



Australia beat South Africa by 214 runs in Durban Test, take 1-0 series lead

DURBAN [SOUTH AFRICA], OCTOBER 13: Australia defeated South Africa by 214 runs in the first Test at Kingsmead on Monday, with Matt Renshaw's all-round performance and Josh Hazlewood's six-wicket haul on the final day helping the visitors take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ICC World Test Championship series.

Chasing a daunting target of 421, South Africa were bowled out for 206 in their second innings, with Hazlewood returning career-best figures of 6/49 to complete Australia's victory, according to the ICC.

Resuming the final day at 102/4, the hosts needed 319 more runs to win, with Aiden Markram and Wiaan Mulder tasked with extending their resistance. Markram stood firm for 237 deliveries, scoring 75, while Mulder contributed 29 before falling to Hazlewood shortly before lunch.

Australia tightened their grip on the contest after the break as Renshaw dismissed Kyle Verreynne for one. Hazlewood then struck with the second new ball, removing Marco Jansen for 35 and Simon Harmer for a duck in quick succession.

Mitchell Starc ended Markram's stubborn innings, while Hazlewood wrapped up the tail by dismissing Anrich Nortje, who top-edged a short delivery to



Nathan Lyon at short cover.

Renshaw was named Player of the Match after scoring 190 in Australia's first innings and following it up with 82 in the second, besides making important contributions with the ball. Australia had set up their victory with a commanding batting display across both innings.

Renshaw's 190 helped the visitors post 390 in their first innings, while South Africa responded with 284, with contributions from Markram and David Bedingham giving the hosts a 106-run deficit.

Australia continued to

build on their advantage in the second innings, declaring at 314/6 after half-centuries from Renshaw and Nic Maddinson, supported by late contributions from Pat Cummins and Beau Webster.

South Africa's chase suffered an early setback on the fourth evening as Hazlewood and part-time bowler Renshaw reduced them to 102/4 at stumps. The hosts could not recover from that position on the final day despite Markram's determined effort.

The defeat was South Africa's first at home after four consecutive Test victo-

ries since November 2024. It was also their first loss under captain Temba Bavuma, who had led the side in 12 Tests before this defeat.

Australia, meanwhile, recorded their fourth consecutive Test victory at Kingsmead since 2006 and strengthened their position in the World Test Championship standings. South Africa slipped to third, with New Zealand moving into second place.

The second Test between the sides will begin in Gqeberha on October 18, with the third scheduled to be played in Cape Town from October 27 to 31. (ANI)

4th T20I: India eye series-clinching win; West Indies look to stay afloat

HYDERABAD, OCT 13: India's marauding batters would be eyeing another run feast against a West Indian attack that would have to do more than just be defensive when the two sides clash in the potentially series-deciding fourth T20 International here on Wednesday.

India need a win to seal the five-match rubber by going 3-1 up, while the West Indies would be desperate to draw level at 2-2 to keep the series alive.

The battle on ground is once again expected to be decided predominantly by the power-hitters in both sides.

The hosts will bank on a line-up whose top order is in great form. The trio of Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan has come good in turns to ensure that the Indian middle order has not been put under too much pressure in the series so far.

Abhishek smashed 69 off just 30 balls in the third T20I in Indore, striking six fours and five sixes to help India post a winning 223-run total.

The only concern for the home team would be a relative lack of game time for the middle order due to the top three's brilliant run.

The likes of Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Naman Dhir would have to be up for the challenge in case the top three have an off day, especially in a scenario where the team is chasing a



big target. The West Indies, on the other hand, have been struggling to find a way to contain the Indian juggernaut.

If it was skipper Shreyas Iyer, who took the lung-opener from them with his maiden T20I hundred, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan proved to be difficult to handle in the second game that the visitors eventually won.

Abhishek dominated the proceedings in the third game and all-rounder Shamar Springer had no hesitation in acknowledging that his team had no option but to adopt a defensive approach against the on-song opener.

"...I guess our plan B is to just be as defensive as possible and try to make him get singles and twos," Springer had said, admitting how hard it is to stop Abhishek once he gets going.

For the Caribbeans, opener Sherfane Rutherford has had a terrific series, averaging over 57 for his 172

runs thus far at a brilliant strike rate of 189.

He has smacked 12 sixes in three games and is the leading run-getter in the rubber.

Skipper Shai Hope too has led by example and amassed 159 runs at a strike of 182 to make sure that the team's reputation of being a T20 batting powerhouse remains intact.

The visitors, in fact, have hardly been a pushover despite their lower ranking but they would need a stronger all-round performance to upstage the reigning world champions on home turf.

Nonetheless, India's bowling attack will have to remain disciplined as the West Indies batting unit has shown that it is capable of chasing big totals.

The team demonstrated its abilities quite well in the second T20 in Ranchi, where it chased down India's 249 in 18.3 overs thanks to Hope's 45-ball 102. In Indore, Shimron Hetmyer (43) and Kamil

Pooran (42), and Springer (35 not out) brought the West Indies close before Arshdeep Singh's three-wicket haul helped India seal the contest.

Spinner Naman Dhir also impressed with figures of two for 39, providing India with another useful bowling option.

The batters in both dugouts would be eager to take the field at Hyderabad, which recorded an average first-innings score of around 209 across seven IPL matches in this year.

, however, is not expected to be a big factor under lights, and the teams will need to assess the conditions on the day before deciding their approach at the toss.

Sunrisers Hyderabad teammates Abhishek, Kishan and Nitish will likely enjoy being in familiar surroundings.

India's last T20I at the venue was against Bangladesh in 2024, when they registered a 133-run victory after posting a record 297 for six. Samson struck 111 off 47 balls in that game and he would be eager to smash another big knock come Wednesday.

Teams India: Shreyas Iyer (c), Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson (wk), Naman Dhir, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Tilak Varma (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Prince Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav.

his services for a record Rs 16 crore.

Parth Jindal, the co-owner and chairman of Capitals, welcomed Yuvraj into their set-up.

"Yuvi is one of Indian cricket's greatest match-winners and someone who has played a pivotal role in mentoring many of the brightest young talents in Indian cricket today," Jindal said. "His experience, winning mindset, and ability to connect with players will be invaluable to our squad."

Roller Athlete Skating Club Jindrah Wins Gold in Penalty Shootout Thriller at MA Stadium Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 13

In a high-voltage final of the District Roller Skating Championship 2026 (Masters Category) held at M.A. Stadium, here, the Masters Roller Athlete Skating Club (RAS Club) defeated Addition Roller Hockey Club in a thrilling penalty shootout under the able captaincy of Ramnesh Sharma.

Both teams exhibited remarkable endurance, strong defence and powerful shots, which was highly appreciated by the audience present at the stadium.

The Gold Medal Winning Team compresses Ankush Kholi, Krish Gupta, Sanjeev Kumar, Gagan Singh Jamwal, ?Ramnesh Sharma, Runner-up Team Rajesh Anand, Rai Barinder Singh, Vikram Gupta, Sourab Bakshi, and Arwindeep Singh.



In other categories the teams of the Roller Athlete Skating Club Jindrah also performed well. Cadet boys wins silver and Cadet mix gold, Sub Junior boys lost on penalties and settles for silver, Sub-junior mix won

gold. In Junior boys and Junior mix both gold and silver won by the RAS Club where as Junior Girls won silver.

The Chief Patron of Roller Athlete Skating Club, Joginder Kohli and Vidhi

Sharan Singh Jamwal congratulated the winning team for clinching the Gold Medal in the District Championship 2026 and extended his best wishes and blessings for the upcoming competitions.

21st Junior National Soft Tennis Championship concludes on high in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13: The 21st Junior National Soft Tennis Championship, organised at Gindun Stadium, Rajbagh, Srinagar, from October 5 to October 10, 2026, concluded successfully with a grand closing ceremony held on October 10, 2026, at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex (SKISC), Srinagar.

The championship, organised in conjunction with J&K Sports Council, brought together the talented young soft tennis players from across the country, celebrating sporting excellence, discipline, unity and the spirit of healthy competition.

The closing ceremony was graced by Hossein Rafieian, President of the Iran Soft Tennis Association, as the Chief Guest. His presence added international significance to the occasion and reflected the growing scope for cooperation and friendship through soft tennis. Samaneh Hanifi, wife of Hossein Rafieian, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Among the distinguished guests were Sayna Sadat Hashemi, International Affairs representative; Narinder Pal Singh and Mrs Nirmala, Joint Secretaries of the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (ASTFI); Nazrul Islam, President of the Private Schools Association; Dr. Fayaz Ahmad; Fazali, Chairman of Dolphin School, Pulwama and other dignitaries, officials, and representatives associated



with ASTFI and sports.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from teams representing different states of India, providing young athletes with a valuable platform to showcase their talent, determination and competitive spirit at the national level. Throughout the tournament, the players demonstrated remarkable dedication, sportsmanship, and discipline, making the championship a memorable sporting occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the distinguished guests appreciated the efforts made to organise the championship successfully in Srinagar and emphasised the importance of providing young players with opportunities to compete at higher levels. The presence of the President of the Iran Soft Tennis Association further highlighted the potential for international engagement and the strengthening of sporting relations through soft tennis.

Special appreciation and

sincere thanks are extended to the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council for its valuable support and cooperation in facilitating the successful conduct of the championship. The association also placed on record its gratitude to the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (ASTFI) for its guidance, coordination and continued commitment to the promotion and development of soft tennis across the country.

The successful organisation of this prestigious national championship is a testament to the dedication, planning and tireless efforts of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, which deserves special credit for hosting the event in Srinagar. From coordination and arrangements to providing a platform for young athletes from across India, the association played a significant role in ensuring that the championship concluded on a high note.

The association also acknowledged the contributions of participating state

associations, team managers, coaches, technical officials, volunteers and all those who worked behind the scenes to make the event a success. Their collective efforts helped create a positive and encouraging environment for young sporting talent.

The closing ceremony concluded on a note of pride, appreciation and renewed commitment to the promotion of soft tennis among the youth.

The J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association reaffirmed its commitment to continue its efforts to promote soft tennis in Jammu & Kashmir and contribute meaningfully to the growth of the sport at the national and international levels.

The organisers expressed their gratitude to all participating States, players, coaches, managers, officials, J&K Sports Council, The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, and all other stakeholders whose cooperation has contributed to the successful commencement of the championship.

Yuvraj Singh appointed Delhi Capitals batting coach in IPL

NEW DELHI, OCT 13: Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh was on Tuesday appointed assistant and batting coach of Delhi Capitals ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season.

A veteran of 304 ODIs, 40 Tests and 58 T20Is, Yuvraj, 44, is also a multiple World Cup winner. He has mentored several established and emerging Indian stars, including Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma and Prabhsimran Singh.

"I am excited to begin a new chapter in my life with the Delhi Capitals. I have an old association with the franchise and know the owners well, which makes this a special opportunity for me," Yuvraj said in a statement shared by the franchise.

"Coaching is something I am truly passionate about, and I cannot wait to get started with this extremely talented squad. I'm sure it's going to be an exciting journey for me," he added.

In 2015, the franchise had secured



the top 10, placed ninth.

In the ODI bowling rankings, Deepti Sharma slipped one place to ninth, while Australia's Annabel Sutherland and Megan Schutt improved their positions to move into the top five.

India also had three batters in the top 10 of the women's T20I rankings: Shafali Verma (4th with 759 points), Mandhana (5th with 754 points) and Harmanpreet (10th with 656 points).

Smriti Mandhana retains top spot in ODI rankings, Ellyse Perry returns to top 10

DUBAI, OCT 13: Newly-appointed India captain Smriti Mandhana retained the top spot in the ICC women's ODI batting rankings, while Australia's Ellyse Perry returned to the top 10 in the latest charts released on Tuesday.

Mandhana, who took over the captaincy from Harmanpreet Kaur recently, leads the ODI batting rankings with 790 points. Harmanpreet is the only other Indian batter in