

# Gill scores classy ton but Test match evenly poised

AHMEDABAD, Mar 11:

Shubman Gill gave ample display of his immense talent with a stylish hundred but India's batting unit didn't fully press home the advantage, ending the third day at 289 for three against Australia in the fourth Test, here Saturday.

Gill, who batted for nearly six hours scored a chanceless 128 off 235 balls, hit 12 sweetly-timed boundaries apart from a lofted six off Nathan Lyon to justify his selection in playing XI ahead of KL Rahul but India scored only 256 runs in 90 overs.

The hosts are still 191 runs behind Australia's first innings total of 480.

the series 2-1, India need a 3-1 series win to qualify for the World Test Championship final. If India lose this match and Sri Lanka win their ongoing series against New Zealand 2-0 then the island nation will qualify for the WTC final against Australia.

In case India play a draw, and Sri Lanka fail to win 2-0, the WTC final will be between India and Australia in June at the Oval.

All eyes will be on Virat Kohli (59 batting off 128 balls), who looked purposeful and confident during his two hour plus stay at the crease, on the third day. There was no celebration after completion of his 29th half-century in Test cricket.

The pace of his partnership with Ravindra Jadeja (16 batting, 54 balls) will set the narrative for the final couple of days.

The Indian team management is probably mulling batting the entire fourth day and try to get a lead in excess of 150 in order to unleash the spinners on the final day, when significant turn will be on offer.

As of now, the pitch continues to be firm but also on the slower side.

As the SG Test ball gets older, scoring becomes increasingly difficult and Australia took a cue from India. Till 93 overs were bowled, Steve Smith didn't take the second new ball, preventing India from getting some easy runs.

But the day certainly belonged to Gill, who is currently going through a purple patch in his career.

In a space of less than two months (since January 15, 2023), he has scored five international hundreds across three formats.

The pleasing aspect of his batting is how languid he is as he holds the shape when he drives through the off-side. He can also play the sweep and reverse sweep effectively without taking any unnecessary risk.

Gauging the slowness of the track, Gill was standing well



## SCOREBOARD

**Australia 1st Innings:** 480 in 167.2 overs.  
**India 1st Innings:** (Overnight 36 for no loss in 10 overs)  
 Rohit Sharma c Labuschagne b Kuhnemann 35  
 Shubman Gill lbw b Lyon 128  
 Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Murphy 42  
 Virat Kohli not out 59  
 Ravindra Jadeja not out 16  
**Extras:** (B-4, LB-3, NB-2) 9  
**Total:** (For 3 wickets in 99 overs) 289  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-74, 2-187, 245-3  
**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 17-2-74-0, Cameron Green 10-0-45-0, Nathan Lyon 37-4-75-1, Matthew Kuhnemann 13-0-43-1, Todd Murphy 22-6-45-1.

The purpose was to meet the deliveries early as staying inside the crease would mean the ball would take an extra second to reach and in turn stroke-making would be difficult.

That was the reason, he scored his first 40 to 45 runs quickly but once Australian skipper Smith got a hang, he got Alex Carey to stand up to the stumps to pacer Cameron Green in order to stop him from converting back to the length deliveries into half volleys.

Gill was stuck in 70s for a long time before he upped the ante to reach the nervous 90s. He first stepped out and hit the ball over Lyon's head for a boundary before playing a paddle scoop over to complete his ton.

The hallmark of a great batter is adaptability and that is where Gill is a cut above his peers.

On tracks with pace, one would find him stay beside the line of the ball and try to ride the bounce. On sub-continental track, he would get his full body behind the line of the ball.

He did step out time and again to disturb Lyon's (1/75) line. Todd Murphy (1/45) was easily the best Australian spinner on the day.

Australian skipper Smith didn't do anything wrong tactically but not giving Matt Kuhnemann (1/43) any spell between lunch and tea was a bit surprising after he had got Indian captain Rohit Sharma (35 off 58 balls) in the morning session.

Earlier, Sharma looked in good flow as he pulled Mitchell Starc behind square for a six and ran well between the wickets dur-

# In your excellence, world saw glimpse of India's sporting prowess: Modi to Sania

NEW DELHI, Mar 11:

"In your excellence, the world saw a glimpse of India's sporting prowess," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Sania Mirza while congratulating the legendary athlete for her glorious career in which she illustrated that "more women can pursue tennis and excel in it".

Sania, who won six Grand Slam titles in her career, bid adieu to the game last month in Dubai, where she played her final tournament.

In his congratulatory message to Sania, the PM conveyed that Sania has left an indelible mark on Indian sports, inspiring the coming generation of athletes.

Sania posted the letter, dated March 9, on her twitter handle.

"Tennis lovers will find it difficult to fathom that you will not be playing professionally now onwards," wrote Modi.

".....In your excellence, the world saw a glimpse of India's sporting prowess. When you began playing, India's tennis landscape was very different. What you did was to illustrate that more women can pursue tennis and excel in it.

"But, beyond that, your success also gave strength to several other women who wanted to pursue a career in sports but for some reason or the other were hesitant to do so," wrote the PM.

"I would like to thank you Honorable Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji for such kind and inspiring words. I have always taken great pride in representing our country to the best of my ability and will continue to do whatever I can to make India proud. Thank you for your sup-

port," said Sania, formerly ranked world No.1 in doubles.

The PM wrote that Sania's success filled every Indians' heart with pride.

"When you announced a 'Life Update' on 13th January, you wonderfully expressed your journey from a six-year-old who had to literally fight her way to the (tennis) courts to a world class tennis player in the subsequent years.

"You wrote about how the biggest honour for you has been to win medals for India. I can say that you are India's pride, whose success has filled hearts and minds of every Indian with utmost joy," Modi wrote.

The PM also recollected the time Sania went through a tumultuous phase, when a wrist injury almost jeopardised her career, before she emerged a strong double player.

"Due to twists of fate, you had to cope with injuries but these setbacks only strengthened your resolve and you overcame these challenges with flying colours."

Modi hoped Sania would continue mentoring young sports talent. (PTI)

ing the 21-over stand with Gill.

The mode of dismissal was disappointing as the delivery from Kuhnemann wasn't a wicket-taking one.

It was pitched short and Sharma could have hit it anywhere but his uppish back-foot punch found Marnus Labuschagne at short extra-cover.

In case of Cheteshwar Pujara (42 off 121 balls), the stand of 113 was significant but he also got stuck in the post lunch session and a bit more intent from him during that phase could have seen India scoring 300 runs for the day. (PTI)

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# Shafali, Kapp fire DC to 10-wicket win against GG in WPL

NAVI MUMBAI, Mar 11:

Shafali Verma's explosive unbeaten half-century and Marizanne Kapp's sensational five-wicket haul fired Delhi Capitals to a massive 10-wicket win against Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League here on Saturday.

Kapp broke the back of Gujarat Giants' innings with a stunning spell of 4-0-15-5, taking the top four wickets in the line-up as Delhi bowlers produced a clinical display to keep the opponents to a lowly 105 for 9 at the DY Patil Stadium here.

In reply, Shafali came out firing on all cylinders, clobbering 10 fours and five sixes to produce a ruthless knock of 76 not out off 28 balls in the company of captain Meg Lanning (21 not out from 15 balls) as DC completed the chase in a mere 7.1 overs.

Delhi Capitals made their intentions clear right from the word go, with Shafali taking a special liking for the Gujarat bowler Ashleigh Gardner, smacking her for four fours and a six in the fourth over to collect 23 runs.

Shafali continued to attack, this time hitting Tanuja Kanwar for a couple of sixes to help Delhi knock off the majority of their target, with



Shafali Verma raising bat during her unbeaten knock of 76 runs against Gujarat Giants at Navi Mumbai on Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

**GUJARAT GIANTS:**  
 Sabhineni Meghana b Kapp 0  
 Laura Wolvaardt b Kapp 1  
 Harleen Deol lbw Kapp 20  
 Ashleigh Gardner lbw Kapp 0  
 Dayalan Hemalatha c Bhatia b Pandey 5  
 Georgia Wareham b Yadav 22  
 Sushma Verma b Kapp 2  
 Kim Garth not out 32  
 Tanuja Kanwar c Rodrigues b Pandey 13  
 Sneha Rana c&b Pandey 2  
 Mansi Joshi not out 5  
**Extras:** (LB-2, W-1) 3  
**Total:** (For nine wickets; 20 overs) 105  
**Fall of Wickets:** 1-0, 2-9, 3-9, 4-18, 5-28, 6-33, 7-66, 8-94, 9-96.  
**Bowling:** Marizanne Kapp 4-0-15-5, Radha Yadav 4-0-19-1, Shikha Pandey 4-0-26-3, Jess Jonassen 4-0-19-0, Tara Norris 1-0-6-0, Minnu Mani 3-0-18-0.  
**DELHI CAPITALS:**  
 Meg Lanning not out 21  
 Shafali Verma not out 76  
**Extras:** (B-1, LB-2, W-7) 10  
**Total (For no loss; 7.1 overs) 107**  
**Bowling:** Kim Garth 2-0-20-0, Tanuja Kanwar 2-0-27-0, Ashleigh Gardner 1-0-22-0, Mansi Joshi 2-0-31-0, Georgia Wareham 0.1-0-4-0.

78 runs coming in the powerplay. Shafali brought up her second half-century in the WPL, from just 19 balls as the senior pro in Lanning happily chose to take the backseat and enjoy the right-handed batter's power hitting, which tore apart the Gujarat's bowling attack.

# Ankita beats Rutuja, to face Brenda in ITF Women's Open final

BENGALURU, Mar 11:

India's Ankita Raina defeated compatriot Rutuja Bhosale in straight sets to set up a title clash with top seed Brenda Fruhvirtova in the ITF Women's Open here on Saturday.

Raina beat Bhosale by 6-1, 6-1 in a lop-sided contest at the KSLTA Stadium.

Czech Republic's 15-year-old sensation Fruhvirtova overcame the challenge from the fifth seed Slovakian Dalila Jakupovic 7-6 (2) 6-2 in the other semi-final.

Earlier, Kapp produced a stunning spell at the top to reduce the Giants to a precarious 33 for 6 after seven overs, a position from which they could never recover.

After Kapp set the tone, the others continued to apply constant pressure on the Gujarat batters. (PTI)

Francisca and Jorge Matilde of Portugal won the doubles title, defeating fourth seeded Greco-British duo of Valentini Grammatikopolou and Eden Silva 5-7 6-0 10-3.

On a blazing afternoon, the No. 4 seed Raina was in full control of the proceedings as she gave little chances to Bhosale, who hardly had any answers to the power game of her opponent.

A double fault by Bhosale on the match point handed Raina the second set in the simplest of manners. (PTI)



DIG GC CRPF Hiranagar Manoj Kumar interacting with players at Hiranagar on Saturday.

# GC CRPF organizes T-20 competitions

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

KATHUA (Hiranagar) Mar 11: Group Centre CRPF Hiranagar today inaugurated T-20 Cricket Competition between the teams of PI trainees and Group Centre Hiranagar, here today.

During the opening ceremony, Manoj Kumar DIG, GC CRPF Hiranagar was the chief guest, while Henzang Commandant, Vikas Choudhary Second in Command and other officers and Jawans were also present during the opening ceremony of the competition.



Kids posing with chief guest, former MLA Ashwani Sharma at Bishnah on Saturday.

# Wowkids Preschool celebrates Annual Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Wowkids Preschool Bishnah celebrated its Annual Day, here today.

Ashwani Sharma (Ex-MLA Bishnah) was the chief guest on the occasion. He was accompanied by Dr. Manohar Lal, Principal, Govt. Degree College Bishnah as guest of honour and special guest including Usha Sharma, Ward Member, Sarpanches and Panches of the area.

The programme was started by Dr. Esha Bali, Coordinator Wowkids Preschool by welcoming all the guests with bouquets followed by lamp lighting done by dignitaries and Saraswati Vandana by kids.

The children of school exhibited marvelous performances including solo/group dance and singing adding fun to the event. A graduation ceremony was held to bid farewell to the outgoing upper Kinder Garten students as they were given trophies and certificates as felicitation for their outstanding performances in studies and extracurricular activities.

The chief guest while speaking on the occasion praised the

the Cricket competition is being organized in accordance with the instructions issued by the Directorate General of CRPF, New Delhi and IG CRPF Jammu Sector. The tournament was won by the PI trainees after defeating Group Centre team by 7 wickets. Constable / GD Pala A. Raju was announced as man of the match of the tournament who scored 45 runs.

The match was played in the playground of the Group Center CRPF Hiranagar with a very good atmosphere. All the Officers, Jawans as well as trainees enjoyed the match.

contemporary and advanced curriculum adopted by this American concept preschool and highlighted the importance of pre-schooling in a child's life for his overall grooming as a human being. He also urged the Wowkids team to continue doing this good work for the public selflessly in the near future to contribute to nation building.

The programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Ravi Dubey, Branch head WowKids Preschool Bishnah.

Nadia Chalotra, D/o Simi Chalotra and KK Chalotra (Retd. CEO), has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Management by Rayat Bhara University Chandigarh. She worked on the topic, "A comparative study on the E-commerce portals in Chandigarh, Gurgaon and Jammu of Northern India," under the supervision of Dr Kavita Aggarwal.



A bouquet being presented to a dignitary during the inaugural ceremony of the Cricket tournament at University of Jammu on Saturday.

# JU hosts North Zone Divyang Cricket Tournament

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: University of Jammu is hosting a two-day North Zone Cricket Tournament for divyang cricketers, which commenced today at University Ground, here.

The tournament is being organized by JU's Disability Initiatives Unit, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-Jammu University chapter and Directorate of Sports and Physical Education in collaboration with NGO partner Divyang Cricket Team Jammu and Kashmir.

Three cricket teams representing the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir are participating in this tournament.

Prof. Naresh Padha, Dean Academic Affairs, JU was the chief guest and Prof. Jasbir Singh, convener UBA-JU was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Prof. Naresh Padha applauded the efforts of the Disability Initiatives unit for organizing a sports event for the divyang community. He stressed that in keeping with the NEP 2020 renewed emphasis has to be placed upon the non formal educational experiences.

He assured that University of Jammu is ready to organize more sports activities for the divyanjan so that their energies are channeled.

Prof. Jasbir Singh mentioned that it is a proud moment



Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasite transmitted through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquito. Fever with shivering and headache could be Malaria

# PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

- ❖ Keep surroundings free of stagnant water.
- ❖ Cover all water containers and frequently change the water.
- ❖ Disposal of all useless items holding water such as tins/cans/tyres/bottles etc.
- ❖ Use mosquito net (preferably medicated) while sleeping.
- ❖ Wear clothes covering full body.
- ❖ Use mosquito repellents (creams/liquid sprays/mats/coils)
- ❖ Use Mosquito screen for doors/windows.
- ❖ Improve basic sanitation.

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- ➡ Nearest Govt. Health Institution.
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