



3rd T20I: Abhishek Sharma, Arshdeep power India to 14-run victory over West Indies

INDORE, OCT 11: Abhishek Sharma's scintillating 69 and pacer Arshdeep Singh's crucial three-wicket haul paved the way for India's 14-run victory against the West Indies in the third T20I here on Sunday.

India now lead the five-match series 2-1. Abhishek's 30-ball knock (6x4, 5x4) and his century alliance with Ishan Kishan (37) drove India's charge with the bat which was undone a bit by sloppy effort in the middle-overs. India made 223 all out.

In reply, Arshdeep Singh (3/44) dealt a severe blow early when he cleaned up in-form WI skipper Shai Hope (5) in the second over, and accounted for Sherfane Rutherford (32) and Keemo Paul (10) later in the innings to seal the outcome of the contest.

The West Indies finished at 209 for seven. The Caribbean side failed to recover from the early dismissal of Hope. Shimron Hetmyer (43, 26b; 4x6, 6x2) got a lifeline early, but he did not really capitalise.

Hetmyer, who looked in rhythm for a long haul which the West Indies needed, was cleaned up by Naman Dhir with an angled in delivery in the seventh over.

In the 10th over, Rovman Powell (5) perished trying to clear the ropes off Axar Patel. Kamil Pooran (42, 27b; 6x3, 4x6) was struggling to middle the ball halfway through the chase.

Pooran seemed to have shrugged off his struggles in the 11th over when he sent the ball into the stands thrice off Dhir (2/39), but the bowler had the last laugh, getting him caught by Arshdeep at square leg.



India vice-captain Tilak Varma, who was run out embarrassingly earlier in the first half, redeemed himself with two sharp catches in the deep as India continued tightening their grip on the game.

Earlier, a sloppy batting approach in the middle overs took the shine off opener Abhishek's sprightly 69 on a track with some variable bounce.

Abhishek's fiery knock came off 30 balls (6x6, 5x4) and his 108-run stand for the second wicket off only 40 balls with Kishan had put India on course for a massive total.

But India slipped from 115 for one to 223 all out, which included a brain fade from Tilak (28) in the 17th over. Tilak ran himself out while not even attempting to get back to the non-strikers' end.

Axar's hit was saved at the ropes by Pooran, but the Indian batters thought they had got a boundary. Having met at the middle of the

pitch after completing a single, Axar got back into the crease in time before the stumps were broken.

But Tilak was still strolling back and was caught well short of the crease when Gudakesh Motie broke the stumps off the throw from the stumper.

Shortly after that, Axar (20) himself was run-out after a mix-up with Arshdeep.

Earlier at the start, a few deliveries kept lower than expected, but it all changed the moment Abhishek unleashed himself.

In the third over, Roston Chase (2/38) was swatted for a four over cover when the offie looked to angle one into him, and followed it up with two sixes.

With those three shots, Abhishek had made it clear that it was his day to drive India's innings forward, and he did it with his 14th half-century which came off 18 balls.

Abhishek put on a century alliance with Kishan who played the perfect second

fiddle.

India were on course for a total in excess of 250 when Abhishek and Kishan were on song, but the momentum completely changed when Chase decided to alter the length in the ninth over.

Having been smacked for a six over his head in the previous ball, Chase pitched one short, guessing Kishan's forward movement and Hope was quick enough to whip the bails off. It was the third time Chase dismissed Kishan in this series in as many matches.

Three balls later, Chase lured Shreyas Iyer (1) with a flighted delivery and the batter failed to connect the ball. The umpire ruled him out leg before.

Abhishek went after a short ball from Shamar Springer but a mishit brought an end to his knock. India were in trouble with Dhir (10) finding the fielder at long-off in the 11th over.

But they managed to raise a good enough target.

Set to score for child rights: Cricket icon Smriti Mandhana named UNICEF India celebrity advocate

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11 : UNICEF India on Sunday announced the appointment of international cricketer Smriti Mandhana to join the ranks of the UN Child Rights Agency's Celebrity Advocate.

In the new role, Mandhana is set to build on her earlier work to champion equal rights and opportunities for children and young people.

The appointment, announced on the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, spotlights girls' rights, protection, potential and leadership, and the barriers that still limit their choices worldwide, according to a release.

A sporting icon and role model for young women and girls across India, Mandhana will champion equal opportunities for girls to play and thrive. She will support UNICEF India's work to advance adolescent girls' empowerment, health and well-being, for girls to reach her full potential.

Mandhana said, "I am honoured to join UNICEF India as its Celebrity Advocate. Playing cricket as a child taught me that every dream begins with an opportunity. With hard work, determination and encouragement, that opportunity can become something extraordinary. Every child and young person deserves the chance to dream big and



reach their full potential."

An Arjuna Awardee and one of India's leading sportspersons, Mandhana is the Captain of the Indian women's cricket team. She was part of the team that won India the first ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title in 2025. That year, she became the first woman to score more than 1,000 One Day International (ODI) runs in a calendar year, setting a record with five ODI centuries.

In 2026, she became the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket and women's T20 internationals. She is the world's top-ranked women's ODI batter and a two-time ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.

"We are delighted to welcome Smriti Mandhana as

UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate on the International Day of the Girl Child. Smriti's journey from aspiring young athlete to global cricket icon shows girls what is possible when talent is met with opportunity. At a time when India is home to the world's largest generation of children and young people, investing in girls' rights, leadership and well-being is one of the smartest investments a country can make.

We look forward to partnering with Smriti to support every girl to have the chance to learn, play, lead and fulfil her potential," said Cynthia McCaffrey, Representative, UNICEF India.

Mandhana has previously supported UNICEF-ICC campaigns on gender

equality and life skills, as well as UNICEF's Promise to Children campaign.

India has 253 million adolescents—one-fifth of its population and 21 per cent of the global adolescent population.

India has expanded access to education, health and protection services, but challenges persist. Children in disadvantaged urban and rural communities continue to face poverty and limited access to quality services. Adolescent girls face multiple vulnerabilities that restrict decisions about work, education, marriage and social relationships.

UNICEF works with governments, communities, civil society and young people to advance adolescent girls' rights, agency and opportunities; equipping girls with knowledge, life skills, leadership opportunities and safe spaces to make informed choices about education, health, well-being and their futures.

Together with partners, UNICEF also works with families and communities to challenge harmful gender norms, strengthen support systems, keep girls in education, expand social protection and connect them to skills and livelihood pathways—building their confidence and choices to learn, lead, thrive and delay marriage. (ANI)

Jindal Panther Cup: Vimal Arion Achievers defeat Jindal Panther 9-6 to clinch title

NOIDA (UTTAR PRADESH), OCTOBER 11 (ANI): Vimal Arion Achievers defeated Jindal Panther 9-6 in the final of the Jindal Panther Cup at Jindal Polo Estate, Noida, to clinch the tournament title.

Jindal Panther, featuring Naveen Jindal, Mahesh, Gaurav Sehgal and Simran S. Shergill, faced a determined Achievers side comprising Ranveer Saharan, Savir and Dhruv Godara, and Chris Jake in the title clash, according to a press release from the Jindal Panther Cup.

The match saw goals from both sides across the four chukkers. Dhruv opened the scoring for Achievers in the first chukker, followed by Savir, before Naveen Jindal and Gaurav found the goal for Jindal Panther.

Savir added to Achievers' tally, while Naveen Jindal scored again in the second chukker. Chris also scored



as the contest continued.

Achievers maintained their attacking momentum in the latter stages, with Dhruv, Shergill and Chris among the players contributing to the scoring. Gaurav added another goal

for Jindal Panther in the fourth chukker.

Despite Jindal Panther's efforts, Achievers held on to their advantage to secure a 9-6 victory and lift the Jindal Panther Cup.

The final marked the cul-

mination of the Jindal Panther Cup, part of Jindal Polo Estate's four-week 2026 polo season in Noida, bringing the tournament to a close with an engaging contest between the two sides. (ANI)

ISL: Churchill Brothers SC claim historic 2-1 win over Mumbai City FC



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11: Churchill Brothers SC began their MG Indian Super League Season 13 campaign with a 2-1 win over Mumbai City FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Fatorda Stadium in their opening home game.

Gaurav Bora headed in the club's first-ever ISL goal in the 57th minute and Sebastian Gutierrez added a second in the 86th. Sergio Llamas pulled one back from the penalty spot in the third minute of stoppage time, but it was not enough for the Islanders, as per a press release from ISL.

Mumbai City took the early initiative, controlling possession and building from the back. In the 9th minute, Wilmar Jordan's cross found Brandon Fernandes, whose right-footed

effort was saved by Sayad Kadir. Churchill broke forward almost immediately. After clearing a Brandon corner in the 10th minute, Vincy Barretto raced forward and shot from the right, just over the bar.

Mumbai City won a free kick in the 17th minute after a foul on Wilmar Jordan. Brandon delivered it, and the deflected ball was collected by Akash Mishra. In the 20th minute, Bijay Chhetri cleared a lobbed Churchill delivery inside the box. Churchill made a change in the 32nd minute, when Deny Singh replaced Provat Lakra. Wayne Lekay tested the goalkeeper with a long-range effort in the 37th minute, and Churchill kept pushing until the break, but the half ended 0-0.

Gaurav Bora replaced Alexander Yeoule at half-time, giving Churchill an all-Indian backline. The second half began with intensity from both sides, with Churchill probing for openings and Mumbai City looking to hit on the break. Trijoy Dias came on for captain Kingslee Fernandes in the 55th minute.

Churchill took the lead two minutes later. Anil Gaonkar swung in a cross after a short corner, and Bora headed into the net. It was Churchill's first MG ISL goal. In the 58th minute, and soon after Wayne Lekay's curling long-range effort hit the crossbar.

Mumbai City made a triple change in the 62nd minute, with Farukh replacing Bijay Chhetri, Cirkovic replacing Otormin and

Zothanpuia replacing Bawitlung. The Islanders created few chances after the restart. Hridaya Jain came on for Valpuia in the 77th minute, and Muhammed Ajsal replaced Wilmar Jordan in the 85th.

Churchill sealed the win in the 86th minute. Stendley Fernandes, introduced a minute earlier for Trijoy Dias, set up Sebastian Gutierrez, who finished from inside the box to make it 2-0.

Mumbai City were awarded a penalty deep into added time after Angu fouled Akash Mishra in the box. Llamas converted from the spot to make it 2-1, but the late consolation could not stop Churchill from claiming a historic win in their first home game of the ISL.

Archery Premier League: Chero Archers, Prithviraaj Yodhas register third win

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 11 (ANI): Chero Archers and Prithviraaj Yodhas registered their third wins to move clear at the top of the standings in the second season of Archery Premier League (APL), while defending champions Rajputana Royals slumped for their third straight defeat here on Sunday.

Inspired by Atanu Das' good form, Chero Archers have arguably been the most consistent team of the season so far, and they began the day by beating local franchise Kakatiya Knights 6-0. The Yodhas then made it a hat-trick of wins by defeating Chola Chiefs 6-2. In the best match of the day, Marathas clinched a 5-3



thriller against Royals. Chero and Yodhas are at six points each after four matches, while Chiefs and Royals are at the bottom of the standings with just one win so far, as per a press release.

The world's first franchise-based archery league, APL is initiated by the Archery Association of In-

dia and comprises six teams and a total of 48 archers, with 36 Indians and 12 elite international stars. The league, taking place at People's Plaza in Hyderabad, will culminate on October 18 with the grand finale featuring the top four teams in the semifinals, followed by the title clash.

After losing by the barest

of margins a day earlier, Chero bounced back in some style. Atanu emerged as the best male recurve archer of the day with an average score of 9.67.

The Knights made a significant change to their starting lineup with Austrian compound star Nico Wiener making way for Shivshankar Landkar and he was in good form along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam. But Chero have Das in terrific rhythm and have a strong compound squad to lead them with world No 1 Mathias Fullerton shooting ahead of Sahil Rajesh Jadhav. The Danish archer was the highest scorer of the match with 59 out of six arrows.