

TEST STATS	
■ Test Runs:	4,301
■ Hundreds:	12
■ Fifties:	18
■ Average:	40.57
■ Test Debut:	2013



# Rohit ends Test journey

...to continue in ODIs

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect ending all speculations about his future in the longest format and leaving India in the need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England.

The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57.

Having already retired from T20 Internationals after the World Cup last year, Rohit will now only be seen leading India in the ODI format.

"Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites.

"Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram with a picture of his Test cap after PTI's newsbreak.

Rohit captained India to the World Test Championship final against Australia and had a fairly decent run in the format save the last couple of indifferent series

### LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **Test captaincy:** Took India to the World Test Championship Final 2023 (lost to Australia)
- **Other high point:** Captained in home & away series
- **Recent form:** Struggled in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Dropped himself from playing XI due to form

against New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar showdown against Australia earlier this year.

India will have a new Test captain for the five-Test series in England starting June 20 with possible candidates being Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant. Bumrah captained the side in a couple of Tests during the tour of Australia.

Rohit endured a particularly difficult run during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy where he had to drop himself from the playing XI owing to poor form but he had ruled out retirement at that stage.

There was also widespread speculation about his differences with Head Coach Gautam Gambhir, who had vowed to end the "star culture" in Indian cricket after taking charge last year in July.

Both steadfastly denied the chatter but Gambhir has time and again made it clear that only performance would ensure selection in the team.

The highlight of Rohit's Test captaincy was without doubt India reaching the final of the World Test Championship in 2023, losing to Australia eventually. It was the same year in which the team lost in the final of the ODI World Cup as well, once again to Australia.

# Frattesi shoots Inter into final after Barcelona epic

**AFP, MILAN:** Davide Frattesi fired Inter Milan into the Champions League final on Tuesday with an extra-time winner which gave the Italians a stunning 4-3 triumph over Barcelona, 7-6 on aggregate.

Italy midfielder Frattesi won a tie for the ages under a downpour in Milan when he lashed home in the 99th minute, sending a packed and rocking San Siro wild with joy.



Inter Milan's Italian midfielder Davide Frattesi (centre) celebrates after scoring his team's fourth goal against FC Barcelona

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Simone Inzaghi's team will face either Arsenal or Paris Saint-Germain at the end of this month in Munich, where they will feel they have a great chance to be crowned kings of Europe for a fourth time after coming out on top in an epic contest.

Tuesday's triumph saved Inter's season as their bid for the treble went up in smoke after getting past Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.

Frattesi's winning goal, his seventh of the season and probably the most important of his career, was all the more incredible for the fact that Inter should by rights have already been eliminated.

The hosts were head-

RESULT	
Semi-final, second leg	
Inter Milan 4 (Martinez 21, Calhanoglu 45-pen, Acerbi 90+3, Frattesi 99)	Barcelona 3 (Garcia 54, Olmo 60, Raphinha 87) aet
Inter Milan win 7-6 on aggregate	

ing out with two minutes remaining of regular time when Raphinha completed a comeback from two goals down at half-time and gave Barca a 3-2 lead on the night.

But Francesco Acerbi stunned everyone in the stadium, not least the already-celebrating Barca supporters, when he forced home Denzel Dumfries' cross in the second minute of added time.

That goal came as a bolt from the blue as Barca had been by far the better team in the second half of normal time after going in at the break behind to a brilliant Lautaro Martinez goal and Hakan Calhanoglu's penalty in first half stoppage-time.

Eric Garcia and Dani Olmo pulled Barca level with goals in the 54th and 60th minutes, both from sumptuous Gerard Martin deliveries,

and Yann Sommer had to be at his best to keep Inter within touching distance.

Sommer made possibly the save of the season between Barca's first two goals, somehow stopping Eric Garcia from finishing off a lightning Barca counter-attack.

And the Swiss ended up being crucial again in the 113th minute when he pulled off another miraculous save from Lamine Yamal, who hit the post just before Acerbi's equaliser.

Inter then held off Barca as the home fans held their breath before unleashing a mighty roar at the final whistle of the match of the season.

# Chhetri in coach Manolo's probables' list

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Indian football head coach Manolo Márquez has reposed faith in the abilities of veteran forward Sunil Chhetri, including him in the 28-member probables squad for next month's AFC Asian Cup 2027 Final Round qualifiers.

Chhetri, 40, was forced to come out of retirement in March to lead a struggling India, reversing his deci-

PROBABLES	
<b>Goalkeepers:</b> Hritik Tiwari, Vishal Kaith, Gurmeet Singh Chahal, Amrinder Singh.	<b>Defenders:</b> Naorem Roshan Singh, Rahul Bheke, Konsham Chinglensana Singh, Anwar Ali, Thangjam Boris Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Asish Rai, Subhasish Bose, Mehtab Singh, Tekcham Abhishek Singh, Nikhil Prabhu.
<b>Midfielders:</b> Suresh Singh Wangjam, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Ayush Dev Chhetri, Udanta Singh Kumam, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Ashique Kuruniyan, Brandon Fernandes.	<b>Forwards:</b> Sunil Chhetri, Irfan Yadwad, Manvir Singh, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Lallianzuala Chhangte.
<b>Head Coach:</b> Manolo Márquez	

India are placed in Group C of the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Final Round qualifiers along with Bangladesh, Hong Kong China, and Singapore, with the matches being played in a home-and-away round-robin format.

India will open their campaign against Hong Kong on June 10 at the Kai Tak Sports Park, in Kowloon City.

sion to hang up the boots two decades of wizardry last year after more than upfront.

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