



Tilak, Kishan, bowlers help India drub Zimbabwe by 90 runs; take unassailable 2-0 lead

HARARE, JULY 25: *Power-packed fifties by Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma worked well with bowlers' diligence as India trumped Zimbabwe by 90 runs in the second T20I to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on Saturday.*

Chasing 220 was never going to be easy for the Africans and the fate of the match was sealed when they lost five wickets inside 9 overs.

Eventually they were bundled out for 129, well short of India's 219 for five, which was constructed around Kishan's 81 and Tilak's unbeaten 60.

The series win will also give new T20I skipper Shreyas Iyer a big relief after losing two consecutive series against Ireland (0-2) and England (0-4).

However, Zimbabwe started the hunt in earnest through Brian Bennett (32, 19b, 3x4, 3x6), who creamed debutant pacer Yash Thakur for a six and four in a row.

But Thakur (2/30) extracted a quick revenge, as an attempted ramp did not go past wicketkeeper Kishan.

Once the first blood was drawn, Indian bowlers did not let the Zimbabwe batsmen off the hook.

There were little pockets of fight such as 20s by Ryan Burl and Tadi Marumani but nothing good enough to challenge the Indian bowlers for a sustained period. WorldNews Coverage

Tilak Varma overtakes Dhoni, Raina in Indian T20I run-scoring charts

HARARE [ZIMBABWE], JULY 25: Indian batter and T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma overtook stalwarts MS Dhoni and Suresh Raina and teammate Ishan Kishan, becoming the seventh-highest run-getter for Team India in T20Is.

Tilak climbed up the T20I scoring charts further during the second T20I against Zimbabwe at Harare, scoring 60* in 29 balls, with five fours and three sixes at a strike rate of 206.90.

Now Tilak, India's seventh-highest T20I run-getter, has scored 1,634 runs in 58 T20Is and 55 innings at an average of 44.16 and a strike rate of 145.37, with two centuries and nine fifties, with a best score of 120*. He has now surpassed Dhoni (1,617 runs in 98 matches at an average of 37.60, with a strike rate of 126.13 and two fifties) and Raina (1,605 runs in 78 matches at an average of 29.18 and a strike rate of 134.87, with a century and five fifties) in all-time T20I run-scoring charts for India.

The top three run-getters for India in T20Is are: Rohit Sharma (4,231 runs in 159



and Abhishek Sharma (3/17) found themselves in the list of wicket-takers as India completed the stroll.

But circumstances that led to the employment of part-timers might just give India some worries.

Pacer Prince Yadav (2/10 in 1.2 overs) walked off with a clutched hamstring, casting a shadow over such a dominant victory and raising another question about the team's injury management system.

The genesis of that landslide win was in India's intent-filled batting effort led by Kishan and Tilak.

Asked to bat first India were in early trouble at 29 for two.

But Kishan first made 66 runs for the third wicket with skipper Shreyas Iyer (25) and then a 94 for the subsequent wicket with Tilak as the tourists overcame the early wobble.

Kishan paced his knock to a nicety as he focused on giving some stability to Indian innings. The left-hander brought his fifty in 31 balls, but the next 31 runs came in 13 balls as he pressed on the accelerator.

The onside play was the hallmark of his innings, peppering the regions around mid-wicket with constant big hits.

Off-spinner Bennett was clobbered for two fours to that part of the field while pacer Brad Evans was punished for 4, 4 and a 6 through the onside.

Tilak, on the other hand, doused the talks about his strike-rate for now, playing a sensational supporting innings and reached fifty in 23 balls.

The left-hander smoked Zimbabwe's best bowler Blessing Muzarabani for three fours in a row, and the third one was a peach - a

nice, little dab behind the point using the bowler's pace.

Brute power was on display too when Tilak lifted Evans for a six over mid-wicket.

Their assault was so faultless as India amassed 61 runs in the last five overs. WorldNews Coverage

Before Kishan marshalled India's innings around him, India lost openers Abhishek and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi early.

Abhishek softly lobbed Muzarabani to Ryan Burl at point.

Sooryavanshi looked set for his second successive fifty reaching 20 off 9 balls that contained a sequence of 4, 6, 4, 4 off Richard Ngarava.

But Ngarava had the last laugh, as Sooryavanshi skied a into-the-body bouncer to Muzarabani at mid-on.



T20Is and 151 innings at an average of 32.05 and a strike rate of 140.89, with five centuries and 32 fifties). Virat Kohli (4,188 runs in 125 matches and 117 innings at an average of 48.69 and a strike rate of 137.04, including a century and 38 fifties) and Suryakumar Yadav (3,272 runs in 113 matches and 107 innings at an average of 36.35 and a strike rate of 162.94, including four centuries and 25 fifties).

This year has been a mixed bag for Tilak in T20Is, with 451 runs in 18 matches and innings at an average of 34.69 and a strike rate of almost 149, with three fifties and a best score of 60*.

Coming to the match, India was put to bat first by Zimbabwe, who elected to field first. After Abhishek Sharma (8) and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (20 in nine balls) departed early, Kis-

han put on a 66-run stand with skipper Shreyas Iyer (25 in 20 balls, with four boundaries) and a 94-run stand with Tilak, scoring 81 in 44 balls, with nine fours and two sixes. India made 219/5 in 20 overs. IndiaNews Updates

Blessing Muzarabani (1/36 in four overs) and Newman Nyamhuri (1/25 in three overs) were among the top wicket-takers for Zimbabwe. (ANI)

stressed optimum utilisation of the Indoor Sports Stadium and called for responsible use of sports infrastructure and public assets.

The Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration will organise badminton and other sporting events regularly to provide competitive exposure to local talent.

Over 200 players are participating across Under-14, Under-19, Men's, Women's and Veteran singles categories, while 58 teams are competing in various doubles events.

Interacting with the players, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to adopt sports as a way of life and stay away from substance abuse. He

VC SKUAST-K harvests Sweet Corn, felicitates winners of Sports Week at Wadura

BARAMULLA, JULY 25: Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganaie on Saturday visited the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, where he reviewed farm development initiatives, harvested sweet corn at the Integrated Farming System (IFS) Unit, and presided over the valedictory ceremony of the Vice Chancellor's Sports Week 2026, reaffirming the University's commitment to experiential learning, student well-being and holistic development.

During his visit to the IFS Unit, the Vice Chancellor harvested sweet corn and appreciated the farm development initiatives undertaken by the Faculty. He complimented Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, for his leadership in strengthening farm infrastructure, promoting innovative agricultural practices and creating a learning environment that integrates classroom teaching with practical field exposure. He observed that such initiatives play a vital role in enhancing students' hands-on skills while fostering innovation and sustainable agriculture.

The Vice Chancellor also commended the Faculty for successfully organising the Vice Chancellor's Sports Week 2026, describing sports as an integral compo-



nent of quality education that nurtures discipline, leadership, teamwork and resilience among students.

The valedictory ceremony, held on the Wadura campus, marked the successful conclusion of the week-long sporting extravaganza that witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across the University. The event celebrated sporting excellence while reinforcing SKUAST-K's focus on promoting physical fitness, teamwork and overall personality development alongside academic achievement.

The ceremony was attended by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K; Prof. Sajad Ahmad Gangoo, Dean Students' Welfare, SKUAST-K; Mohd. Iqbal Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer, SKUAST-K Seed Company; Dr. Parvender Sheoran, Director, ATARI,

Ludhiana; besides faculty members, officers, staff and students.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Ganaie congratulated the winners and participants for their outstanding performances and sportsmanship. He urged students to actively pursue sports along with academics, stating that participation in extracurricular activities builds confidence, improves decision-making abilities and contributes significantly to overall personality development.

He appreciated the dedicated efforts of Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Bhat, Students' Welfare Officer, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, along with the organising committee, for conducting the Sports Week in a professional and vibrant manner. He said such events strengthen the University's sporting culture while en-

couraging healthy competition and camaraderie among students.

In his welcome address, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir highlighted the Faculty's continued commitment to providing students with opportunities for academic, professional and personal growth. He applauded the enthusiasm, discipline and sporting spirit displayed by the participants throughout the week and expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his continued encouragement towards student-centric initiatives.

The programme concluded with the distribution of trophies, medals and certificates to winners across various sporting disciplines, and reaffirming SKUAST-K's commitment to nurturing well-rounded graduates through excellence in academics, innovation, agriculture and sports.

Despite quota cut, Mirabai and Co chase Commonwealth gold rush

GLASGOW, JULY 25: Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will spearhead India's weightlifting campaign at the Commonwealth Games as the team seeks to overcome a doping-hit build-up and extend its dominant record at the quadrennial event.

India's medal prospects suffered a setback before the competition when its weightlifting contingent was cut from 16 to 11 after multiple doping violations. The latest casualty was Dilbag Singh (96kg), who was withdrawn earlier this week, further depleting the squad.

Despite the disruptions, India remains a dominant force in Commonwealth weightlifting, benefiting from the absence of traditional giants China and North Korea.

Indian lifters finished as the best-performing nation in the sport at the 1990, 2002, 2018 and 2022 Com-



monwealth Games and are the second-most successful country overall with 133 medals, including 46 golds, behind Australia.

The team topped the weightlifting medal table at the 2022 Birmingham Games with 10 medals, including three golds and three silvers, and another strong showing is expected in Glasgow. While all 11 Indian lifters are considered

capable of reaching the podium, only a handful are realistic gold medal contenders.

Chief among them is Chanu, who is expected to retain her Commonwealth crown without any difficulty. The former world champion and Olympic silver medallist owns a personal best total of 205kg (89kg snatch and 116kg clean and jerk), comfortably

ahead of the rest of the field in the women's 48kg category. With the Asian Games less than two months away, however, Chanu said she would avoid unnecessary risks in Glasgow.

"Our main aim is the Asian Games, so my performance here will depend on keeping that in mind. I won't be pushing hard here and taking any risks," Chanu told PTI. A successful lift in both the snatch and clean and jerk should be enough for the Manipur lifter to claim a third Commonwealth Games gold and fourth overall Commonwealth medal.

India will also look to Gyaneshwari Yadav (53kg), Rishikanta Singh (60kg) and M Raja (65kg), all of whom are viewed as strong contenders for gold as the country aims to launch another successful weightlifting campaign despite the recent doping controversy.

Last year was really tough, so this medal means a lot: Sainyam Vij reflects on breakthrough World Cup silver

HANGZHOU, JULY 25: India's Sainyam Vij described her silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou, China, as a reward for months of perseverance after enduring a challenging 2025 season, saying the podium finish has reinforced her belief ahead of the World Championships later this year.

According to a press release, the Chandigarh shooter, who clinched India's first medal of the World Cup, revealed that making the final itself was a significant milestone after failing to reach any finals last year.

"It's really special to me because this is my first ISSF World Cup medal at the senior level. It came after such a long wait. Last year was really tough for me as I wasn't able to make any finals, so this means a lot," Sainyam said after her silver-medal finish.

Sainyam remained unfazed despite

competing against a formidable field featuring an Olympic champion, the reigning world No. 1, and two Chinese shooters on home range; she insisted that her focus never shifted from executing her own plans.

"There was nothing in my mind about who I was shooting against. My only thought was to do my work and perform my best. Whoever performs better deserves to win," she said.

Sainyam endured a slow start to the final, opening with a 49.7 that left her in fifth place. She responded emphatically in the second series, producing the field's best score of 51.9 to draw level with China's Qianxun at the top of the standings.

From there, the Indian remained firmly in medal contention, trailing Qianxun by just 0.6 points before the final series. Although she finished

strongly with shots of 10.6 and 10.7 - better than Qianxun's 10.3 and 10.4 - the deficit proved just too much to overcome. She finished 0.2 points behind Qianxun.

Reflecting on the final, the Indian admitted that a slow start did not affect her mindset, as she consciously moved on from the opening series to stay in contention. IndiaNews Updates

"I had to take the first series out of my mind. If I had stayed stuck on it, I could have spoiled my whole match. I just learnt from it and focused on what I had to do next," she said.

The silver medallist also hoped that India's first podium finish of the competition would lift the confidence of the rest of the contingent. "Everyone is happy that we've finally got a medal. It motivates all of us because it shows that we can win," she said.