



The Sri Lankan fielders don face masks yesterday.

## Pollution stops play in New Delhi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
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**HAZARDOUS SMOG** stopped play in the third Test between India and Sri Lanka yesterday.

Many of Sri Lanka's fielders returned from lunch on the second day wearing face masks amid visible haze at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium and play was halted for around 20 minutes soon after as Sri Lanka complained to the umpires.

The US embassy website showed levels of the smallest and most harmful airborne pollutants in Delhi at 328, more than 10 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

The umpires consulted the match referee, team doctors and physiotherapists before deciding to resume but the visitors protested again and pacemen Lahiru Gamage and Suranga Lakmal walked off, meaning Sri Lanka were running short of fielders.

This prompted Indian skipper Virat Kohli to declare his first innings on 536 for seven to get the Sri Lankan fielders off the ground.

Play is routinely suspended due to poor weather, low visibility, lightning or rain but a stoppage due to pollution is almost unheard of.

Kohli himself became the first international captain to hit six Test double centuries, cracking a career-best 243 to go past West Indies great Brian Lara's five double tons.

### Marsh ton puts Aussies in the pink

Shaun Marsh raised his fifth Test century as Australia tightened the screws on England on day two of the second Ashes Test in Adelaide.

Marsh brought up his patient hundred off 213 balls and was unbeaten on 126 as Australia declared on 442-8 after being sent into bat in the pink ball day-nighter.

Australia's score surpassed their previous best of 383 in the first

innings of last year's pink ball Test against South Africa in Adelaide.

It represented a deflating loss of momentum for the tourists, who at one point had Australia struggling at 209-5.

England were 29 for one when rain ended play early.

Meanwhile, their determination to seek the return of Ashes exile Ben Stokes was offset by a disappointing comeback by the rusty all-rounder across the Tasman.

Stokes, omitted from the Ashes squad as he awaits a UK police decision on an assault charge, made just two runs and went wicketless in a one-day game for Canterbury.

New Zealand's national team is pushing for victory in the first Test against the West Indies in Wellington.

After starting their second innings with a 386-run deficit, the Windies reached 214 for two at stumps on day three, with opener Kraigg Brathwaite 79 not out.