

Gill's maiden double ton rattles England, puts India on top

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PTI, BIRMINGHAM: Shubman Gill earned himself a place in the pantheon of Indian batting heavyweights with a near flawless, record-breaking double hundred, giving his team complete control of the second Test against England, here, on Thursday.

Gill's monumental 269 off 387 balls in his debut series as Test captain allowed India to post a massive 587 all out before the inexperienced Indian pace attack delivered upfront to dismantle England top-order to reduce the hosts to 77 for three at stumps on Day 2.

2ND TEST: ENGLAND VS INDIA

Joe Root (18 batting off 37) and Harry Brook (30 batting off 53) settled the nerves in the England dressing room after the hosts lost three wickets for 25 runs. While England bowlers got no help from the surface, the Indians found swing and seam.

Playing his first game of the series, Akash Deep struck twice in as many balls to cap off a perfect day for his team before Mohammed Siraj made it even better by having Zak Crawley caught at first slip.

Akash got the ball to seam away on both the occasions, resulting in dismissals of the dangerous Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope in his second over. Pope's was a rather loose shot as he tried to play the moving ball towards mid-wicket. In Duckett's case, Gill was also a major contributor, taking a sharp catch at third slip.

But the day was truly ruled

...BECOMES FIRST ASIAN TEST SKIPPER TO SCORE DOUBLE HUNDRED, PIPS GAVASKAR'S 221

PTI, BIRMINGHAM: Shubman Gill became the first Indian and Asian captain to score a double hundred in a Test match in England when he reached the milestone on the second day of the second match at Edgbaston on Thursday. The skipper also posted the highest individual score by an Indian batter on English soil, surpassing Sunil Gavaskar's 221 scored at the Oval back in 1979. The previous best was 193 by Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan at Lord's in 2011. Gill, who scored 147 on his debut as Test captain at Leeds, completed his maiden double hundred in the traditional format when he pulled Josh Tongue towards deep fine leg for a single. He took 311 deliveries to reach his double

hundred which earned him a place alongside MAK Pataudi, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar and MS Dhoni as captains with double hundreds for India. Virat Kohli holds the record with seven double centuries as skipper for India. Before Gill, the highest score by an Indian skipper in a SENA country was 192 by Mohammed Azharuddin against New Zealand in Auckland back in 1990. Azharuddin's 179 in Manchester in 1990 was the highest score by an Indian skipper in England.

En route his double ton, Gill smashed 21 fours and two sixes and became the third Indian batter to score a double ton in Old Blighty after legendary pair of Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid.



India's captain Shubman Gill celebrates after reaching his double hundred on Day 2 of the second Test match against England at Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham, England, on Thursday

by Gill, who collected 30 fours and three sixes on way to a record shattering double ton, making him the highest individual scorer for India in England ahead of Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid.

He also became the first Asian captain to amass a double hundred on these shores. For someone who had expressed his desire to be the best batter of the series, he is well on course to meet his target.

In a matter of three innings in England, the 25-year-old has managed to improve his average to 40 from mid 30s at the start of the series.

At the break, England had run out of ideas to stop Gill, who forged a 144-run alliance with Washington Sundar (42 off 103) to prop up India to 564 for seven.

Beyond the numbers, what makes Gill's feat remarkable is that the high

profile series is his first as Test captain. He has also made the number four his own following the retirement of Virat Kohli.

Having hardly put a foot wrong with the bat, Gill also ensured that India did not cede the advantage to England from a strong position like they had done in Leeds in the series opener.

With England short ball play not working and Shoab Bashir being taken to

the cleaners by Gill, England brought part timers Brook and Root in a desperate attempt to fetch wickets.

The skipper collected five boundaries off Brook while Washington Sundar (42) held his ground at the other hand. The left-hander, who has played ahead of Kuldeep Yadav, was peppered by some short stuff from Josh Tongue before deciding to take the bait and pulling him over fine

leg. Gill was stuck on 199 for a while but the moment finally arrived when Gill pulled Tongue for a single towards fine leg.

His celebrations showed how much the effort meant to him as the opposition and the England fans duly applauded the special knock. Though he could not fetch a possible 300, getting jettisoned by Tongue soon after tea.

SCOREBOARD

India 1st Innings (overnight 310-5): Y Jaiswal c Smith b Stokes 87, K L Rahul b Woakes 2, K Nair c Brook b Carse 31, S Gill c Pope b Tongue 269, R Pant c Crawley b Bashir 25, N Kumar Reddy b Woakes 1, R Jadeja c Smith b Tongue 89, W Sundar b Root 42, A Deep c Duckett b Bashir 6, M Siraj st Smith b Bashir 8, P Krishna not out 5. **Extras: 22. Total: 587 all out. Fall of wickets:** 1-15, 2-95, 3-161, 4-208, 5-211, 6-414, 7-558, 8-574, 9-574, 10-587. **Bowling:** Woakes 25-6-81-2; Carse 24-3-83-1; Tongue 28-2-119-2; Stokes 19-0-74-1; Bashir 45-2-167-3; Root 5-0-20-1; Brook 5-0-31-0. **England 1st Innings:** Z Crawley c Nair b Siraj 19, B Duckett c Gill b Deep 0, O Pope c Rahul b Deep 0, J Root not out 18, H Brook not out 30. **Extras: 10. Total: 77 for 3. Fall of wickets:** 1-13, 2-13, 3-25. **Bowling:** Deep 7-1-36-2; Siraj 7-2-21-1; Krishna 3-0-11-0; Reddy 1-0-1-0; Jadeja 2-1-4-0.

Djokovic sets another record

AP, LONDON: Novak Djokovic added another record to his name by reaching Wimbledon's third round for a 19th time with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 win over Dan Evans on Centre Court on Wednesday.

It was Djokovic's 99th match win at Wimbledon overall, and the 19 third-round appearances put him one ahead of Roger Federer for most by any man in the Open Era. It's hardly the most prestigious record for Djokovic, whose 24 Grand Slam titles — including seven at Wimbledon — are the most by a male player. But he could at least use it to poke fun at his new, and much younger, main rivals.

"Nineteen times, that's a great stat," said the 38-year-old Djokovic. "That's probably almost as much as Sinner and Alcaraz have years in their lives."

Carlos Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic in the last two Wimbledon finals, is 22, while No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner — who was playing later on Centre Court — is 23.

The growing rivalry between Sinner and Alcaraz — especially in the wake of their five-set final at the French Open last month — has helped tennis move on from the era of the Big Three, where Djokovic is the last man standing after Federer and Rafael Nadal retired.

But Djokovic is too focused on proving he can still win another Slam to sit back and reflect on everything he has accomplished at Wimbledon. No. 7-seeded Mirra Andreeva and No. 10 Emma Navarro both advanced in straight sets.

The 18-year-old Andreeva earned a 6-1, 7-6 (4) win over Lucia Bronzetti of Italy, and Navarro cruised past Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 6-2. No. 11 Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, beat Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-1.

In the men's draw, No. 11 Alex de Minaur ousted 115th-ranked Arthur Cazaux 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 and 19th-seeded Gregor Dimitrov outlasted Corentin Moutet 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts as he plays against Britain's Daniel Evans during their men's singles second round tennis match on Day 4 of the 2025 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, on Thursday

Liverpool star Diogo dies in car crash

Jota and Silva, both Portuguese players, were the only ones in the car, Spanish police said

AP, MADRID: Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother were killed in a car accident in Spain when the Lamborghini they were in veered off a road and burst into flames, police said Thursday.

The Spanish Civil Guard confirmed to The Associated Press that the 28-year-old Jota and his 25-year-old brother, André Silva, were found dead near the northwestern city of Zamora.

Police were investigating the causes of the accident that happened past midnight local time. They said there were no other vehicles involved. The bodies were undergoing forensic analysis. Firefighters were called in as the fire spread into the nearby vegetation, authorities said.

It wasn't clear who was driving the car. Police were looking into the hypothesis that the accident happened because of a blown tire while they tried to overtake another vehicle.

The accident occurred while they were driving eastward along an isolated stretch of highway about an hour west of Zamora.

Video images of the aftermath published by Spanish media showed braking tire marks veering off the road toward torn-apart guardrails. The burnt-up car was seen several meters ahead, with some of the local vegetation around it destroyed by the fire. Jota and Silva, both Portuguese players, were the only ones in the car, police said. Jota's death comes weeks after he married Rute Cardoso and in a social media post wrote, "Yes to forever." They had three children, the youngest born last year.

Jota also played for Portugal's national team and helped it win the Nations League last month. Silva played with Portuguese club Penafiel in the lower divisions. Liverpool said the club was "devastated by the tragic passing."

"Liverpool FC will be making no further comment at this time and request the privacy of Diogo and Andre's family, friends, teammates and club staff is respected as they try to come to terms with an unimaginable

“The club is ‘devastated by the tragic passing.’ Liverpool FC will be making no further comment at this time and request the privacy of Diogo and Andre's family, friends, teammates and club staff is respected as they try to come to terms with an unimaginable loss. We will continue to provide them with our full support — Liverpool, English Premier League club

ble loss. We will continue to provide them with our full support.”

Jota joined Liverpool from Wolves in 2020 and won three major trophies with the Merseyside club — including the Premier League title last season. The Portuguese soccer federation released a statement lamenting the deaths. Federation president Pedro Proença said Portuguese soccer was “completely devastated.”

“More than a fantastic player, with almost 50 appearances for the national team, Diogo Jota was an extraordinary person, respected by all his colleagues and opponents. He had a contagious joy and was a reference in his community,” Proença said in the statement. The Portuguese federation said it has requested a minute of silence before Thursday's match between Portugal and Spain at the Women's European Championship being played in Switzerland.

“We lost two champions,” Proença said. “Their deaths represent an irreparable loss for Portuguese soccer and we will all do our best to honor their legacy daily.” Portugal's Prime Minister Luís Montenegro commented on the “unexpected and tragic” deaths. He said Jota was “an athlete who greatly honored Portugal's name.” “I extend my deepest condolences to their family,” he said. “It is a sad day for soccer and for national and international sports.”

Reaction also started pouring in from across the world, including from non-soccer players such as NBA star LeBron James — a minority owner at

Liverpool — and tennis legend Rafael Nadal. “It doesn't make any sense,” Jota's Portugal teammate Cristiano Ronaldo said. “Just now we were together in the national team, just now you had gotten married. My condolences to your family, to your wife and to your children. I wish them all the strength in the world. I know that you will always be with them. Rest in peace, Diogo and André. We will all miss you.”

Former club Porto and former teammates lamented the deaths and sent condolences, as did other clubs, federations and leagues. The Premier League said it was “shocked and devastated.” “Our sincerest condolences go to Diogo's family, friends, Liverpool FC, and all their supporters at this heartbreaking time,” it said. UEFA said its thoughts were with relatives, friends and teammates affected “by this heartbreaking loss.” It said a moment of silence will be observed at Euro 2025 matches on Thursday and Friday.



WE WILL ALL MISS YOU: RONALDO

LISBON: Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo paid tribute to his international team-mate Diogo Jota, who was killed in a car crash on Thursday, saying “we will all miss you.”

The Liverpool and Portugal star, 28, died along with his younger brother Andre when their vehicle veered off a motorway and burst into flames shortly after midnight in the municipality of Cernadilla in Zamora province, Spain.

“It makes no sense. We were just together with the national team (they won the Nations League title last month), you had just gotten married,” he posted on X.

“To your family, your wife, and your children, I send my condolences and wish them all the strength in the world. I know you will always be with them. Rest in Peace, Diogo and Andre. We will all miss you.”

Jota's death comes only a month after he and Ronaldo were celebrating on the pitch after Portugal won the Nations League title beating Spain on penalties.

U-19 ODI: Record-breaking Suryavanshi helps India beat England by four wickets

NORTHAMPTON: Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi continued his rich vein of form by smashing a record nine sixes as India defeated England by four wickets in the rain-truncated third U19 Youth ODI to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series here. Suryavanshi's knock was studied with six boundaries and nine maximums. In fact, nine sixes by Suryavanshi is the highest number of maximums hit by an Indian batter in an U-19 ODI eclipsing the previous record of eight sixes by Mandeep Singh. Brief scores: England U-19: 174 all out in 42.2 overs (Isaac Mohammed 41, BJ Dawkins 62, Ben Mayes 31, Thomas Rew 76 not out, Ralphie Albert 21; Kanishk Chouhan 3/30) lost to India U-19: 274 for 6 in 34.3 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 86, Vihaan Malhotra 46, Rahul Kumar 27, Kanishk Chouhan 43 not out, RS Ambrish 31 not out; Alexander Wade 2/58).

Srikanth enters quarter-finals of Canada Open Super 300

CALGARY: India's Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals at the Canada Open Super 300 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Wang Po-Wei here on Thursday. Srikanth, a 2021 World Championships silver medalist and the 2022 Thomas Cup winner, prevailed over world number 71 Wang 21-19, 21-12. The world number 49, who had reached the final of the Malaysia Masters in May this year, is likely to face Chinese Taipei's top seed Chou Tien Chen next.

Grand Chess Tour: Gukesh in joint lead with Carlsen and Wesley So after day one

ZAGREB (Croatia): World champion D Gukesh came up with two straight victories to tie for the top spot along side world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway, Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland and American Wesley So at the end of the first three rounds of Super United Rapid and Blitz Chess tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Starting the day with a loss against Duda, Gukesh overpowered a reckless Alireza Firouzja of France before defeating compatriot R Praggnanandhaa to reach on four points out of a possible six. Standing after round 3: 1-4: Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Duda Jan-Krzysztof (Pol); Wesley So (USA), D Gukesh (Ind) 4 each; 5-6: Ivan Saric (Cro); Anish Giri (Ned) 3 each; 7-10: Fabiano Caruana (USA); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb); Alireza Firouzja (Fra); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) 2 each.

Pakistan yet to get govt clearance for Asia Cup, Junior Hockey World Cup in India

KARACHI: Senior officials of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) said they are yet to receive clearance from the government to take part in two major hockey events in India this year. An Indian Sports Ministry source said on Thursday that Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the subsequent Junior World Cup in India, as any move to block them from multilateral competitions would violate the Olympic Charter. The Asia Cup is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7, while the Junior World Cup will take place in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10.