## INDIA ON CUSP OF BIG WIN

CHENNAI

RAVICHANDRAN Ashwin on Monday scored his fifth Test century as India tightened the noose around England in the second Test as they set England a target of 482 runs and then reduced them to 52 for three at

stumps on the third day. wicket haul in England's first innings, Ashwin scored 106 runs off 148 balls making him only with the help of 14 fours and a six as second India's second innings came to an end cricketer at 286 in the post-tea session. Mohammad Siraj remained unbeaten on 16, and added 49 runs for the final wicket with Ashwin who was the last wicket t o

India then knocked out openers Dom Sibley (3) and Rory Burns (25) as well as night-watchman Jack Leach (0) to set England back in chase of 482. England are still 430 runs adrift.

Ashwin's century followed a five-

had done it five times. Earlier, resuming at 54/1 on the third day. India lost five wickets but added 102 runs to get their lead past 350 in the morning session. The hosts lost the wickets of Cheteshwar Pujara (7), Rohit Sharma (26), Rishabh Pant (8), Ajinkya Rahane (10) and debutant Axar Patel (7) in quick succession to give a glimmer of hope to Eng-

achieve the feat of a century and a

fifer in the same game on three differ-

ent occasions. Ian Botham of England

However, skipper Virat Kohli and Ashwin then shared a 96-run stand for the seventh wicket to put India in a commanding position.

Kohli, who showed his class on a Chepauk wicket that aided turn, was the first wicket to fall in the postlunch session as he was dismissed by Moeen Ali at his individual score of 62. This was the fifth time that Ali had dismissed the India skipper in Test cricket.

Kuldeep Yadav (3) and Ishant Sharma (7) also shared eight and 27run partnerships respectively with Ashwin to frustrate the England

India had posted 329 runs in their first innings. The hosts then bowled

#### **SCOREBOARD DAY 3**

Total: (For 3 wickets in 19 overs), m Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-49, 3-50 Bowling: Ishant Sharma 2-1-6-0, Axar Patel 9-3-15-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 8-1-28-1.

# LEFT-HANDERS' BOGEYMEN



**England wicket-keeper** Ben Foakes, who turned 28 on Monday, drew allround praise from renowned former players from around the world

for his brilliant work against India, with Kiran More calling him one of the best overseas players to have kept wickets in India

Vinoo Mankad (vs England at Lord's, London, in 1952) and Polly Umrigar (vs West Indies in Port of Spain in 1961-62) are the other Indians to score a century and take five wickets in an innings

### Play-off spot in sight, Hyderabad FC hope to return to winning ways

A play-off spot in sight, Hyderabad FC can ill-afford any slip-up when they take on a struggling Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium here on Tuesday.

For most part of the ISL season, Hyderabad had maintained their place in the top four. But now, with three games to go, they find themselves at fifth, level on points with fourth-placed FC Goa and two points below NorthEast United.

From here on, Hyderabad can't afford more slipups. They have played out six draws in their last seven matches. And when the Nizams face Kerala Blasters on Tuesday, they will know that any more dropped points will hugely dent their play-off ambitions.

On paper, Hyderabad face one of the most vulnerable sides in the league, who are playing for pride. Kerala Blasters have conceded 29 goals, which is the second-worst tally. Their defence has been so fragile that Kibu Vicuna's side has now dropped 18 points after scoring the first goal. But for Hyderbad coach Manuel Marquez, that doesn't mean Kerala are to be taken lightly. "All the other teams, from Kerala who are second from the bottom, till the top positions, can climb positions in the table," he said.

"We will play with Kerala with our style. We are nine games unbeaten but six of them are draws. We have to continue in the same vein and try to win the game because our season has been fantastic. We want to be in the top four.' add on to RESULT

#### **Ojha retires from** all forms of cricket

AN emotional Naman Ojha struggled to hold back tears on Monday as he bade adieu to all forms of cricket, bringing down curtains on a two-decade long illustrious domestic career.

The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in the Ranji Trophy, featured in one Test, one ODI and two T20 Internationals. "I would like to announce my retirement from international and BCCI/MPCA domestic first-class cricket," a teary-

eyed Ojha said in a virtual press conference. "After 20 years in first-class cricket and many more during the junior competitions, I feel it's time for me to move on. It was a long journey and wonderful phase of my life.

"I am grateful to all who supported me in achieving dream of playing for my country and state - my coaches, trainers, physios and selectors, my captains and teammates, my family and well wishers, and MPCA & BCCI," he added.

Ojha said he is eager to ply his trade in global T20 leagues. As per the BCCI rules, he is now eligible for such leagues, having announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. (PTI)

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