

# Ranji: Rasool, Mudhasir secure huge win for J&K over Services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Skipper Parvez Rasool shone with his all-round skills while Mohammed Mudhasir returned a six-wicket match haul as J&K hammered Services by 173 runs in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' match at Palam A Stadium, New Delhi on Tuesday.

Duo Skipper Parvez and Mudhasir wreaked havoc, accounting for six of the ten wickets tumbling on the day to seal J&K's fourth win of the season. J&K now have 26 points from five matches to be at second spot while Odisha remained at the top of the table with 28 points from five matches.

Resuming at 184 for five, J&K declared their second innings closed after scoring 201 runs for the loss of five wickets, setting a target of 320 runs for Services.

Shubham Pundir hit an unbeatable century (102 off 186 balls, 13x4, 1x8) while wicketkeeper Fazil Rashid remained not out at 30 off 97 balls hitting three boundaries for J&K in the

second innings.

Needing 320 runs for a win, Services's second innings folded up at 146.

Skipper Rasool bowled with lot of guile and tempted the batsmen to go for shots and make error. His effort was ably complemented by Mudhasir who also returned with a three-wicket haul.

Services had a steady start with openers Abhijit Salvi and Nikhil Verma. The two registered an 19-run partnership for the opening wicket but Nikhil Verma, after scoring a five off 18 balls, lost his patience and was fell leg before to Mohammed Mudhasir.

This opened the proverbial floodgates as Services lost four wickets in form of Ravi Chauhan (13), Rahul Singh (1), captain Rajat Paliwal (7). Vikas Hathwala also fell cheaply for five runs.

Opener Abhijit Salvi (34) and Arjun Sharma (54) put some resistance but the chase proved too high. Besides Rasool and

Mudhasir, Umar Nazir (2/38) and Aqib Nabi (2/23) polished off the tail to hand J&K a fine win. Captain Parvez Rasool was picked Man of the Match against Services.

Jammu and Kashmir thumped Uttarakhand by 253 runs in Dehradun in their opening fixture this season and backed it up with a 54-run win over two-time winners and five-time finalists Maharashtra in Pune. Their third match against Assam in Jammu was drawn because of weather conditions. In fourth match of the season, J&K outplayed Jharkhand by an inning and 27 runs in Ranchi. J&K will now take on group toppers Odisha from January 19 and follow it up with matches against Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Haryana.

Meanwhile, former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan took to Twitter to praise Jammu and Kashmir for their 173-run win over Services.

In his tweet, Irfan Pathan hailed Jammu and Kashmir

over their third win and hashtagged a number of players who were instrumental in registering the thumping win. Besides Rasool, Pundir and

Mudhasir, he also tagged first-innings half-centurion opener Shubham Khajuria, Aqib Nabi and Umar Nazir all of whom played some role.

## SCORE BOARD

<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir 1st Innings</b>	<b>360/10</b>
<b>Services 1st Innings</b>	<b>242/10</b>
Jammu & Kashmir 2nd Innings	
SP Khajuria c Paliwal b Pathania	04
S Raina c Bamaal b Pandey	04
Henan Nazir c †Verma b Pathania	05
SS Pundir not out	102
Parvez Rasool (c) c †Verma b Pathania	45
Abdul Samad c Bamaal b Pandey	05
Fazil Rashid † not out	30
<b>Extras</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>201/5d</b>
<b>Services 2nd Innings</b>	
AA Salvi b Mudhasir	34
NH Verma † b w b Mudhasir	05
Ravi Chauhan l b w b Aqib Nabi	13
G Rahul Singh l b w b Parvez Rasool	01
RS Paliwal (c) l b w b Umar Nazir	07
VS Hathwala c †Fazil Rashid b Parvez Rasool	05
AP Sharma c †Fazil Rashid b Umar Nazir	54
AA Bamaal l b w b Aqib Nabi	08
DG Pathania b Mudhasir	07
S Pandey b Parvez Rasool	04
PS Poonia not out	03
<b>Extras</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>146/10</b>

# India get 10-wicket hiding from Australia in series opener

■ AGENCY

MUMBAI: Australia gave India a harsh reality check with a 10-wicket hiding in the ODI series opener here on Tuesday, exposing the home team's middle-order frailty and putting to sword its bowling.

Anticipating dew in the evening session, Aaron Finch opted to field. India ended up with a below-par 255 on a decent batting surface after a middle-order failure.

Australia made short work of the target, racing to a resounding victory in 37.4 overs with David Warner (128 not out off 112) and Finch (110 not out off 114) smashing unbeaten centuries, making the Indian attack look rather ordinary. They simply ran away with chase, sharing 30 boundaries and five sixes between them.

The manner of India's defeat, which came after dominating limited overs series wins against West Indies and Sri Lanka, has left the hosts with plenty to ponder ahead of the second game in Rajkot on Friday.

India made some unmissable changes in their batting combi-

nation with Virat Kohli pushing himself down to number four to accommodate specialist openers Shikhar Dhawan (74 off 91) and K L Rahul (47 off 61) in the playing eleven.

Dhawan opened alongside Rohit Sharma while Rahul batted at three, disturbing the combination that India employed successfully after the World Cup in July.

With Kohli (16 off 14) dropping himself down the order, Shreyas Iyer (4), who had shown a lot of promise at number four in recent times, was demoted to five. The entire experiment failed miserably, raising plenty of questions.

## SCORE BOARD

<b>India Innings</b>	
RG Sharma c Warner b Stare	10
S Dhawan c Agar b Cummins	74
KL Rahul c Smith b Agar	47
V Kohli (c) c & b Zampa	16
SS Iyer c †Carey b Stare	04
RR Pant † c Turner b Cummins	28
RA Jadeja c †Carey b Richardson	25
SN Thakur b Stare	13
Mohammed Shami c †Carey b Richardson	10
Kuldeep Yadav run out (Smith)	17
JJ Bumrah not out	00
<b>Extras</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>255/10</b>
<b>Australia Innings</b>	
DA Warner not out	128
AJ Finch (c) not out	110
<b>Extras</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>258/0</b>

# Neroca register hard-fought victory over Real Kashmir Office bearers of J&K Olympic Association call on Lt Governor

■ AGENCY

IMPHAL: Mian forward Boubaacar Diarra scored the match-winner as NEROCA FC beat Real Kashmir 1-0 to snap their four-match winless streak in the I-League here on Tuesday.

Diarra headed home in the 62nd minute to give Neroca their second win of the season at the Khuman Lampak stadium. Neroca also jumped to the seventh spot with eight points from seven matches.

Real Kashmir slipped one spot to 10th, just above bottom-placed Indian Arrows, with six points from six matches.

Neroca head coach Gift

Raikhana, seemingly desperate for a change in fortune, made a lot of changes to his line-up. Dhananjay Singh and Roshan Singh started at the back while Imran Khan and Siam Hanghal formed the pivot in midfield. Varun Thoekhom and Pritam Singh started on the flanks, with Diarra and Zico Sekle spearheading the attack.

Real Kashmir head coach David Robertson made just one change to his side, with Farhan Ganie starting ahead of Altamash Sayed, with the remainder of his 4-5-1 system remaining unchanged. Neroca came close to scoring in the seventh minute when a Siam

Hanghal set-piece on the right flank was not dealt with properly inside the Real Kashmir box, which allowed Taryk Sampson with a crack on the goal but his shot missed the target. It was Hanghal again, in the 10th minute, when he crafted an inch-perfect cross into the box for Diarra, who had a free header on goal from barely a couple of yards out, but he missed an absolute sitter, letting Real Kashmir off the hook once again.

The visitors had their first attempt on goal in the 17th minute, when a scramble in the Neroca box led to the ball falling to Gnohere Krizo, who pulled the trigger from point-

blank range, but Neroca were bailed out by a stunning save from their skipper Marvin Devon Phillip.

Real Kashmir had another golden opportunity in the 34th minute when a Mason Robertson delivery found Krizo unmarked, but the chance went begging as he headed over the bar.

Gift Raikhana's men had another chance to break the deadlock, this time in the first minute of first-half stoppage time, when Diarra was through on goal and with only the keeper to beat, fired his shot straight at him, leaving the two teams level pegging at the break.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Office bearers of J&K Olympic Association on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu here.

The delegation led by Prof. Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Associate Vice President Indian Olympic Association and Honourary General Secretary, J&K Olympic Association projected issues related to reconstitution of Sports Council, formation of Sports Policy, support for conducting tournaments in Districts and streamlining the funding system of the Association in different dis-



J&K Olympic Association members interacting with Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu.

ciplines.

Other members of the delegation including Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, Sidharth Daluja and Sunil Sharma were also present on the occasion. The Lt Governor assured the members of the

# Shreya wins 3rd consecutive Fencing gold for J&K

■ SPORTS REPORTER

JAMMU: Young and outstanding fencer from Jammu and Kashmir, Shriya Gupta has showed her complete domination in the Sabre event of Cadet (U-17) group taking away third consecutive gold in the ongoing 16th National Championship at Hyderabad.

Shreya, who is current Junior National champion, has already represented India in the International events.

As per the reports reaching here, Shreya, a class 10th student of Presentation Convent School Jammu, defeated Priya V of Kerala 15-07 in the quarterfinals and outplayed Shruti Joshi of Maharashtra 15-14 in a



close semifinal contest.

In the title clash, she trounced Kashish Bharad of Maharashtra 15-10 thereby made hat trick of Cadet National titles.

Shreya has won first gold medal for J&K at National Fencing Championship held at Bhopal in November 2019.

By winning the individual Gold medal, Shreya has qualified for the

upcoming International events like Asian championships and World championships both in Junior and Cadet categories to be held in 2020. Important to mention here that in July 2018, Shreya won first ever medal for J&K in Commonwealth Championship held at New Castle, England.

Because of her excellent performance in national fencing championship in Gwalior in October 2017, she was declared the best national fencer of the championship. Shreya has been selected as one of the potential elite sportsperson by Sports Authority of India (SAI), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in preparing for Mission Olympics 2024 and 2028.

# Hero's welcome to Climbing champion Shivani

■ SPORTS REPORTER

JAMMU: Shivani Charak of J&K, the undisputed Sport Climbing champion of the country, who recently brought laurels to the country by winning a Bronze medal in Asian Youth Championship, was given a hero's welcome on her arrival at Jammu Airport.

A huge gathering of sports lovers, members of Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK), Tawi Trekkers J&K and other local adventure clubs were present at the Jammu airport to give her a dignified welcome.

Shivani was accompanied by her younger brothers, who also won medals in the recently concluded National Championship at Bhuvneshwar.

Prominent among those who garlanded the champion



Shivani with members of Mountaineering Association of J&K on her arrival at Jammu.

Climber were Ram Khajuria, (General Secretary of MAJK, who is also President Tawi Trekkers J&K and Secretary Indian Mountaineering Foundation North Zone Committee), Yogeshwar Kumar (Vice President MAJK) and Sushil Singh (Treasurer MAJK).

Shashi Kant Sharma, Shivani's coach at the start of her climbing career, was also present at the airport.

From airport she was taken to her home at Muthi in a caravan of about 20 vehicles.

of about five years, Shivani has reached unprecedented heights and is presently ranked number one climber in the country. She has already participated and performed well in many international competitions at China, Thailand, Indonesia, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia and the day is not far when she will be among the top climbers of the world.

Ram Khajuria had a word of praise for Shivani's parents and also whose daughter and two sons Ajay Deep and Arun Deep bagged six medals including two gold, three silver and one bronze in the recently concluded National Sport Climbing Championship at Bhuvneshwar.

Khajuria also appealed to the Government to recognize Shivani's achievements and honour her suitably.

# Rajan invited as technical delegate for Khelo India

■ SPORTS REPORTER

JAMMU: Rajan Sharma of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday left for Guwahati in Assam to join the technical team of the 3rd Khelo India Youth Games in the Boxing event.

Former Divisional Sports Officer of the J&K Sports Council, Rajan has been invited as technical delegate for the prestigious national event, organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Earlier, Rajan acted as technical official in the Indian Boxing League and Elite Women National Championship held at Kerala. He also led the Indian women's boxing team as Manager for the World Championship in Russia.



# Aditya Pratap, Jatin Wadhawan to lead teams Exhibition match to mark opening of MA Stadium today

■ SPORTS REPORTER

JAMMU: An exhibition match shall mark the formal opening of the upgraded Maulana Azad (MA) Stadium with first class cricketers leading the teams, here on Wednesday.

The Lt. Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has consented to be the Chief Guest in the inaugural function, who shall witness a few last overs of the innings and then declare open the cricket

facility in the Winter Capital of the Union Territory of J&K.

The teams have been named by the Divisional Sports Officer of the J&K Sports Council.

The Teams: Team A: Aditya Pratap Singh (Skipper), Rohan Koul, Ateev Saini (wicket-keeper), Raman Thaploo, Mohd Tahir Bhat, Jugjap Singh, Sant Baksh, Irfan ul Haq, Gourav Bhat, Puneet Kumar,

Dishant Kundal, Gokul Baru, Anmol Bhan, Shakib Nengroo and Saqib Ahmed Lone.

Team-B: Jatin Wadhwan (skipper), Shantanu Gupta, Aman Sharma, Kanayia Wadhwan (wicket-keeper), Akash Chowdhary, Nitish Salaria, Kanav Saini, Musaffer Ahmed Teli, Sawan Singh, Adil Aqoub, Sheikh Usaid, Aakash Ayoub, Mohd Amin Lone and Abdul Gani Nengroo.

# Rani Rampal to lead Indian women's hockey team in NZ tour

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Star striker Rani Rampal will lead a 20-member Indian women's hockey team for the tour of New Zealand, beginning on January 25 in Auckland.

According to the squad named by Hockey India, goalkeeper Savita will be Rani's deputy during the tour.

The other players of team are Rajini Etimarpu, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu, Nisha, Namita Toppo, Udita, Monika, Lilima Minz,

Neha, Sonika, Sharmila Devi, Navneet Kaur, Lalremisiami, Vandana Katariya and Navjot Kaur.

India's first match of the tour is against the New Zealand Development squad on January 25, followed by games against the New Zealand women's team on January 27 and 29.

The Indians will also play Great Britain on February 4 and then conclude the tour with another match against the New Zealand women's team on February 5.

Speaking about the tour, India's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said, "I want to use this tour to create more competition within this group. Although we are taking a 20-member team, in some matches we will use only 16 players because we play with 16 players at the Olympics and in some matches we will play 18 members.

"The players have to show their best and I want to see how they perform under pressure and stay in the right rhythm."

He added that the match-

es against world number 5 Great Britain and world number 6 New Zealand will provide a great opportunity for the Indian team to showcase their fearless attitude.

The Team: Rani (captain), Savita (vice-captain), Rajini Etimarpu, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu, Nisha, Namita Toppo, Udita, Monika, Lilima Minz, Neha, Sonika, Sharmila Devi, Navneet Kaur, Lalremisiami, Vandana Katariya, Navjot Kaur.

# Shaw bats in nets as selectors prepare to pick ODI, Test squads for NZ tour

■ AGENCY

MUMBAI: Recovering from a shoulder injury, the precocious Prithvi Shaw could make it to New Zealand, his hopes brightened after what he termed a "superb net session".

With the Indian selectors yet to name the ODI and Test squads for the tour of New Zealand, all is still not lost for the 20-year-old Shaw.

He was in sparkling touch since returning from his eight-month doping ban, but a shoulder injury on the opening day of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy game against Karnataka cut short his run, ruling him out of India A's two practice matches in New Zealand.

However, his net session has sent a positive signal. "My favourite sound. The sound when the ball hits the middle of my bat. Superb net sessions going on," Shaw tweeted alongside a video of the session.

He was seen driving, cutting and flicking with ease.

Shaw had hurt his left shoulder while trying to save an overthrow during Mumbai's match against Karnataka at the Bandra Kurla Complex.

# Sports minister, NADA ambassador push for drug-free culture

■ AGENCY

GUWAHATI: Sports minister Kiren Rijiju and NADA ambassador Suniel Shetty on Tuesday called for a clean and drug-free sports culture, urging Indian athletes to refrain from any banned substances.

During a workshop to educate youngsters about the dangers of dope, actor Shetty, who is a brand ambassador of the National Anti-Doping Agency, shared his own success story to underline the importance of sports in a child's life.

"You may make many mistakes in your life but make

sure that you don't eat anything which is wrong. Whatever I have achieved in my life, it is purely because of sport," said the actor.

"I used to practice martial arts and I used to train really, really hard. I became an actor in my life only because I was an athlete. I still believe that I am a part of sports."

The minister and the star took part in a shootout after a football match to entertain the spectators and to share their message.

The sports minister promised to all athletes that they would be given full support as

long as they stay away from banned substances.

"Everyone in the country can see that the Khelo India Youth Games are being conducted well in Guwahati. Suniel Shetty has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the National Anti-Doping Agency to spread the message of being clean."

"I would like to tell all coaches and parents that they should ensure that all athletes should refrain from banned drugs. All athletes should stay clean and become champions. We are here to support all the athletes," said Rijiju.

When asked about the Khelo India Youth Games, Shetty expressed his astonishment, saying that was unbelievable that so many youngsters are getting a chance to feel that they are the stars of tomorrow.

"It's unbelievable that young kids can feel that they are the stars of tomorrow. They need to be encouraged and be aware of what it is to represent the country."

"It was a packed house today and it's such a good feeling when anything is packed and so much happening," said Shetty.

# Maharashtra on top of table after productive day

■ AGENCY

GUWAHATI: Maharashtra's athletes went home with wide smiles after enjoying a productive day at the Khelo India Youth Games 2020 here on Tuesday, entrenching themselves at the top of the charts with a total of 26 gold.

Maharashtra's total number of medals stood at 107, leaving Haryana trailing with 21 gold medal and a total of 67.

Maharashtra owed it to their gymnasts and cyclists who contributed three gold medals each.

Harshwardhan Yadav (boys under-21 25m Rapid Fire Pistol) and sprinter Kirti

Vijay Bhoite (girls under-21 200m) ensured that Maharashtra would widen their lead over Haryana, who won three gold medals, including one from Nancy in the girls under-17 10m Air Rifle.

Manipur's cyclists and judokas fetched their State five gold medals to see the State rise to ninth place while Uttar Pradesh, with four track and field titles, rose to fourth place behind Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi.

Kerala, who got four gold on Tuesday, including three from track and field, and Tamil

Nadu whose boys under-17 relay quartet were the only ones to strike gold on the final day of athletics competition, are the only southern States in the top 10. Aparna Roy was the toast of the Kerala team as she retained the girls under-21 100m hurdles gold with a new meet record.

In fact, Tuesday's surge enabled Kerala finish the athletics competition with 10 gold, two silver and six bronze and egde Haryana to the second spot. With 31 medals overall from track and field, Tamil Nadu claimed the credit for sending most athletes to the podium.