

Captain Rohit Sharma led from the front as India won a captivating ICC Men's Champions Trophy final by four wickets against New Zealand.

In a game dominated by spin, Ravindra Jadeja hit the winning runs after captain Rohit had earlier made 76 at the top of the order as India chased down their target of 252 with an over to spare.

The victory sees India become the first side to win the competition three times after their successes in 2002 and 2013, while they also finished the tournament unbeaten.

Having won the toss and opted to bat first, New Zealand made a bright start to their innings as openers Will Young and Rachin Ravindra put on 57 for the first wicket.

Rohit's decision to introduce spin into the attack in the sixth over, however, allowed the Indian bowlers to put a squeeze on the Kiwis' progress.

Varun Chakravarthy trapped Young in front for 15 before Kuldeep Yadav bowled semi-final centurion Ravindra (37) with a googly just 14 balls later.

Kane Williamson, so often the glue for New Zealand, was unable to repeat his heroic efforts against South Africa as he chipped one back to Yadav in the 13th over to leave his side 75 for three.

Jadeja trapped Tom Latham in front for 14 and it was left to Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips to compile a half-century stand for the fifth wicket as the pair looked to wrestle back control of the game.

Phillips' maximum down the ground off Yadav at the end of the 27th over was New Zealand's first boundary in 81 balls, but Chakravarthy returned to the attack in the 38th over and removed Phillips for 34 with another googly.

Mitchell, having reached his fifty from 91 balls, was eventually out for 63 when he picked out Rohit at cover off Mohammed Shami.

Michael Bracewell did his best to counter-attack and reached a 39-

ball fifty as he propelled New Zealand to 251 for seven after captain Mitchell Santner was run out for eight with an over to go.

The Indian captain got his side's reply off to an explosive start as he pulled Kyle Jamieson behind square for six off the opening bowler's second ball.

Rohit smashed 21 of the 22 runs Nathan Smith conceded from his opening two overs and the 37-year-old reached his half-century in the 11th over.

Shubman Gill provided excellent support to his skipper and showed his intent when required, smashing Ravindra for six over long-on at the end of the 14th over.

The pair put on the first 100-run opening stand during an ICC Men's Champions Trophy final but the partnership was finally broken by a moment of fielding brilliance as Phillips took a one-handed stunner to remove Gill for 31 and hand Santner his first wicket.

There was a brief stutter where India lost the wickets of Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma in quick succession. However, Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel maintained India's pursuit of New Zealand's total and put together a steady half-century partnership, with the former bringing up the milestone courtesy of a huge six off Phillips.

The very next ball saw Shreyas dropped by Jamieson, running in from long-on boundary, but Santner had him caught by Ravindra for 48 in the next over.

Axar's dismissal, caught by Will O'Rourke for 29 after a mistimed stroke off Bracewell, left India 203 for five, still 49 runs short of their target with eight overs remaining.

Pandya's maximum down the ground off Ravindra at the start of the 46th over swung the balance of the game back in India's favour and, though Jamieson removed Pandya for 18 with 11 runs still required, KL Rahul (34 not out) and Jadeja (nine not out) saw India over the line to claim a hard-fought victory with six deliveries to

spare.

India started their campaign with a comfortable six-wicket win over Bangladesh. Another comprehensive win followed as they beat arch-rivals Pakistan by six wickets, chasing down 242 in the 43rd over. They made it three in a row in the Group Stage with a 44-run win over New Zealand, defending 249 and sailing into the semis.

In the big match against Australia in the semis, India put on a brilliant all-round performance to make another strong statement. They restricted Australia to 264 and chased down the target with four wickets and 11 balls to spare.

A consistent and unbeaten India crossed the final hurdle with a hard-fought four-wicket over New Zealand to lift the trophy.