India crushes South Africa, wins series

Host bowlers take centrestage again even as the Proteas batsmen surrender meekly

SA IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR

Despite the ambivalent weather in and around the city, the second Test of the Freedom Series had not seen rain intervention during play. And when the heavens opened up around half an hour before scheduled stumps on Sunday at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium, it didn't really matter.

After all, India's bowlers had rolled over South Africa's batsmen 30 minutes after tea to seal the series with an emphatic win by an innings and 137 runs.

For the second day in a row – and third innings on the trot in the series - the visiting team's specialist batsmen caved in. And with outstanding catching behind the stumps aiding the bowlers to perfection, India bowled South Africa out for 189 after making the Proteas followon to the delight of 18,000plus spectators.

Just like Saturday, staunch resistance came from the Vernon Philander-Keshav Maharaj combine. The duo followed up a 109-run partnership for the ninth wicket in the first essay with a 56run stand for the eighth in the second to give South Africa a glimmer of hope of stretching the game into the fifth day. However, once Philander nudged Umesh Yadav down the leg to Wriddhiman Saha's safe hands just after tea, the wheels came off. India snared the last three scalps off just eight balls to ensure the bowlers got a deserved additional day's rest before the series finale in

Easiest catch

That catch was the easiest of Saha's three behind the stumps. The other two – just like the one on Saturday will be etched in the memory of connoisseurs for a long time. If Saha had lunged to his right to pouch an edge of



Acrobatic: Wriddhiman Saha, despite being blinded by the batsman, pulls off a fantastic catch

MOST INNINGS

9 Dhoni

8 Kohli &

7 Ganguly

2 Umrigar,

Kapil & Dravid

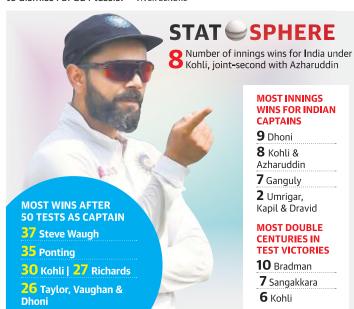
MOST DOUBLE

TEST VICTORIES

10 Bradman

6 Kohli

7 Sangakkara



Theunis de Bruyn on Saturday off Umesh, Sunday saw the agile 'keeper dive full length to the other side and snatch a sensational catch in the morning session to leave Proteas reeling at 13 for two.

Just before lunch, Saha pouched another outstanding catch off R. Ashwin to dismiss Faf du Plessis. With a daunting task of saving the game, du Plessis had adopted a blockathon approach.

But Ashwin managed an inside edge off his blade and the ball ricocheted off his pads behind. Saha, blinded till late, did an excellent job to get his gloves to the ball and finally take control of on the fourth the ball attempt.

Soon after, on either side of lunch when the Proteas were reduced to 74 for four, came two inexplicable shots by the two left-handers.

Dean Elgar had weathered the pace storms – creaming three boundaries in Mohammed Shami's first over and looked set for a second hundred of the season. But Ashwin tossed one up to him and the opener went for the bait and top-edged an attempted heave against the

turn to Umesh at mid-off. Quinton de Kock also had a brainfade as his attempted shot off Ravindra Jadeja only

he has had the

hance to enforce

lidn't enforce the

follow-on option and succeeded five

Two rain-affected Tests were drawn

Ashwin (356

70) and Vaas (355 111), is at 23 in the

icket-takers' list

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 601 for five decl. SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS

SOUTH AFRICA

- 2ND INNINGS Aiden Markram lbw b Ishant O (2h). Dean Floar c Umesh b Ashwin 48 (72b, 8x4), Theunis de Bruyn c Saha b Umesh 8 (18b, 2x4), Faf du Plessis c Saha b Ashwin 5 (54b), Temba Bavuma c Rahane b Jadeja 38 (63b, 4x4, 1x6), Quinton de Kock b Jadeja 5 (9b, 1x4), Senuran Muthusamy c Rohit b Shami 9 (44b, 1x4), Vernon Philander c Saha b Umesh 37 (72b, 2x4, 2x6), Keshav Maharaj lbw b Jadeja 22 (65b, 3x4), Kagiso Rabada c Rohit b Umesh 4 (5b, 1x4), Anrich Nortje (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-8, lb-3, w-2): 13; Total (in 67.2 overs): 189.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0 (Markram, 0.2 overs), 2-21 (de Bruyn, 5.4), 3-70 (du Plessis, 23.3), 4-71 (Elgar, 25.2), 5-

79 (de Kock, 28.2), 6-125 (Bavuma, 43.2), 7-129 (Muthusamy, 44.5), 8-185 (Philander, 66.1), 9-189 (Rabada, 66.6), **INDIA BOWLING**

Ishant 5-2-17-1, Umesh 8-3-22-3, Shami 9-2-34-1, Ashwin 21-6-45-2, Jadeja 21.2-4-52-3, Rohit 2-0-4-0, Kohli 1-0-4-0. Man-of-the-match: Virat Kohli. India won by an innings and

137 runs to take a 2-0 lead. Third Test: Ranchi, Oct. 19-23.

resulted in the ball shattering the stumps. At 79 for five, Temba Bayuma found an ally in Senuran Muthusamy for over an hour but the 46-run association came to an end, thanks to Ajinkya Rahane's sharp reflexes at first slip.

It looked like nothing was going South Africa's way even as the Indians were not committing any mistakes. The trend started as soon as South Africa began following on, with Virat Kohli letting his bowlers go on a rampage for the second day in succession. With the second ball of the day, Ishant Sharma rapped Aiden Markram on the pad and the opener – on a pair - ran out of time before deciding on a review. The replays confirmed the ball missing the stumps.

'Match practice is important'

Umesh reveals asking selectors to put him in India-A squads

AMOL KARHADKAR

He has been representing India in international cricket for almost a decade. Still, barring the two-year stretch between 2015 and 2017 when he revelled in home conditions, Umesh Yadav has remained in and out of India's Test team. But the burly pacer made his first outing in 10 months in India's whites count. The Vidarbha Express' match analysis of six for 59 was India's best figures during the second Test against South Africa.

Umesh, in an interview with The Hindu in January, had admitted he is a rhythm bowler and needs to keep bowling in matches to be at his best. The pacer revealed after India's crushing win on Sunday that he approached the national selectors to be drafted into the India-A side in the West Indies in August.

"When I didn't play in the Windies, selectors put me in India-A but when there is a big gap with ODIs, T20s, I only told selectors that whatever match is there, please let me play as match practice is very important for me," Umesh said. "It was off-season, we had no Ranji in India, so I told them I would like to play (for India-A). When you play matches, it helps. Suddenly, you come from home and play a match, it can be a tad difficult as a fast bowler."

Integral part

Despite little game-time in the last 12 months, Umesh has been an integral part of India's dressing room. He said that the core of the team having remained intact for the last few years has been key in the team's evolution as the No. 1 Test side in the world.

"Most of the guys are very experienced and know what needs to be done at this level to be successful. So the guys who are coming up the system know that they need to show consistency and as far as team ethics is concerned.

Banking on Mithali, Harmanpreet in equal measure



Rhythm bowler: Umesh made his first outing for India in 10 months count with a match-haul of six for 59. • VIVEK BENDRE

everyone understands what the team requires," he said.

"No one is selfish and everyone adheres to and focused on team plans. As senior players, we are 7-8 guys who have played 40-plus Tests, we know how to play and plan in Tests. So new guys who come see that, yes our seniors are putting in so much of hard yards, it's not easy for them. They know

We have let ourselves down and it is disappointing going down the way we did

Obviously you don't mind losing to a team better than vou, but I thought we

weren't even close to

where we needed to

compete FAF DU PLESSIS

be to try and

Linde to replace Maharaj

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUNE

that they need to get better

than us to be in the side."

Left-arm spinner George Linde will replace injured Keshav Maharaj in South Africa's squad for the third and final Test in Ranchi, starting Saturday. According to a CSA

media release, Maharaj

right shoulder while fielding on day two of the second Test.

sustained an injury to his

A re-assessment before play started on Sunday morning along with MRI results revealed that he would not be fit in time for the Ranchi game.

Ganguly likely to be BCCI president

G. VISWANATH MUMBAI

Nominations for six slots for the BCCI Apex Council and two for the IPL Governing Council will close at 3 p.m. on Monday, but until late on Sunday, a consensus eluded on the choice of President.

The names of Brijesh Patel and Sourav Ganguly were considered by vertically split groups.

Things were not clear about who will ultimately file the nomination form: there was speculation that Ganguly has the backing of former BCCI president Anurag Thakur and Brijesh that of former BCCI chief N. Srinivasan.

Brijesh IPL chairman?

Whatsapp messages were texted conveying Ganguly being chosen for the president's post and Brijesh as chairman of IPL.

Information also surfaced that Gujarat's Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah would be the new BCCI secretary and Himachal Pradesh CA's Arun Singh Dhumal, brother of Anurag Thakur, the treasurer.

Gaekwad in **Apex Council**

Former India player and coach Aunshuman Gaekwad was elected to the BCCI Apex Council.

He polled 471 votes while Kirti Azad got 381 and Rakesh Dhruv 223 in the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) election on Sunday.

Gujarat's Hitesh Majmudar (646) was elected ICA secretary, defeating Delhi's Ashu Dani (436). TN's V. Krishnaswamy (739) was elected treasurer, defeating UP's Kamal Kishore (336).

Salgaocar back with a bang

AMOL KARHADKAR

Standing in a drizzle on the 22-yard strip about an hour after India pocketed the second Test and the Freedom Series by annihilating South Africa by an innings and 137 runs, Pandurang Salgaocar was a contented man. In so many ways, life has come a full circle for the tearaway fast bowler of yesteryear, who was turned into a villain from an unsung hero of Indian cricket. Two instances in the last

two years had tarnished Salgaocar's reputation. In February 2017, when the MCA Stadium hosted its debut Test, he came under criticism for producing a sandpit that was rated "poor" by the ICC.

It was followed by the veteran curator facing a suspension after being alleged to have been involved in corrupt activities in a sting operation ahead of India's ODI against West Indies.

Once the ICC gave him a clean chit after going through the raw footage, Salgaocar was reinstated as the curator and he responded



Pandurang Salgaocar.

by producing an ideal Test pitch in Indian conditions.

"Cricket has given it all back to me. I have seen a lot over the last two years. They fabricated the videos, doctored my quotes but it hasn't mattered. Here, I am continuing to serve Maharashtra cricket. That's what matters," Salgaocar said.

Having earned rich praise from everyone involved in the game, it's time for Salgaocar to celebrate his 70th birthday on Tuesday with his head held high.

SA WOMEN IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL

Mithali Raj made her ODI debut two decades ago, as a precociously talented 16year-old. She announced her arrival in style, with an unbeaten 114 against Ireland at

Milton Keynes. Mithali is now a seasoned campaigner - the most capped women's ODI cricketer, and the highest run-scorer in the 50-over format. The list of accomplishments is long, but it is not time to rest on laurels vet.

A crucial 66 in the second ODI against South Africa here on Friday showed that Mithali has not lost her appetite for runs. Her solid knock, in the company of Punam Raut, set the stage for India to complete the highest-ever run chase in women's ODI history.

Skilful

Mithali brought her vast experience into play, piercing gaps efficiently. When thirdman was up, she nudged the ball past the 'keeper, and





Potent duo: The vast experience of Mithali Raj, right, and Harmanpreet Kaur's finishing skills power India in ODIs. •VIJAY SONEJI

HS: 125 n.o. (vs. Sri Lanka, 2018)

HS: 171 n.o.

(vs Australia, 2017)

danced down the track to loft the spinners over mid-off and cover. She may not be lighting quick between the wickets, but it was without risk. The skipper was busy at the crease, ensuring that the required run-rate never reached alarming levels.

Mithali's dismissal in the 40th over brought the vicecaptain Harmanpreet Kaur to the middle. While Mithali is a clean, textbook batter, Harmanpreet is an exciting finisher. Mithali had got the team on the right track, passing the baton over to Har-

Mithali Raj **Harmanpreet Kaur** Matches: Runs:

manpreet with 53 runs needed in 62 balls. It was a perfect scenario for the attacking Harmanpreet to cut loose. After hitting three boundaries off pacer Shabnim Ismail in the 43rd over, Harmanpreet was off to the races. She

ODI numbers

sealed the fate of the match with an unbeaten 27-ball 39, taking India home comfortably with two overs to spare. The Mithali-Harmanpreet one-two punch had floored

100s:

Avg : 51.49

the South Africans. Earlier this year, Mithali announced her retirement from T20Is to focus on the 2021 ODI World Cup. The decision came on the back of an acrimonious period, when Mithali was dropped for the World T20 semifinal against England last year.

With new coach W.V. Raman at the helm. Mithali and Harmanpreet must come together to lead India's quest for a maiden World Cup title.

As the second ODI showed, India banks on Mithali and Harmanpreet in equal measure to achieve this dream.

Lakshya bags first World Tour title

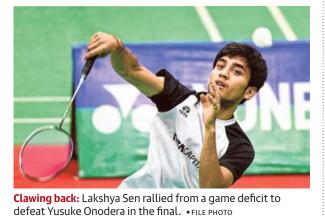
DUTCH OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen on Sunday clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open title beating Yusuke Onodera of Japan on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Indian rallied from a game deficit to defeat his World No. 160 opponent 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in a final that lasted 63 minutes. The Dutch Open is a BWF World Tour Super 100 tournament.

Lakshya, currently ranked 72nd, had won the Belgian Open last month and



reached the final of the Pol-

ish Open this year. He had also won the Asian junior championships, a silver at

the Youth Olympic Games and a bronze at the World junior championships last

Manju Rani returns with silver

Stupendous debut run ends in the final

BOXING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA) Indian boxer Manju Rani's stupendous debut run at the women's World boxing championships ended with a silver medal on Sunday after she lost the light flyweight (48kg) final to Russia's Ekate-

rina Paltceva. The Haryana boxer, who was seeded sixth, went down 4-1 to the second-seeded local favourite in the first final

Manju Rani was the lone

Indian to make a final after six-time champion M.C. Mary Kom (51kg), Jamuna Boro (54kg) and Lovlina Borgo-

bronze medals. Manju Rani broke into the National camp only this year by winning the National crown for Punjab after not getting the selection nod in

Harvana.

Earlier this year, she won a silver medal on debut at the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament, one of Europe's oldest and most competitive boxing events.



Decisive moment: Manju Rani looks on as Ekaterina Paltceva of Russia is declared winner. •PTI