

Unflappable maverick Pant, elegant Rahul dazzle with tons, power India to 371

Rishabh becomes second wicketkeeper in history to score hundreds in each innings of a Test to join Zimbabwe legend Andy Flower as the only stumpers to achieve such a remarkable feat; Duckett (9), Crawley (12) reduced the target to 350 after England reached 21 for no loss at stumps

PTI, LEEDS: Generation-al talent Rishabh Pant indulged in self-reproach before becoming only the second wicketkeeper in the game's history to score hundreds in both innings of a Test, helping India set England a tricky 371-run target in the series opener, here, on Monday.

1ST TEST: ENGLAND VS INDIA

Pant, the team's unflappable maverick with innate confidence in his ability to dominate bowling attacks anywhere in the world, struck 118 off 140 balls and added 195 runs for the fourth wicket with the elegant KL Rahul, who constructed a hundred of his own on the fourth and penultimate day of the first Test.

However, India's batting crumbled spectacularly for a second time in three days after the dismissal of the two second-innings centuries, as they were all out

for 364 on a riveting day. Ben Duckett (9 batting) and Zak Crawley (12 batting) reduced the target to 350 after England reached 21 for no loss at stumps.

India lost most of their wickets in the final session. This was after the iconic 'Hey Jude' by The Beatles played softly in the background as Pant closed in on his eighth Test ton, eventually getting there with a single off 130 balls to join Zimbabwe legend Andy Flower as the only stumpers to achieve a remarkable feat.

Having curbed his natural instinct after attempting a flashy shot in the first session, Pant bid his time and switched gears post lunch to reach his second century in the match, following his magnificent 134 in the first innings.

He embarked on an adventure straightaway, but having endured few nervy moments, Pant exhibited a tenacity to stay put at the



India's Rishabh Pant celebrates after scoring a century on Day 4 of the first Test match against England at Headingley in Leeds, England, on Monday

crease, before cutting loose to dominate the bowlers, who seemed to have run out of ideas in the face of his dazzling array of strokes.

Pant was finally dismissed when he found

Zak Crawley at long-on off Shoaib Bashir, who was taken to the cleaners by the swashbuckling keeper-batter, who also became the first Indian to register two hundreds in a Test match in

England. Earlier in the day, Rahul, who was rewarded for his indefatigable resistance, produced a masterclass in timing and temperament, and played some sublime

strokes that would have delighted the purists.

Ahead by 96 runs in the beginning, India were off to a disastrous start as they lost skipper Shubman Gill seven balls into the day's play, but the English bowlers did not taste further success in the first session, though they kept testing the two batters with their probing line and length.

On a windy and cloudy morning at Headingley, Gill chopped Brydon Carse's good-length delivery on to the stumps.

Coming off an elegant hundred in the first innings, Gill was rooted to the crease as the ball cramped him for room before disturbing the stumps. As he walked back to the dressing room, a dejected Gill stared at the place where the ball landed, wondering if it pitched on one of those cracks.

England were delighted to see the back of the India captain, which paved the way for the arrival of Pant, and he was his usual maverick

self while attempting the audacious shots that define his batting.

Pant rode his luck as he charged down the ground to try and whack the fast bowlers, and while he could not connect the way he would have liked to initially, he got runs off them. Pant got off the mark with a thick outside edge off Chris Woakes that flew over the slip cordon.

The flamboyant keeper

attempted the slog sweep, the trademark falling paddle sweep, and was also heard scolding himself in the stump mic after playing a reckless shot, which prompted Ben Stokes to seek a review.

"It is not important. If you want to hit, do it with a straight bat next ball. Why are you trying to score forcefully," an annoyed Pant was caught saying on the stump mic.

SCOREBOARD

India 1st Innings: 471 all out
England 1st Innings: 465 all out
India 2nd Innings: (O/n: 90/2) Yashasvi Jaiswal c Smith b Carse 4, KL Rahul b Carse 137, Sai Sudharsan c Crawley b Stokes 30, Shubman Gill b Carse 8, Rishabh Pant c Crawley b Shoaib Bashir 118, Karun Nair c & b Woakes 20, Ravindra Jadeja not out 25, Shardul Thakur c Root b Tongue 4, Mohammed Siraj c Smith b Tongue 0, Jasprit Bumrah b Tongue 0, Prasidh Krishna c Tongue b Shoaib Bashir 0. **Extras:** 18. **Total:** 364 all out. **Fall of wickets:** 1-16, 2-82, 3-92, 4-287, 5-333, 6-335, 7-349, 8-349, 9-349. **Bowling:** Chris Woakes 19-4-45-1, Brydon Carse 19-2-80-3, Josh Tongue 18-2-72-3, Shoaib Bashir 22-1-90-2, Ben Stokes 15-2-47-1, Joe Root 3-0-21-0.
England 2nd Innings: Zak Crawley batting 12, Ben Duckett batting 9. **Total:** 21 for no loss. **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 3-0-9-0, Mohammed Siraj 2-1-9-0, Ravindra Jadeja 1-0-3-0.

Pataudi Trophy renaming: Sunny slams ECB for having Anderson's name ahead of Tendulkar

AGENCIES, LONDON: Former India captain, Sunil Gavaskar, slammed the England and Wales Cricket Board for having James Anderson's name ahead of Sachin Tendulkar's when renaming the Pataudi Trophy, England's home Test series against India.

Gavaskar, in his column for an afternoon daily, was critical of the English Board for failing to account for Tendulkar's career, which is miles ahead of Anderson's achievements across all as-

pects. He also suggested that the Indian legend has been superior across multiple formats as well.

The batting great even urged Indian cricket fans to call the on-going series the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy instead. He did not buy the argument that the series was named in alphabetical order and called it lame altogether.

The Pataudi Trophy was given to the winner of the Test series in England against India. The tradition began in 2007 when they

celebrated the 75-year anniversary of the contest between the two top teams in English soil.

"The ECB is fully entitled to call the series by any name they choose, but for most, if not all, Indian cricket lovers, it is jarring to know that Anderson's name comes first. Not only is Sachin Tendulkar, along with Kapil Dev, the greatest Indian cricketer, but also senior to Anderson by more than a dozen years," Gavaskar wrote.

"He is numero uno as far as runs and centuries are concerned in Test cricket, but also at the one-day level, too, he has more runs than anybody else. Anderson is third in the list of wicket takers in Test cricket, and his record is nowhere as good as Tendulkar's in one-day cricket," he added.

Gavaskar even highlighted how Anderson was never part of a team that won a World Cup. Interestingly, Anderson was part of the England squad that won the T20 World Cup in 2010 but never got a game under his belt. "Jimmy Anderson was a terrific bowler, but mainly in English conditions, and his record away is nowhere near as good as Tendulkar's is," he shared.

Gavaskar had his fair share of questions when the Pataudi medal was announced to pay respect to the Royal Pataudi family, who had a lasting impact on the sport within the country. The ECB announced that the

medallion would be given to the series-winning captain. However, Gavaskar questioned what would happen should it end in a draw. Instead, he suggested providing the medallion for the man of the match.

"The announcement of the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy also said that respect would be given to the Pataudis by having a medallion for the captain of the team winning the series. Why the captain and what if

the series is drawn? That's why it would have been better to have had a Pataudi medal for the Man-of-the-Match for every Test, culminating in the Pataudi Trophy for the Player of the Series. This way, the Pataudis will be remembered after every Test match played as well as after the series is finished in England. It would be interesting to hear what Indian cricket lovers feel on this subject," said Gavaskar.

**MARUTI SUZUKI**

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