

# Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy unveiled for England-India Tests

**Leeds (UNI)**

England and India greets James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar have been honoured with a newly named trophy – the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy – which will be contested in future Test series between the two nations.

The England and Wales Board (ECB) unveiled the new trophy, which features the imagery of both Tendulkar and Anderson and also has their signatures engraved on it as a tribute to the two stalwarts.

The two greats were present to mark the occasion ahead of the upcoming five-Test series between the two sides starting on Friday.

The Pataudi family, after whom the previous Pataudi Trophy was named, will continue to be honoured through the introduction of the Pataudi Medal, a new accolade that will be awarded to the winning captain of the series.

Anderson, who represented England in 188 Test matches, claimed a whopping 704 wickets in the longest format – the third-highest in the format – before bringing the curtains down on his career



last year after a five-Test series in India last year.

The masterful seamer brought his best against India, amassing an incredible 149 wickets from 39 Tests, at an average of 25.47, including six five-wicket hauls, an ICC report said.

“It’s a proud moment for me and my family to have this iconic series named after Sachin and myself,” Anderson was quoted in a statement.

“The rivalry between our two nations has always been something special, full of history, intensity and unforgettable moments,” he said.

“To be recognised in this way is a real honour. I’m looking forward to seeing the next chapter unfold in England this summer. It promises to be compelling, competitive cricket - exactly what you’d expect from two great sides. This is elite sport at its finest,” Anderson said.

India’s legendary batter, Sachin Tendulkar, the first player with 200 Test caps, closed his red-ball career in 2013 with the most runs in the format, a record he still holds with a mammoth 15,921 runs, which include 51 centuries.

The Indian icon delivered some memorable displays against England, scoring 2,535 runs at an average of 51.73, with a highest score of 193 at Headingley, the venue for the upcoming Test between the two sides.

“For me, Test cricket embodies life – you give your best, and if things go wrong, it gives you another day to regroup, think, unlearn, and bounce back,” Tendulkar said.

“It is the highest form of the game that teaches you endurance, discipline and adaptability, against all odds. I owe my foundation to

## Pant shares India's batting line-up change for England Tests

**Leeds (UNI)**

As India prepares for the crucial Test series against England, newly appointed vice-captain Rishabh Pant has affirmed a significant change in the team's batting order for the first Test, revealing that Shubman Gill will take up the No.4 spot, while Pant himself will bat at No.5.

“I think there is still discussion going on, who is going to play No.3. But definitely No.4 and No.5 are fixed,” Pant began.

“I think Shubman is going to bat at No.4 and I’m going to stick to No.5 as of now. And rest, we are going to keep on discussing about that,” he said.

This change signals a major reshuffle in India’s top order, triggered by the double retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Shubman Gill, who began his career as an opener and was later moved to No.3, will now take up the No.4 position alongwith the re-



sponsibility of filling a massive void left by Kohli.

The No.3 position, however, remains up for grabs wherein Sai Sudharsan is considered a strong contender for the spot, alongwith the returning batter Karun Nair. Both the players have been in outstanding form leading up to the red-ball series against England, making the selection an intriguing decision for the team management.

India have picked a young squad led by a new Test captain and will be without the experience of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin. This would be the first time since 2011 when India will play a Test match without at least one of those three stalwarts being present, an ICC report said.

“Obviously, it’s a new start for us, big people have left. Yes, there will be a gap, but at the same time, it’s an opportunity for us to build a new culture from here or take a culture forward from there, just adding to it,” said Pant, acknowledging the gap in experience.

“I think being in a great frame of mind, helping the new players to learn and improve themselves in overseas conditions and sharing knowledge with each other, having that care and love in the dressing room for each other — that is something we are looking forward to do,” he said.

## Not going to be easy: Shastri's advice for new India skipper



**Leeds (UNI)**

Shubman Gill is set to lead India in red-ball cricket for the very first time in the high-profile five-Test tour of England, and former head coach Ravi Shastri has shared thoughtful words of advice for the young batter.

Speaking on the latest episode of The ICC Review, Shastri emphasised patience and composure as key for the young leader stepping into one

of the most challenging roles.

“I think, take your time,” Shastri said, offering his initial guidance to the 25-year-old Gill.

“It’s not going to be easy. He’s been asked to do a tough job, that is to captain India on a tour of England,” Shastri said.

It is still early days in Gill’s Test career, with 1893 runs at a 35.05 average in 32 matches, since making his debut in December 2020.

With English conditions known for testing even the most seasoned of cricketers, Gill’s leadership debut will be one to look out for, especially in the absence of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat

Kohli, who announced their retirement last month. The side have also not won a Test series in England since 2007.

## India brace for Bazball storm in Leeds Test

**Leeds:** India’s new Test captain Shubman Gill will lead a young and evolving side into a stern trial by fire as the test series gets underway against England at Leeds on Friday, marking the start of the ICC World Test Championship 2025–27 cycle for both teams.

Gill’s first assignment as skipper comes against a confident England outfit helmed by Ben Stokes, whose team has embraced the aggressive ‘Bazball’ style in recent years.

England begin the series as firm favourites on home soil, particularly at Headingley, where they have won 34 out of 81 Tests. The venue is known to favour teams batting second, adding weight to the toss. India’s young squad, full of potential but short on recent experience in English conditions, will depend heavily on its pace unit to make inroads.

## Pathum Nissanka ton leads Lanka fightback

**Galle (UNI)**

Partnerships were the cornerstone of Sri Lanka’s strong reply on Day 3 of the opening Test against Bangladesh, as Pathum Nissanka’s sublime career-best 187 guided the hosts to 368/4 at stumps, trimming the first-innings deficit to just 127 runs.

The Lankan innings, built around Nissanka’s authoritative knock, was a calculated counter to Bangladesh’s imposing 495. The 26-year-old right-hander dominated from the moment he walked in, showcasing a full range of strokes en route to his maiden Test century at home, and second overall.

Nissanka, who fell late in the day to the second new ball after a 256-ball masterclass, was involved in four key partnerships - 47 with debutant Lahiru Udara (29), 157 with Dinesh Chandimal (59), 89 with Angelo Mathews (39), and 38 with Kamindu Mendis (22 not out). Each stand



steadily chipped away at the Bangladesh lead while maintaining a brisk scoring rate of around four runs an over.

His dismissal — bowled through the gate by a sharp inductor from Hasan Mahmud — gave Bangladesh a late spark of hope, after a demoralising day in the field. Mahmud, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, and part-timer Mominul Haque shared the wickets, but the attack struggled for control on a pitch offering occasional turn and variable bounce.

Earlier in the morning, Sri Lanka needed just 15 minutes to wrap up the Bangladesh innings. Asitha Fernando claimed the final scalp to finish with 4 for 86, preventing the visitors from stretching their overnight total.

Bangladesh’s bowling, however, lacked the bite shown by their batsmen over the first two days. In contrast to Bangladesh’s methodical crawl at just over three an over, Sri Lanka’s batsmen played with positive intent, frequently shifting pressure back onto the bowlers. Nissanka’s ability to counterattack with controlled aggression ensured no breakthrough led to a collapse.

Dinesh Chandimal contributed a fluent half-century — his 33rd in Tests — using deft late cuts and drives, while Mathews was shaping well before Mominul produced a rare unplayable delivery to have him caught behind.

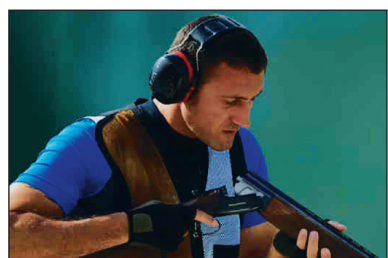
## Shooting League of India will be new, interesting & unique: Olympic Champion Giovanni Cernogoraz

**New Delhi (UNI)**

Olympic gold medallist and world champion from Croatia, Giovanni Cernogoraz is excited and looking forward to be a part of the inaugural Shooting League of India (SLI) which will be played later this year in New Delhi as he described the competition as a ‘new, interesting and unique’ experience.

Giovanni has enrolled for the auction of the inaugural edition of the SLI. With a decorated career in trap shooting that includes gold medals at the 2012 Olympics and 2023 ISSF World Championships, and multiple European Championships medals, Cernogoraz expressed curiosity and enthusiasm for the SLI.

“It is a new format, very interesting and unique,” said the shoot-



er, who confirmed it will be his first experience in a fast-paced, team-based league environment. “Never before have I shot in a league-style format- this would be my first time. It will be a new experience for me, and the format seems a very interesting idea for the future.”

He underlined that the League will go a long way in the develop-

ment of the young shooters

“This league is important for young shooters, for sponsors, and for the media to make shooting more visible and important. Having youngsters shooting with players like me will provide them great motivation for their future ventures as well.”

The SLI format, described as fast-paced and team-centric- a departure from traditional individual shooting events- presents a fresh twist to the sport.

Giovanni also shared his excitement about playing in India again, having already participated in the 2017 ISSF World Cup final in New Delhi earlier. While talking about the experience of playing in the national capital of India, he lauded the city’s hospitality and food.

## Alice Bellandi claims women's 78kg gold at judo world championships

**Budapest:** Italy’s Olympic champion Alice Bellandi lived up to expectations by winning the women’s 78kg gold medal in a grueling final on the sixth day of the World Judo Championships.

In the final against 22-year-old German rookie Anna Monta Olek, Bellandi scored no positive points, leaving the match tied 2-2 at the end of regulation, with both athletes having received two penalties.

In a tense golden score period, nearly six minutes passed before Bellandi executed a counter for a yuko to seal the victory on Wednesday. “In my mind, every time, what I saw was ‘Olympic champion is out, world champion is out’. This was a challenge for me. But aside from this, you just need to be happy in what you’re doing, and the rest is just a bonus,” Bellandi said.

## Twelve share lead in Junior Chess Tournament

**Mumbai (UNI)**

The race for the top honours in the Aurionpro International Junior Chess Tournament intensified as the lead narrowed to just 12 players at the end of Round 3 at the World Trade Centre, here.

Meanwhile, the foreign Grandmasters continued to assert their dominance in the GM category with yet another commanding display in Round 3.

Top seed GM Levan Pantsulaia, second seed GM Manuel Petrosyan, and third seed GM Luka Paichadze all registered confident victories over their respective opponents, reaffirming their billing as tournament favourites.

The only notable upset of the day came on board 10, where the unheralded Guru Prakash created a minor stir by holding Indian Grandmaster Deepan Chakravarthy to a creditable draw.

In the junior event, on the top



board, top-seed FIDE Master Aansh Nerurkar was made to work hard by Mysba Parwez. Playing with the black pieces, Aansh navigated a challenging Catalan Opening to eventually outplay his opponent and secure a full point.

The second board witnessed a dominant performance from second seed Candidate Master Madhesh Kumar, who dismantled Advik Reddy in just 47 moves. Playing from the white side of the French Defence, Madhesh demonstrated sharp tactical awareness to force an early result.

## Betul's Gaurav Jeet Suryavanshi Shines in Karate Championship

**Chicholi:** Gaurav Jeet Suryavanshi of Betul district has brought pride to Madhya Pradesh by securing second place in the All India Karate Championship. His remarkable achievement has drawn praise and warm congratulations from the community and sports circles alike.

Gaurav, who is hearing impaired, has been a consistent performer in multiple sports disciplines. He had earlier won a gold medal at the All India Karate Tournament held in Goa. At



just 14 years of age, he also emerged as the winner of a T20 cricket competition, showcasing his all-round talent.

He began his education at Asha Niketan, one of India’s reputed institutions, and completed his higher sec-

ondary studies at Chicholi’s Utkrishta School. Currently, he is pursuing higher education at the Rajiv Gandhi Technical Education Center, Bhopal, and receiving sports training at Sports Academy Bhopal-Indore.

Despite physical challenges, Gaurav’s passion and dedication toward sports continue to inspire many. His achievements are a matter of immense pride for the people of Chicholi, Betul, and all of Madhya Pradesh.

## Namibia to face Assam cricket team in Windhoek

**Windhoek:** Namibia’s senior men’s cricket team, also known as the Eagles, will face the Assam Cricket team in a series scheduled from June 21 to 29 in Namibia’s capital, here.

Cricket Namibia said on Wednesday that the series will feature five 50-over matches to be hosted at the Namibia Cricket Ground, bringing exciting international cricket action to home soil.

This series marks the first official tournament under newly appointed head coach Craig Williams, ushering in a fresh chapter for Namibian cricket.

“With a mix of experience and emerging talent, there’s great anticipation for what the team will deliver under his leadership,” the governing body said.

## India battle to 2-2 draw but fall short in shootout against Argentina in FIH Hockey Pro League

**London (UNI)**

After a grueling 2–2 draw, the Indian Women’s Hockey Team missed out on the bonus point, going down 0–2 to Argentina in the shootout at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 match at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre here.

Earlier in the contest, goals from Navneet (50’) and Deepika (60’) helped India come back from a two-goal deficit after Agustina Gorzelany’s (27’, 37’) brace had given Argentina a comfortable lead on Wednesday.

Neither of the experienced sides managed to test the goalkeepers in the opening quarter. Argentina’s high press restricted the Indian attack, but India found space



through quick stick work and sharp passing, frequently looking to fire the ball into the circle.

Sharmila Devi made a promising run into the circle early on but was forced out of bounds by the Argentine defence, while Sunelita Toppo made a shrewd interception and surged forward, only to see the ball go out of play.

Despite Argentina’s organised defensive structure, India ended

the first half with nearly twice as many circle entries. In the second quarter, Argentina’s Victoria Miranda made a powerful injection into the final third from midfield, but a crucial touch from Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke took care of the threat.

India won their first penalty corner of the night in the 25th minute. While Deepika’s first two attempts were closed down, she smartly laid off the third to Navneet, who unleashed a powerful tomahawk but it was expertly blocked by goalkeeper Cristina Cosentino.

Argentina converted their first penalty corner of the night when Agustina Gorzelany struck cleanly to give her side a 1–0 lead in the 27th minute.

## Saransh Jain spearheads Jabalpur Royal Lions' first victory of the season

**Gwalior:** Jabalpur Royal Lions, the winners of the Madhya Pradesh League T20 season 1 were looking to win their first match of the second season as the first half of the tournament didn’t go according to their plans and in a must-win match it was a complete team performance from the Jabalpur Royal Lions that prompted their first win of the season, with superb performances from Sharash Jain, Rahul Batham and Ritik Tada.

At the start of the match, the Chambal Ghariyals’ captain Shubham Sharma won the toss and elected to bat first. The Jabalpur Royal Lions entered the field with a different mindset to-day as they dominated the powerplay and pushed their opponent to the wall.

In the first over of the match, Anubhav Agrawal picked up the wicket of the wicket keeper batter Apurve Dwivedi and gave a fiery start to his team and captain Saransh Jain picked up 3 wickets at the powerplay including the big wicket of Harpreet Singh Bhatia.

Chambal could score only 38 runs after losing 4 wickets in the powerplay courtesy to the bowl-



ing masterclass from the captain of the Jabalpur side, Sharanash Jain. Shubham Sharma played an important role for his team and scored 68 runs

alongside Aman Bhadoriya who scored 32 runs to take their team to a respectable total of 167 at the loss of 9 wickets.

Tanishq Yadav and Rahul Batham also took 2 wickets each.

The target for the Jabalpur Royal Lions was just 168 and Dharmesh Patel gave a flying start to the team by scoring 17 runs in the first over of the chase but after that the chasing side lost 3 back-to-back wickets and the top order was back in the dugout. After the fall of the 3rd wicket, captain Saransh Jain entered the field to build a 57-run partnership with the wicketkeeper batter Aman Bhandari who scored a half century in the previous match. After this important partnership, the Jabalpur team lost both of their set batters, and they found themselves in a pressure situation.

But the team’s vice-captain Rahul Batham and the powerhouse Ritik Tada made a match winning partnership of 71 runs in just 34 balls. Ritik Tada scored 44 runs in just 19 balls with 4 boundaries and 3 sixes, and he was the highest run scorer for his team in this match.

## India U23 men's team lose match against Tajikistan in friendly match

**Tursunzoda (Tajikistan) (UNI)**

The India U23 men’s national team suffered a 2-3 defeat at the hands of hosts Tajikistan U23s, after being reduced to 10 men in a friendly match at the Talco Arena, here. The Blue Colts led 1-0 at half-time.

Suhail Ahmad Bhat (33’) and Parthib Sundar Gogoi (85’) put India in the lead twice, but Ansor Khabibov (59’) and Muhammadqbol Davlatov (90+1’) restored parity on both occasions, before Muhammadali Azizboev (90+5’) struck the winner late in injury time on Wednesday.

India midfielder Ayush Chhetri was sent off 10 minutes into the second half.

In an even start to the game, In-



dia arguably had the clearer chance. Winger Mohammed Sanan sent in a cross towards Vinith Venkatesh at the far post. The latter’s side-footed volley, however, lacked direction.

Tajikistan had to wait till the half-hour mark for their first real chance of the game, when they earned a free-kick on their left flank. Faridun Davlatov rose above the sea of heads inside the India box to head it, bit his effort went over.