

# India win ODI series

India's Shikhar Dhawan plays a shot

## Visakhapatnam, India

**S**hikhar Dhawan struck a sublime hundred in the nick of time as India delivered yet again in a series decider to beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the third ODI and record their eighth successive win in a bilateral contest.

India raced to the 216-run target in 32.1 overs with Dhawan (100 n.o. off 85) completing his 12th ODI ton in what turned out to be the penultimate over of the match.

Shreyas Iyer made a significant 65 off 63 balls, his second successive half century, but missed on the opportunity of scoring a hundred in a winning cause.

Dinesh Karthik remained unbeaten on 26 alongside Dhawan and hit the winning runs.

The quick run chase came after a Sri Lankan collapse that saw them getting all out for 215 from a promising 160 for two.

The visitors failed to apply themselves on a pitch that offered decent turn as Indian spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav picked up three wickets apiece.

With the professional performance yesterday, India won their sixth ODI series of the year and eighth in a row since July 2016.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, were consigned to yet

another defeat in a rather miserable year in which they have won only five matches.

The hundred was there for the taking and Dhawan grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

During the course of his match-winning knock, Dhawan crossed the 4,000-run barrier in his 96th ODI. He hit 13 boundaries and two sixes overall as he toyed with the Sri Lankan attack.

Iyer reached his second ODI fifty in 44 balls before throwing his wicket away by attempting a big shot off Thisara Perera only to sky a catch to Suranga Lakmal at mid-on.

The Mumbai batsman

## BRIEF SCORE

**India 219 for 2** (Dhawan 100\*, Iyer 65) **beat Sri Lanka 215** (Tharanga 95, Kuldeep 3-42, Chahal 3-46) **by eight wickets**

survived two dropped chances, when on 25 and 38. In the first instance, Angelo Matthews grassed a catch at slip off Sachith Pathirana's first delivery and the second life came when Akila Dhananjaya couldn't hold on to a tough chance at the deep third-man.

India skipper Rohit Sharma was not able to reproduce his Mohali magic here as he fell in a big six off Akila Dhananjaya. (PTI)

Justin Rose

# Rose cruises to Indonesian Masters title

## Jakarta

**E**ngland's Justin Rose carded a 10-under-par 62 in the final round of the Indonesian Masters on Sunday to record a dominant eight-stroke victory at the Asian Tour event.

Play was delayed on Friday and Saturday due to multiple weather interruptions, forcing world number six Rose to complete his third round on Sunday morning and the 37-year-old carded 66.

Rose returned to hit nine birdies and one eagle in the last round and record the largest winning margin on the Asian Tour this year at the Royal Jakarta Golf Club.

"It is my last event of the season, to finish the year on a good note and still have a couple of weeks to enjoy this win over Christmas and New Year is really nice too," Rose said.

"It is the lowest ever winning score (-29) and to win by eight shots, all of that are huge positives.

"The largest winning margin for me in a tournament, to come here with my game in good shape, have the deal with bad weather and jet-lag and stay focused on all four rounds, is something that I am really pleased about..." (Reuters)

# Australia sniff Ashes win

Rain cut day four short in Perth with Australia needing just six more wickets to wrap up the Ashes series

## Perth

**A**ustralia moved within seven wickets of reclaiming the Ashes yesterday after England's top order crumbled to be 71 for three when rain brought tea five minutes early on day four of the third Test.

Paceman Josh Hazlewood removed both England's openers, with Alastair Cook falling for 14 in his 150th Test, and spinner Nathan Lyon dismissing England captain Joe Root for 14.

England number three James Vince was 36 not out with first innings centurion Dawid Malan on four, the pair tasked with mounting an improbable rescue mission with their side still 188 runs short of making the hosts bat again.

Clouds that had hovered impotently for most of the day finally opened late in the session, prompting joyous cheers from British fans at the WACA.

Australia captain Steve Smith declared after lunch at 662 for nine, the biggest Ashes innings total at home, taking a lead of 259 runs. The innings total was also their third highest at home in all Tests.

England's chase began disastrously with opener Mark Stoneman caught behind for three in the second over, seemingly hypnotised into a lead-footed push away from the body in the space of five metronomic balls by seamer Josh Hazlewood.

Six overs later, Cook was sent

packing by the same bowler, the former captain's dreadful run of form this series continuing in his 150th Test.

Having pulled a short ball to the fence, Cook spooned a leading edge low and straight back to the paceman who took a brilliant reflex catch to dismiss him. Cook's previous scores this series are seven, 16, 37, seven and two. (Reuters)

## BRIEF SCORE

**England 403 and 4 for 132** (Malan 28\*, Bairstow 14\*) trail **Australia 9 for 662 dec** (Smith 239, M Marsh 181, Khawaja 50, Anderson 4-116) **by 127 runs**



Steve Smith celebrates with his Australia team mates after taking a catch to dismiss Joe Root, the England captain (Picture courtesy: theguardian)