

# Classy Williamson propels New Zealand

Ishant's strikes keep India in the game; Taylor digs in with his skipper to raise 93 for the third wicket

## INDIA IN NZ

**S. DINAKAR**  
WELLINGTON  
Kane Williamson picked the length early and played the ball late like great batsmen do. He had the time to essay his shots and the timing to ease the ball between fielders.

Men such as Williamson play with the field, they open up gaps, disrupt bowlers' rhythm, create opportunities. Yet, his innings on Saturday, the second day of the first Test at the Basin Reserve, ended in anticlimactic fashion.

### Quality innings

His strength, the cover-drive, proving his undoing. Williamson could not keep his shot off seamer Mohammed Shami down and was held by substitute Ravindra Jadeja, diving forward. Nevertheless his 89 was an innings of quality and substance.

Yet credit to the Indians – dismissed for 165 – for fighting back. They hung in there, continued to keep attacking fields and hit back in the last session. New Zealand was 216 for five when play reached an early conclusion because of insufficient light.

Earlier, the host was coasting at 166 for two – a potentially huge lead in sight – when Ishant Sharma got a delivery to climb into Taylor (44), who, unable to keep the sphere down, was picked up by short-leg.

The dismissal ended the 93-run third-wicket partnership between Taylor and Williamson. Kohli did well to keep the short-leg.

Then, late in the day, the left-handed Henry Nicholls was held in the slips off an Ashwin delivery that spun away.

The Indians kept the belief. Even after the Kiwis had surpassed the Indian score, Kohli had a slip and two short-legs when Ashwin operated at Williamson, well into his 80s.

There was some turn and bite for Ashwin and, if the Indians can set a reasonable target in the fourth innings, he could be a handful. He



**Exquisite:** Kane Williamson showed why he may be counted among the greats with a finely crafted innings. ■ GETTY IMAGES

bowled against the wind and there was some drift for him.

### Off-colour Bumrah

Apart from Ishant, who tested batsmen with his line and bounce to scalp three, the Indian pacemen largely disappointed. Jasprit Bumrah was off-colour.

The seamers should have bowled a fuller length that the Kiwi pacemen had employed with success to test footwork and find edges.

They needed to force the Kiwi batsmen to come forward to well pitched up deliveries and cover for the swing. If they didn't do so, they would be caught at the crease.

Ishant struck for India when the Kiwis replied; he had Tom Latham taken down the leg-side and castled Tom Blundell (30), who played some fluent pulls and cover drives, with a nip-backer.

And the 100-Test man, Ross Taylor, walking in to a memorable ovation, joined his skipper.

Williamson was already into his groove, stroked off either foot – the cover-

drives, the on-drives and the cuts. The skipper was in control.

Taylor had his own methods of coping with the pressures of a personal milestone. He slog-swept Ashwin for a six, and then leaned into a cover-drive off Bumrah.

The mercurial Taylor's cuts scorched the turf; on view was his bat-speed.

### Quick end

Earlier, the Kiwis made short work of the Indians – the host needed just 13.1 overs on the second morning to re-

move the last five wickets.

Rishabh Pant began with a rousing six, smoking left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel over long-on. However, a poor judgment call from Ajinkya Rahane – he ran without caution after playing Tim Southee to point – resulted in Pant being run-out; Ajaz scoring a direct hit from point.

Then, Southee removed Ashwin off his next delivery, a mean ball that pitched on middle and hit off.

Bowling against the wind, Southee was able to get his

out-swingers going.

Rahane (46) did not last long either, unable to take his bat away in time to a Southee ball, delivered wide of the crease.

### Comical drop

Despite some brave blows by Shami and a comical drop by Williamson when the wind took the skier away from him, the Indian innings concluded soon.

There were four wickets each for Kyle Jamieson and Southee, a combination of the new and old.

## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

Prithvi Shaw b Southee 16 (18b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Jamieson b Boult 34 (84b, 5x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Watling b Jamieson 11 (42b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Taylor b Jamieson 2 (7b), Ajinkya Rahane c Watling b Southee 46 (138b, 5x4), Hanuma Vihari c Watling b Jamieson 7 (20b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant run out 19 (53b, 1x4, 1x6), R. Ashwin b Southee 0 (1b), Ishant Sharma c Watling b Jamieson 5 (23b), Mohammed Shami c Blundell b Southee 21 (20b, 3x4), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4.

Total (in 68.1 overs): 165.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Shaw, 4.2 overs), 2-35 (Pujara, 15.3), 3-40 (Kohli, 17.5), 4-88 (Mayank, 34.3), 5-101 (Vihari, 41.1), 6-132 (Pant, 58.2), 7-132 (Ashwin, 58.3), 8-143 (Rahane, 62.3), 9-165 (Ishant, 67.3).

### NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 20.1-5-49-4, Boult 18-2-57-1, de Grandhomme 11-5-12-0, Jamieson 16-3-39-4, Ajaz 3-2-7-0.

### NEW ZEALAND – 1ST INNINGS

Tom Latham c Pant b Ishant 11 (30b), Tom Blundell b Ishant 30 (80b, 4x4), Kane Williamson

c sub b Shami 89 (153b, 11x4), Ross Taylor c Pujara b Ishant 44 (71b, 6x4, 1x6), Henry Nicholls c Kohli b Ashwin 17 (62b, 2x4), B-J. Watling (batting) 14 (29b, 1x4), Colin de Grandhomme (batting) 4 (2b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-5): 7. Total (for 5 wkts. in 71.1 overs): 216.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-26 (Latham, 10.2), 2-73 (Blundell, 26.4), 3-166 (Taylor, 52.1), 4-185 (Williamson, 62.4), 5-207 (Nicholls, 69.5).

### INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 18.1-4-62-0, Ishant 15-6-31-3, Shami 17-2-61-1, Ashwin 21-1-60-1.

# Southee – man for all seasons

Old-school swing bowler has adapted to the modern game

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WELLINGTON

Tim Southee is a man for all seasons. He never complains, never grumbles, just does his job.

Just as he did at the Basin Reserve here on the first two days, scalping four.

An old-school swing bowler he has adapted to the modern game.

And he can turn adversity – the physically draining task of bowling against the wind – into his strength.

### No guesses

Both Prithvi Shaw and R. Ashwin were opened up and castled by this 31-year-old senior professional, with 274 Test scalps. Yet, Southee was wary against making predictions or naming the target his team could face.

He said, "I don't think

there ever is a safe number and so I think it's just about us putting partnerships together and batting as long as we can. Then going out and doing our job with the ball. It's obviously going to be tougher in the second innings for us bowlers."

He acknowledged there had been some turn. "There is a little bit of spin. You don't usually see that on Day 2 at the Basin. That's why the first innings becomes important."

Southee said the run-out of Rishabh Pant was a big breakthrough, "because he can be such a dangerous player."

The Kiwi added, "We knew, though, if we could open one end up then Jinks [Ajinkya Rahane] was looking to play a little bit more aggressively, which brings us

into play a little more.

"Yeah I think the way we bowled this morning was pretty good. To finish the Indian batting line-up like that with two dangerous players in the morning."

Talking about his swing, Southee said, "I probably gave up worrying about speed a while ago, so I've got to rely on other skills. And, I guess, swing."

### World-class bowlers

About Jasprit Bumrah having an off-day, Southee said, "I don't think there's anything wrong with him. He's a world-class bowler."

On Ishant, Southee said, "He's been a world-class bowler for a long time. He's got experience."

About himself, the Kiwi is modest but is often in the swing of things.

# Ishant can deliver even in his sleep!

Jet-lagged and rusty, the pacer still leads the attack

## S. DINAKAR WELLINGTON

All he needs now is a night's sleep. "A good sleep is the best way to recover," he said amidst laughter!

Ishant hasn't slept since he landed in New Zealand, apart from a couple of hours here and there.

He's jet-lagged and sleep-deprived, had not played for weeks, had battled a grade III tear in his ankle, and arrived in New Zealand only a couple of days before the Test.

Ishant admitted, "Physically I wasn't feeling really good because of lack of sleep. But I was rather happy with my bowling, and how I had recovered from the injury."

### Demanding phase

Ishant had gone through a mentally demanding phase, getting injured in a Ranji Trophy game and then travelling to NCA, Bengaluru for recovery.

"I just worked on my rehab. I did not have any goals of making this tour in mind. If I got fit, it was all right. If I



**All for the team:** Ishant Sharma's selfless effort drew admiration from his mates. ■ AP

did not, what could I do? Eventually, I had to bowl 21 overs in two days at the NCA before being cleared."

Ishant turned in a creditable performance on the second day of the Test here, scalping three.

The senior bowler, he was protective of his pack.

"We have been getting 20 wickets on most occasions, in different conditions. A day without wickets doesn't change anything," Ishant

said defending Jasprit Bumrah.

He was proud of the manner in which India fought back. "This team keeps fighting till the match is over. At no stage do we give up."

Being tall, Ishant said, had its advantages. "Tall bowlers can get lift and you have seen how important bounce is."

Right now Ishant is desperate for some sleep! The thunderbolts will come later.

# Devine turns it on for NZ

Taylor excels in West Indies' win

## WOMEN'S T20 WC

### REUTERS PERTH

Sophie Devine led from the front, smashing an unbeaten 75 for her sixth straight T20 half-century, to guide New Zealand to a seven-wicket victory over another Sri Lanka in a Group A match of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 World Cup on Saturday.

In Group B, West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor, with an all-round display, helped her side to a similar win over debutant Thailand.

In the second match, opener Chamari Athapaththu (41) and Hasini Madushika played unorthodox shots to give Sri Lanka a brisk start with a stand of 60



**Hitting away:** Devine played as she is wont to while guiding New Zealand to an easy victory over Sri Lanka. ■ GETTY IMAGES

before Hayley Jensen's spell of three of 16 slowed down the momentum. Devine hit six fours and two sixes in her 55-ball knock to help the Kiwis get through.

**The scores:** Group A: Sri Lanka 127/7 in 20 overs (Hasini Perera

20, Chamari Athapattu 41, Hayley 3/16) lost to New Zealand 131/3 in 17.4 overs (Sophie Devine 75 n.o.). **Group B:** Thailand 78/9 in 20 overs (Nannapat Konchareonkai 33, Stafanie Taylor 3/13) lost to West Indies 80/3 in 16.4 overs (Stafanie Taylor 26 n.o., She-maine Campbell 25 n.o.).

# Sri Lanka squeaks home

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Tailender Hasaranga de Silva hit an unbeaten 42 as Sri Lanka beat West Indies by one wicket in the first ODI here on Saturday. Needing 290, Sri Lanka reached the target with five balls to spare as Hasaranga held his nerve after the hosts slipped to 262 for eight. For the West Indies, Alzarri Joseph claimed three wickets after Shai Hope had made 115.

**The scores:** West Indies 289/7 in 50 overs (Shai Hope 115, Darren Bravo 39, Roston Chase 41, Keemo Paul 32 n.o.) lost to Sri Lanka 290/9 in 49.1 overs (Avishka Fernando 50, Dimuth Karunaratne 52, Kusal Perera 42, Thisara Perera 32, Hasaranga de Silva 42 n.o.; Alzarri Joseph 3/42).

# Agar's hat-trick sinks SA

## AUSTRALIA IN SA

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JOHANNESBURG

Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar took a hat-trick as Australia crushed South Africa by 107 runs in the first Twenty20 International at the Wanderers here on Friday.

Steve Smith, back in South Africa for the first time since the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, hit a top score of 45 for Australia, which made 196 for six after being sent in.

South Africa made a bad start against the pace of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins before Agar's triple strike sent them hurtling to an all-time lowest T20 total of 89.

Agar returned career-



Ashton Agar. ■ AP

best figures of five for 24. **The scores:** Australia 196/6 in 20 overs (S. Smith 45, A. Finch 42; Steyn 2/31, Shamsi 2/31) bt South Africa 89 in 14.3 overs (Agar 5/24).

# Ervine hits ton

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DHAKA

Skipper Craig Ervine scored a dogged century as Zimbabwe shared the honours with Bangladesh on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Saturday. **The scores:**

Zimbabwe 228/6 in 90 overs (Prince Masvuare 64, Craig Ervine 107, Nayeem Hasan 4/68) vs Bangladesh.

# Barca rides on Messi's four

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Lionel Messi scored four goals as Barcelona began a crunch week in its season by thrashing Eibar 5-0 in the La Liga on Saturday.

In the Premier League, Olivier Giroud and Marcos Alonso came in from the cold to inspire in Chelsea's 2-1 win over Tottenham as the Blues cemented their grip on fourth place.

**The results:** Premier League: Chelsea 2 (Giroud 15, Alonso 48) bt Tottenham 1 (Rudiger 89-og); Burnley 3 (Vydra 53, Rodriguez 61-pen, McNeil 87) Bournemouth 0; Crystal Palace 1 (Van Aanholt 44) bt Newcastle 0.

Sheffield United 1 (Stevens 26) drew with Brighton 1 (Maupay 30); Southampton 2 (Long 8, Armstrong 90+5) bt Aston Villa 0.

**La Liga:** Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 62) bt Leganes 0; Barcelona 5 (Messi 14, 37, 40, 87, Arthur 89) bt Eibar 0.

**Friday:** La Liga: Real Betis 3 (Sergio Canales 19-pen, Fekir 35-pen, Joaquin 48) drew with Real Mallorca 3 (Hernandez 16, Budimir 27, Kubo 70). **Serie A:** Brescia 1 (Chancellor 26) lost to Napoli 2 (Insigne 49-pen, Fabian 54).

**Bundesliga:** Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 25, Lewandowski 70, 88) bt Paderborn 2 (Srbeny 44, Michel 75).

# India pulls off a victory

Beats Australia via the shootout to pocket three points

## FIH PRO LEAGUE

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

India bounced back in style to beat holder Australia 3-1 via a shoot-out, after being locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time, in the second match of the two-leg FIH Pro League match on Saturday. India had lost 4-3 on Friday.

India converted two penalty corners through Rupinder Pal Singh (25th minute) and Harmanpreet Singh (27th), while Trent Mitton (23rd) and skipper Aran Zalewski (46th) were the scorers for Australia.

In the shoot-out, Harmanpreet, Vivek Sagar Prasad and Lalit Upadhyay scored for India, while only Daniel



**First salvo:** Rupinder Pal Singh celebrates his opening strike for India. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUIT

Beale found the net for the visitors.

By virtue of the win, India earned three points while Australia pocketed one. Both the teams have 10 points from six games but the Kookaburras are a rung

above the Manpreet Singh-led side at third spot in the standings on goal difference.

**The result:** India 2 (Rupinder 25, Harmanpreet 27) drew with Australia 2 (Trent Mitton 23, Aran Zalewski 46). *India won 3-1 in the shoot-out.*

# Ravi Dahiya, India's lone gold winner

## ASIAN WRESTLING

### UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI

On a day Bajrang Punia was expected to raise the Indian flag, the crowd at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium had to wait till late night, the last bout of the day to be precise, to listen to the Indian national anthem.

Ravi Dahiya was the lone bright spot for the host, expected to rule the medals table in the men's freestyle category on the day but managing only a handful of silvers instead on day five of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships here.

Dahiya, who won bronze at the 2019 World Championships in the 57kg to qualify for Tokyo Olympics, began in dominating fashion

– a 14-5 win against former world champion Yuki Takahashi of Japan – and ended the same way, thrashing Hikmatullo Vohidov of Tajikistan 10-0 in 2 minutes 38 seconds for the title.

Bajrang, though, failed to

find a way past the nippy and strong Takuto Otoguro of Japan, whom he last played in the 2018 World Championships final, with the same result.

Gaurav Baliyan was the only one to put up a decent



**Bright spot:** Ravi Dahiya, on top, brought cheer to the Indian fans with a stellar show. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# PM launches KI varsity games

**CUTTACK:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first Khelo India University Games through a video conference facility here on Saturday. As many as 3,400 athletes from 159 universities across the country will vie for top honours across 17 disciplines. ■ PTI

# Ajay bows out

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BARCELONA

Ajay Jayram crashed out of the semifinals of the Barcelona Spain Masters badminton on Saturday after suffering a straight-game loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn. The unseeded Indian went down 20-22, 12-21 in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

fight in the final, going down 7-5 in the 79kg category to Arsalan Budazhapov of Kyrgyzstan with most of the points being scored in the last 30 seconds of the match.

**The results:** 57kg: 1. Ravi Dahiya (IND), 2. Hikmatullo Vohidov (TJK), 3. Yuki Takahashi (JPN), Bekbolot Myrzanzazar Uulu (KGZ).

65kg: 1. Takuto Otoguro (JPN), 2. Bajrang Punia (IND), 3. Amirhossein Azim Maghsoudi (IRI), Dautlet Niyazbekov (KAZ).

70kg: 1. Ilyas Bekbulatov (KGZ), 2. Amirhossein Ali Hosseini (IRI), 3. Islambek Orozbekov (KGZ), Meirzhan Ashirov (KAZ).

79kg: 1. Arsalan Budazhapov (KGZ), 2. Gaurav Baliyan (IND), 3. Ali Bakhtiar Savadkouhi (IRI), Shinkichi Okui (JPN).

97kg: 1. Mojtaba Mohammedshafie Goleji (IRI), 2. Satyavrat Kadiyan (IND), 3. Alisher Yergali (KAZ), Rustam Iskandari (TJK).