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Australia don't seem at all battle-ready

One must not look a gift horse in the mouth and if you are a cricketer, one must not examine a win too closely, because, it is after all, a joyous thing. However, I will break that rule to comment on the fact that this Australian team is really one of the most unprepared and technically underdone ones I have seen. Therefore, while India have not put a foot wrong in the first two ODIs of the one-day series, the Australian batsmen have not got anything right!

This is particularly surprising since they are coming from an intensely fought series in Bangladesh, which should have made them battle-ready by the time they landed in India. At present they are completely at sea against Kuldeep Yadav's chinaman and Yuzvendra Chahal's spin. Their footwork is tentative, some of them are attacking unnecessarily and even experienced players like David Warner are floundering. Other than captain Steve Smith, there is really no intent or commitment on view at present.

The fact that the Indian pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya are doing well is making things even tougher for the Australians. If they do not adapt quickly, a 5-0 defeat stares them in the face. There are predictions of rain in Indore, as the rain gods are following the teams around, so at present the Australians have a chance only in a rain-curtailed match.

The Indians have continued from where they left off in Sri Lanka with a stability in both the batting and bowling ensuring that the team looks calm even when the chips are down. Since it's early in the season some batsmen are finding the wickets hard right now but I think Virat Kohli will give them some more time to find their feet. The captain himself looked in good form at Eden Gardens and his 92 ensured that the team got past 250.

As for the bowlers, I am truly excited by Kuldeep, who has remarkable control for a leg-spinner. His hat-trick was a game-changer and all three players were not bunnies but he bowled excellently to all three of them. The hat-trick ball was a superbly controlled one and Pat Cummins really had no clue about what's happening.

Sunday's weather predictions in Indore are grim and it's possible that it will be a rain-interrupted game. Perhaps a shorter match might break the momentum India has built up recently, and that might work in the visitors' favour. However, if it's a full match, it would be very hard to get beyond India at this moment. One team has a string of wins behind it while the other has a string of overseas losses to get over. The Indians really look hard to beat at the moment.

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Pandya is currently filling the all-rounder spot perfectly

The Indians continued their incredible winning streak and also sealed the one-day series versus Australia with a commanding show in Indore. The visitors looked in better form and were in winning positions, but such is the confidence and self-belief among the Indians that even when the Australians were dominating – first at 200 for one and then when they managed some quick wickets – the Indians dug deep and found a way out. This is the true testimony of a quality side.

The Australians were looking for several things from their batsmen and got most of it. David Warner and Aaron Finch gave them a solid start and the latter went on to score a century. Finch also stitched a good partnership with captain Steve Smith, and at one stage, with fifteen overs to go, Australia had nine wickets in hand and looked set for a score of around 340. This would have been a matchwinning score for them, but once again the middle order lost its way.

I am particularly concerned about Glenn Maxwell because he is simply not living up to his reputation of being a hard-hitting batsman. He has a vast amount of experience of batting in India but the pitches and his inability to read spin are making him struggle. His batting is suited for the true, bouncy pitches of Australia, but his inability to adapt and also play percentage cricket is worrying. Australia were in a good position when he came in, and all he needed to do was to rotate strike and wait for the bad ball. However, his shot selection and his not being able to read Yuzvendra Chahal's ball turned the game.

I am impressed with Virat Kohli's decision to play five bowlers and also for backing them. For instance he stuck with Kuldeep Yadav even though the latter was leaking runs, and this resulted in some crucial wickets. It helps that the bowlers are in superb form, with the pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah showing good control in the death overs.

The Indian run chase once again reflected the confidence and form of the Indian batsmen. It was good to see Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma get some runs under their belt ahead of the last two games. However, the showstopper once again was Hardik Pandya. He is at present filling the slot of the allrounder perfectly, and his ability against the spinners has never been in doubt. He seems to be working hard at his game and is developing his batting skills constantly. He needs to be a little more assured against pacers, but I think he has the ability and confidence to improve in that area.

Chinnaswamy Stadium, with its short boundaries and placid pitches, will be a test for bowlers on both sides. However, I see the Australians will be under more pressure than the Indians. Their body language is not very promising at the moment, and the string of defeats seems to be demotivating the team. At present they are finding ways to lose, and that can't be a happy situation for Smith and his men.

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Kuldeep was the mystery that the Aussies couldn't unravel

The one-day series ended with a 4-1 scoreline and it reflects the domination the Indians exercised over the Australians in the series. India are now deservingly the top-ranked team in the world and have really had an incredible run over the last year. The captaincy of Kohli, the depth and bench strength in the batting as well as the variety and quality in the bowling all have contributed to making India look like a balanced side which is stable and looks like it has the ability to win in all conditions.

It was wonderful to see the team bounce back after the loss in Bangalore, where Australia played very well after getting to bat first. At Nagpur, Rohit Sharma once again showed the excellent form he is in with a classy century. He is looking assured and settled and this augurs well for the team, as he is a player who relishes playing on hard bouncy wickets. With a tour of South Africa a few months away from now Sharma's role would be important for the team.

Hardik Pandya is the other player who stood out in the series with consistent, confident performances with the bat and the ball. He fills in the slot of all-rounder well in this line-up and seems to be a very critical part of his captain's plans. Kuldeep Yadav was the other bowler who impressed with his Chinaman spin, and was clearly the mystery that the Australians were unable to solve completely this series. Add to this the experience and ability of MS Dhoni and you have a very formidable unit.

I was a little disappointed with the way the Australians played, though. They have very serious issues with spin and are unable to play it with any confidence thanks to the lacunae in their technique. I have seen other teams watch the Indian batsmen play spin and then emulate them as the series progressed, but other than Aaron Finch, Steve Smith and Marcus Stoinis, to some extent, the others were unable to play Yadav or Yuzvendra Chahal well at all. That Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah were not giving much away only worsened their situation.

If Australia were resting some key players before the Ashes by leaving them out of this tour, they need to wake up and see that there is more to modern cricket than beating England. They have lost the Bangladesh, been trounced by India and look battle-worn. Winning an Ashes at home (I am assuming for a moment that they will) is not going to right any of the inherent troubles in their system and in their players' technique. The bowling looked good at the start but that, too, started falling away a little towards the end of the series.

We now look ahead at the T20 series, and while the shorter format is harder to predict, and easier for the lesser side to win, I would still back India. They are looking very good and supremely confident at the moment.

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We will have a fight on our hands if NZ tackle spin well

India will carry the confidence they have acquired over the last couple of months into this series against New Zealand. Their win over Australia, especially, has given them more faith in their abilities. As a unit they are doing well and everyone has contributed at the right time. I always believe a fresh series changes everything because the style of each opponent is different. Still, India will again have the advantage of playing at home, which will be a huge challenge for New Zealand in how they tackle the spinners.

For India, the one department that may not have not clicked as well as it would have liked to is the batting. However, Pandya is definitely a big bonus: he can be shifted up and down the order, is a big hitter, and has been playing fantastically. That balances the team out very well. Looking at the bowling, batting, and fielding the unit altogether looks pretty good. The only guy who missed out against Australia was Manish Pandey who didn't really cash in on the opportunities that came his way. So we may see some changes in the playing XI but otherwise the team is settled and I don't think the management would like to experiment much.

New Zealand, we should not forget, are an excellent unit. Their performance, especially at the highest levels, has been amazing. They have a lot of firepower with the likes of Guptill, Williamson, and other guys who have been playing in India a lot more in recent years. So they have lot of experience. Their style is very different to Australia who lacked the technique to handle spin. The New Zealanders, I feel, are more adept at that and if they play spin well we will have a series on our hands.

One can't take New Zealand lightly when they have players like Williamson, who is one of the best players in the world. He is a quiet stroke-maker and without you even realising it, he's reached 80 or 100! The only drawback is their spin department; even good spinners tend to be unsuccessful in India because the Indians play spin much better than anyone else. If their spinners can somehow do the job their captain asks them to, then things will get very interesting!

Still, I don't think New Zealand will be a huge challenge for Virat and Co. but they will definitely not be taking the visitors lightly. The captain himself would like to set an example right from the first game and the openers have to do their job if India are to win. The first ODI, on Sunday, is at the Wankhede, a ground at which we usually see good scores and huge individual performances. So, here's hoping we get to see some good cricket.

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Kohli and Co. will have their work cut out in the T20s too

If there were any doubts about New Zealand being a good one-day team, they were laid to rest after the way they played in this one-day series. Kane Williamson and his men had opportunities to win the series and make history, but some rash shots at critical points ensured that India won the Kanpur ODI as well as the series after a wonderfully fought series.

The manner in which the New Zealanders took on the Indians was in stark contrast to the lacklustre manner in which the Australian team had played in the earlier series. The Black Caps have a settled batting line-up and each of the top order batsmen is armed with solid technique and a game plan. The Australians felt going hard at the spinners was the way to win, but Williamson's men had a more nuanced approach where they were willing to take singles and twos and the occasional big shot against the spinners. Tom Latham really impressed in this series not just with his sweeps but also with his temperament and his comfort against both pace and slow bowling. He is a real find for New Zealand and I can predict good things for him if he keeps working on his game.

The turning point in the final one-dayer was perhaps the dismissal of Williamson who went for an uncharacteristic slog. His calm presence would have helped his team stay on course when they were within a realistic distance from victory. The run-out of Tom Latham was another big mishap for the visitors and India finally made it on the back of good death bowling by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah.

This series win would be satisfying for Virat Kohli and his men since they were tested at every point and in every match. They will know that they have their work cut out in the forthcoming T20 series as well. The New Zealanders are a very balanced unit with great batting as well as a varied pace attack. They have always done well in the limited overs, and I was impressed the way some of their young batsmen took on Kuldeep Yadav in the first one-dayer. The presence of seasoned veterans like Ross Taylor and Williamson himself gives the batting a lot of solidity.

For the Indians, the development of Yuzvendra Chahal as a great spin option is significant. He has the bounce and variety to do well overseas. The pace bowling, too, looks good with both Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah showing great skill in the death. My only concern remains the middle order batting. I would imagine some more options would be tried in the coming months because the tendency to promote Hardik Pandya to bat at number five cannot be a permanent solution. The top three, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma and Kohli himself are settled and in wonderful form, with the captain hardly putting a foot wrong. If the middle order is settled, the team would be better prepared for challenges overseas.

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Another thriller of a decider on the cards

New Zealand played like champions at Rajkot and they showed they have a good allround team and that they can compete with the best of sides. Colin Munro played one the best innings of his short career. What New Zealand needed was a good start which they haven't been getting and both he and Guptill provided that. Once you have almost 200 runs on the board, it doesn't really matter how good the opposition is, you are bound to put some pressure on them. And they showed that they could compete with India in Indian conditions and they look to be the only side so far in the shortest version of the game that can, on their day, beat India in India! It's very exciting to see that one-all scoreline, and that, like the ODIs, this series too is going into a decider in Thiruvananthapuram.

It was a huge challenge for India after losing both Rohit and Shikhar early. It's not really about the openers failing now and again: risks have to taken when chasing a big score. What is more worrying is the middle order. Someone needed to continue batting like Virat Kohli till the end to give India a chance of winning. Again, this shows India more or less rely on the top three and the middle order is not really doing as well it can. One of the reasons for that is there has been too much change, in a game and even through the series, of players coming in at No 4/5 who are not really being given a chance to settle in. I think it would a good idea to have one player bat there through a series, no matter what. Virat needed someone at the other end to bat like him and score runs quickly.

What India probably would like at Thiruvananthapuram's Greenfield Stadium is for the pitch to have some sort of grip, especially when the spinners are operating, which works well for them when batting, and bowling. It's not that the New Zealand spinners are not doing their job but India would seem to have the upperhand when the spinners come in. For the visitors, Boult will need to perform in his first spell because the part timers are really very ordinary, and this is where India can cash in.

There is not much of a difference between the teams but this is a crunch game. New Zealand will take the confidence of the big margin of victory in the second game into this decider, and though Kane Williamson has still not quite come back into form, they seem a settled side. It will be a huge challenge for Virat and his boys and I think it's going to be another thriller, provided the weather stays fine.

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Aussies need a clear plan for the Indian spinners

Over the last two decades, if there is one face-off in Test cricket that has showcased cricket at its very best, it's the one between India and Australia. For many players and spectators, the rivalry has at times reached the intensity of an Ashes series or an India-Pakistan series. It has quality cricket, different styles of play, a bit of needle and a great deal of drama.

The difference this time round is that the Australian team has made a rather low-key entry. However, that does not mean their preparation has not been up to speed. They have given themselves time to get acclimatised and some of their key players have shown good form.

Equally, the preparation of the Indian team has been superb, having just completed a Test against Bangladesh. It was a well-contested game and they must be feeling positive and confident after their successes against New Zealand, England and now Bangladesh. Virat Kohli and his men must also be aware that this is the true test and if they do well in this series, it would cement India's claim to being the best Test team at the moment.

The challenges confronting Australia are several. First, they need to get used to the SG ball that's used in India. Very often, a Test or two go by before the bowlers get used to it. Second, they need to have a clear plan to face the spinners. I would not be surprised if India play three spinners. Ravichandran Ashwin is in the form of his life and has able assistance from his fellow spinners. Steve Smith and David Warner are both good players of spin and the way they play against Ashwin might be a critical factor in the series.

The Indians would know that the Australians are more positive in their footwork when compared to the New Zealand and England batsmen, who were tentative and unsure. The Australians use their feet and play a little more aggressively. This might suit them on a wicket like the one at Pune but elsewhere they might have problems.

The other notable factor about the Australians is that other than Warner and Smith the batsmen don't have too much experience in Indian conditions. Smith has already shown evidence of good form and it's clear that these two players hold the key to Australia's fortunes.

As far as the bowling goes, Mitchell Starc has come a long way since he was taken to task by Shikhar Dhawan a few years ago. He has the ability to reverse the ball at pace, which would be another key element of the series. It would be wonderful to see how he performs against his Bangalore RCB teammate and captain, Kohli.

For the Indians, all eyes will be focussed on the way Kohli leads the side and also on whether he can continue his outstanding form. It must be reassuring for the captain to see Ashwin's form as well as that of the likes of Murali Vijay and Cheteshwar Pujara. All of this augurs well for the hosts.

The Pune wicket traditionally is one that has some bounce and juice. Pandurang Salgaonkar, the curator was a pace bowler and his preference for pacy wickets will be evident in the track. This would please the Australian team but there is no doubt India start favourites in this edition of the India-Australia rivalry. (Gameplan)

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The Indians lost the game in the first innings

The Pune Test defeat was a bitter pill for Indian fans but full marks to the Australians for a strong, positive and commanding performance. While most Indians are amazed by the poor performance of the Indians I remain amazed at the pitch that was on offer to both teams.

The Test did not last three days, and spinners opened the bowling for both sides. It beggars belief that a home team that was doing so well on sporting wickets was suddenly made to play on a rank turner. What could the reasoning have possibly been? Was it the fear of David Warner at the top of the innings or was it simply a case of the Indians underestimating the abilities of the Australians on a turning wicket?

A few things turned the match and possibly the most important one was the last wicket partnership for the Australians where Mitchell Starc took Australia from 200 to 250-plus. For the Indians the game was always lost once they plummeted to 105 all out in the first innings. It's easy to say that they should have given a better account of themselves in the second innings but on a badly deteriorating pitch that's really tough.

There is much to be learnt from Steve Smith's exemplary batting in this Test. His footwork was decisive, he came down the wicket and he was ready to put the bad ball away. The Indians might have erred by bowling left-arm spin against a left-hander heavy batting line-up and that's something they should address in the next Test. The only batsman who could have stood tall amid the ruins was Virat Kohli but sadly he had a bad game after quite some time.

What next? The Indians hopefully will get better tracks in the coming games. They play best on true wickets and got returns against a strong team like England. Hopefully the Bangalore wicket will remain true and give us a five-day Test. The Indians will have to put this performance behind them and come back strongly. They will be hurting especially since they have had such a wonderful run. The team has quality and this situation will test their self-belief.

For the Australians this would be a huge boost in their belief. They now know they can get past India in India. (Gameplan)

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Indians need to play with heart and courage

The second Test begins in Bangalore, and while there are whispers about another dry track I hope that these are just rumours. Both India and Australia will benefit if the wicket plays like the wickets at Chinnaswamy Stadium have been playing in the recent past. For the Australians, they would love a wicket that has bounce and pace as it would suit their pace bowlers. Mitchell Starc made some key breakthroughs in the Pune Test and he will continue to be a crucial factor in the series. I am also very impressed with Steve Smith and the way he came out with a clear game plan in Pune. The manner in which some of the batsmen took on the off-spinners and the way they all utilised the slog sweep was evidence of the fact that they played with both heart and courage.

That's exactly what the Indians have to do in Bangalore. They need to forget the Pune debacle like a bad dream and focus ahead. I am confident that they will come out strongly and play positive aggressive cricket. That said, they would need to learn the lessons from the Pune loss well. There are three broad areas in which change would be welcome. The first of these is the way we use the DRS. In both the innings the Indians had exhausted their appeals within 40 overs, and one very crucial LBW decision could not be challenged, against Smith in the second innings, because of this. The best way to use the DRS is to consult with the bowler since he really has the best sense of what the ball would do as well as the best view. Impulse and optimism should be kept out of the equation while asking for a review. As a team that's not used DRS that often, one hopes India gets better with time.

Second, I am not sure playing five bowlers is necessary at the moment. Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are more than adequate especially since Umesh Yadav is in good form. This will ensure that the in-form Karun Nair gets to play. He has just scored a triple century and could add muscle to a batting line-up that might be slightly shaken by the events of the last Test.

Finally, I would hope that the batsmen rethink their strategy against the Australian spinners. Traditionally, Indian batsmen avoid the sweep, but it's a shot that the Indians could use against the spin of O'Keefe. They should also trust their natural ability to use their feet to spin and avoid either being too circumspect or completely rash. Just trying to hoik the ball over the in-field is not positive batting; it is taking unnecessary risks.

I expect Virat Kohli and his men to play very well in this Test match. They don't need to prove anything, and should not pressurise themselves. It's good that they have Anil Kumble, an old Bangalore hand, in the side to negotiate conditions. The toss and the nature of the pitch will hold clues to the fate of this match and indeed the series. (Gameplan)

Published 8.3.17

Fantastic comeback by Kohli and his boys

What a win and what a fantastic comeback by Virat Kohli and his magnificent team! It would have been hard to predict this result after India failed to reach 200 for a third successive innings, even after winning the toss. However, they regrouped on the second day and seemed to be bowling with a plan. There was not merely relentless attack, there was also an attempt to contain the Australian batsmen and choke up the runs. The wicket was a little bit up and down and this played on the minds of the batsmen and since the Indian bowlers were also disciplined, there was pressure on the batting side.

Once India had restricted Australia's lead to within 100, there was a glimmer of hope for the Indians. I was really impressed with KL Rahul who was the only one who had a measure of the pitch in both innings. He looks like a long-term prospect for India because he tempers his wide array of shots with some thought and strategy which enables him to construct big innings. In the second innings, Cheteshwar Pujara came into bat at a point that required him to dig deep into his ability to remain patient, calm and focused. His resolve to not give his wicket away was simply tremendous and his partnership with Ajinkya Rahane was really a match-winning one. To construct a 100-plus partnership on a wicket where the odd ball was either keeping low and shooting through or bouncing suddenly, was really a commendable effort.

Though India collapsed Tuesday, they had enough runs to allow them to attack from the start. Batting on this wicket on the fourth day in the fourth innings was not going to be easy. Only a flyer from David Warner at the start might have propelled Australia. That did not happen and soon they were around 100 for five wickets. From thereon, the Indians were all over the Australians.

It was really a classic Test match with the momentum oscillating between the two sides. With a captain like Kohli in the mix some 'friendly' exchanges are expected, and I think this will continue through the series. There has been some controversy about the DRS and Steve Smith looking at the dressing room for advice. I don't think we have heard the end of that or indeed the needle between the two sides. This is the intensity of Test cricket, this is what makes it the most challenging and hard-fought format. I look forward to the next Test and my only hope is that in Ranchi we see the batsmen get going. The last two games have been about the ball and the conditions; it's time the batsmen get a good track to score on. (Gameplan)

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Pujara gave a master class in Test match batting

The Ranchi Test was a welcome break for batsmen from both teams, who had had a really rough time in Pune and Bengaluru. Going into the final day India would have fancied their chances in the Test but the young batsmen of Australia put up a magnificent resistance that ensured a draw. The Indian bowlers might have missed another spinner on that track, especially since India does not have a Virender Sehwag or a Sachin Tendulkar who could occasionally roll the arm over.

India were on course even at lunch on the fifth day, especially since Steve Smith was out. While we might criticise our spinners for not being able to unseat Shaun Marsh and Peter Handscomb, one must credit the duo for batting really well under pressure. Some of these Australian batsmen are really quite young so it augurs well for the future of the team.

Coming to India, once again Cheteshwar Pujara provided a master class in Test match batting. He has incredible balance and gets beside the ball when he is batting. His focus and calm against an upbeat bowling attack, particularly when Virat Kohli was dismissed, was truly commendable. Pujara has really flowered as the mainstay of this batting line-up and he has been remarkably assured in these last two innings. I hope he continues the good form into the final Test.

A special word is due for Wriddhiman Saha as well since he came in at a very critical juncture. It's a huge plus for the side that the wicketkeeper is a quality keeper as well a dependable batsman. When he came in to bat, India were still around 100 adrift of the Australian total. His century complemented Pujara's efforts wonderfully. Once again, partnerships were critical for both sides.

Looking ahead, one can expect a good run-filled wicket in Dharamsala. All eyes will be on Virat Kohli who has not managed to take off in the last five innings. This can happen to any batsman, but the Indian captain would be quite keen to get back among the runs in the next Test. For the Australians, their captain has not put a foot wrong in the series. Smith has been the backbone of this young batting unit.

This Test ended in a draw which I thought was a fair result since neither side deserved to lose. However, I hope we get a result in the next Test. The series has been an enthralling one and a decisive scoreline would establish a clear winner. I would think India holds the edge, but this Australia team is no pushover and will fight the hosts right to the end. (Gameplan)

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India deserving winners of an enthralling series

What a magnificent finish to an enthralling Test series. In the end, India were deserving winners after four excellent matches. This side is now the top team in the ICC's Test rankings, and this win against Australia must be particularly sweet since they regain the rubber and the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Full credit to the curator at Dharamsala for a wicket really provided something for everyone. The pace bowlers got pace and movement, the batsmen got runs if they applied their technique and the spinners came into the game particularly in the second innings. These are the wickets India need to play on since they actually perform better on them and they also provide great cricket. It was really wonderful to see Umesh Yadav develop through this season. He has been getting better and stronger every series, and the way he bowled in this Test showed that he has worked on his skill, craft and aggression. This augurs well for India when we go abroad and play on pace-friendly wickets.

The key difference between the two sides was the quality of batting. With the notable exception of Steve Smith the rest of the Australian batsmen were unable to achieve any success on consistency through the series. India's batting man for man was better than theirs, and be it David Warner or any of the middle order batsmen, nobody was able to support the captain's solo resistance. Even on Monday, they had no answers against Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar when they turned on the heat against the Australian top order.

For India, the emergence of Ravindra Jadeja as a very good allrounder down the order has really strengthened the batting. Jadeja has been improving in the bowling department with every series and is now really one of the mainstays of this Test side.

It was a forgettable series for Virat Kohli and yet India won the series 2-1. His absence from this Test and his low scores in the preceding ones did not bog down the team. It's not about one man and while I am sure Kohli will regain his form very soon, it's good to know that there is a pool of five-six guys who are there to back their captain. The aggression and intent Kohli's team showed through the series speaks of the 'Youngistan' that is New India where nobody will take a backward step. Ajinkya Rahane led a confident team well, and the self-belief is what I found really heartening.

I was also delighted to see that the Indians played five bowlers in this Test. It was a brave move and reaped rich dividends as Kuldip Yadav got four crucial wickets in the first innings to enable the hosts to restrict Australia to 300. Kuldip's terrific debut ensured that the bowling had variety. A chinaman is a rare commodity and the youngster has great control and was attacking the stumps and restricting scoring options for the batsmen. Once again the Australians succumbed because they continued to read the spin off the wicket rather than from the hand.

Finally it was really heartening to see the Indians apply the sweep against Nathan Lyon. This proves that the team is working on strategy and trying to thwart the opposition by learning from earlier mistakes.

It has been wonderful to see 13 Test matches in a season and the cricket was of the highest quality. This series was really top quality and I hope that the board and ICC consider longer series and maybe five-Test ones in the coming years. This is the best form of the game, and this last one month proved that to the world. (Gameplan)