

India defeat Zimbabwe by 90 runs, Shreyas Iyer wins first series as captain

HARARE: India wrapped up the T20I series vs Zimbabwe with one game in hand as they took an unassailable 2-0 lead against the hosts with a 90-run win at Harare on Saturday. Chasing 219, Zimbabwe did not look comfortable, losing wickets at regular junctures, ultimately scoring just 129.

This was also skipper Shreyas Iyer's first series win after taking over as India captain, having lost the previous two series vs Ireland and England. Abhishek Sharma took 3 wickets while Prince Yadav and Yash Thakur took 2 scalps each while all the others except Mayank Yadav chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Earlier, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Verma led an intent-filled batting effort with well-paced 81 and an unbeaten 60 respectively. 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 innings 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 Brian 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 to place themselves at a safe distance from Zimbabwe at this point.

CWG 2026: Para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar wins bronze, opens India's account

NEW DELHI: Para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar opened India's medal account in the Commonwealth Games on late Friday night when he won the bronze medal in the Men's Heavyweight category. Jhandu, who was in Group B, started with a successful 181 kg lift before following it up with another successful lift of 190 kgs. He finished with 130.9 points and maintained his lead for a while before he was pipped by Matthew Harding who finished second and eventual winner Rilwan Idris.

Kumar, who was affected by polio since birth, was born in Harnaut, Naland district to a humble family. His father was a vegetable vendor and Kumar had to overcome financial and physical challenges through determination and hard work.

Kumar began his sporting career in 2017 as a para athletics athlete, competing in the F55 shot put and discus throw events, where he won several district and state-level medals. During this period, strength training in the gym sparked his interest in powerlifting.

Following a recommendation at a state championship, he switched to para powerlifting. Although he failed to register a successful lift at his first National Championship, the setback became a turning point when Paralympic bronze medallist Rajinder Singh Rahelu identified his potential and invited



him to train at the Sports Authority of India National Centre of Excellence (NCOE), Gandhinagar. Under the guidance of Rajinder Singh Rahelu, Jhandu rapidly progressed into one of India's leading para powerlifters. In 2025, he set a new National Record with a 205 kg lift at the National Championships and improved it further to 206 kg at the Khelo India Para Games. His outstanding performances earned him a bronze medal at the Beijing World Cup 2025, followed by another bronze at the Asian & Oceania Championships 2026, and qualification for the Commonwealth Games 2026.

Other results:

Lawn Bowls: Putul Sonowal defeated Falkland Islands' Cecil Alexander in the men's singles sectional round 2 match while Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinki Singh beat the South Africans 2-0 (6-4, 7-5) in their second women's pairs event match in Section B at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Hall 3.

Boxing: India's Jadumani Singh registered a facile win against local favourite Aaron Cullen in the men's 55kg contest

Para Swimming: Ravi Veera Venkata Bhavani Karthik Budigina and Ali Imam qualified for the

men's 100m freestyle S13 final but finished 4th and 7th respectively.

Swimming: Srihari Nataraj qualified for the men's 50m backstroke semifinal but fails to reach final, finishing 7th

Para powerlifting: Ashok and Parmjeet Kumar finished 4th and 7th in the men's lightweight final while Jaspreet Kaur and Suman Devi finished 6th and 7th respectively in the women's lightweight final. Coming to the heavyweights, Kasthuri Rajamani failed to register a successful lift and finished last while Sudhir finished sixth in the men's heavy-weight category.

Mohun Bagan SG start season with 1-0 win over East Bengal in Durand Cup

KOLKATA: Sahal Abdul Samad's 52nd minute strike and some dogged defending towards the end of the match helped Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat East Bengal in the opening match of the 2026 Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday. In what was an end-to-end game, Samad turned in the ball after it was squared to him by Kiyan Nassiri from the right to put Bagan ahead.

East Bengal attacked with everything they had and Vishal Kaith pulled off a couple of big saves to keep Bagan's lead intact. Both sides are being led by new



coaches, although East Bengal's Antonio Lopez Habas knows all about the intensity of this fixture as he coached Bagan for a number of seasons in the past.

Panagiotis Dilmeris, on the other hand, has coached Punjab FC for the past two seasons and so has been in India long enough to know that there are no dead rub-

bers or friendly matches when it comes to Kolkata derbies. He celebrated the result like he won the Durand Cup itself.

Just over two months ago, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan SG played a thriller of a match in the Indian Super League (ISL). The match ended in a 1-1 draw, with Jason Cummings equalising for Bagan five minutes after Edmund put East Bengal in front. The result worked in East Bengal's favour, with the red and yellow brigade winning the title for the first time, their first national league title overall in 22 years.

No IOC scrutiny for Infantino over Trump's intervention at FIFA World Cup



CALIFORNIA: FIFA president Gianni Infantino won't be investigated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for US President Donald Trump's role in overturning the suspension of an American player after he had received a red card in the previous match, the Olympic body has said. The IOC said that decisions made during the World Cup was beyond its jurisdiction and it hence cannot investigate Infantino's alleged lack of political neutrality.

The statement comes after a complaint was made by a London-based NGO formally complained to the IOC ethics commission about Infantino. United States forward Folarin Ba-

logun had been handed a red card in their round of 32 match against Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the mandatory one-game ban was then overturned by FIFA. In the minutes after FIFA announced the decision, reports emerged of Trump having influenced the decision. Trump later admitted to having a conversation with Infantino over telephone to allow Balogun to play in USA's round of 16 fixture against Belgium, which they lost 4-1.

The IOC's Olympic Charter cites neutrality among "fundamental principles of Olympism" for sports bodies like FIFA and its 100-plus members, which has included Infantino since 2020.

No formal investigation will be opened, the IOC said, because the complaint by rights group FairSquare did not relate to FIFA's or Infantino's specific relations with the Olympic body.

The complaint "refers only to (FIFA's) decisions on its governance and its management, including its relations with government, and to (FIFA's) implementation of the rules of its sport," the IOC said in a statement.

"Consequently, the complaint falls outside the IOC ethics commission's jurisdiction," the statement said.

The ethics body does not have independent powers to start investigations and sanction officials, but can make recommendations to the IOC executive board chaired by President Kirsty Coventry. She attended the World Cup final last Sunday at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Action has been taken against just one IOC member in the past eight years for unethical conduct: Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah, a key power broker who built a reputation as the "kingmaker" of Olympic elections.

Brazil vs India football match in Kolkata? CBF in advanced talks for historic friendly: Reports



KOLKATA: The Brazil national football team could be heading to India for an international friendly, with Kolkata emerging as the likely host. According to a report from ESPN Brasil, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) is in advanced talks with Indian organisers to bring the five-time world champions to the subcontinent.

The discussions between the CBF and Indian stakeholders reportedly began during the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026. The driving force behind Brazil's interest in playing in India is the massive support the Seleção received from Indian fans during the tournament, with images of passionate supporters flooding social media.

According to the report, Brazil are scheduled to play three friendlies between the end of September and the beginning of October. Two games have already been confirmed against Australia – on September 25 in Townsville and September 29 in Brisbane. The CBF is now negotiating a third fixture, which could potentially be hosted in India.

While Brazil's opponent for the pro-

posed match has not yet been finalised, ESPN Brasil reported that there were also strong demands to host the team in Bangladesh, Singapore, and Qatar. However, negotiations have only progressed with India at this stage.

Should the one-off match be finalised and played in Kolkata, it would add another chapter to the city's long and storied relationship with Brazilian football. Pele famously played at Eden Gardens with New York Cosmos against Mohun Bagan in 1977, before returning to the city decades later.

Brazil's World Cup 2026 Heartbreak

The ongoing World Cup campaign ended in disappointment for the five-time champions, with Norway delivering a knockout blow in the Round of 16. Despite high hopes and a star-studded squad, Brazil's journey came to a crushing halt earlier than expected. Vinicius Junior was in sensational form throughout the tournament, scoring four goals and providing an assist, but his individual brilliance could not carry the team past the Norwegian challenge.

WHO Warns Social Media, Gaming And AI Are Affecting Children's Health

Children's health is no longer influenced only by what they eat, how much they exercise or whether they get enough sleep. The digital world that they are growing up in is becoming equally important.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has now urged governments across the world to recognise social media, online gaming and generative artificial intelligence (AI) as major determinants of children's health. In a joint message, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and French President Emmanuel Macron called for stronger regulation of digital platforms and age-appropriate safeguards to protect young users.

The warning comes as evidence continues to grow linking excessive digital exposure to anxiety, depression, poor sleep, aggression, loneliness and also suicidal behaviour among children and adolescents. WHO also highlighted rising concerns over online sexual exploitation, AI-generated child abuse im-



agery, misinformation and targeted digital marketing aimed at young

users. While conversations around children's mental health often fo-

cus on diagnosed conditions, experts say the earliest warning signs

are way too subtle. As per Dr Nand Kumar, Professor of Psychiatry at AIIMS, children rarely visit a psychiatrist because they are spending too much time on screens. Instead, the impact slowly becomes visible in their everyday lives.

A nationwide survey conducted by the National Council of CBSE Schools (NCCS), covering nearly 6.3 lakh respondents, found that 74% of CBSE students spend more than two hours a day on screens for non-academic purposes, while 21% spend over four hours daily on mobile phones, gaming and social media.

In fact, teachers are also noticing the effects inside classrooms. Nearly 69% reported declining concentration and attention spans, 63% are going through anxiety and irritability, and 66% said children were participating less in outdoor activities.

The Economic Survey 2025-26 has also identified digital addiction as an emerging public health concern in our country, especially

among young people aged 15 to 24 years. It links excessive screen use with anxiety, depression, low self esteem, cyberbullying, compulsive scrolling, gaming disorders and social withdrawal. This concern is shown in the growing demand for mental health support as well. Since its launch in October 2022, the government's Tele-MANAS helpline has received more than 32 lakh calls, highlighting the increasing need for mental health interventions across the country. Keeping in mind these risks, many states have begun implying stricter rules. Karnataka has proposed banning social media access for children below 16 years of age, Andhra Pradesh has also suggested restrictions for those under 13, while Goa is exploring similar measures. During his recent visit to Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised Canberra's decision to prohibit children under 16 from accessing platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and X, saying India is studying the move and drawing lessons from it.