

Kohli hits 35th ODI century, 13th as captain of India

India wallop South Africa

Centurion

After an impressive bowling display, skipper Virat Kohli led from the front with the bat to help India beat South Africa by eight wickets in the sixth one-day international at the SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday. Dominant India wrapped up the six-match series 5-1.

Kohli continued his great form in the series, scoring his 35th ODI century in 82 balls, as he helped India chase down the 205-run target in 32.1 overs with eight wickets

BRIEF SCORE

India 206 for 2 (Kohli 129*, Rahane 34*) beat South Africa 204 (Zondo 54, Thakur 4-52) by eight wickets

in hand.

Kohli remained unbeaten on 129 off 96 balls, which included two sixes and 19 fours. And when he reached 71, Kohli became the first batsman ever to score 500 or more runs in a bilateral ODI series. Kohli finished the series with 558 runs with three centuries, a record for

an Indian batsman, and one fifty in six innings. Kohli's five innings in the series before today are - 112, 46*, 160*, 75, 36.

Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane (34 not out) took India home with an unbroken 126-run stand for the third wicket. Rahane played the second fiddle perfectly, hitting three fours in his 50-ball knock.

Chasing the modest target, India lost Rohit Sharma (15) early in the fourth over to Lungi Ngidi. But Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan added 61 runs for the

second wicket in nine overs while keeping the scoring rate high. Dhawan, after a watchful 18 off 34 balls, became the second wicket of Ngidi in the 13th over.

India though reached 100-run mark in 14.3 overs. And Kohli soon raced to his 47th ODI fifty in just 36 balls, hitting nine boundaries. Kohli and Rahane made sure that there were no more hiccups in the chase.

Earlier, Indian bowlers proved Kohli's decision to field right as they bowled out South Africa for 204 in 46.5 overs. (TOI)

Virat Kohli in action (Pic courtesy: BCCI)

Australia crush New Zealand

Auckland

D'Arcy Short anchored a high-powered Australian batting order to produce the highest successful run chase in Twenty20 international cricket to beat New Zealand by five wickets in their tri-series clash at Eden Park yesterday.

Short, who started his innings with several edges and false shots that went for boundaries at the small ground, scored 76 from 44 balls as the Australians reached 245 for five with seven deliveries remaining.

The run chase eclipsed the 236 for six West Indies achieved in beating South Africa in Johannesburg in 2015.

New Zealand had scored 243 for six in their 20 overs after Martin Guptill (105) and Colin Munro (76) had produced a blistering 132-run opening partnership in 10.4 overs.

Short and captain David Warner (59), however, put on 121 runs in 8.3 overs to give the visitors the ideal start before Glenn Maxwell, who scored 31 from 14 balls, and Aaron Finch (36 not out) ensured they got home.



BRIEF SCORE

Australia 245 for 5 (Short 76, Warner 59) beat New Zealand 243 for 6 (Guptill 105, Munro 76) by five wickets

Australia's players celebrate

Having won their previous three matches before Friday, Australia had already qualified for the final of the tri-series, that also includes England, at

the same ground on February 21.

New Zealand had been strong favourites to join them in the final at the innings

break after Guptill and Munro scored at more than 12 runs an over, exploiting the short boundaries down the ground. (Reuters)

Liam Plunkett ruled out of England's T20I, ODI series

London

Liam Plunkett will miss the remainder of England's Twenty20 tri-series against New Zealand and Australia with a hamstring injury.

The Yorkshire bowler is also out of the five-match one-day international series against New Zealand, starting on 25 February in Hamilton.

Plunkett, 32, suffered a recurrence of a hamstring tear in Tuesday's tri-series defeat by the Black Caps.

He had already missed the final two ODIs against Australia in January.

England have yet to pick up a point after three straight defeats in the ongoing T20 tri-series, which ends on 21 February.

Australia are already through to the final after winning four games out of four.

Plunkett greeted team-mate Ben Stokes as he landed in Auckland to join up with the England squad, following his appearance at Bristol Magistrates Court on Tuesday on a charge of affray.

The Durham all-rounder has not played international cricket since an incident outside a Bristol nightclub in September. (BBC)

Liam Plunkett (file pic)

