

India Wrap Up Series with Big Win

Captain Shubman Gill produced a sensational century as India crushed Afghanistan by 170 runs in the second ODI at Lucknow, securing the three-match series 2-0 with one game to spare.

Gill's brilliant 154 and a blazing 125 from Ishan Kishan powered India to a massive total of 402 runs before the bowlers completed a dominant victory by dismissing Afghanistan for 232 in 45 overs.

After winning the toss, Afghanistan chose to bowl first and made an early breakthrough, reducing India to 9 for 1. However, Gill and Kishan quickly took charge, stitching together a match-defining partnership that left the visitors struggling for answers.

The duo entertained the crowd with an array of attacking strokes and reached their centuries in the same over. Gill anchored the innings with a captain's knock of 154 from 110 balls, while Kishan played an explosive innings of 125 off just 79 deliveries. Their remarkable stand laid the foundation for India's imposing total of 402.

Chasing a daunting target of 403, Afghanistan

never managed to build momentum. Although Rahmat Shah fought hard with a well-made 79, wickets continued to fall at regular intervals as India's bowlers maintained tight control throughout the innings.

Afghanistan were eventually bowled out for 232 in the 45th over, handing India a comfortable and convincing victory. The result also marked Gill's first ODI series win as India's captain, adding another milestone to the young batter's growing leadership credentials.

For Afghanistan, spinner Nangeyalia Kharote was the standout performer with the ball, claiming four wickets despite the heavy defeat.

India's comprehensive win highlighted the team's batting depth and bowling discipline as they continued their impressive form in the series. With the contest already decided, the hosts will now aim for a clean sweep when the third and final ODI is played in Chennai.

Afghanistan, meanwhile, will look to regroup and finish the series on a positive note in the final match.



Shubman Gill Makes History as He Breaks Virat Kohli's Record in ODI

India captain Shubman Gill has created a new milestone in international cricket by becoming the fastest batter to reach 1,000 ODI runs at home, surpassing a record previously held by Virat Kohli. The achievement came during the second ODI against Afghanistan in Lucknow, where Gill continued his excellent run of form with another composed and impactful innings.

Gill reached the landmark in style, bringing up a fluent half-century while anchoring India's innings at a crucial stage. His consistency at the top of the order has been one of India's biggest strengths in recent times, and this latest record further cements his reputation as one of the most promising young leaders in world cricket. By breaking Kohli's record, Gill has added another significant achievement to his rapidly growing list of career milestones.

The match also witnessed another major achievement for senior batter Rohit Sharma, who crossed 14,000 runs in List A cricket. His milestone reflects his long-standing dominance in the 50-over format and his continued importance in India's batting lineup. Rohit's experience, combined with Gill's youthful energy, has given India a strong foundation in the series. In the ongoing contest, Afghanistan won the toss and

opted to field first. India made a few changes to their playing XI, introducing young fast bowler Prince Yadav, who made his international debut in this match. The inclusion of Kuldeep Yadav and Yashasvi Jaiswal further strengthened the side, bringing a balanced mix of spin, youth, and attacking intent.

At the time of reporting, India had posted a strong total, scoring 220 runs for the loss of two wickets in 30 overs, showing solid control in the middle phase of the innings. Gill's composed knock played a key role in building the platform for a big score, while the middle order looked set to accelerate in the final overs.

India had already taken a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series after a convincing seven-wicket win in the opening game. With momentum on their side, the team entered the second ODI with confidence and continued to assert dominance over Afghanistan.

Gill's record-breaking performance has become the highlight of the match, with fans and analysts praising his temperament, shot selection, and ability to deliver under pressure. As India looks to seal the series, all eyes remain on how their batting unit converts this strong start into another commanding victory.



Mandhana Powers India to Big Win Over Netherlands

A commanding all-round performance helped India register a massive 95-run victory over the Netherlands in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Headingley on Wednesday. Led by a brilliant 74 from vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and an explosive half-century from Shafali Verma, India posted a record total before cruising to their second consecutive win of the tournament.

Asked to bat first, India got off to a flying start as Mandhana and Shafali dominated the Dutch bowling attack. The opening pair added 115 runs for the first wicket, the third-highest opening partnership for India in Women's T20 World Cup history.

Shafali smashed 51 off 31 balls before being dismissed, while Mandhana continued her rich vein of form, scoring 74 from 47 deliveries. It was her second fifty of the tournament after her match-winning knock against Pakistan.

India suffered a brief middle-order wobble, slipping from 162/1 to 168/4 with the dismissals of Jemimah Rodrigues and Yastika Bhatia. However, captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Richa Ghosh ensured a strong finish, while Deepti Sharma struck a six and a four off the

final two deliveries to lift India to 209/5.

The total was India's highest-ever score in Women's T20 World Cup history and their first 200-plus total in the tournament.

In reply, the Netherlands began steadily but failed to keep pace with the required run rate. Heather Siegers and Phebe Molkenboer provided a decent start before India's bowlers tightened their grip on the contest.

Nandini Sharma struck early, while Deepti Sharma removed Molkenboer to break the momentum. Netherlands captain Babette de Leeuw top-scored with 28, but regular wickets prevented any meaningful challenge.

The Dutch innings collapsed dramatically from 96/4 to 114 all out in 17.3 overs. Left-arm spinner Shree Charani starred with figures of 4/19, claiming three wickets in a single over, while Shafali Verma impressed with the ball as well, finishing with 3/20.

With victories over Pakistan and the Netherlands, India moved to the top of Group 1 with four points and a healthy net run rate. They will next face South Africa Women's Cricket Team at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Germany Camp on Edge After Snake Scare at World Cup

The Germany national football team faced an unexpected scare during their preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026, after a venomous snake was reportedly spotted near their training camp in North Carolina, USA. The incident caused immediate concern among players and staff, though no injuries were reported.

According to team captain Joshua Kimmich, a copperhead snake—one of the venomous species commonly found in the southeastern United States—was identified close to the team's camp. The discovery prompted heightened caution within the squad, with officials advising players to remain alert while moving around the training facility and surrounding areas. Kimmich addressed the situation, noting that such wildlife encounters are uncommon in Germany, making it a new challenge for many players. He emphasized that while the snake is not typically fatal if treated promptly, its bite can cause severe pain, swelling, and medical compli-



cations, requiring immediate hospital attention. The captain reassured fans that the team had not suffered any harm and that safety measures were being reinforced.

The incident has also drawn attention to the broader environmental conditions teams face while preparing in the United States for the World Cup. The southeastern region is known

for its diverse wildlife, including snakes such as copperheads and rattlesnakes, which are often active in wooded and grassy areas. In some training zones, local authorities have even marked specific areas as high-risk to prevent accidental encounters. Germany is not the only team experiencing such challenges. Reports suggest that Switzerland's squad,

training in San Diego, also encountered warnings related to rattlesnake activity in nearby areas. Organizers have reportedly stepped up precautionary measures to ensure team safety across multiple training locations. Despite the unusual disturbance, Germany's preparations for the tournament continue as planned. The team is focused on its group-stage

matches against Curaçao, Ivory Coast, and Ecuador, aiming to build momentum ahead of the competition. While the snake sighting created brief tension, it has now become part of the larger narrative surrounding the World Cup buildup, highlighting how teams must adapt not only to opponents on the field but also to unfamiliar environments off it.

The Untold Story of Antonela, Messi's Pillar of Strength

Lionel Messi is widely celebrated as one of the greatest footballers in history, with a career filled with extraordinary achievements ranging from multiple Ballon d'Or titles to a long-awaited FIFA World Cup triumph. Yet, beyond the football pitch, there has been a constant presence in his life who has played a quiet but powerful role in his journey — Antonela Rocuzzo.

Both Messi and Antonela share their roots in Rosario, Argentina. Their connection began in childhood through family ties and mutual friendships. Antonela is the cousin of one of Messi's close friends, which led to their early meetings in their hometown. Even before Messi moved to Spain to join FC Barcelona's famed La Masia academy, the bond between them had already started to form. When Messi left Argentina at a young age to pursue his football dreams, distance separated them physically, but their connection did not fade. Over the years, despite living in different countries and facing the pressures of Messi's rapidly growing global fame, their relationship continued

to grow steadily and quietly, away from media attention.

As Messi rose to global superstardom, Antonela remained a grounding force in his personal life. While the football world focused on his goals, records, and trophies, the couple preferred to keep their relationship private and low-profile. Their long-standing bond eventually culminated in marriage in 2017 in Rosario, an event often described by Argentine media as one of the most high-profile weddings in football history. Today, the couple has three sons — Thiago, Mateo, and Ciro. Each child has become known in their own way, especially on social media, where family moments often go viral. Their eldest son Thiago is already showing interest in football, while Mateo is often noticed for his playful personality in public appearances and online clips.

Antonela herself has built a strong identity on social media, where she shares glimpses of family life, travel, and moments celebrating Messi's victories. Her presence has earned her millions of followers and global recognition be-



yond just being the partner of a football icon. Despite Messi's journey across continents and clubs, from Barcelona to Paris and later Inter Miami,

Antonela has remained a consistent presence in his life. Their relationship is often viewed as one of the most enduring and admired partner-

ships in the sporting world — a story of childhood connection growing into lifelong companionship alongside global fame.