

India hold slim lead after mixed day

LEEDS: Jasprit Bumrah's incisive five-wicket haul and KL Rahul's composed unbeaten knock of 47 kept India marginally ahead on Day 3 of the first Test against England at Headingley on Sunday. After India's first-innings total of 471, England replied with 465, leaving India with a slender lead of just six runs. At stumps, India were 90 for 2 in their second innings, ahead by 96 runs with Rahul and Shubman Gill (6*) at the crease.

India had a frustrating day in the field as they dropped five catches, allowing England to inch close to parity. Harry Brook was the primary beneficiary, reprieved three times on his way to a flamboyant 99 off 112 balls. His counterattacking innings came to an end via a short ball from Prasidh Krishna, who also dismissed Jamie Smith (40), but conceded a costly 128

runs in 20 overs due to his one-dimensional bowling strategy. Jasprit Bumrah was the lone bright spot with the ball, claiming his 14th five-wicket haul in Test cricket. He bowled with pace, discipline, and control, eventually finishing with 5 for 83 from 24.4 overs. Bumrah's scalping of Josh Tongue wrapped up England's innings in the afternoon, just short of India's total. Resuming at 209 for 3, England added 118 runs in the morning session, led by Brook's explosive stroke-play. He took on the pacers with authority, smashing boundaries off Prasidh and charging down to Bumrah for aerial shots over cover. He reached his 12th Test half-century and looked set for a ton before falling just one short, undone by a short ball after surviving multiple chances.

India's fielding woes continued as Rishabh Pant

dropped Brook on 46 and Jaiswal shelled a catch on 82, both off Bumrah. The missed chances highlighted a recurring weakness in India's otherwise competitive performance. Shubman Gill's decisions as stand-in captain came under scrutiny. His delayed use of Ravindra Jadeja, and not giving Bumrah the new ball sooner, allowed England to rebuild. Additionally, Thakur's underuse (just a handful of overs) raised doubts about team balance and strategy. Despite the bowlers' inconsistency, India managed to keep the lead thanks to Bumrah's brilliance and a few timely wickets — Ollie Pope (106) fell early in the day, while Ben Stokes (20) also couldn't convert his start.

Brief scores: India 471 & 90/2 (K L Rahul 47*, Shubman Gill 6*) & England 465. India lead by 96 runs

T20 WC 2026 Americas entrants confirmed

CALIFORNIA: Canada have sealed their qualification for the ICC men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. The hosts of the Americas Qualifiers confirmed their place at the tournament after grabbing a win against Bahamas, their fifth successive in the ongoing campaign from as many outings.

Kaleem Sana and Shivam Sharma picked up three wickets apiece as Canada bundled out Bahamas for just 57. The chase was wrapped up in just 5.3 overs, with Dilpreet Bajwa smashing an unbeaten 36 off 14 balls to seal a dominant win and qualification on Saturday. Having featured at last year's men's T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean, Canada arrived into the Qualifiers as one of the favourites to progress through.

The Nicholas Kirton-led side kickstarted their campaign with a comprehensive win against Bermuda by 110 runs. The result was followed by a 59-run win against Cayman Islands and a 10-wicket trumping of Bahamas in the first round of games between the teams.

In their second outing against Cayman Islands – a contest cut short to five-overs-a-side – Canada registered another comfortable win after putting together 82 runs on the board, and eventually seizing the game by 42 runs, an ICC report said.

Canada join the list of 10 teams already qualified for the 20-team event, alongside co-hosts India and Sri Lanka. The other qualified sides include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa, United States, West Indies, Ireland, New Zealand and Pakistan.

AFC ASIAN CUP Women's football team to begin campaign today

CHIANG MAI (THAILAND): The Indian senior women's team will kick off their AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers campaign in the north Thai city here today, June 23.

It wouldn't be completely wrong to note that the continent's premier competition has been somewhat ill-fated for the Blue Tigresses in the last few decades. India last made it to the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2003. And when they hosted the tournament in 2022, a COVID outbreak in the team meant that India had to withdraw after only the first game and the results were declared void.

So, when head coach Crispin Chetty and his Blue Tigresses landed in Thailand on June 16, their only goal was to earn that ticket to Australia and

become the first Indian squad to qualify for the AFC Women's Asian Cup via the qualifiers' route. While India do have three podium finishes in the erstwhile Asian Women's Championship (runners-up in 1980 and 1983, and third place in 1981), this is the time to create new history in the 21st century.

India (ranked 70th) will face Mongolia (ranked 126th) on June 23, Timor Leste (ranked 158th) on June 29, Iraq (ranked 173rd) on July 2 and hosts Thailand (ranked 46th) on July 5, at the 700th Anniversary of Chiang Mai Stadium.

Only the group winners will qualify for the final tournament in Australia in March 2026. The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 will also serve as a qualifier for the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027.

Apart from Thailand, India have never faced the other three Group B opponents before. "We don't have much information about Mongolia, Timor Leste and Iraq. They haven't played any matches recently. We do know a bit about Thailand. They played two games against Nepal in the last window, and one of them was closed doors," said Chetty.

"I tried different variations in our friendlies (against Uzbekistan). I tested many combinations in midfield, involving Sangita (Basfore), Karthika (Angamuthu), Ratanbala (Nongmaithem), Grace (Dangmei) and Anju (Tamang)." While India lost both friendlies 0-1 against Uzbekistan on May 30 and June 3, it was significant preparation for the all-important qualifiers.

Mathews bids farewell to Tests

GALLE: Former Sri Lankan skipper, Angelo Mathews made his final appearance in royal whites



against Bangladesh here, the same venue he made his debut in 2009.

Mathews is the second-highest run scorer at the venue with 2253 runs in 34 Test matches.

While speaking in the post-match press conference on Saturday, he spoke on the draw against Bangladesh, his final appearance in the red-ball format for Sri Lanka.

"Once you get a 400 in the first innings, it's really difficult to lose a game. So we had to bat really well in our first innings as well," he said.

"I thought we scrapped our way through and to minimize the lead. And also in the second innings, Shanto batted brilliantly," Mathews said.

Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 148 and 125 not out in both the innings as he led from the front and secured himself the Player of the Match award, an ICC report said.

"It was a tough wicket for the bowlers, to be honest. There were times where it turned a little bit but didn't really have anything for the bowlers," Mathews said, speaking on the wicket and opportunities for the bowlers".

Hope we get hosting rights of 2036 Olympics: Rekha Gupta

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday lend support for the Union government's endeavour to secure hosting rights of the 2036 Summer Olympics.

Speaking to the media at the 'Olympic Day run' organised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Sunday, she said, "The Olympic Day was celebrated today in New Delhi, I am very happy that it had such a good turnout, the country is moving towards better infrastructure, facilities and developing better players, and we are ready to host the Olympics in 2036. We wish that the hosting rights are awarded to us. We will develop good infrastructure, and good players, in each state and every village very good facilities are being provided to the players."

India, Kyrgyz Republic play out a stalemate in U23 friendly

DUSHANBE: The India U23 national team played a goalless draw against Kyrgyz Republic at the Hisor Central Stadium here in Tajikistan.

The Blue Colts had travelled to Tajikistan to play two friendly matches, the first of which they lost 2-3 against the hosts, as part of their preparations for the AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers later this year, and the Asian Games in 2026.

Head coach Naushad Moosa made eight changes to his starting XI from the game against Tajikistan on Saturday, with only defenders Pramveer, Bikash Yunnam, and Abhishek Singh Tekcham retaining their place.

Despite the changes, Kyrgyz Republic looked the livelier of the two teams for a good part of the first half an hour, while India tried to create

the off-chances through their quick wingers.

Resolute not to give up, the Blue Colts clawed their way back and slowly found the momentum they were looking for as half-time ticked closer. Calmer and more composed on the ball, India finally began to create chances.

Parthib Sundar Gogoi had a vicious shot saved in the 38th minute, and six minutes later, worried the Kyrgyz defence once again, when he swung a low free-kick at the near post, which made Kyrgyz Republic keeper Chomoev Sultan produce a diving save.

Another opportunity went begging just a minute before the break, when Vibin Mohanan found an unmarked Pramveer at the far post. The centre-back's header, however, went over the crossbar.

As the match restarted, India coach Moosa made a number of changes in the second half. However, Kyrgyz Republic started the better team again, while India took time to find their old momentum again.

As time wore on, substitute Macarton Louis Nickson began to dictate terms in the middle, and his link-up play with Suhail Ahmad Bhat seemed to have the Kyrgyz Republic defence on the back foot.

Bhat thought he had put India in the lead in the 69th minute, when he was put through behind the defence by Macarton.

While the former expertly cut past the keeper and found the back of the net, he had been flagged offside.

EU'S CARBON TAX EEPC India suggests 3-year moratorium for MSMEs

KOLKATA: Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) has suggested the Centre for a three-year moratorium for Indian MSMEs from the carbon tax proposed by the European Union (EU) under Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which would come into force in January 2026.

Talking about the ongoing free trade agreement with the European Union (EU), EEPC India chairman Praksh Chadha underlined the need for a three-year delay for country's MSME sector from the carbon tax proposed by the EU under Carbon

Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which would come into force in January 2026.

EEPC India is the trade and investment promotion organization for the engineering sector sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Set up in 1955, EEPC India now has a membership base of over 12,000 out of whom 60 PC are SMEs.

Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry EEPC India, an umbrella organisation for trade and investment promotion, has about 12000 members, of which 60 percent are SMEs. Chadha was speaking in an award giving ceremony organised

by EEPC India in Mumbai on Saturday evening where they conferred the National Awards for Excellence in Engineering Exports to 111 entrepreneurs across the country.

He highlighted that the EU's extension of safeguard duty on certain steel products has also been hurting the local industry and requested the Centre to find a solution to it while finalising the trade deal with the EU. He urged the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to take up the interest of the Indian engineering industry while negotiating trade deals with the US and Mexico. The EEPC chairman called for bold

reforms and deepening integration with global value chains.

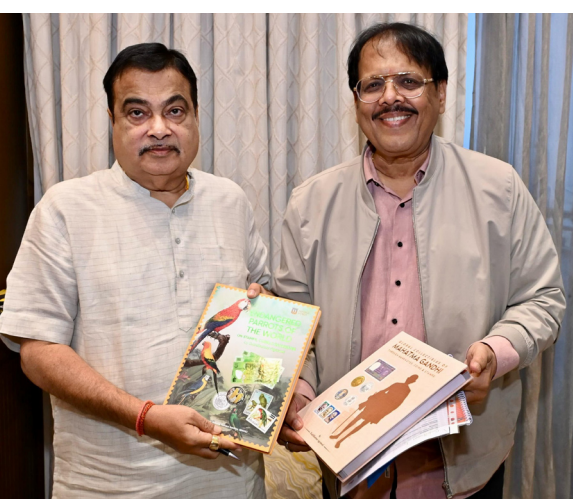
In order to improve Maharashtra as a manufacturing destination, Chadha urged the state government to make the land acquisition process easier. "Plan passing is also an issue, and a one-stop window could be provided. Also, Maharashtra is the only place where there is the Mathadi Act. We have gone into the age of mechanisation. I think most steel is being handled mechanically. No manual labour is used. Mathadi Act has lost its significance and hence should be repealed," Chadha pointed out.

Earlier Maharashtra Minister of Information Technology & Cultural Affairs Ashish Minal Babaji Shelar conferred EEPC India National Awards for Excellence in Engineering Exports to 111 awardees.

EEPC India National Awards are presented annually to celebrate the engineering goods exporters' resilience, creativity, and ambition. JSW Steel, John Deere India, Cummins Technologies India, Larsen & Toubro, BEML, Thermax, and Apar Industries are among the winners in different categories of EEPC India National Awards for the financial year 2022-23.

Rare collectible books gifted to Gadkari

NEW DELHI: Sushilkumar Agrawal, the visionary CEO of Mintage World, founder of Ultra Media and Entertainment Group, author and a life member of the Bombay Natural History Society recently met and presented Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, with exclusive Coffee table books from Mintage World titled Endangered Parrots of the World on Stamps, Coins & Banknotes and Global Collectibles of Mahatma Gandhi through Stamps, Coins and Banknotes. "Mintage World", is world's first online museum dedicated to vin-



tage and modern coins, stamps, and currency notes, promoting numismatics and philately in younger generation.

Nitin Gadkari was

genuinely intrigued by the concept and engaged in a detailed conversation about the countries represented in the parrot collectibles.

Vikramarka emphasizes boosting non-tax revenue

HYDERABAD: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who chairs the Infrastructure and Capital Sub-Committee, directed officials to give focused attention to increasing the state's non-tax revenue and optimising budgetary allocations.

He made these remarks during a high-level review meeting held at the Dr B R Ambedkar Secretariat, attended by Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and senior officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy CM emphasised that new welfare schemes worth Rs 33,600 crore are being implemented without halting existing schemes of the previous government.

However, he pointed out that no revenue was received from Outer Ring Road or Excise during the 2023-24 financial year, highlighting the need to explore alternate revenue channels, especially non-tax sources and central funds.