



Shubman becomes 1st Asian Test skipper to score double hundred in England, pips Gavaskar's 221

BIRMINGHAM, JULY 03: 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 Ten-



dulkar 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 skip-

per 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.

Wrestling Association hails Benia, Ishaq

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 03

Wrestling Association of J&K (WAJK) extended heartfelt compliments to top UT wrestlers, Benia Min and Ishaq Ahmed for their outstanding performances at the World Police and Fire Games held in USA.

"Both these wrestlers of J&K Police have won gold medals in 97 and 125 kg weight categories respectively in Freestyle, thus bringing laurels to the UT of J&K," said president of the WAJK, Vasudev Sharma.

Former international wrestler and former president of WAJK, who serves with J&K Police as SSP termed the victory of these wrestlers something big and encouraging for the whole wrestling lot in the Union Territory.

Dushyant Sharma also extended good wishes to budding wrestler, Amarjit Singh of J&K, who represented India in World Cup which held in Turkey in June last.



Blue Tigresses gear up for photo finish in race to reach AFC Women's Asian Cup



CHIANG MAI, JULY 3: The race to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2026 in Group B could not have been tighter. After three matches each, India and Thailand are level on points, goal difference, and goals scored. It will be winner-take-all when the Blue Tigresses and Chabakaew meet on July 5.

What if it ends in a draw? The match heads straight to penalties after 90 minutes. It's not common to have a shootout in a group stage, but that's how close India and Thailand have been so far; kicks from 12 yards would remain the only way to decide the ticket to Australia if they cannot outscore each other on Saturday.

India won 5-0 against Iraq on Wednesday, which meant Thailand had to score 12 against Mongolia to leapfrog the Blue Tigresses into top spot ahead of the last match. The hosts managed to win 11-0, scoring the 11th goal

with the last kick of the game, according to a press release from the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

While India coach Crispin Chettri had mentioned before the Iraq game that his side's primary focus was to get all three points and not think too much about comparing the goals scored by his side and Thailand, he felt that the Blue Tigresses deserved to win by a bigger margin that would've given them the advantage ahead of the last game.

"It was another strong showing from the girls, and going into the final match with a perfect record gives us great confidence. However, we were disappointed about the two disallowed goals from Lynda, which were outside with no infringements whatsoever."

"The goals would've been such a big motivational factor for a youngster like her before the Thailand match. Our victory margin could have

been bigger, but we'll keep our minds on the things we can control and focus on the last game," said Chettri.

One youngster certainly high on confidence is Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, who scored her first India goal, and in some style, rifling the ball into the top corner from outside the box.

"I am delighted to have scored my first goal for the country. It's a very special moment for me. More importantly, we played well today and got the result we wanted. We're preparing with full commitment and aim to perform even better against Thailand to take another step toward qualifying for the Asian Cup," said the 22-year-old.

Midfielder Sangita Basfore, who has 68 caps, expressed her delight about youngsters delivering excellent performances in the Qualifiers.

"We have been taking things step by step and have won three good games so far. I am glad to

see we have been performing as a unit. There are a lot of new and young players in this squad, and they have adjusted very well here. We always have good chemistry and are always on the same page. Nobody takes their spot in the team for granted. We are here to help each other and the team to win," the 28-year-old said.

During the pre-match team photo, the Blue Tigresses held the jersey of Soumya Guguloth, who sustained a nasal bone fracture against Timor Leste and was ruled out of the remaining Qualifiers.

"We want to play and win the last match for Soumya," said Sangita. "I know how much she wants to play the Asian Cup, and so we want to make that happen for her. She is a crucial player for us, and we still feel like she is in the playing XI. We want to win, qualify and dedicate the success to her."

On the other hand, there's midfielder Anju Tamang, the senior-most player of the team, who has recently returned from injury and started the last two games. The 29-year-old scored once and assisted twice against Timor Leste and is getting back into rhythm with every passing minute on the pitch.

"Injuries are part of the game, but yes, it feels good to be back with the team. Right now, I am feeling better both mentally and physically, and I have been giving my best. Now, it is most important for us to perform our best against Thailand."

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 03

The first phase of Himalayan Trekking Programme, organised by Tawi Trekkers J&K, one of the leading trekking clubs in the country, concluded as the last group of trekkers returned here after a successful trekking venture in the Mcleodganj area of Himachal Pradesh.

Altogether, around 500 students, mainly from MHAC School, Nagbani, Aryan Oriental Convent School, Udhampur, St Xavier Convent Senior Secondary School, Barnai and JK Montessori School, Talab Tilloo, Jammu participated in the initiative aimed at nurturing a spirit of adventure, environment awareness and physical fitness among youth.

The budding trekkers explored scenic routes, heritage and spiritual places including Bhagshu to



Dharmakot to Gallu temple trek, Dal Lake, Dalai Lama temple complex, tea estate and a tea manufacturing company. In addition to adventure activities students engaged in group games, nature study and reflection activities that promoted team work and self confidence.

The programme was designed to help students break free from the digital distractions of urban life while fostering qualities like discipline, endurance and a love for nature.

The first group of 90 stu-

dents was flagged off from Kala Kendra, Jammu on 10th June, 2025 by an eminent personality Anil Goswami, former Home Secretary of India and Chairman of Tawi Trekkers. From Kala Kendra, Jammu.

"We believe that exposure to nature at a young age fosters a life-long respect for environment and builds character", said Sonam Sidharth, general secretary of Tawi Trekkers J&K and field director of the programme.

"Through such pro-

grammes, we aim to catch them young and introduce them to the spirit of adventure and self discovery", Anika Khajuria, a student participant, shared. The programme was organised in cooperation with J&K Sports Council, Mountaineering Association of J&K, Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu and Adventure Holidays India.

The second phase of the programme called Himalayan Heritage Trekking Programme shall be conducted post monsoon season.

India eye maiden women's T20I series victory over England on Friday

LONDON, JULY 03: Riding a wave of momentum, India will look to secure their maiden women's T20I series triumph over England when they lock horns with the hosts in the third game of a five-match series here on Friday.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. have been in red-hot form, having handed England a record-shattering 97-run defeat in the series-opener before sealing a 24-run win in Bristol, England women's first-ever T20I loss at the venue, to take a commanding 2-0 lead.

In 2006, India had beaten England in a lone match played in Derby. Since then, the Women in Blue have fallen short in every women's T20I series against England, both at home and away.

This dominant performance comes as a timely boost for India as they continue to adapt to English conditions, a crucial exercise in the build-up to next year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup to be held in England.

So far, the Indian unit has functioned like a well-oiled machine.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who scored a century, and Harleen Deol were instrumental with the bat in the opener.

In the second match,



Amanjot Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues rescued the visitors from a precarious position with vital half-centuries, propelling India to a formidable total.

However, the spotlight now turns to big-hitting opener Shafali Verma, who will be eager to make a statement. Back in the squad, Shafali has struggled to get going with scores of 20 and 3 in the series. She will be desperate for a defining innings.

Skipper Kaur, who missed the opener as a precautionary measure following a head injury sustained during a warm-up match, will also look to spend some time in the middle after her two-ball stay in the

second match.

The Indian bowling attack has stepped up admirably in the absence of pace spearheads Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar.

Left-arm spinner Sree Charani has emerged as the breakout star in her debut series. The 20-year-old leads the wicket charts with six scalps and also has the best economy rate in the series -- a frugal 5.11.

For the hosts, one of main issues has been the inability of openers Sophia Dunkley and Danni Wyatt-Hodge to provide a solid start.

While Dunkley has enjoyed some good beginnings, Wyatt-Hodge has made a total of 18 runs across five innings this

summer, including three successive ducks. Their bowling too has been sub par.

Squads:
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (wk), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Sneha Rana, Sayali Satghare, Deepti Sharma, Kranti Goud, Arundhati Reddy, Shree Charani, Radha Yadav.

England: Natalie Sciver-Brunt (c), Tammy Beaumont (wk), Sophia Dunkley, Amy Jones (wk), Danni Wyatt-Hodge, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Paige Scholfield, Em Arlott, Lauren Bell, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Linsey Smith, Issy Wong.

England skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt ruled out of third T20I against India; Beaumont to take captaincy role

LONDON [UK], JULY 3: England women's captain Nat Sciver-Brunt has been ruled out of the decisive third T20I against India on Friday after sustaining an injury to her left groin.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) released a statement on the eve of the third clash to confirm the skipper's absence, which read, "England Women's captain Nat Sciver-Brunt will miss the third Vitality IT20 against India Women at the Kia

Oval with a left groin injury."

The results of the scan will determine whether Sciver-Brunt is required to miss any more games in the five-match series. Manchester will play host to the fourth T20I on July 9, and the series will conclude in Birmingham on July 12.

In her absence, Tammy Beaumont will captain the side in the third fixture, with Hampshire batter Maia Bouchier called up to the squad for the Kia Oval as

cover. With India leading the series with a 2-0 scoreline, Beaumont, who boasts 246 international appearances, will captain England for the first time to keep the series alive.

"It's real pride and honour to have the captain's armband tomorrow, albeit in difficult circumstances. Charlotte [Edwards, head coach] asked to meet me this morning, and straight away I said, 'Yep, thank you very much. I'll give it a good go'. I guess we need a bit of

fight to come out in this series, and I'm probably someone who likes to get in a battle, so can understand why," Beaumont said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"This is how you earn respect...": Cricket fraternity hails Gill's Birmingham masterclass'

After Heather Knight stepped down as England captain, Sciver-Brunt took over the role and began her reign with a clean sweep of the West Indies across ODI and T20I formats.