

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 Bana 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 "score-board 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-from 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 Raghuvanshi 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

SCOREBOARD	
England Under-19s Innings	
George Thomas c Dhull b Bawa	27
Jacob Bethell lbw b Ravi Kumar	02
Tom Prest (c) b Ravi Kumar	00
James Rew c Tambe b Ravi Kumar	95
William Luxton c †Bana b Bawa	04
George Bell c †Bana b Bawa	00
Rehan Ahmed c Tambe b Bawa	10
Alex Horton † c Dhull b Tambe	10
James Sales not out	34
Thomas Aspinwall c †Bana b Ravi Kumar	00
Joshua Boyden c †Bana b Bawa	01
Extras	06
Total	189/10
India Under-19s Innings	
Angkrish Raghuvanshi c †Horton b Boyden	00
Harnoor Singh c †Horton b Aspinwall	21
Shaik Rasheed c Rew b Sales	50
Yash Dhull (c) c Bell b Sales	17
Nishant Sindhu not out	50
Raj Bawa c Prest b Boyden	35
Kaushal Tambe c Rehan Ahmed b Aspinwall	01
Dinesh Bana † not out	13
Extras	08
Total	195/6

Thomas as he smashed Rajvardhan Hangargekar 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

Prest who dragged the ball on to his stumps, putting the Indians on the top at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Having failed to execute his pull shot, thanks to a bottom edge, Prest, who had earlier won a good toss, walked back

Colts Tales: When Ravi Kumar's 'Fauji' dad couldn't tell his son about his grenade injury in Kashmir

■ **AGENCY**
KOLKATA: Ravi Kumar's emergence as the new hero of the under-19 World Cup is not only the result of his own hard work but also due to the sacrifices of his CRPF father, who spent most of his life serving the country.

The 18-year-old from Aligarh on Saturday scalped four wickets to play a pivotal role as India beat England by four wickets to lift the coveted u-19 World Cup trophy for a record fifth time.

"Hum Goli Chalake Desh Seva Karte Hai, Aur Beta Ball Daal Ke," (We fire bullets to protect our country, and my son serves the country with his bowling)," said Ravi's father assistant sub-inspector Rajinder Singh, who is now posted in a CRPF camp in the Maoist-prone Rayagada district of Odisha.

Ravi was barely a toddler when Singh was badly injured in the 2006 Srinagar grenade attack which killed one and injured 11 soldiers but he never shared his trials and tribulations with his family.

Singh spent "nearly whole of his life" posted in the militant-hit regions of Srinagar but always ensured that his wife and three children live and sleep peacefully.

"I always ensured that my family stays happy, without knowing the pain that I endured. Even when I sustained splinter injury on both my legs and arms, I did not tell them. They only came to know from TV," he recalled about the grenade attack.

His son's fame in the U-19 World Cup has now made Singh a much sought-after person in the CRPF camp.

"Normally parents worry about their kids study and future career but here's my boy who stood on his feet on his own and now making the country proud," Singh beamed.

Away from his family most of the times to serve the country, Singh hardly knew about the growth of his son as a cricketer.

"I was posted in J and K and always on the move. So little did I know much how he got into cricket. Like everyone else of his age group, he was always busy playing cricket for fun.

"Later I came to know that Arvind Bharadvaj ji has put him into serious cricket and that's how it all began for him 13-14 years ago," Singh recalled.

"I was also worried initially as I didn't have the money to support him in taking up cricket as a career, but he stood on his own. It shows the drive and commitment in him. Hope he makes the grade (to senior level)," he added.

It did not come easy for Ravi Kumar as he did not get chances in UP and had to take the Bengal de tour through the help of his Kolkata-based neighbour.

Without thinking twice, Ravi moved to Kolkata and played second division cricket before joining Howrah Union and then Ballygunge United from where he was picked for the Bengal Under-19 side last year.

Incidentally, he was not part of the India colts squad for a Tri-series -- featuring India U-19 A, India U-19 B and Bangladesh U-19 -- in the build-up to the U-19 World Cup here last December.

"He has always been dedicated and committed. Even while we both are separated by miles most of the times, we talk via video call every day. He calls me during dinner time," Singh said. "I always tell him no one is above the country, we should give our everything for 'Bharat Mata'. While I serve the country at war, your duty is to win matches for India with your bowling'."



Lata Ji & her love for cricket, when 'Nightingale of India' rescued BCCI post 83 win

■ **AGENCY**
NEW DELHI: When Kapil Dev lifted the World Cup at the Lord's balcony, the erstwhile BCCI president and one of the powerful ministers in the Indira Gandhi cabinet, late NKP Salve had a different worry.

It was still some years to go for economic liberalization and an astute businessman like Jagmohan Dalmiya's foresight to turn cricket into an industry.

Kapil's Devils needed to be celebrated but the BCCI, which currently is looking at USD 5 billion television contract, barely paid its cricketers a daily allowance of 20 pounds.

Salve had to turn to his 'Man Friday' and Indian cricket's 'one stop Encyclopedia' Raj Singh Dungarpur for a solution to be able to reward the players for such an achievement.

'Raj bhai', as Dungarpur was known in Indian cricket circle, decided that the only way was to request his close friend and one of country's

biggest cricket fans Lata Mangeshkar to do a pro-bono concert in the national capital's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

The IG was packed to capacity as 'Lata ji' did a near two hour programme.

The event ensured that BCCI collected enough money and each of the 14 members got Rs 1 lakh each as cash award.

"It was a very decent sum in those days. We would otherwise save up tour money and daily allowance for that month and it came to barely Rs 60,000," Sunil Valson recollected while speaking to PTI.

"I remember some people said we will give you Rs 5000, some said Rs 10,000 and it was very disrespectful at times. But then Lata ji sang in that concert. What a function it was and one of the most memorable evenings to watch her sing live," Valson said.

The BCCI and more so Dungarpur never forgot how 'Lata ji' saved Indian cricket

PM Modi congratulates U-19 cricket team

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated the Indian U-19 cricket team for winning a record fifth World Cup title, saying the "stellar performance" of the side proves that the future of the game in the country is in "safe and able hands".

"Extremely proud of our young cricketers. Congratulations to the Indian team for winning the ICC U19 World Cup. They have shown great fortitude through the tournament. Their stellar performance at the highest level shows that the future of Indian cricket is in safe and able hands," Modi tweeted.



BCCI announces Rs 40 lakh for U-19 team members, Rs 25 lakh each for support staff

NEW DELHI: The BCCI on Sunday announced cash reward of Rs 40 lakh for each member of the victorious Indian U-19 team. The support staff will be paid Rs 25 lakh each.

"They were impressive across departments and sealed India's fifth World Cup. While their on-field performances were fantastic, the team also showed grit, determination and courage to bounce back strongly despite the Covid-19 cases in the camp," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly in a statement.



J&K LG congratulates India's U-19 cricket team

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday congratulated India's U-19 cricket team on winning the ICC World Cup, saying the whole nation is proud of their accomplishment.

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

"Many congratulations to Team India on winning the ICC Under-19 World Cup. Amazing performance by all our young players! The who10 le nation is proud of your accomplishment," Sinha wrote on Twitter.



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 Hangargekar going for 19 runs in his first spell, Dhull 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 outside edge and landed in the hands of Dhull at cover.

In all sorts of trouble at 37 for three at the start of the 11th over, England's desperate quest for a partnership was not answered, with William Luxton edging Bawa to be out caught behind before England could reach 50 runs.

Bawa was on a hat-trick as George Bell had no answer to an excellent delivery that kicked up and took a deflection on its way to the wicket-keeper Dinesh Bana.

With half the side back in the dressing room in the 13th over, the England U-19 were staring at a heavy defeat, their dreams of winning a first world title in 24

years quickly going up in smoke.

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 Dhull. 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.

Lata Di had strong Jammu connection: JKOA President



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Legendry singer, Lata Mangeshkar had a strong Jammu connection and served the Dogra community with her melodious voice by singing number of popular songs penned by Jammu writers.

"We had a close association with Lata ji because of my elder sister, Padma Sachdev's relationship with the world acclaimed singer. Recently, when my sister left this world, Lata ji expressed sorrow in a detailed message to us in Jammu," shocked over the demise, president of J&K Olympic Association (JKOA), Dr Ashutosh Sharma said.

The people of Jammu are lucky enough that the world famous singer gave her voice to the popular Dogri songs. "We cannot forget Lata ji's contributions for the promotion of Dogri. The entire family of ours saddened and prayed for the peace for the legend singer," further said Dr Sharma.

Important to mention here that it was on the request of Padma Sachdev that Lata Mangeshkar agreed to give Dogri her melodious voice.

1000th ODI: Rohit bosses easy chase after spinners set-up India's 6-wkt victory over West Indies

■ **AGENCY**
AHMEDABAD: Skipper Rohit Sharma brought in a sense of calm with a sizzling 60 after India's new spin combination of Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar laid the platform for an easy six-wicket victory over West Indies in the first ODI which also happens to be country's 1000th.

First the hosts bundled out West Indies for a meagre 176 in 43.5 overs as spinners Chahal (4/49 in 9.5 overs) and Washington (3/30 in 9 overs) ran through their list-less line-up and then skipper smashed 60 off 51 balls with hosts chased down the target in just 28 overs.

It is the 10th time in last 16 games that West Indies have failed to bat full 50 overs despite presence of senior players like Darren Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Nicholas



Pooran to name a few.

After a brief middle-order wobble, Suryakumar Yadav (34 no) and debutant Deepak Hooda (26 no) added 62 runs without much pressure to take the team home.

Just like the skipper, India also missed batter Rohit in South Africa in equal measure and on his comeback, there were no signs of any hamstringing niggle as he smashed 10 fours and a six, adding 84 with stand-in

opener Ishan Kishan (28).

Virat Kohli (8) also started with two boundaries but was holed out in the deep while Rishabh Pant was unfortunately run-out at the non-striker's end.

But Rohit was in his element, while young Kishan, played second fiddle to perfection.

The former toyed with the West Indies attack, as the hosts were on course for a comfortable chase with the

SCOREBOARD	
West Indies Innings	
Shai Hope † b Mohammed Siraj	08
Brandon King c Yadav b Washington Sundar	13
Darren Bravo lbw b Washington Sundar	18
Shamarh Brooks c †Pant b Chahal	12
Nicholas Pooran lbw b Chahal	18
Kieron Pollard (c) b Chahal	00
Jason Holder c †Pant b Prasadh Krishna	57
Akeal Hosein c †Pant b Prasadh Krishna	0
Fabian Allen c & b Washington Sundar	29
Alzarri Joseph c Yadav b Chahal	13
Kemar Roach not out	00
Extras	08
Total	176/10
India Innings	
Rohit Sharma (c) lbw b Joseph	60
Ishan Kishan c Allen b Hosein	28
Virat Kohli c Roach b Joseph	08
Rishabh Pant † run out (Joseph)	11
Suryakumar Yadav not out	34
Deepak Hooda not out	26
Extras	11
Total	178/4