

Gill breaks Tendulkar, Kohli records with double ton as India dominate England in Edgbaston

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

India captain Shubman Gill created history on Thursday as he smashed a double century against England on Day 2 of the ongoing second Test at Edgbaston.

Gill, who began the day on 114 not out, showed technical finesse to convert his overnight score into a double hundred. With this landmark, he became the first-ever India captain to score a double century on English soil.

His knock also saw him surge into the Top 10 highest individual scores by Indian batsmen in Test cricket. Gill overtook Sachin Tendulkar to claim the ninth spot on the all-time list. He also broke the record for the highest individual score by an Indian at Edgbaston, surpassing Virat Kohli's 149, achieved in 2018.

Skipper Shubman Gill's elegant maiden double hundred carried India to an imposing 564 for seven at tea on the second day of the second Edgbaston Test.



Gill remained not out on 265 as the second session came to an end, having dominated the England bowling attack throughout the day. His performance stood out as one of the most commanding by an Indian in English conditions.

Former India coach Ravi Shastri lauded Gill for the improvements he has made in his defensive technique. "What was most impressive for me on this

tour, in these two innings, is his defence. When he plays forward, it's a big stride forward, and he allows the ball to come onto the bat, plays late, and that bat looks a foot broad when he's actually looking to play in his defensive shot." Shastri also hailed Gill's temperament as captain. "So I thought he's been fabulous. It's a good sign. When you get captaincy, a lot of people can cave in, they can go into their shell.

He's shown he can play both ways. He was attacking in Leeds, here he has batted very responsibly and very determined."

Former England cricketer Mark Butcher, speaking on Sky Sports, described Gill's unbeaten 114 on Day 1 as "magnificent" and "solid." "Day one here was different to Headingley – not as much pace in the pitch, not as many balls flying to third man – but that didn't make it any less exciting or exhilarating. Gill played magnificently. He came up with the answers to everything England threw at him," said Butcher.

"He was so solid and has taken to captaincy. I am not a big one for numbers but he had the lowest false-shot percentage of any innings in England since records began 20 years ago," he added.

Gill shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 1444 with Washington Sundar, who was bowled by Joe Root on 42.

Once 'luckiest man in the world', Liverpool's Diogo Jota dies in car crash with brother

LIVERPOOL, JULY 3



Liverpool and Portugal forward Diogo Jota has tragically died in a car crash in northern Spain, Spanish newspaper Marca reported on Wednesday. He was 28 years old.

The fatal accident occurred on the A-52 highway in the province of Zamora, a key route used by motorists travelling from northern Portugal into Spain.

According to an official statement by Zamora's Provincial Council, the crash took place near Palacios de Sanabria. The Rionegro del Puente Fire Station responded to the incident.

Jota was reportedly travelling with his younger brother André Silva, a 26-year-old professional footballer

for Penafiel, at the time of the accident. Their car is believed to have come off the road and burst into flames. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

The emergency services in the Castilla and León region confirmed the incident in a statement: "The 1-1-2 operations room received several calls reporting a vehicle accident at Km. 65 of the A-52, in the municipality of Cernadilla, Zamora. A car was reported to have

been involved in an accident and the vehicle was on fire."

The statement added: "1-1-2 notified the Zamora Traffic Police, the Zamora Provincial Council Fire Brigade, and the Sacyl Emergency Coordination Center (CCU) of this accident. From there, a Medical Emergency Unit (UME) and the Primary Care Medical Staff (MAP) from the Mombuey Health Center were sent, who confirmed the death of two people on the scene."

Pakistan hockey team will be allowed to compete at Asia Cup, says sports ministry source

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the junior World Cup in India as any move to block the arch-foes would be a violation of the Olympic Charter, a sports ministry source said on Thursday.

While the Asia Cup is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7, the junior World Cup will be organised in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10.

"We are not against any team competing in India in a multi-national competition. If we try to stop Pakistan it would be seen as a violation of the Olympic Charter. But bilateral is different and



there will be no relaxation on that front," the source said.

The Charter is akin to the constitution of the Olympic movement and stresses on sport as a tool for promoting international peace and cooperation. As a result, any attempt to block a rival country from a multi-national event adversely impacts the host nation's prospects of getting future hosting rights.

When asked whether this means India will be

allowed to play against Pakistan in the Asia Cup of cricket in September, the source said, "The BCCI is yet to reach out to the ministry on this. We will address this query when they approach us." India and Pakistan have been avoiding bilateral sporting engagements for close to two decades but even multi-lateral face-offs were in doubt after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were gunned down in April.

Congress, social media users slam Centre over nod to Pakistan for Asia Cup after Pahalgam attacks

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The government's decision to allow Pakistan's men's hockey team to participate in the upcoming Asia Cup in India has led to criticism across social media, with many users accusing the Centre of looking away from the recent terror attacks.

The Asia Cup is slated to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 27 to September 7. A sports ministry source told PTI that Pakistan will not be stopped from competing, citing the Olympic Charter and the global sporting community's expectations.

"We are not against any team competing in India in a multinational competition. But bilateral relations are different," the source said.

"India bleeds to block terror. Pakistan breeds it as policy," one user wrote. "Our soldiers are dying fighting terrorism. Is it nationalism to shake hands



with a terror state or betrayal of their sacrifice?"

Another compared India's stance to Europe's isolation of Russia: "European countries haven't played a single sport with Russia for 3 years since the war with Ukraine. But in India, Pakistan hockey team is coming to play the Asia Cup just 3 months after the war with Pakistan."

Congress leader Rashid Alvi said: "They are

people, and we're allowing their hockey team to come and play! I strongly condemn this."

At the heart of the government's decision lies the Olympic Charter, which emphasises sport as a means to promote peace and cooperation.

Blocking participation could cost India future hosting rights for major international events.

This adherence comes at a time when India is reportedly preparing to bid for hosting the

2036 Olympics, where compliance with international sporting principles like neutrality and inclusion will be closely scrutinised.

Amid this outrage, comparisons with cricket have also surfaced, and not without reason.

India and Pakistan have not engaged in a bilateral cricket series since 2012-13, with diplomatic strains post the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

While matches in ICC and ACC tournaments have continued in neutral venues, the political tension boiled over during the recent Champions Trophy row with India declined to travel to Pakistan for the 2025 edition, forcing the ICC to consider a hybrid model.

Unlike hockey or other Olympic disciplines, cricket is not governed by the Olympic Charter, giving the Indian government more flexibility to bar participation or travel based on security or political grounds.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi's nine-six blitz powers India to series lead in U19 ODI against England

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

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.

The 14-year-old Suryavanshi, who had come close to striking half-centuries in the previous two games before getting dismissed in his 40s, finally made his innings count as he clobbered the home team bowling on way to 86 off just 31 deliveries as India chased England's 268/6 in 34.3 overs on Wednesday.

Suryavanshi's knock was studded 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.

India suffered a slump in the middle overs with the team reduced to 199 for 6 in the 24th over.

But bowling all-rounder Kanishk Chouhan (3/30), who had taken three England wickets earlier, hit an unbeaten 43 (42



balls) and shared an unbroken 75-run stand with RS Ambrish (31 not out) to guide the team to victory.

Suryavanshi ravaged every single bowler that bowled to him and made his intentions clear when he smacked right-arm pacer Sebastian Morgan for two consecutive sixes in the third over.

Morgan came in for some harsh punishment again in his subsequent over when he was hit for two more sixes and a boundary by the 14-year-old batting sensation, who has been on a roll since showing his precocious talent in the IPL for Rajasthan Royals.

England left-arm pacer James Minto bore the brunt of Suryavanshi's fury in the sixth over, going for 23 runs, which included three sixes and a

boundary. When Suryavanshi was finally dismissed, caught by Joseph Moores off right-arm pacer Alexander Wade, India had wiped off 111 runs from the target in only the eighth over.

Suryavanshi's departure saw India struggle a bit in the middle overs before Kanishk and Ambrish played with caution to guide the team home with 33 balls to spare.

Earlier, England skipper Thomas Rew smashed an unbeaten 76 (44 balls) while opener Ben Dawkins struck form with a fine 62 as the hosts scored a competitive 268 for 6 after the match was delayed due to a wet outfield.

Dawkins, a right-handed batter, following two successive below-par scores, gave England the start they needed after they

were put in to bat by the visitors on an overcast day.

Dawkins and his left-handed opening partner Isaac Mohammed (41 off 43 balls) displayed immense calm playing the moving ball as they stitched together a 78-run partnership at the top to give the hosts the start they needed.

Isaac's dismissal did not slow the flow of runs as the next batter in Ben Mayes played an almost run-a-ball innings scoring 31 (32) to guide England to 133/2 by the 22nd over.

The 55-run partnership for the second wicket between Dawkins and Mayes really gave the home team the momentum, which was later capitalised by skipper Rew as he launched into the Indian bowling attack by playing some cracking shots that left the visitors searching for ideas.

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).

AIFF & Manolo Marquez part ways, Spaniard to continue with his stint at FC Goa

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and national football team coach Manolo Marquez have parted ways on mutual agreement. Manolo, 56, took over from Igor Stimac in July last year. He had the dual role of managing FC Goa and India for the first few months, and then was supposed to take over as the full-time national team coach. However, he was reportedly upset with the way things were run in the national team. That Manolo may leave was reported by The Telegraph on May 6.

The Spaniard will continue with his stint at FC Goa, who have an AFC Champions League 2 qualifying match on August 13. "The Executive Committee, chaired by AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, met on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, with technical committee deputy chairpersons Shabbir Ali and Harjinder Singh, and members Tababi Devi and Climax Lawrence. Also present were the AIFF president's



advisors Armando Colaco and Bimal Ghosh, technical director Syed Sabir Pasha, director of national teams Subrata Paul, and members of the executive committee.

"The members collectively decided on the mutual termination of head coach Manolo Marquez's contract. A new advertisement will be floated, inviting applications for the post," the AIFF said in a statement.

Manolo did not have much success with the national team. India lost 1-0 to lower-ranked Hong Kong in an away match of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers on June 10 which left the country in danger of missing out on qualifying for the continental showpiece event in 2027. India play

Singapore away in a crucial Qualifier on October 9. When the new coach takes over, he will be the third manager at the helm since May last year.

India, who will drop to 133 when the new Fifa rankings list is released this month, logged just one win from their last eight matches under Manolo's tutelage. The lone victory came against the Maldives in an international friendly in Shillong in March.

'Foreign' invasion The AIFF statement also stated that the executive committee, in consultation with the technical committee, proposed to increase match time for Indian players, particularly strikers, by reducing the number of foreign players in both leagues (ISL and I-League).