

India Thrash Lankans In ODI Series

India 105th In FIFA Ranking



VISAKHAPATNAM: India beat Sri Lanka by 8 wickets in the third and final ODI in Visakhapatnam to clinch the series 2-1. It further strengthened India's record against the islanders. Shikhar Dhawan made an unbeaten 100 as India beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the match. Chasing 216 for victory, the hosts depended on a 135-run sec-

ond-wicket partnership between Shreyas Iyer, who made 65, and Dhawan to achieve their target in 32.1 overs. India's winning streak of eight successive bilateral series is a new record for them. After losing 4-1 to Australia in Australia at the start of the last year, India have won each of the eight bilateral series they have played. Out of ten bilateral series

against Sri Lanka in India since 1982, India have won nine — the remaining one ended in a draw. On Wednesday, Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal claimed four wickets as India beat Sri Lanka by 93 runs in the opening Twenty20 international in Cuttack on Wednesday. KL Rahul hit a classy half-century as India continued their dom-

ination over Sri Lanka to register a massive 93-run win, their biggest victory in T20 Internationals. Chahal returned impressive figures of 4-23 to help dismiss Sri Lanka for 87, in 16 overs, while chasing 181 as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The second match will be played this Friday in Indore and the third on Sunday in Mumbai.

ZURICH: India football team remained stagnant on the 105th position while Germany finished first to be named the 'Team of the Year' in the FIFA rankings released here on Thursday.

The Sunil Chhetri-led side, who were not slated to play any international fixtures since the previous rankings were released last month, retained their spot with 320 points.

World champions Germany, who qualified to defend their crown in Russia by winning all 10 of their qualifiers and have been unbeaten in 15 matches in 2017, succeed Argentina and Belgium, who were 'Team of the Year' in 2016 and 2015 respectively, according to FIFA.

Germany held on to the top spot in a largely unchanged ranking that reflects the fact that just 41 'A' internationals have been played since the previous edition and that few of those involved teams at the top end of the table.

Modi, Jaitley At 'Virushka' Reception

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley were among the high-profile guests at the wedding reception of star cricketer Virat Kohli and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma here on Thursday.

One of the most talked about couple in India, Virat and Anushka, who got married in Tuscany, Italy, on December 11 in a close family affair after a courtship of over four years, appeared hand-in-hand at the Taj Diplomatic for a photo-op with the media.

According to a guest at the reception, Indian Premier League (IPL) Chairman Rajeev Shukla

and cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Gautam Gambhir will present along with their wives.

For the special occasion, Virat, who helped his wife onto the stage amid loud cheers, was wearing a black bandhgala with a shawl draped on one shoulder to complement his looks.

Anushka was all smiles as she looked every bit of the newly married bride donning a red sari. With a neatly-tied bun adorned by a 'gajra', the 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi' star completed her looks with heavy jewellery and vermilion.

"Thank you for coming," Virat told the paparazzi while Anushka

did 'namaste' before leaving for the reception party, which was graced by around 500 guests, especially from Virat's side considering that New Delhi is his hometown.

Ace designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, who has designed Virat and Anushka's costumes for all their wedding rituals, was also present at the reception.

Interestingly, a special stage was designed for the couple, both aged 29, with candles burning inside crystal fixtures.

The reception was mainly attended by the family members and close relatives and friends of the couple amid high security.

Police had blocking approach roads to the venue, especially for Modi and Jaitley's arrival.

Virat and Anushka had personally gone to invite Modi for the event on Wednesday.

The reception in Delhi will be followed by another reception in Mumbai, where various cricketers and members of the film fraternity are expected to grace the red carpet.

After celebrating the New Year together, Virat will soon fly to South Africa for the upcoming series, while Anushka will begin shooting for Anand L. Rai's yet-to-be-titled film with Shah Rukh Khan.

Gill Eyes Rally Of Arunachal

ZIRO (Arunachal): Three-time Asia-Pacific Rally Championship champion Gaurav Gill will hope to reassert his supremacy as Round 5 of the MRF FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship, the Rally of Arunachal, that got underway here on Thursday.

Gill, who missed Round 4 of the INRC in Chikmagalur as it was held simultaneously with the APRC, is still ahead with 50 points after winning the rounds in Coimbatore and Jaipur.

But INRC 3 leader Dean Mascarenhas and defending champion Karna Kadur are snapping at his heels with 45 and 43 points, respectively. Gill, the Team Mahindra Adventure driver, will be accompanied by his long-time navigator Musa Sherif.

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