The home team batsmen quell the challenge posed by Rabada & Co. to post a comfortable 273 for three on the opening day



Strokeful: Mayank Agarwal's second three-figure knock of the series was replete with boundaries. • VIVEK BENDRE

### SA IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR

Kagiso Rabada lived up to his reputation and troubled the Indian batsmen all through the day by bowling in the perfect channel. Anrich Nortje posed questions with his express pace. And Vernon Philander was as consistent as ever.

Still, the South African pace triumvirate couldn't strike as regularly as they would have liked to in conditions that suited them far more than at Visakhapatnam as the Indian batsmen gained the upper hand on the opening day of the second Test.

Opener Mayank Agarwal's second hundred of the series, backed by fifties by the ever-reliable Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli, helped the hosts reach 273 for three when bad light brought an end to the proceedings at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Thursday.

Milking the bowling

Mayank's 138-run partnership with Pujara for the second wicket steadied the ship after Rohit Sharma's early loss. Kohli and his deputy Ajinkya Rahane then milked the Proteas' bowling during their unbroken 75run association to ensure India was set for a second big total in the series.

Unlike in Visakhapatnam, India's openers had to see the new ball off, with Philander and Rabada sticking to the line just outside offstump. It resulted in three streaky boundaries in the first hour before Rabada succeeded in getting a nick off Rohit's blade that rested in Quinton de Kock's gloves.

It was only when Nortje who was brought in place of offie Dane Piedt - came into bowl that Mayank got into his groove with a trademark cover-drive off a half-volley that clocked 148 kph.

### Flowing drives

Had Temba Bavuma at forward short-leg managed to hold on to Pujara's welltimed flick in Rabada's next over, India may have been in a spot of bother. While Pujara continued to time the ball nicely, Mayank made use of Nortje's pace with a straight

drive and two glorious cover drives in an over just after drinks. That over set the tone and the boundaries kept flowing for the rest of the day as India tallied 39 fours and three sixes.

Two of those sixes which sailed over long-off minutes after tea off successive deliveries off Keshav Maharaj during the left-arm spinner's marathon 29-over spell - took Mayank from 87 to 99. And a slash past gully off Philander for his 16th four in the next over meant Mayank notched up his second Test hundred.

Rabada, however, ensured Mayank didn't convert it into a big hundred this time around. The lanky pacer who had forced Pujara into

Gavaskar (4) vs WI, 1978-79 Most Tests as India Sehwag (2), Gambhir (2) vs SL, 2009-10 60 Dhoni (27 wins) Rohit (2), Mayank (2) vs SA, 2019-20 ■ 50\* Kohli (29) Number of 50-plus scores for 49 Ganguly (21) Mayank in the first innings in his six 47 Gavaskar (9) Tests. He has registered none in the 1st innings: 76, 77, 5, 55, 215, 108 2nd innings: 42, 16, 4, 7

most by India openers in a series. Rohit

(2) and Mayank (2) have joined the list Gavaskar (4) vs WI, 1970-71

 40 Pataudi Mayank is the second Indian opener Sehwag to slam hundreds Tendulkar's record of 553 runs, the in consecutive Tests against against South Africa Number of as India captain. He

**STAT SPHERE** 

Kohli has become

the second player to lead India in 50

centuries, the

**Costly reprieve** 

to cheer

pouch his second catch of

Three overs earlier, Maharaj

had grassed a return drive by

Kohli when on three. The In-

dia captain then ensured

that he made the Proteas pay

for it to raise his fifty and give

the 4,000-plus fans a reason

its pace department by in-

cluding Umesh Yadav at the

cost of No. 6 Hanuma Vihari,

the onus will be on Kohli and

Rahane to ensure that R.

Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja

will not be required to toil

with the bat and instead save

With India strengthening

the energy for their primary du Plessis into play in the slip skill on a strip that will incordon just before tea creasingly offer more turn. drew Mayank forward for the visiting team's skipper to

### **SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA – 1ST INNINGS** 

has reached 600 runs

Mayank Agarwal c du Plessis b Rabada 108 (195b, 16x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c de Kock b Rabada 14 (35b, 1x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c du Plessis b Rabada 58 (112b, 9x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli (batting) 63 (105b, 10x4), Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 18 (70b, 3x4); Extras (lb-6, nb-6): 12; Total (for three wkts. in 85.1 overs): 273.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-25 (Rohit, 9.6 overs), 2-163 (Pujara, 50.6), 3-198 (Mayank,

**SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING** Philander 17-5-37-0, Rabada 18.1-2-48-3, Nortje 13-3-60-0,

Maharaj 29-8-89-0, Muthusamy

6-1-22-0, Elgar 2-0-11-0.

#### AMOL KARHADKAR before the breakthrough season. When Mayank Agarwal

the romance continues

Pune and Mayank —

travelled to Pune late in October 2017 with Karnataka for its Ranii Trophy clash against Maharashtra, the toporder batsman wasn't sure whether he would be picked in the XI.

Having bagged a pair against Hyderabad a week earlier, the Karnataka management was thinking of dropping him yet again in what was a topsy-turvy ride in First Class cricket for the strokemaker till then.

He was given one last opportunity and he made the most of it by notching up an unbeaten 304 that started a 1,000-run spree in just a month.

Cut to Thursday, the opening batsman continued his love affair with the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium by piling up 108 – his second successive hundred – against South Africa.

Ever since he turned into a run-machine in 2017-18, Mayank has cleared the Ranji Trophy and India-A stages successfully before starting his international career on a promising note in Australia at the fag end of 2018.

Mayank had been toiling in First Class cricket for five years

Cheteshwar Pujara. who shared a 138-run stand for the second wicket with Mavank. stressed on his domestic circuit experience coming to the fore in the last two weeks.

"He is an experienced player who has scored so many First Class runs, which has helped him a lot and when it comes to not being nervous in his 90s. He is someone who is fearless, knows how to convert fifties into big scores and, at the same time, once he goes past 100, he can score heavily as we saw in the last game," Pujara said.

"That habit has come from First Class cricket, so I didn't have to tell him much. To be honest, we were just communicating what their game plan was. If there was an error in his batting, I would just tell him to play close to his body. Apart from that, he was batting really well and I didn't have to guide

6 It was fantastic to see Rabada bowl, especially the spell after tea. Today there were a lot of signs that he is getting to the top

VINCENT BARNES

## South Africa needs a win to stay alive

### SA WOMEN IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL

The South African batters must get their act together in the second women's ODI against India for the side to stay alive in this three-match series. In the first match on Wednesday, the visitors were bowled out for 164 and fell to one-sided eight-wicket defeat.

A sound 64-ball 54 from the experienced Marizanne Kapp showed that there were no demons in the pitch at the Reliance Cricket ground. Kapp desperately needed someone to stick around with her, to make a push for a competitive total.

### **Impatience**

But that was not to be as her mates came a cropper, playing loose shots and being impatient. Partnership-building is an essential requirement in ODIs, and South Africa needs to get this right on Friday.

The Indian bowlers, on the other hand, showed good control and reaped the re-



Rousing start: Jemimah's brisk knock set up India's winning chase in the first ODI. • VIJAY SONEJI

wards. Pacers Jhulan Goswami (three for 33) and Shikha Pandey (two for 38) found success through movement, and the spinners Ekta Bisht, Deepti Sharma and Poonam Yadav tested the South African batters' technique with their flight.

Dream debut for Priya

Unlike the South Africans, the home team faced no difficulties with the bat. An injury to regular opener Smriti Mandhana gave Priya Punia the chance to make her ODI debut, and the youngster cashed in.

She overcame early nerves by being cautious, and finished with an assured unbeaten 124-ball 75. The 23year-old will be keen on building on the great start to her ODI career.

The small crowd, comprising mainly of schoolchildren,

were entertained by a brisk 55 by Jemimah Rodrigues. The teenager started brightly. The shorts balls met with full-blooded cuts and pulls, and she also ran well between the wickets with Priya.

The South Africans need to get Jemimah early, even if that means running into the big guns in the middle-order - Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur.

Play starts at 9 a.m.

# BCCI AGM/election: eight disqualified

G. VISWANATH

BCCI electoral officer N. Gopalaswami confirmed on Thursday that the cricket associations of Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Maharashtra have been disqualified from attending the BCCI AGM/ election in Mumbai on Oct. 23.

Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and the three Government members – Services, Indian Railways and All India Universities – also do not figure in the final electoral list.

Of the 38 full members, eight will not be part of the meeting that will have to consider an agenda notified by the CoA and the election to choose five office-bearers, one representative for the Apex Council and two for the IPL Governing Council.

Different reasons

The situation could change should relief come from the Supreme Court if the disqualified members approach it. The reasons for the eight full members getting disqualified are different,

though. According to the CoA, the Constitution of the three full members - TNCA, Harvana CA, Maharashtra CA – are not in terms with

Manipur has nominated its president Rajkumar Imo Singh. He is an MLA and holds public office, and hence came under the disqualification rule.

Sources said Rajiv Shukla of UPCA was disqualified because he had served as office-bearer of the State until 2017 and was in the middle of a three-year cooling-off

The Supreme Court order of Aug. 9, 2018, while restoring the full membership of Services, Railways and AIU, said that the retired players from each of these organisations should elect its representative. Obviously, the electoral officer - who is assisted by sports lawyer Nandan Kamath - has not found the process followed by these three full members in order. The three did not create a players' association to elect their representative.

## Apex Council: Gaekwad, Azad and Dhruv in the fray

Sheer indifference may have resulted in many cricketers not becoming a member of the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) in order to take part in its first election through e-voting from October 11 to 13.

But some well-known cricketers, male and female, who have played for India and their States, have entered the ICA election fray. In the final electoral list announced by N. Gopalaswami, 1,267 are eligible to vote in the three-day e-voting.

The applications of cricketers who expressed their interest in becoming a member of the ICA on or before Sept. 21 were considered by the BCCI's electoral officer.

**Unopposed candidates** Former India batsman Ashok Malhotra is unopposed

for the post of ICA president, Shanta Rangaswamy is unopposed for the ICA female cricketer representative in the BCCI Apex Council and former India ODI player Su rinder Khanna is unopposed for the ICA representative in the IPL Governing Council.

- Aunshuman Gaekwad, Kirti Azad and Rakesh Dhruv in the fray for the ICA male representative cricketer post. Former Delhi cricketer

There are three cricketers

Ashu Dani and Gujarat's Hitesh Maimudar are contesting for the secretary's post.

Tamil Nadu's V. Krishnaswamy and Uttar Pradesh's Kishore Kumar Sharma are in the fray for treasurer's post. E-voting will also take place to choose male and female representatives to the Apex Councils of Baroda, Goa, Hyderabad, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and UP.

## Kapil happy with pace department

Feels that it has changed the face of Indian cricket

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

Kapil Dev expressed delight at the emergence of the fast bowling unit and its increased presence in Team India's performances.

"It is important to give youngsters an opportunity to show their talent," said former all-rounder.

He pointed out that a pace attack develops over time. "It takes time (to build a group of bowlers who can bowl fast). It feels good to see the (amount of) cricket being played nowadays. Many fast bowlers have got a chance due to the IPL. When you play more, more players will emerge," said Kapil.

The World Cup-winning skipper, asked about rotating the bowlers to avoid injuries due to the heavy workload, said: "I think we (past



Kapil Dev. ■PTI

cricketers) should not say anything on it. They (bowlers) themselves know and the selectors should know what the best is for the

About Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya being treated for back injuries, Kapil said: "Everybody needs to look after themselves. I think if they (bowlers) can do that, they will look after the country also. Getting injured does not help the team as the combination gets disturbed."

## Can field two sides

Kapil, speaking on the sidelines of cab start-up VAOO launch in Mumbai, pointed out that Indian cricket has the depth to field two sides. "If your main players are

not playing (Bumrah, Har-

dik, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal are not there against SA), you still have enough bench strength. I feel India can have two (playing) XIs against any touring team, and that is important. I can say without any doubt that (in the) last four-five years, the fast bowlers have changed the face of Indian cricket."

## **SHORT TAKES**

#### Kothari ousts Advani in World billiards MELBOURNE: The defending

champion in the long-up format, Sourav Kothari, beat Pankaj Advani 1047-663 to enter the quarterfinals of the World billiards championship here

on Thursady Other pre-quarterfinal results: Dhruv Sitwala bt Michael Pearson (Aus) 906-266; Matthew Bolton (Aus) bt

#### Dhvaj Haria 1046-306. **Indian junior** shuttlers bow out KAZAN (RUSSIA): India's

campaign in both singles and doubles at the BWF World junior badminton championships came to an end in the pre-quarterfinals on Thursday. The results: Boys: Ren Cheng

Ming (Chn) bt Rohan Gurbani 21-15, 21-13; **Doubles:** Rory Easton & Ethan van Leeuwen (Eng) bt Manjit Singh & Dingku Singh 16-2121-1721-14. Girls: Putri Kusuma Wardani (Ina) bt Aditi Bhatt 21-11, 21-15. Doubles: Atsumi

#### Miyazaki & Chihiro Uchiyama (Jpn) bt Aditi Bhatt & Tanisha Crasto 21-11,21-14.

### Lakshya meets Rahul in quarterfinals

ALMERE: Lakshya Sen and B.M. Rahul Bharadwaj set up a quarterfinal meeting, while top seed Sameer Verma exited, in the Dutch Open Super 100 badminton tournament on Thursday. The results: Lakshya Sen bt Ygor Coelho (Bra) 21-13, 16-21, 21-10: Rahul Bharadwai bt Victor Svendsen (Den) 21-17, 24-26, 21-8; Yusuke Onodera (Jpn) bt Sameer Verma 21-18,

### 19-21, 21-14. **U Mumba staves off** Steelers' challenge

greater noida: Haryana Steelers fought hard against U Mumba before going down 39-33 in the Pro Kabaddi League on Thursday.

The result: U Mumba 39

(Ajinkya Kapre 10, LeeDonggeon 9, Fazel Atrachali 8) bt Haryana Steelers 33 (Vinay 11, Vikash Kandola 6, Ravi Kumar

## Federer credits fans for his win

Djokovic makes it to the last eight with ease

## SHANGHAI MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SHANGHAI

Roger Federer said that his devoted band of Chinese supporters helped pull him through a tough first set and into the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals on Thursday.

The Swiss defeated David

Goffin 7-6(7), 6-4 after the 13th seed from Belgium squandered five set points in the first set. "I know that if I am in trouble, they will be there to

cheer me on," said Federer. "If I look to them, or pump myself up, I know they will react to that.

It's definitely very special here because they all sit in one block, sort of like in football to some extent, which is highly unusual for tennis and a tennis tournament." The 38-year-old plays

World No.1 Novak Djokovic made light work of Ameri-

Alexander Zverev in the last

Hardly stretched: Novak Djokovic got past John Isner

can John Isner and plays promising 21-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the last eight.

in straight sets. • AFP

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Novak Djokovic bt John Isner 7-5, 6-3; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Hubert Hurkacz 7-5, 3-6, 7-6

(5); Daniil Medvedev bt Vasek Pospisil 7-6(7), 7-5; Fabio Fognini bt Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-5: Matteo Berrettini bt Roberto Bautista-Agut 7-6(5), 6-4; Dominic Thiem bt Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 6-4; Roger Federer bt David Goffin 7-6(7), 6-4; Alexander Zverev bt Andrey Rublev

Doubles: Lukasz Kubot & Marcelo Melo bt Denis Shapovalov & Rohan Bopanna 6-4, 3-6, [10-7].

