

# High Five India win record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title, beat England by 4 wickets



## ■ AGENCY

**NORTH SOUND:** An utterly dominant India won a record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title here on Saturday, beating England by four wickets in the final of an extraordinary campaign that was almost derailed by a COVID-19 outbreak.

The triumph bore resemblance to the exploits of world-class Indian U-19 teams of the past.

Intrepid and industrious in their approach, the starry-eyed Indian players' success stories also gave a glimpse into the world's most perfectly calibrated youth structure, which is capable of consistently producing world-class cricketers who are ever ready to take on the biggest of challenges.

In a reflection of India's dominance, wicketkeeper Dinesh Bawa finished the chase of 190 with two sixes and 14 balls to spare.

On winning the toss in the big final, England captain Tom Prest rightly chose to bat first to avoid the "scoreboard pressure" during the chase. India did the next best thing: bowl out the opposition for a total -- 189

in this case, in 44.5 overs -- that failed to put them under pressure.

India were all over England before a gritty 95 by James Rew saved his team the blushes.

Bowling his medium pacers to deadly effect, Raj Bawa (5/31) ran through the English middle-order after the in-form left-arm seamer Ravi Kumar (4/34) laid the opposition low with two early blows.

India kept taking wickets at regular intervals but not for once did the intensity of the team dropped.

For close to 19 overs, Rew and James Sales (34 not out) defied India with their 93-run eight-wicket stand, ensuring the 1998 edition winners recover from a horror 61 for six and then 91 for seven.

In response, India lost Angkrish Raghuwanshi without a run on the board but the extremely talented Shaik Rasheed shone with a composed 50 off 84 balls.

Coming off his magnificent century in the semifinal against Australia, skipper Yash Dhull fell for 17, but the duo of Nishant Sindhu (50 not out) and Bawa (35)

took the team within striking distance of victory with a 67-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

It has been an extremely challenging ride for the Indian team in this edition of the tournament as multiple players from the side were infected by the coronavirus and at one stage even struggled to field eleven fit personnel.

However, despite the huge setback that almost derailed their campaign, India came back a stronger unit focussed on correctly doing the things that were within its control.

Their clinical on-field performance told a very different story, a story far removed from all the troubles that the team went through off it, when as many as seven players were infected with the virus.

India struck as early as the second over when Ravi sent back the dangerous Jacob Bethell (2) cheaply. The man from Bengal darted one in and then got it to hold its line as Bethell missed it completely after playing across the line.

The early blow did not have any impact on George

Thomas in 44.5 overs -- that failed to put them under pressure.

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Thomas as he smashed Rajvardhan Hangarkar for 14 runs, including two fours and a six over deep midwicket, in the very next over.

However, Ravi struck again, this time bowling out

## SCOREBOARD

### England Under-19s Innings

George Thomas c Dhul b Bawa  
Jacob Bethell lbw b Ravi Kumar  
Tom Prest (c) b Ravi Kumar  
James Rew c Tambe b Ravi Kumar  
William Luxton c †Bana b Bawa  
George Bell c †Bana b Bawa  
Rehan Ahmed c Tambe b Bawa  
Alex Horton † c Dhul b Tambe  
James Sales not out  
Thomas Aspinwall c †Bana b Ravi Kumar  
Joshua Boyden c †Bana b Bawa  
Extras

### Total

189/10

### India Under-19s Innings

Angkrish Raghuwanshi c †Horton b Boyden  
Harnoor Singh c †Horton b Aspinwall  
Shaik Rasheed c Rew b Sales  
Yash Dhul (c) b Bell b Sales  
Nishant Sindhu not out  
Raj Bawa c Prest b Boyden  
Kaushal Tambe c Rehan Ahmed b Aspinwall  
Dinesh Bawa † not out  
Extras

### Total

195/6

### Extras

### Dejected

with his team in a spot of bother at 18 for two in the fourth over.

Ravi had 2/2 in the first two overs.

Notwithstanding the situation his team found itself early into the big final, Thomas continued to attack and collected two boundaries against Ravi.

With Hangarkar going for 19 runs in his first spell, Dhul effected a bowling change and it worked almost immediately, but Kaushal Tambe could not hold on to Thomas' thick edge off Raj Bawa in the slip.

England needed a partnership at that stage but that was not going to be. Medium pacer Bawa got the well-set Thomas to play an irrespon-

sible shot that got a thick edge and landed in the hands of Dhul at cover.

There was not end to England's misery as Rehan Ahmed nicked Bawa to Tambe in first slip to leave the side reeling at 61 for six in the 17th over.

Bowling a tight line and length, India kept up the pressure on England and it paid dividends when wicket-keeper Alex Horton, trying to heave off-spinner Tambe over midwicket, ended up giving a simple catch to Dhul. England were still seven runs short of reaching 100 at that stage, but they got there soon with James Rew reaching his 50 in 79 balls. In the company of the James Sales, he helped England reach 189.

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