

Gill unbeaten on 168 as India reach 419/6 at lunch



Birmingham, (UNI) Indian skipper Shubman Gill lit up Day 2 of the ongoing second Test against England with a scintillating unbeaten 168 as India reached 419 for six at lunch today at Edgbas-

ton. Gill, who resumed the day on 114, showcased authority and flair in equal measure as he powered his way to his highest Test score yet, anchoring a commanding 203-run sixth wicket partnership with Ravindra Jadeja (89 off 137 balls). Their marathon stand was finally broken just before the break when Jadeja fended a ferocious short delivery from Josh Tongue into the gloves of keeper Jamie Smith. Gill's innings, laced with 18 boundaries and a towering six, was a masterclass in shot selection and composure. From elegant drives to cheeky reverse sweeps, he kept the English bowlers at bay through the morning session. He brought up his 150 with a single off Shoaib Bashir and looked in no mood to relax as he closed in on a potential double-century. The morning also saw some aggressive strokeplay from Jadeja, who hammered 10 fours and a six before falling to Tongue in the 108th over. The duo took India from a precarious 211/5 to a dominant 414/6, changing the tone of the match. Among the England bowlers, Josh Tongue (1/81) and Shoaib Bashir (1/92) toiled hard on a slow surface. Chris Woakes remained economical with figures of 25-6-81-2, while skipper Ben Stokes and Brydon Carse chipped in with a wicket apiece. At the lunch interval, Washington Sundar (1 not out) had joined Gill at the crease with 65 overs left in the day.

India to host first international javelin meet on July 5



Bengaluru, (UNI) In a landmark moment for Indian sports, the country is set to host its first-ever international javelin competition — the Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 — at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on July 5. The historic event, scheduled to begin at 7pm, marks a major leap forward for Indian athletics and is expected to place the nation firmly on the global track and field map. The tournament is being co-organised by two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra and JSW Sports, and is sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India. The event has been granted World Athletics Gold level status, underlining its global prestige and the quality of athletes it is set to attract. Named after Neeraj Chopra, who remains a national icon and one of India's most celebrated athletes, the competition is both a celebration of his achievements and a step toward nurturing future champions in the sport. The competition will witness participation from some of the world's finest javelin throwers. Among those confirmed are 2016 Olympic champion Thomas Rohler of Germany, Kenya's Julius Yego, the 2015 World Champion and Rio 2016 silver medallist, top-ranked American Curtis Thompson, European U23 Champion Cyprian Mrzygłod from Poland, Czech Republic's Martin Konecny, Luiz Mauricio Da Silva from Brazil, and Sri Lanka's Asian champion Rumesh Pathirage. Representing India will be Neeraj Chopra himself, whose Olympic gold in Tokyo and World Championship triumph have set a new benchmark for Indian athletics. Organisers have made tickets available on District by Zomato, with prices ranging from Rs 299 to Rs 9,999 to ensure fans from all walks of life can be part of the event. The competition will be broadcast live on Star Sports 1 Hindi and Star Sports 2, with digital streaming available on JioHotstar, offering nationwide access to this historic meet. The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 is more than just a sporting event, it is a reflection of India's growing ambition in the global sporting arena and a tribute to one of its greatest athletes.



Wimbledon: Norrie upsets Tiafoe but Boulter exits

London, (UNI) A gutsy Cameron Norrie produced one of the best performances of his career as he fought back to beat Frances Tiafoe in a thrilling encounter and reach the third round at Wimbledon. The former British number one, who got to the semi-finals of the Championships in 2022, won 4-6 6-4 6-3 7-5 on Wednesday and will next face world number 73 Mattia Bellucci of Italy. But there was disappointment for compatriot Katie Boulter as she was knocked out in a surprise 7-6 (9-7) 2-6 1-6 defeat by lucky loser Solana Sierra from Argentina. British wildcard Billy Harris lost 6-3 6-4 7-6 (9-7) to world number 37 Nuno Borges, while the last home player in action on Wednesday, Arthur Fery, will return on Thursday after his match with Luciano Darderi was suspended due to fading light on Court 2, with the Italian leading 4-6 3-6. Sonay Kartal had earlier become the first Briton to go through on day three, comfortably seeing off Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova 6-2 6-2. Norrie's win did not come as easily but was just as impressive as he battled back from losing the first set to win the next three, undoing the American 12th seed with some brilliant tennis that had the Court One crowd on their feet. Norrie climbed as high as eighth in the world three years ago but he is now 61st, with injury and poor form dropping him down the rankings, according to a BBC news.

Purani Dilli 6 retain Rishabh Pant ahead of Delhi Premier League season 2 auctions

New Delhi (UNI) Purani Dilli 6, the semi-finalist of the 2024 edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL), has officially announced the retention of star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant for the upcoming season. Pant has been retained as the marquee player. Purani Dilli 6 had a decent campaign in DPL 2024, showcasing solid performances throughout the league stage. However, their journey was cut short in unfortunate circumstances as the semi-final clash was called off due to rain. With Pant continuing to anchor the squad, the team is expected to build a more competitive unit heading into the 2025 season. Speaking about the Pant, Purani Dilli 6 owner Akash Nangia said, "Rishabh Pant is not just a world-class cricketer but also the heartbeat of Purani Dilli 6. His leadership, experience, and flair give us the edge. We're building a strong squad around him, and we're confident of going all the way this year." Expressing his excitement, Pant said, "The DPL serves as an excellent platform for young talent to showcase their skills, and much credit is due to Rohan Jaitley and the DDCA for successfully organizing this league. Many players from across the country have emerged and developed through the opportunities provided by the DPL, such as Digvesh Rath, Priyansh Arya, among others." "Purani Dilli 6 truly feels like home, fueled by the vibrant energy of the Delhi fans and an unparalleled hunger to win. Following a promising season last year, our determination to succeed has only intensified, and we are optimistic about returning even stronger this year," Pant added.

Navarro crushes Kudermetova in straight sets

London, (UNI) American No. 10 seed Emma Navarro breezed into the third round of Wimbledon today with a commanding 6-1, 6-2 victory over Veronika Kudermetova, becoming the first singles player of the day to register a win. In a match that lasted just an hour and 14 minutes, Navarro displayed remarkable poise and control, overwhelming her Russian opponent with consistent baseline play, precise serving, and relentless pressure. Navarro raced to a 5-0 lead in the second set and looked poised to close the match out in clinical fashion. Though she was briefly broken while serving for it, she immediately regrouped to complete the job in the following game. With this result, she avenged a prior loss to Kudermetova on clay in 2021 and continued her impressive run on grass, having reached the quarterfinals here last year. Coming into the match, many analysts had predicted Navarro's domi-

nance. Known for her balance of tactical discipline and baseline aggression, she kept Kudermetova on the back foot throughout. Kudermetova, ranked outside the top 30, struggled to find rhythm and committed a string of unforced errors, unable to counter Navarro's court coverage or absorb her early ball-striking. The win further solidifies Navarro's standing as a serious contender at this year's Championships. With her placement and footwork perfectly suited to grass, she is rapidly emerging as one of the most composed and consistent players on tour. Her win-loss record on the surface this season remains among the best, and her performances have garnered increasing attention from tennis observers both in the US and internationally.

Srinagar's Dal Lake to host 'Khelo India Water Sports festival'

New Delhi, (UNI) The first edition of the 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF)' will be held from August 21-o 23, 2025 in Srinagar's famous Dal Lake. The Festival will be organised under the vertical of Sports Competition and Talent Development of Khelo India Scheme. This initiative aims to promote Water Sports and to enhance the reach and popularity of Water Sports. KIWSF 2025 will include a total of five disciplines including Kayaking & Canoeing, Rowing, Water Skiing, Shikara Race, Drag-on Boat.

More than 400 athletes from 36 States and UTs are expected to participate in the event. Expressing his delight at the announcement of these games Union minister for youth affairs and sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said "The Khelo India Water Sports Festival is another proof of the government's commitment to broad base sports and create more opportunities for athletes to express themselves at the national level. Like the first Khelo India Beach Games in Diu, we want Khelo India to become more inclusive and reach out to every corner of the country,"

FIH Pro League poor show a temporary dip in form: Aslam Sher Khan

New Delhi, (UNI) Former India hockey great Aslam Sher Khan feels the Indian Men team's poor show at the European leg of the FIH Pro league should not be seen as a big cause of concern as the team has shown that it can peak at the right time. The Indian team suffered a run of seven successive losses in the European leg of the FIH Pro League recently finishing eighth on the points table. In an exclusive interview to UNI, the 1975 World Cup winner asserted that fans should not lose faith in the team. "They have been performing well for a long time, it is natural that there will be a dip, they were off-colour. But they are a good side with a lot of quality players. They will come back strong. They have shown that they can peak at the right time," Aslam Sher Khan said. Khan, who scored the crucial equaliser against Malaysia in the 1975 World Cup semi-final, said that with the introduction of the Hockey India League (HIL) a lot of Hockey is being played these days, so a balanced calendar needs to be followed. "A lot of hockey is being played nowadays, so a streamlined calendar needs to be there which prevents burnout. And ro-

Brathwaite reflects on journey to 100 Tests for West Indies

Barbados, (UNI) Kraigg Brathwaite will become just the 10th cricketer to play 100 Tests for West Indies when he takes the field against Australia today, joining an elite list that includes the likes of Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd, Brian Lara and Gordon Greenidge. Over the years, Brathwaite has become a cornerstone of West Indies cricket in the longest format, amassing 5943 runs with 12 centuries in 99 Tests, leading the team in 39 of them, facing more deliveries than any other West Indian and earning a spot in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year in 2022. His journey began in 2011 as an 18-year-old debutant, but the belief took root much earlier at just 14, when he confidently declared he would one day play 100 Tests for the West Indies. "I set that goal when I was probably 14 years old — to play 100 Tests. Now I'm here, 18 years later, playing my hundredth Test for West Indies. I'm very thankful, and I just want to be an inspiration for younger guys to follow," Kraigg Brathwaite said on the eve of the second Test against Australia. "I didn't want to just be another player — I wanted to make an impact," he said. It wasn't the dream debut for Brathwaite back in May

2011 against Pakistan in Basseterre. Though he got off the mark with a boundary, scores of 15 and 0 marked a quiet start to his Test career an ICC report said. By his own admission, it took time for the belief to settle in, but once it did, there was no turning back. A gritty fifty in just his third Test against Bangladesh in Mirpur sparked a run of form, with three more half-centuries coming in his next four matches against top sides like India and Australia. "I wanted to play for the West Indies from young — but I wasn't sure I could do it on the big stage. As I played more, the belief came that I could get this job done," he added. "Pretty much, from my second or third game, I had the belief that I could do it," Brathwaite said.

Parmod shares inspiring journey upon India A call-up ahead of Europe Tour

New Delhi, (UNI) Hockey India has announced the India A squad for the upcoming European tour, and among the selected players is 25-year-old Parmod, a defender from the small town of Narwana, Haryana. This marks his first time donning Indian colours in an international setting, a milestone achieved through sheer hard work, and consistent domestic performances. The India A team is scheduled to play eight matches during the tour, facing top European sides including Ireland, France, the Netherlands, England, and Belgium between July 8 and 20. Speaking about his selection, Parmod said, "I feel very good. My family is very happy. I have always wanted to represent India, so this is a big step for me." The moment he saw his name on the squad list, Parmod picked up the phone and called his mother. "She has gone through a lot to help me achieve my dreams and has supported me at every turn," he shared. Parmod's mother has played a crucial role in his journey. His father tragically passed away in an accident before he was born. His grandmother, who worked at a bank, played a central role in raising Parmod and his siblings in their early years. Meanwhile, his mother supported the family by working in farming; doing everything she could to give her children a better future. It was in sixth grade that Parmod first discovered hockey. Over time, the sport

opened new doors for him, including a job with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), where he also represented their hockey team. He has participated in three National Championships so far, but it was his strong performance at the 2025 Senior National Championships in Jhansi—where he represented Hockey Madhya Pradesh and helped the team secure a silver medal—that proved to be a turning point, paving his way into the national setup. Now training at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru, Parmod is making the most of his experience. "It has been going really well so far. Interacting with everyone, including players who have already been part of the camp for some time, I am gaining valuable insights," he said.

