

# England take the lead at Leeds

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**PTI, LEEDS:** Opener Ben Duckett hit the most defining century of his career, exposing an out-of-depth Indian attack as England comfortably chased down a tricky target of 371 to win the opening Test by five wickets after an intriguing five days of play, here, on Tuesday.

Duckett's 149 off 170 balls with 21 fours and an audacious reverse-swept six off Ravindra Jadeja, along with Zak Crawley's 65 in an opening stand of 188, followed by Joe Root's composed 53 and Jamie Smith's cheeky 44 made the chase look much easier than it actually was.

Having chased down 378 at Birmingham courtesy Jonny Bairstow in 2022, England once again did the same with elan on Tuesday, leaving India head coach Gautam Gambhir with an even bigger frown on his face. England lead the five-match series 1-0.

It will be difficult to recall when was the last time that India had five centuries in a single Test and yet lost a game so comprehensively.

Shoddy fielding effort and no support for the peerless Jasprit Bumrah made matters worse for India. Indian bowlers in second innings alone conceded 44 boundaries and three sixes. Add to that the 54 boundaries and five sixes in the first innings.

There will certainly be bowling changes in the next Test but whether that will



England's Ben Duckett celebrates his century on Day 5 of the first Test match against India at Headingley cricket ground in Leeds, England on Tuesday

## INDIA, ENGLAND PLAYERS HONOUR DILIP DOSHI BEFORE START OF DAY 5

**LEEDS:** Players from India and England wore black armbands and observed a minute's silence in the memory of former spinner Dilip Doshi before start of day five of the first Test, here, on Tuesday. Doshi, a former India spinner who took 113 wickets in 33 Tests, died of a cardiac arrest in London on

Monday. He was 77.

"Both teams are wearing black armbands today in memory of former Indian cricketer Dilip Doshi, who passed away on Monday." "The teams also observed a minute's silence before the start of Day 5," read a social media post from BCCI.

result in 20 wickets is a million dollar question.

In the final session, Ravindra Jadeja, who en-

joys a favourable match-up against Ben Stokes, got the important breakthrough with the England skipper

trying to reverse-sweep from the rough and his opposite number Shubman Gill taking an easy catch.

**SCOREBOARD**  
**India 1st Innings:** 471 all-out  
**England 1st Innings:** 465 all-out  
**India 2nd Innings:** 364 all-out  
**England 2nd Innings:** (over-night 21/0 in 6 overs) Zak Crawley c Rahul b Krishna 65, Ben Duckett c sub (Reddy) b Thakur, Ollie Pope b Krishna 8, Joe Root not out 53, Harry Brook c Pant b Thakur 0, Ben Stokes c Gill b Jadeja 33, Jamie Smith not out 44.  
**Extras:** 21. **Total:** 373/5.  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-188, 2-206, 3-253, 4-253, 5-302.  
**Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 19-3-57-0, Mohammed Siraj 14-1-51-0, Ravindra Jadeja 24-1-104-1, Prasidh Krishna 15-0-92-2, Shardul Thakur 10-0-51-2.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Ben Duckett

With 69 runs to get, Root brought his 150-plus Test experience to play, guiding a young Smith through and through during the unbroken sixth wicket stand that sealed the deal for England.

While this was one of India's worst fielding efforts with Yashasvi Jaiswal alone dropping four catches, skipper Gill's relative inexperience in strategizing and taking on-your-feet decisions also became visitor's undoing. At one point, it seemed the team's most experienced batter KL Rahul was captaining the side, and Gambhir's record as a coach in traditional format got a tad worse.

## Chopra wins Golden Spike meet

**PTI, OSTRAVA (Czech Republic):** Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra on Tuesday clinched the title at the Golden Spike meet in his maiden appearance here, his back-to-back win in a top-class competition. Fresh from his Paris Diamond League win on June 20, Chopra emerged on top in a nine-man field here though with a modest effort of 85.29m in the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event.

Douw Smit of South Africa was second with his second round throw of 84.12m while two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada was third with his opening attempt of 83.63m. Chopra was at third at the end of the second round after opening with a foul before a 83.45m throw. But he jumped to the top spot with his third round effort of 85.29m. He recorded 82.17m and 81.01m in his next two throws before fouling his final attempt.

German Thomas Rohler, the gold winner in the 2016 Rio Olympics, finished seventh with a poor throw of 79.18m. The 30-year-old has been struggling for some time.

In the absence of Chopra's German rival Julian Weber, the field in Ostrava was thin and the double Olympic-medallist Indian was the favourite for the title.

The 27-year-old Indian was not at his best even though his coach Zelezny was present close to him inside the throw area as the Czech legend was the event director of the meet held in his home country.

## shorttakes

### French Open semi-finalist Boisson out of Wimbledon qualifying event in first round

**LONDON:** French Open surprise semifinalist Lois Boisson has lost in the first round of qualifying for Wimbledon. The 22-year-old Boisson was beaten 6-2, 6-7 (1), 6-4 on Tuesday against No. 197-ranked Carson Branstine of Canada in a rare match for the French player on grass at the Roehampton qualifying venue. Boisson soared from No. 361 to No. 65 after her deep run at Roland-Garros in her Grand Slam main draw singles debut, and was top-seeded in the Wimbledon qualifying draw. Being denied a wild card into the Wimbledon main draw provoked criticism in France of tournament organizers in London. Boisson beat top-10 players Jessica Pegula and Mirra Andrejeva at the French Open before losing to eventual champion Coco Gauff. The Wimbledon main draw starts Monday.

### Murray to help design statue of himself for Wimbledon's 150th birthday

**LONDON:** Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray is to help design a statue of himself to mark the grass-court tournament's 150th anniversary in 2027. Wimbledon organisers said Tuesday they aim to unveil the statue of the British tennis great during the 2027 edition. "He's got to rightly be very involved in that and him and his team will be," the All England Club chairwoman Debbie Jevans said. Murray ended Britain's 77-year wait for a home champion in men's singles in 2013 when he beat Novak Djokovic in the final. The Scotsman won a second title — and his third Grand Slam singles title overall — in the 2016 final against Milos Raonic. An inspiration for the statue project is the way Rafael Nadal was honoured, with Murray in attendance, this month at Roland Garros where he won 14 French Open titles. "We looked at Rafa Nadal having that sort of plaque unveiled to him at Roland-Garros which was all very special," Jevans said. "But we thought, what do we want for Andy?" A bronze statue of Fred Perry, the previous British men's champion before Murray in 1936, was put up at Wimbledon in 1984 marking 50 years after his first singles title at the tournament. The 2025 tournament at Wimbledon starts Monday.



### Healy eyes back-to-back World Cup glory and 2026 India series

**SYDNEY:** Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy has ruled out retiring after the upcoming ODI World Cup, revealing that a series of injuries have only deepened her hunger to continue playing at least until the series against India in 2026. The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has battled a string of injuries since last year, starting with a stress fracture in her foot during the T20 World Cup, followed by a knee issue that sidelined her from multiple fixtures. Healy, who has joked about contemplating retirement several times before, admitted she had initially considered bowing out after the ODI World Cup in India this year. However, her perspective has shifted. "It's (retirement date) probably shifted a little bit. It's (injuries have) made me realise that I still want to do a little bit more than maybe what I thought," Healy told the Australian Associated Press.



### Edwards appointed Middlesbrough manager

**LONDON:** Middlesbrough appointed Rob Edwards as the club's new manager on a three-year deal on Tuesday. Edwards, who left Luton by mutual consent in January, replaces former Manchester United and England midfielder Michael Carrick, whose reign was brought to a close earlier this month after the Teessiders missed out on the Championship play-offs. The 42-year-old guided Luton to promotion to the Premier League in the 2022/23 season before overseeing their immediate relegation back to the second tier. Luton then dropped down to League One last season after Edwards departed. "Rob brings a wealth of experience, having led Luton to the top flight during his first season at the club, and he followed that by managing the Hatters in the Premier League," Middlesbrough said in a statement.



### Pant reprimanded for showing dissent

**LEEDS:** India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant has been reprimanded by the ICC for showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the third day's play of the ongoing opening Test against England here. Pant was reprimanded for his on-field conduct during England's first innings. The 27-year-old was found to have breached Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct. "Pant was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match," the ICC said in a statement. In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Pant's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in 24 months. The incident happened in the 61st over of England's innings, when Harry Brook and Ben Stokes were batting. Pant was seen having a discussion with the umpires regarding the condition of the ball. When the umpires refused to change the ball after checking it with the ball gauge, the wicket-keeper showed his dissent by throwing the ball on the ground in front of the umpires. There was no disciplinary hearing as Pant admitted to the offence.

# Need to relook lower-order batting: Gill

## INDIA PLAYED VERY WELL: STOKES

**LEEDS:** England Captain Ben Stokes praised India for an impressive start to the Test especially on the first day, but also lauded openers Ben Duckett (149) and Zak Crawley (65) who set up their win on the last day. "The opposition is allowed to play well, thought they played very well in that first session," he said. "The pressure of a fourth innings and going out there is tough, especially in England. That partnership between Zak (Crawley) and Ben (Duckett) was incredible

to get us going. To get that down to set us off in a run chase was incredible," he added. "There's a lot of skill that has contributed to winning this Test match but also the attitude we showed was incredible. We were on the field for long periods of time in this game, thought we turned up with the attitude that we could break this game open at any time." Duckett said it was crucial for them to find a way against Jasprit Bumrah, who had taken a five-for in the first innings.

lower-order didn't contribute enough, but proud of the team and overall a good effort. Yesterday, we were thinking around 430 odd and declare but we lost six wickets for 25 runs (31)," Gill said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Unfortunately we didn't score runs at the end which

always makes it difficult. (It) just didn't go our way in this match."

"That (lower-order contribution) was something we spoke about. (But) it (collapses) happened so quickly. (It) could be one of those things we have to rectify in the upcoming matches," he said.

Gill defended his side saying it is a "young team" after a string of dropped catches in the match. Jaiswal alone dropped four catches.

"Definitely, chances don't come easy on wickets like these. It's a young team, (a) learning one and hopefully we will be able to improve on those aspects," he said.

# Dilip Doshi: Feisty competitor who should have got more respect

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** It was in the late 1960s, Dilip Doshi used to be a terror for batters in the Indian university circuit when his Calcutta University and later Bengal Ranji teammate late Gopal Bose had asked him, "It's fine you get university batters out but can you get Garry Sobers out?"

Doshi apparently was nonchalant as ever and said, "Yeah, I can."

In fact, he did dismiss Sobers in a World XI match few years later but more importantly played alongside the West Indian legend in English County in Nottinghamshire for a number of seasons.

And in 1991 when Doshi's autobiography 'Spin Punch' was published, it was Sir Gary Sobers who wrote the foreword: "Dilip Doshi has an immeasurable knowledge to pass on to those who want to follow his path into professional cricket. He has played at all levels over the world and there can be no one more qualified to talk about the art of spin bowling.

It was quite a heart-warming tribute from the greatest of them all but like

many mysteries in Indian cricket, one can never really decode why Doshi's expertise was never sought by the BCCI.

Impossible wasn't a word in Doshi's dictionary or else in those days of late 70s, he couldn't have eclipsed Padmakar Shivalkar and Rajinder Goel to make his Test debut at 32 and still get more than 100 Test wickets, playing mostly on flat and dead tracks.

Doshi had great success on Indian tracks but it was the tour of Australia in 1980-81 where he picked up 11 wickets (6 in Adelaide and 5 in Melbourne) in more than 150-plus overs on non-responsive pitches. His scalps included Greg Chappell, Doug Walters, Rod Marsh, Kim Hughes, among others.

His bowling was not a poetry in motion like the great Bishan Singh Bedi, neither was it dart like accuracy that was Padmakar Shivalkar's forte. Doshi was somewhere in between the two.

He could flight the ball, had a lovely loop and even when he wasn't turning the ball square, he could pitch it on same length ball after ball, creating

doubts in batter's mind about how much it would turn or straighten or go in with the angle.

"Dilip Da", as he was known in Bengal cricket circles, believed in continuity -- whether pitching countless deliveries on same length or listening to Rolling Stones for 50 years and being one of Mick Jagger's closest buddies for



nearly five decades.

What became his impediment was batting, as he could easily have been No. 11 in a squad of 'No. 11 batters'. And, his fielding was an apology.

Hence, when there's a slight dip in form, the cricket establishment at that time knew whom to get rid of.

It was the 1982-83 tour of Pakistan where Javed Miandad really took his mickey.

Sunil Gavaskar often recollected how Miandad, in his slurry Hindi-Urdu, would sledge Doshi.

"Ae Dilip, tela loom number kya hai (Dilip what's your room number)," Miandad would play a forward defence and ask.



W h e n Doshi asked, "why?", he said: "Teleko wahi six maroonga." (I would hit you for a six there).

Doshi's exit was pretty bitter as he played his last Test in 1983, also against Pakistan in a drawn Test in Bengaluru and he got Wasim Raja's wicket in a rain-affected match.

However, in his no-

holds-barred autobiography 'Spin Punch', he didn't pull back punches while narrating how things unfolded before his final Test.

"Bishan Bedi, who was the North Zone selector for India, was also managing the Indian team. I found the atmosphere hostile and I couldn't help but feel it was because of my recall. My captain, Kapil Dev, greeted me with warmth and wished me luck. Somewhere in the hotel lobby the deposed captain Gavaskar was moving around with a heavy face. He was the only person in the team who didn't wish me or exchange a word with me," Doshi wrote on page number 180.

"The evening before the Test, Bedi drew me aside at a private party, repeatedly told me that I was lucky to be recalled and that I should react by taking five wickets in justification. I was appalled and I commented that all I could do was to try my best, but how could I guarantee the wickets?," he further wrote.

How angry Doshi was on Bedi could be gauged from next paragraph.

"I asked him (Bedi) if he had ever guaranteed the