

# Rishabh Pant Hits Two Centuries at Headingley, Reaches Best-Ever Test Ranking

In what can only be described as a historic performance, **Rishabh Pant hit two centuries at Headingley**, sending shockwaves through the cricketing world. The flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman not only steered India out of trouble in both innings but also reached his **best-ever Test ranking**, climbing to the No. 5 spot in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

This remarkable feat has now placed Pant firmly among the greats of Indian Test cricket, and his name will forever be linked with the iconic Headingley ground in Leeds. Let's take a closer look at how **Rishabh Pant's centuries at Headingley** unfolded, what it means for Indian cricket, and why this is being hailed as one of the best individual performances in Test history.



## First Innings Masterclass – A Rescue Act

India was under pressure early in the first innings. The top order failed to deliver, and the team found itself tottering at 64 for 4. In walked **Rishabh Pant**, oozing confidence and intent. What followed was a counter-attacking knock that changed the tempo of the match.

Pant unleashed his trademark fearless strokeplay, but this time it was blended with remarkable maturity. He punished loose deliveries while also defending with grit against some high-quality bowling from England's pace attack. His **first century at Headingley** came off 147 balls, laced with 14 boundaries and two sixes.

What stood out was not just the score but the context – Pant came in when the team needed a hero. He stood tall, batted smartly with the tail, and helped India post a competitive first-innings total of 324.

## Second Innings Brilliance – Sealing the Deal

While the first innings knock was a rescue act, the **second century by Rishabh Pant at Headingley** was all about dominance. India held a slender lead, and the match was delicately poised. Pant ensured the momentum shifted completely in India's favor.

This time, he was even more aggressive. The bowlers had no answers to his dazzling strokeplay – reverse sweeps, lofted drives, and fearless pulls. He raced to his **second century of the match**, becoming only the third Indian wicketkeeper to score twin hundreds in a Test, after Vijay Hazare and Wriddhiman Saha.

Pant's innings powered India to a mammoth second innings score of 412, virtually batting England out of the game.

**Check Out:- [India's Tale of Tail Wagging Problem Swells At Headingley](#)**

## Reaching Best-Ever Test Ranking

As a result of his twin tons, **Rishabh Pant climbed to No. 5 in the ICC Test Batting Rankings**, his career-best position. The rise in the rankings is well-deserved and reflects his consistency in the longer format over the past few years.

Pant now sits alongside names like Babar Azam, Joe Root, and Marnus Labuschagne, a testament to his evolution as a top-tier Test batter. From being seen as a white-ball specialist to becoming India's match-winner in red-ball cricket, the journey has been extraordinary.

## A Look at His Test Career So Far

**Rishabh Pant's Test journey** has been filled with highs and lows, but one thing has remained constant – his fearlessness. Since making his debut in 2018 against England, Pant has played several game-changing innings.

From his maiden century at The Oval to his heroics in Australia (especially that Gabba knock in 2021), Pant has shown that he thrives under pressure. With his twin centuries at Headingley, he now has 7 Test hundreds to his name and an average of over 44 in away conditions – a stunning stat for any wicket keeper-batsman.

## Praise From the Cricketing World

Pant's Headingley heroics earned him accolades from legends across the globe. **Sunil Gavaskar** hailed him as the "heartbeat of modern Indian Test batting," while **Michael Vaughan** called his second century "one of the finest counter-attacking knocks ever seen in England."

Even England skipper Ben Stokes acknowledged the brilliance:

"It's hard to set fields for someone like Pant when he's in this kind of form. He's a game-changer."

## Why This Performance Matters

India has historically struggled at Headingley, with very few wins to their name at this venue. Pant's innings not only helped India win this crucial Test but also shifted the momentum in the five-match series.

Moreover, this performance silences critics who questioned his place in the Test side after injury setbacks and inconsistent form last year. With these centuries, Pant has reaffirmed his place as India's No. 1 keeper-batter in Tests.

## The Road Ahead

With India eyeing a spot in the **World Test Championship Final**, Rishabh Pant's form is crucial. His ability to score runs quickly, change the rhythm of the match, and support the team in crunch situations makes him a vital cog in the Indian Test lineup.

Also, his improved wicket keeping—especially against spinners on turning tracks—adds immense value to the side.

## Final Thoughts

**Rishabh Pant's twin centuries at Headingley** will go down as one of the greatest performances by an Indian batter on English soil. It was a masterclass in aggression, composure, and skill. Achieving his **best-ever Test ranking** was the icing on the cake.

Pant has now entered the elite club of Test batting legends, and if this form continues, Indian cricket fans can look forward to many more such unforgettable performances.

**Check Out:- [Rishabh Pant Career, Stats & Overview](#)**