

Hypocrisy very much alive and kicking

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THERE was plenty of hype before the first Test between England and India. It was the 2000th Test match in the history of the game though the purists would tell you that the one off 'Test' match between Australia and the rest of the World in 2005 should not be counted as one. That is understandable since Test matches are between countries, but it was a necessity to call that game a 'Test' since sponsorship depended on it. Without that tag the sponsors wouldn't have been interested.



Of course, nobody blamed anybody for that then as they blame BCCI for whatever they do now. Nobody by the way is complaining about the blimp that is shown on TV in England for the series, since it is a sponsorship requirement, but woe betide the commentators when they call a six in the IPL a 'DLF maximum'. Hypocrisy is very much alive and kicking. India had their chances in the first Test but losing the experienced Zaheer meant that there was no one at hand to advise Ishant and Praveen how to deliver the knockout blow. In both innings of the first Test, India had England on the ropes, but just didn't have the experience to finish them off.

England recovered in the first innings thanks to a fine double century by Kevin Pietersen, who played patiently for his first hundred but raced to his second, and in the second innings it was Matt Prior's counter-attacking innings and his partnership with Stuart Broad that took the match away from India. Prior got a brilliant hundred and Broad, whose place in the team was on line, consolidated it with that knock as well as by bowling superbly. India had been well served by Rahul Dravid, who got a terrific century and if he had been able to do that in the second innings too, then India would have surely saved the match.

Kevin Pietersen won the Man of the Match for his double ton and he also is the CEAT international cricketer of the week for that huge effort of his at Lord's. PMG

