



India need 58 more runs to clinch series as West Indies stretch 2nd Test to Day 5

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: The Indian bowling attack faced a stern test of character on an unresponsive sub-continental track but came out trumps, leaving the hosts on the cusp of a 2-0 clean sweep over a fighting West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test here on Monday.

The Indians need another 58 runs on the final day to win the game after reaching 63 for 1 at stumps in pursuit of 121.

Jasprit Bumrah (3/44 in 17.5 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (3/104 in 29 overs), Ravindra Jadeja (1/102 in 33 overs), Mohammed Siraj (2/43 in 15 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/80 in 23 overs) toiled hard for more than 118.5 overs in the second innings.

They eventually bowled out the West Indies for 390, leaving the home team with a target of 121 to chase in 18 overs left on the fourth evening.

KL Rahul (25 batting) and Sai Sudharsan (30 batting) looked comfortable but didn't take too many risks after Yashasvi Jaiswal (8) holed out in the deep.

This was after Siraj struck a decisive blow with



the second new ball before Kuldeep Yadav ran through the lower-middle order as Indian bowlers found their mojo in the post-lunch session on day four.

John Campbell (115 off 199 balls) and Shai Hope (103 off 214 balls) added 177 runs for the third wicket to show the Caribbean team's stomach for fight but the Indian bowling unit's patience paid off once the second new ball came into operation post lunch.

But Jayden Seales (32) and Justin Greaves (50 not out) added 79 for the final wicket to take the match into day five.

The only consolation from this match for the West Indies would be two centuries that forced India to bat for the second time.

It was a sincere bowling effort as Kuldeep, Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj and Jadeja all played their part with timely dismissals.

The Indian bowling unit can take heart from the fact that they had to bowl for long across two innings in conditions which were not conducive for either spin or pace.

The dead pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla didn't show any signs of wear and tear even well into the fourth day.

The balls did keep low and it became West Indies' batters undoing but it was more about their poor choice of shots rather than some dream deliveries getting them out.

Such was the monotony that even the broadcasters didn't seem too interested in dissecting the on-field

game and asked their analysts to focus on the ODI series against Australia which starts this Sunday.

In the morning, Campbell completed his first ever Test hundred in 25 appearances with a slog sweep six off Ravindra Jadeja over the cow corner.

With no sting in the track, playing spinners was an easy job for the batters who were batting quite comfortably till Campbell had a brain fade.

On a track where most of the deliveries from left-arm spinners were being pitched on leg-middle line, Campbell tried an ambitious reverse sweep and DRS ruled him leg-before.

Even Campbell's dismissal didn't matter much as skipper Roston Chase (40) and Hope also looked comfortable during their 51-run stand for the fourth wicket. It seemed that West Indies would make a match of it with a challenging fourth innings total.

However, once the new ball was taken after the 80th over, Bumrah and Siraj, despite the docile nature of the track, softened up Hope with a few short balls.

derwhelming campaign.

Left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera, in particular, has been exceptional, consistently providing breakthroughs and keeping the scoring in check.

With conditions here expected to favour spin once again, Sri Lanka will bank on their tweakers to keep them in contention.

Teams (from) Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (captain), Hasini Perera, Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Kavisha Dillhari, Nilakshi de Silva, Anushka Sanjeevani, Imesha Dulani, Dewmi Vihanga, Piumi Wathshala, Inoka Ranaweera, Sugandika Kumari, Udeshika Prabodani, Malki Madara, Achini Kulasuriya.

New Zealand: Sophie Devine (captain), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Flora Devonshire, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Bree Illing, Polly Inglis, Bella James, Melie Kerr, Jess Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Georgia Plimmer, Lea Tahuu.

Sri Lanka's spinners, however, remain their biggest strength. Their control, variations, and accuracy have been a bright spot in an otherwise un-

Women's WC: Back-to-back defeats a setback, but India eye redemption

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Two consecutive and unexpected defeats may dent India's momentum in their ICC Women's World Cup title campaign, but head coach Amol Mazumdar remains focused on the positives — particularly the performances of young players.

Despite Indian bowlers failing to defend the team's highest-ever total in Women's World Cup history — and the highest by any team in the ongoing tournament — Mazumdar threw his support behind emerging talents Kranti Gaud and Shree Charani.

Shree, the 21-year-old left-arm spinner, emerged as a standout performer against Australia, claiming 3/41 in her 10-over spell.

For the second time in a

month, India suffered their third defeat to Australia — this time after posting a record-breaking total.

Australian skipper Alyssa Healy showed remarkable grit with a stunning 142, guiding her team to chase down 331 and secure a three-wicket win with six balls to spare, retaining their position at the top of the table.

"After this game we'll have a look at it and I'm sure the team management will have a proper discussion about (potentially promoting an all-rounder) and then we'll take a right call as we approach the next game," said the coach.

"I think they (Kranti and Shree) have been exceptional. If you see Kranti and Shree, they bowled well against Australia.

Perfect timing to play against India in lead-up to Ashes: Mitchell Marsh

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Taking on world No. 1 India, with whom Australian cricketers share a "great rivalry," is the perfect lead up to the marquee Ashes series later this year, believes T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh.

Australia will host India for three ODIs starting October 19, followed by a five-match T20I series, with Marsh leading the side in the absence of regular 50-overs skipper Pat Cummins, who continues to recover from a back injury.

"We'll have all the guys



building towards the Ashes but everyone loves playing against India," Marsh was quoted as saying by foxsports.com.au.

"We've got a great rivalry and great respect for

Shree took some important wickets. I think they have been exceptional, both of them," added Mazumdar.

While talking about the match, the coach gave credit to the Australian team. "Credit to them. The finish in a cricket game is very important. Yes, we need a good start but we need a better finish. So, if you see the finish that we had in the South Africa game as far as bowling is concerned in the last five overs we ended up losing that game, and even today basically if we would have got another 20 runs maybe things would have been different.

"But at the same time, it's been a gradual progress for us and there are a lot of learnings. I

keep talking about positives and learnings. One of the things to learn is to finish well."

While emphasising the need to learn from experience, the Indian bowlers were unable to defend the total in their last two matches, both of which the team lost.

"I think, they batted exceptionally well. The way they started and eventually ended up getting 330 with one over to spare was a phenomenal effort.

"Yes, we tried to build pressure on them, but they've (got) experienced players. They've been playing together for a while. I think almost 10 years they've been playing with almost the same team. So, credit to them," added the coach.

mark the international return of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both of whom last played for India in February.

Cummins remains a doubtful for the Ashes opener at Perth starting on November 21 but Marsh is among the players who would be in fray for selection for the opening Test of the five-match series.

The second and third ODIs of India's tour of Australia will be played on October 23 and 25 at Adelaide and Sydney, respectively.

them as a team. I think it's literally perfect timing to be playing against India in the lead-up to an Ashes series. It's going to be massive," he added.

The ODI series will also

Vaibhav Suryavanshi named Bihar vice-captain for Ranji Trophy

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Bihar have appointed 14-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi as their vice-captain for the first two matches of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season starting on Wednesday, with Sakibul Gani being the captain.

Bihar will take on Arunachal Pradesh in their Plate League season-opener at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium here from October 15. The announcement of the squad was made by

the Bihar Cricket Association late on Sunday.

Bihar were relegated to the plate league after failing to log a single win in the previous Ranji season.

Suryavanshi made his Ranji Trophy debut at the age of 12 in the 2023-24 season.

He later became the youngest (13) to bag an Indian Premier League (IPL) contract and has also been a part of India Under-19 tours of England and Australia.

Suryavanshi had be-

come the youngest player in the IPL at the age of 13 when he was picked by Rajasthan Royals ahead of this year's season.

With a 35-ball century for RR against Gujarat Titans, the left-handed batter created the world record for being the youngest in men's cricket (14) to have scored a century in T20s.

It was also the second fastest century in the IPL. Suryavanshi is unlikely to play the full season for Bihar as he will be in con-

tention to be a part of India's squad for the Under-19 World Cup to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia early next year.

BIHAR SQUAD: Piyush Kumar Singh, Bhaskar Dubey, Sakibul Gani ©, Vaibhav Suryavanshi (vc), Arnab Kishor, Ayush Loharuka, Bipin Saurabh, Amod Yadav, Nawaz Khan, Sakib Hussain, Raghvendra Pratap Singh, Sachin Kumar Singh, Himanshu Singh, Khalid Alam, Sachin Kumar.

India's rising tennis star Srishti Kiran prepares to make her mark on the US junior circuit

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: At just 13, Srishti Kiran is already being hailed as one of India's brightest young tennis prospects. Ranked No. 16 in India's U-14 Girls category, the Bengaluru-born player has been steadily climbing the junior circuit and is now preparing for one of the biggest tests of her budding career, a series of tournaments in the United States, including the prestigious Junior Orange Bowl in Florida this December.

Srishti played a key role in helping India clinch its first-ever Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) U-12 Girls' Team Championship crown in 2023, where she remained unbeaten. Her performance on the Asian circuit soon caught wider attention, and she was scouted to train at the prestigious RPS Academy in Florida under the mentorship of world-renowned coach Gabe Jaramillo, after being spotted at the Asian Tennis Federation's

Orange Ball program.

The move is giving her world-class exposure, but it has also demanded sacrifices at a young age. "The most challenging part has been staying away from home, missing my mom and Bengaluru. I just cope by calling her whenever I can. But I really miss the food, the people, the weather, of course," she shared.

Despite these challenges, she embraced the sacrifices as part of her pursuit of excellence. "Without sacrifices, you cannot become a good player," she affirmed.

Srishti, the youngest to win back-to-back All India Tennis Association (AITA) U-10 Championships, began her journey in tennis at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA), Bengaluru, when she was just four and a half years old, according to a release from KSLTA.

She fondly remembers stepping onto the court with a racket almost as big

as herself.

"My earliest memory at KSLTA was coming for my first tennis class. I was shorter than the net, holding a racket, but I loved it right away," she recalled. Over the years, KSLTA has played an instrumental role in nurturing her talent, providing not just training but also an environment where she felt constantly supported. "KSLTA has supported me a lot, especially Sunil Yajaman Sir (Hon. Jt. Secretary, KSLTA). And everybody here has supported me in some way or the other. It really felt like home," she expressed.

Her resilience was evident in her recent performance at the KSLTA-ITF Juniors at SM Krishna Stadium, where she advanced to the quarterfinals, showcasing her growing potential. Among the many lessons she received, one stood out: her coach Gabe's constant reminder. "No matter what condition

you are in, stay focused and give it your all." With utmost gratitude, she added, "I would like to thank all my coaches for helping and motivating me along the way. They believed that I could, and that belief pushes me forward." Srishti also drew inspiration from American tennis star Coco Gauff, admiring the similarities in their playing styles. "From the way she hits to the way she moves, my game really matched with hers. I really admire and learn from her" she said.

Looking ahead, her immediate goals are to perform strongly at the upcoming Junior Orange Bowl and the IMG Academy International Tennis Championships in Florida later this year. While her long-term goals are firmly defined, "In 10 years, I aim to be World No. 1, winning an Olympic medal and lifting a Grand Slam for my country is my ultimate vision," she expressed.

Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag to spearhead Indian challenge

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: India's Paris Olympics semifinalist Lakshya Sen and the country's popular men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be spearheading the Indian challenge at the Denmark Open 2025 badminton tournament, starting from Tuesday.

Sen has had a poor run in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour so far, with 10 first-round exits this year. His best result was a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open last month, as per Olympics.com.

Joining Sen in the men's singles competition would be Ayush Shetty, who secured the country's only BWF World Tour title this year, with the US Open ti-



tle. The men's singles competition will be led by local star and two-time Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen.

Coming to the men's doubles draw, 'Sat-Chi', who won the bronze at the BWF World Championships recently, will be aiming to build on their fine form, having notched runners-up finishes in Hong Kong and China last month. The other men's

pair is Sai Pratheek K and Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy in the main draw.

For women's singles, India's sole representative is Anmol Kharb, aiming to go much higher than her semifinal finish at the Arctic Open tournament last week. In the mixed doubles field, the Indian challenge will be headed by Olympian Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila.

The women's doubles competition will witness India's representatives being the pairs of Kavipriya Selvam-Simran Singhi and Rutaparna Panda-Swetaparna Panda

- Denmark Open 2025 badminton: India squad

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty
Men's doubles: Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy-Sai Pratheek K

Women's singles: Anmol Kharb
Women's doubles: Kavipriya Selvam-Simran Singhi, Rutaparna Panda-Swetaparna Panda

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto, Rohan Kapoor-Ruthvika Gadde, Mohit Jaglan-Lakshita Jaglan.