

India end Australia drought

India beat Australia by 31 runs at Adelaide Oval to take 1-0 series lead

● **Bumrah stars but Australia's tail makes India sweat for famous victory**

● **Australia were bowled out for 291 runs in their second innings**

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

India won their first Test on Australian soil in a decade yesterday, bowling out the home side in a nail-biting finale to clinch the opening match and raise hopes of their first ever series victory Down Under.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant pounced a world record-equaling 11 catches for the match as India, after setting an improbable target of 323, finally dismissed Australia to win by 31 runs on day five at Adelaide Oval.

Australia, attempting what would have been a record chase at the ground, gallantly battled to 291 before Josh Hazlewood became the last man to fall to Ravichandran Ashwin, who finished with 3-92. Shaun Marsh made 62 and Tim Paine 41.

It was a huge breakthrough for captain Virat Kohli's men, who went 1-0 up with three Tests to go after becoming first Indian team to win the opening match of a Test series in Australia.

Pant took the plaudits after matching the record of 11 catches in a Test held by England's Jack Russell and South Africa's AB de Villiers.



India's wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (R) celebrates with teammates the dismissal of Australia's batsman Mitchell Starc

India's last Test success in Australia was at the WACA Ground in Perth in 2008, and the previous one in Adelaide was 2003. They have now won just six times in Australia in more than 70 years.

But with the home team missing banned batsmen Steve Smith and David Warner, Kohli and his team sensed ahead of the tour that this could be their opportunity to make history by winning the series.

They now take the momentum into the second Test in Perth starting Friday, with Melbourne and Sydney to follow.

"The odds were stacked against them. They fought really well but we executed our plans well and got that last wicket which we were intending to get," said Kohli.

"I'm super-proud of the bowlers, to have four bowlers and take 20 wickets is a great achievement and something that we haven't done in the past.

"It shows us that if the batsmen step up regularly, we will be gunning for a win in every Test match."



Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant equalled the world record held by Jack Russell and AB de Villiers of taking 11 catches in a Test match

'Shattering'

Paine, who fell to a rash shot after lunch, said the defeat was "shattering" but he was proud of the way the team took it to the wire.

"We thought we could win, no doubt about that. We saw how the pitch is playing and told ourselves we are going to dig deep, but unfortunately, myself, Travis (Head) and Shaun couldn't bat long as long as we should have."

Australia resumed the final day needing another 219 for victory with four wickets down, but lost their last two specialist batsmen before lunch, shifting the odds heavily in India's favour.

Marsh and Head had started cautiously, grinding out 11 runs in the opening seven overs before seamer Ishant Sharma struck with the score on 115, bowling a bouncer that caught Head's bat as he tried to fend it off and Ajinkya Rahane took the catch at gully.

Paine joined Marsh and they upped the ante, capitalising on some loose balls from Shami to chip away steadily and close the gap.

Marsh brought up a valuable 50 -- his 10th in Tests -- with a boundary from a pull shot off spinner Ashwin.

It was a much-needed knock for the left-hander, who was on a run of six consecutive single-figure Test scores, although he has been in scintillating form in domestic cricket.

But Marsh didn't last much longer with Jasprit Bumrah getting the big breakthrough as he

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| India 1st innings 250 (Pujara 123; Hazlewood 3-52) | |
| Australia 1st innings 235 (Head 72; Bumrah 3-47, Ashwin 3-57) | |
| India 2nd innings 307 (Pujara 71, Rahane 70; Lyon 6-122, Starc 3-40) | |
| Australia 2nd innings (overnight 104-4) | |
| A. Finch c Pant b Ashwin | 11 |
| M. Harris c Pant b Shami | 26 |
| U. Khawaja c Sharma b Ashwin | 8 |
| S. Marsh c Pant b Bumrah | 60 |
| P. Handscomb c Pujara b Shami | 14 |
| T. Head c Rahane b Sharma | 14 |
| T. Paine c Pant b Bumrah | 41 |
| P. Cummins c Kohli b Bumrah | 28 |
| M. Starc c Pant b Shami | 28 |
| N. Lyon not out | 38 |
| J. Hazlewood c Rahul b Ashwin | 13 |
| Extras (lb6, b1, nb3) | 10 |
| Total: (10 wickets, 119.5 overs) | 291 |
| Bowling: Sharma 19-4-48-1, Bumrah 24-8-68-3, Ashwin 52.5-13-92-3, Shami 20-4-65-3 (3nb), Vijay 4-0-11-0 | |
| Result: India win by 31 runs | |
| Series: India lead four-match series 1-0 | |

pushed at a perfectly angled delivery, getting a faint edge to Pant behind the stumps.

By lunch Australia had fought to 186 for six, still needing a further 137 runs for victory, with Paine not out 40 and Pat Cummins on five.

But in the second over after they resumed Paine top-edged a pull shot from Bumrah and Pant easily took a catch.

Cummins, who survived two big reviews within four balls, with the technology both times going in his favour, showed gritty application with Mitchell Starc in a 41-run eighth wicket stand.

Retiring an option as Robben, 34, confirms imminent Bayern exit

AFP | Berlin

Arjen Robben says he may retire in June after confirming he will quit Bayern Munich when his contract with the defending Bundesliga champions expires.

Robben, who turns 35 in January, con-

firmed in yesterday's edition of magazine Kicker that he will quit the Bavarian giants at the end of the season: "that's a fact".

"Of course it's a big step, which you don't just make in one day.

"I thought about it a lot and it feels good that it's now out, also for the fans and the club.

"It was the right point in time."

Having missed the last two games with a thigh injury, Robben could make his return when Bayern face Ajax away in the Champions League on Wednesday. Both teams are through to the last 16 and Bayern need only a point in Amsterdam to win Group E.

Robben also missed Saturday's 3-0 league win at home to Nuremberg Bayern third and nine points behind Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern's senior bosses are planning a squad clear-out for next season and Robben says now is the right time to go, despite two stunning goals in the 5-1 thrashing of Benfica a fortnight ago.

"The game against Benfica was a nice confirmation that I can play at the highest level," he added.

"On the other side, the club wants to change the face of the team and I want to prepare my future.

"I am simply happy and grateful that there is clarity for both parties."

However, Robben says he currently has no plans past the end of the season.

"That's not entirely clear, perhaps I will stop playing - it's about waiting and seeing what possibilities there are," he said.

"If offers come in, I'll really consider them 100 percent and if it's something nice, I'll play on, but if no ideal offers come, then that could be it.

"I have three children and they also must be happy, so it's not just about offers from China or places in the desert.

"The family plays a very important role in every decision of mine."

After spells at Chelsea and Real Madrid, Robben joined Bayern in 2009 and the highlight of nearly a decade with the Bavarian giants was his winning goal in the 2013 Champions League final at Wembley to seal a 2-1 victory over Borussia Dortmund.

The fleet-footed, injury-prone Dutch veteran, named Bundesliga player of the year after his first season in Germany in 2009/10, has won 19 titles so far with Bayern and collected his seventh German league title last May.

Klopp 'not one second worried' about Salah's early season form

AFP | London

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp says he was not worried for "one second" about Mohamed Salah's form this season after his relatively sluggish start.

The Egypt forward made it 10 Premier League goals for the campaign with his hat-trick in Saturday's 4-0 win at Bournemouth that sent Liverpool top of the league.

The Reds now boast the league's only unbeaten record after champions Manchester City lost 2-0 at Chelsea.

Salah's dislocated shoulder in the Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid in May spoiled his World Cup, but Klopp is adamant he never doubted the 26-year-old.

"I was not one second worried (about Salah). I don't know exactly what people wrote, I have no clue about that," said Klopp.

"But we have to develop always, and to confirm and to improve again on a 41-goal season (Salah actually scored 44 goals last season). Everybody would struggle a little, because how can you improve on that?"

"If you score 10 goals in the first five games everyone will



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JURGEN KLOPP

say 'yeah it's going to happen again'. And then if you ended up with 39 people would say 'yeah but it's not 41'.

"And we all have to learn to deal with it, and him of course as well. That's how it is."

Liverpool must beat Napoli 1-0 or by a margin of two goals at Anfield on Tuesday to guarantee reaching the Champions League's last 16, with Klopp calling on his players to prove their true class and for vocal backing from the fans.

"We were not good at Napoli so first of all we would like to show we are better than that," he said. "So we also have to call again on Anfield, and they should help us because that's a massive game, a really massive game."



Arjen Robben



Mohamed Salah