



Rohit's 208* powers India to victory

BRIEF SCORE

India 392 for 4 (Rohit 208*, Iyer 88, Dhawan 68) beat Sri Lanka 251 for 8 (Mathews 111*, Gunaratne 34, Chahal 3-60) by 141 runs

India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot

Mohali, India

Skipper Rohit Sharma rose to the occasion when it mattered most as his record breaking third double hundred guided India to a series-levelling 141-run win against Sri Lanka in the second ODI yesterday.

Rohit smashed an unbeaten 208 off 153 balls to fire India to a mammoth 392 for four, a total that proved to be too much for Sri Lanka as the visitors ended way behind at 251 for 8 with Angelo Mathews' unbeaten 111 going in-vain.

While Rohit stole the show with another sensational knock, Shikhar Dhawan (68 off 67) and rookie Shreyas Iyer (88 off 70) played the

supporting role to perfection.

India virtually batted Sri Lanka out of the game by posting the highest-total at this ground, surpassing the 351 for five South Africa made against Netherlands in 2011.

It was not the only record that was shattered on a day when India were under pressure to perform after the debacle in Dharamsala.

Rohit, captaining the side in his first full series, singlehandedly won the game for India with an innings that comprised as many as a dozen sixes and 13 fours.

After completing his first 100 runs off 115 balls, the stylish opener was simply unstoppable, blasting the next 100 runs off 36 balls to

complete a famous double ton in the 50th over of the innings.

His last double hundred, 264 at the Eden Gardens three years ago, had also come against Sri Lanka while the maiden one (209) was recorded against Australia at Bengaluru in 2013.

Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Chris Gayle and Martin Guptill are the others who have breached the 200-run mark in 50-over cricket.

However, the Rohit special came on a batting beauty, two days after Indian batsmen failed miserably against the moving ball in Dharamsala.

Sri Lanka pacers were on the money in the series opener but they put up a performance they would like to forget sooner than later. (PTI)

Azarenka to return to action in Melbourne

London

Former world number one Victoria Azarenka has been awarded a wildcard for the Australian Open.

The 28-year-old missed this year's US Open and Belarus' Fed Cup final due to an ongoing child custody battle, and has not played since Wimbledon.

She previously told her fans she was not permitted to take her 11-month-old son, Leo, out of California.

But the two-time Australian Open champion has said she will be returning to the court in Melbourne in January, with the tournament organisers promising to do all they can to ensure she is able to compete.

Tournament director Craig Tiley said: "Vika's current situation is obviously very difficult for her and we have reached out to offer any support we can."

"As a two-time Australian Open champion we've awarded her a wildcard and look forward to seeing her back on court."

Azarenka added: "I'm so excited about coming back to Melbourne for the Australian Open - it's my favourite tournament."
(eurosport)



Victoria Azarenka (file pic)

Konta won't leave the UK to avoid tax

London

British tennis number one Joanna Konta has said she will not be moving from the United Kingdom to reduce the amount of tax she pays.

Like Andy Murray, she has decided to remain a UK resident. Murray lives in Surrey, while Konta has a home in London.

Despite hiring a coach, Michael Joyce, who lives in Florida, Konta says she would prefer to stay a UK resident so there are no limits on the amount of time she can stay in the country:

"For me personally I'm against it. It's not something that would work for me."

"This is my home and I know if you move your residency outside of here, you can only spend a certain amount of time in the country."

"I don't want to be restricted with how much time I get to spend at home. I'm not going to put myself

in that position so I'll happily pay my taxes and spend my time at home." (eurosport)



Joanna Konta (file pic)