

**SHARP SINGLES**



**OVER & OUT:** Sri Lanka's Nuwan Kulasekara celebrates after dismissing Australia's Brad Haddin during the second ODI in Sydney, on Friday. Sri Lanka won the match and the series —AP

**Sri Lanka win series**

Sri Lanka defeated Australia by 29 runs on the Duckworth-Lewis method to win the rain-marred second ODI and claim the three-match series at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

**Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 213/3 in 41.1 overs (U Tharanga 86\*, T Dilshan 47, K Sangakkara 45) beat Australia 210 in 37.4 overs (S Watson 40\*, C White 35, S Smith 33) by 29 runs (D/L method).

**England bowlers sizzle**

England's fast bowlers made an impressive start to their Ashes tour in the three-day match against Western Australia at the WACA Ground on Friday.

**Brief scores:** Western Australia 242/8 decl in 82 overs (A Voges 72, W Robinson 62; S Broad 3/47) vs England XI 10/1 in 6 overs

**Hussey for status quo**

Dismissing reports of disunity in the Australian team, Mike Hussey has asked the selectors to maintain status quo for the upcoming Ashes series. "I'm hoping that we have a very settled team. I think that over the course of history, it shows that teams can perform consistently well with a nicely balanced, settled team," the southpaw said.

**Aus attack has depth: Lee**

Brett Lee has said Australia have superior depth in the pace bowling department. Lee is also convinced Australia have the distinct edge over England. "I think there are eight to 10 bowlers that could all play Test cricket this Australian summer," Lee said. "We've got a lot better depth than the Poms, in saying that, they've got a pretty good batting line-up," he said.

**Hazlewood targets return**

Emerging Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood is targeting a Christmas comeback from a back problem that has hampered his rise. Hazlewood, 19, has already played one ODI and was selected for the recent two-Test tour of India, but had to withdraw after a 'hot spot' was found in his back.

**Raina inks Rs30-cr deal**

Suresh Raina has been signed up by Rhiti Sports Management for Rs 30 crore for a period of three years. "I have full confidence in Rhiti Sports doing justice to my brand value. It's a team of people and I am very comfortable with them. I am looking forward to a working relationship with them," Raina said.

**Mudassar flays Pak team**

Mudassar Nazar has advised the cricket community in Pakistan to stop living in a state of denial and accept that the present team is not good enough. Mudassar said people must accept the recent results are reflection of the fact that the team was not as strong as it used to be.

**Tanvir left out**

Sohail Tanvir's return to international cricket got delayed as Pakistani selectors on Thursday pulled out the pacer from the national squad for the upcoming series against South Africa in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.



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|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p>No of times Jeetan Patel has dismissed Sachin Tendulkar in Tests. It may be recalled that the off-spinner had claimed the maestro's wicket at Napier in 2009</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>No of times Tendulkar has been dismissed 'caught &amp; bowled'. Andrew Flintoff was the last bowler to have got him in this manner (Chennai, Dec 2008)</p> | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>No of Indian pairs to have posted 3,000 runs together. In 59 innings, Tendulkar and VVS Laxman have scored 3,041 at 54.30 with eight hundreds and 16 fifties.</p> | <p><b>100</b></p> <p>No of wickets Daniel Vettori (4/118) has as captain. He becomes the eighth captain to do so. He is the third slow bowler after Richie Benaud (138) and BS Bedi (106)</p> |
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# Diwali special from Bhajji

Tendulkar fails to score 50th ton, but tail-ender makes up for disappointment by hitting a career-best 69 to help India post 487; New Zealand end Day 2 at 69/2 after poor start

**Nikhlesh Pathak** AHMEDABAD

This Diwali was expected to be special. After all, Sachin Tendulkar was on the verge of his 50th Test century. The expectations, predictably, were sky high. Even Virender Sehwag was hoping Tendulkar to complete the milestone. "Nazar mat lagao," an apprehensive Sehwag had said on Thursday. But Sehwag's apprehensions came true at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Motera on Friday. Much to the disappointment of the motley Motera crowd in particular and fans of the country in general, Tendulkar perished after scoring only 40. Interestingly enough, a bowler of Gujarati origin was responsible for Tendulkar's dismissal. New Zealand's Jeetan Patel claimed the prized wicket and broke a billion hearts.

Despite the setback in the first session, in which India also lost the wickets of VVS Laxman and Suresh Raina too, the home team still managed a formidable 487 in their first innings. Harbhajan Singh batted with aplomb and hit a stroke-filled half-century (69). The Indian team rounded up a good day's play by taking two wickets in the last session. The visitors ended the day at 69/2.

Tendulkar and Laxman were watchful in the first hour of the play when they scored 29 runs in 16 overs. Tendulkar, overnight 13, needed 21 deliveries to score his first run of the day. Things changed after the first hour.

Laxman looked a completely different batsman after the drinks break. He smashed off-

spinner Jeetan for a few boundaries in what appeared to be a pre-planned attack. Tendulkar too joined him and started playing his shots.

Tendulkar was on his way to a big one. But like most TV soaps, the script changed suddenly. Trying a gentle push, Tendulkar offered a return catch to Patel, who accepted it with glee to claim the biggest wicket of his career.

Diwali celebrations went sore for a moment and the home team was reduced to 383/4. The crowd was silent. The wicket visibly boosted the confidence of not just Patel but the entire New Zealand team.

The New Zealand spinners showed a lot of control and discipline. Kane Williamson dismissed Suresh Raina (3) before Patel sent back Laxman (40) for his second wicket of the session. Lunch was taken at 392 for six. But soon it became 412 for eight with skipper Dhoni and Zaheer Khan gone.

Harbhajan then took charge of the situation and launched an onslaught. Soon, he completed his eighth half-century and added 66 runs for the ninth wicket with Pragyan Ojha (11). That blitzkrieg, which included five fours and three sixes, gave India the much-needed fillip.

**India vs New Zealand**

First Test, Day Two, Sardar Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad

November 5, 2010

Toss: India, chose to bat

**INDIA 1ST INNINGS (O/N 329/3)**

|                                 |    |     |   |   |        |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|---|---|--------|
| S Tendulkar c & b Patel         | 40 | 133 | 5 | 0 | 30.07  |
| VVS Laxman lbw b Patel          | 40 | 105 | 4 | 0 | 38.09  |
| S Raina c McCullum b Williamson | 3  | 19  | 0 | 0 | 15.78  |
| MS Dhoni c Watling b Vettori    | 10 | 9   | 0 | 1 | 111.11 |
| H Singh c Hopkins b Vettori     | 69 | 97  | 5 | 3 | 71.13  |
| Z Khan b Vettori                | 1  | 11  | 0 | 0 | 9.09   |
| P Ojha lbw b Patel              | 11 | 59  | 0 | 0 | 18.64  |
| S Sreesanth not out             | 2  | 16  | 0 | 0 | 12.50  |

Extras: (B5, LB2, W1, NB5) **13**

Total: (all out; 151.5 overs) **487** (3.20 runs per over)

**Fall of Wickets:** 1-60 (Gambhir, 11.6 ov), 2-297 (Sehwag, 74.2 ov), 3-317 (Dravid, 83.2 ov), 4-383 (Tendulkar, 114.4 ov), 5-392 (Raina, 119.5 ov), 6-392 (Laxman, 120.2 ov), 7-410 (Dhoni, 123.5 ov), 8-412 (Khan, 127.1 ov), 9-478 (Ojha, 145.5 ov)

**Bowling:** C Martin 24-5-75-1 (NB4), H Bennett 15-2-47-0 (W1), D Vettori 54.5-12-118-4, J Ryder 17-4-56-1, J Patel 29-6-135-3 (NB1), K Williamson 12-0-49-1

**NEW ZEALAND 1ST INNINGS**

|                           |    |    |   |   |       |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|---|-------|
| T McIntosh c Dhoni b Khan | 0  | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.00  |
| B McCullum batting        | 38 | 75 | 7 | 0 | 50.66 |
| B Watling b Ojha          | 6  | 22 | 1 | 0 | 27.27 |
| R Taylor batting          | 18 | 61 | 3 | 0 | 29.50 |

Extras: (B1, LB6) **7**

Total: (2 wickets; 28 overs) **69** (2.46 runs per over)

**Fall of Wickets:** 1-6 (McIntosh, 2.4 ov), 2-27 (Watling, 9.1 ov)

**Bowling:** Z Khan 7-4-14-1, S Sreesanth 6-1-21-0, P Ojha 10-3-15-1, H Singh 5-2-12-0



(Left) Harbhajan Singh hits a six. (Above) Sachin Tendulkar after being dismissed by Jeetan Patel (inset) on Day Two of the first Test at Motera on Friday —Vipin Pawar DNA



## Sachin's wicket my biggest scalp: Patel

**Ahmedabad:** New Zealand off-spinner Jeetan Patel on Friday described iconic batsman Sachin Tendulkar's scalp as the biggest of his fledgling career. "I'm delighted to take Sachin's wicket. It's the biggest scalp of my career," said the 30-year-old Wellington-born Patel after grabbing 3/135 in the first innings.

After going wicketless and giving away 79 runs in 13 overs on Thursday, Patel made amends by giving splendid support to skipper Daniel Vettori in restricting the Indian innings that looked all set to cross 500 with a close-of-play total of 329/3 on Thursday. Patel, born to Indian parents, said the key to his success on Friday was self-belief and an alteration to his run-up and mental make-up. "I tried to bowl too hard yesterday (Thursday). When I came out to bowl today (Friday), I told myself I belonged to this level. I shortened my run-up. My idea was to bowl dot balls and apply pressure," Patel said. —PTI

**BOLLYWOOD STAR SAYS THE SPORT IS NOT ABOUT KICKING AND PUNCHING, CLAIMS IT MAKES ONE DISCIPLINED, PUNCTUAL**

## Akshay wants karate made compulsory in schools

**Derek Abraham** MUMBAI

Passion can do strange things, really. It can make Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia shell out his hard-earned riches to sponsor a sport he adores, respects and values. It can also convince him to invest enough time and energy in nurturing a vision not many know of. And yes, passion can even persuade the 43-year-old to proclaim, "I want to make karate our national sport. That's my ultimate dream."

The above-mentioned endeavour could take as much time as it took Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia to become Akshay Kumar. But the Bollywood icon's never-say-never mindset convinces you that he is capable of achieving what he announces.

Recently there were reports about a nine-year-old girl and her mother who aspire to go

the distance. The mom is all the more determined to see her child excel as her dreams of attending a karate class were simply quashed by elders in a conservative Punjabi household.

Kumar is doing his bit by promoting at least 4,500 such kids and their dreams. The Akshay Kumar National Karate-Do Championships, the second edition of which concluded recently, is a massive karate movement. What started as a small initiative by Kumar and Mehul Vora (both sixth degree black belt holders) of the Nippon Budo Sogo International India, has now become the biggest tournament ever in the history of Indian karate.

"I want everybody to understand that karate is an art and not just a combat sport," Kumar says, before adding, "I would love to make karate

**I hate violence. I adore my sport, but if it's used in the wrong way, you might as well be a murderer. There's a huge difference between a man who 'can kill' and 'will kill'**

**Akshay Kumar**, Bollywood actor

compulsory in schools. Everyone — especially women — deserve to be taught self-defence in this country. You'll be surprised to know that young girls at my tournament manage throw around guys twice their height and weight and lock them to the ground. Women are powerful beings and I want them all to be protected in life."

Kumar, who is a "student" of martial arts since his teens, says he became addicted and insanely determined to become like Bruce Lee. "I originally wanted to do martial

arts so that I could show off in front of all girls! But soon, I became so disciplined that all I did was breathe, eat, study and train karate," he says.

Kumar even credits his calm exterior to karate. "Martial arts is what keeps me fit, agile, disciplined and punctual. It helps you control anger, negativity and enables you to focus during extremely stressful situations. Karate is more than just kicking and punching, it is an art," Kumar adds.

For someone, who diligently trains for at least two hours every day, Kumar is unsur-

prisingly fit. The actor, who also trained during his days as a chef in Bangkok, says martial arts are worshipped in the Far East. "My aim is to change the perception (of martial arts) in India. We have such talented individuals. We just need to find them and nurture them. Some of the most incredible forms of martial arts trace their origins to India. They are practically secrets to the rest of the world. I want the world to see what India has to offer. We have techniques that even the Chinese don't have, let's be proud of our traditions and embrace what we are," Kumar says.

The actor, however, makes it crystal clear that martial arts mustn't be misconstrued as violence. "I hate violence. I adore my sport, but if it's used in the wrong way, you might as well be a murderer. There's a

huge difference between a man who 'can kill' and 'will kill'. Art it is not an excuse to go around thrashing people," he says matter of factly.

Kumar is planning to host a few athletes next year. "I want to take my tournament to the next level. Bringing foreign talent will only help us improve," he says. Kumar, though, does not want to make martial arts a "source of entertainment on Friday nights".

"Who wins? Who falls? No that's not what this is about. I just want to give everyone the opportunity to learn one of the greatest forms of physical disciplines in the world. Cinema is different, training is different. I feel we should leave the attraction of martial arts to cinema and reveal the magic of martial arts to the competition floor," he says.

Best of luck is all we can say.



Bollywood star Akshay Kumar at the National Karate-Do Championship in the city recently —BL Soni DNA