridge championships here on Monday.

The defeats suffered by the two sides against the Chinese had an impact on the final standings of the day as the men, after climbing to the fourth spot at the end of the fifth round, found themselves dropping down to the 10th spot with a total of 68.17 VPs. The seniors, meanwhile, finished the day eighth (72.24 VPs).

The Indian women continued their disappointing show for a second day running, losing all three matches again to be pushed to the 21st spot with a paltry total of 19.81 VPs.

Due credit should, however, go to the Indian men who rebounded remarkably from a disastrous opening day with easy wins over New Zealand (42-13) and the United Arab Emirates (66-19) in the initial two rounds of the Bermuda Bowl before running into China.

Despite the heavy defeat against the Chinese (36-13), the Indians can stage a comeback and stay in contention for a place in the knockout quarterfinals should they average 12 VPs through the remaining rounds.

The key to the comfortable wins against New Zealand and

the UAE was the fine form displayed by the Indian foursome of Debabrata Majumdar and Sumit Mukherjee in the open room and Gopinath Manna and Subir Majumdar in the closed room.

Against the Kiwis, the team started off with a double-digit swing of 11 points on the very first board. The side continued to press hard before gaining scores of 13 and 11 on the fourth and 16th boards.

The Indians also put up a consistent show against the UAE before failing miserably against China.

The Chinese were up 16-0 after three rounds and though the Indians tried their best by gaining 10 IMPs on the sixth board, the visitors were not to be denied as they reeled off winners in the remaining boards to cruise home.

In the d'Orsi Trophy for seniors, India, sixth overnight, won two of its three matches again — this time against USA2 (23-20) and Chile (51-28) — but was pushed to the eighth spot after the loss to China (45-36) in the fifth round.

**The standings (after six rounds):**

**Men:** 1. France (86.71 VPs), 2. USA1 (86.67), 3. Bulgaria (84.49), 4. Brazil (81.27); 10. India (68.17).

**Women:** 1. Denmark (112.61), 2. The Netherlands (88.54), 3. USA1 (88.21), 4. USA2 (84.78); 21. India (19.81).

**Seniors:** 1. England (80.40), 2. Austria (80.24), 3. Bulgaria (78.63), 4. USA1 (77.60); 8. India (72.24).

- The Indian men posted comfortable wins over New Zealand and UAE before losing to China
- The Indian seniors, too, lost to China after winning two matches