

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Lohri virtually with glee



Students of JK Public School Panjtirthi during Lohri celebration.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: India is known as a land of festivals and celebration, Lohri is one of them

which is unique in its perception and significance. JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrated Lohri virtually with

glee. Lohri songs, poem and speeches were sung by the little toddlers. The famous folklore 'Sunder

Munderiye' was sung with joviality. The students had a gala time as they danced around the bonfire and offered their

prayers for the prosperity of the nation. The students were attired in the traditional dresses and were totally absorbed in

the festive spirit. Jakiaans showcased their marvelous oratory skills, recited a poem and delivered a speech based on

Lohri celebration. The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah wished Happy Lohri to one and

all. She emphasized that Lohri festival keeps the tradition and culture alive in our festivities.

Shaheed Manjit Club honours young Indian players at Poonch Army starts Pir Panjal Kabaddi League

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Continued with their tradition of respect to those associated with the game of volleyball, Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club felicitated three international players on their maiden visit to the border town of Poonch.

Accompanied by J&K's only international medal winner spiker, Saqlain Tariq to participate in a recently concluded event at Rajouri, these top players of the country inspired young talent at the training



Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club felicitating three international players on visit to Poonch.

ground of Shaheed Manjit Club, here.

All three players, Dilraj Singh Gill, Lovepreet Singh and Ayush Kasnia were happy to see youngsters of Poonch following the footprints of Saqlain Tariq and working hard to achieve the desired results.

They asked the budding players to follow the star and make them role model.

While Dilraj has played Junior Asian Championship in 2018 at Bahrain, Lovepreet is a Youth National Bronze and Senior National silver medalist.

Ayush Kasnia has represented the country in 2018 Youth Asian Championship at Tabriz (Iran) and won Silver medal in All India University 2021-22.

During interaction, chairman of the Club, Mohd Tariq introduced youngsters with the visiting guests and briefed about various activities bring organised to promote the game of Volleyball in J&K.

The Club also arranged players visit to famous Bodha Amarnaath in Mandi and Dera Nangali Sahib.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Impetus to the sporting talent in the region, Indian Army, doda organized Pir Panjal Kabaddi League (inter district kabaddi competition) in which six teams from various regions of Jammu division including Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Nowshera participated.

Retd Col Parshotam Kumar, ECHS head, Doda inaugurated the tournament in presence of Indian Army officials and civil dignitaries Doda followed by league matches.



A dignitary interacting with players.

Indian Army has also incorporated Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to select potential players for representation at State and National level.

Indian Army is sponsoring and conducting the event with all essential

administrative and logistics support.

The event conducted was inclusive of civil administration to encourage them to undertake similar initiative for mainstreaming local population into national fabric.

India withdraws from Asian Under-22 Boxing championship amid COVID threat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Boxing Federation of India has decided to pull out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women in Tashkent, Uzbekistan due to the global surge in COVID-19 cases but is willing to participate if the tournament is rescheduled to a time when the pandemic subsides.

A reliable source in the federation has confirmed to PTI that a letter has been sent to the Asian Boxing Confederation as well as the tournament's organising committee confirming India's withdrawal.

The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30. The Asian event was originally slated to be held from December 7 to 17 last year but was postponed because of the pandemic.

Indian boxing has been hit by a COVID crisis of its own. The men's senior national camp in Patiala has reported 26 cases, including 20 boxers.

Boxers born in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are eligible to compete in the event that is being held for the first time in the continent.

The competition was to be held in 12 women's and 13 men's weight categories.

The Indian men's squad featured the likes of Asian youth bronze-medallist Mohammed Etash Khan (63.5kg) and reigning national champion Rohit Mor (60kg) among others.

Inter-block level sports tournament concludes at Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Inter block level sports tournament organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Poonch, (Ministry Of Youth Affairs & Sports) in collaboration with Jan Memorial Youth Club concluded at HSS ground Seri Khawaja, here on Thursday.

Several teams of adjoining villages of the block Lassana participated in the tournament, which witnessed competitions in Kabbadi, kho kho, volleyball and Athletics.

Kabbadi and volleyball final matches were won by teams of Kalai by defeating teams of Seri.

BDC Surankote B, Sohail Malik was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony. He witnessed finals from the beginning and encour-



Organisers presenting memento to the Chief Guest.

aged youth of the block Lassana. He interacted with the players individually and being himself a sportsperson, he shared his experiences and advised the players to stay dedicated towards their game. He also advised them to stay away from bad company, drugs and other things which destroy the career of youth.

The BDC Surankote B assured players of block Lassana (Seri Khwaja, Chowana, Neriyan, Haribudha etc) that he will try to provide sports kits and recommend for their participation on bigger platforms. Sohail Malik also congratulated winners and also appreciated the discipline,

brotherhood and sportsperson spirit maintained by both the teams.

Pervaiz Malik (Founder Rahul Dravid Cricket Academy) presented vote of thanks. He hailed the guests for sparing their time to encourage the players and organizers and sharing valuable thoughts.

Medals and momentous were distributed among the Winner and Runner up teams.

Jan Memorial Youth Club Seri Chowana presented a memento to Chief Guest Sohail Malik.

Waseem Akram (PET); Aijaz Malik (REK); Manzoor Lone (REK); Shabir Malik (REK) and Manzoor Rather (REK) officiated the matches throughout the tournament.

We will have short targets, key is to stay focussed during U19 World Cup Kanitkar

■ AGENCY

GEORGETOWN: Head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar says his side would set short targets when it competes at the Under-19 World Cup, where the past Indian teams have created a rich legacy.

The under-19 World Cup begins in the West Indies on Friday and India begins its campaign with a match against South Africa on Saturday.

"There is a huge legacy since India has done so well in this tournament. It doesn't help that we have won four times. There is a new team, so you have to start afresh," Kanitkar said during an online media interaction ahead of the marquee event.

"We don't want to look too far ahead at things like the IPL auction and the Ranji Trophy. What we need to do is to just focus on what we can do in this tournament. We, as a coaching unit, keep them focussed on what they can do in the short term," he added.

Asked about playing under difficult circumstances as players are being forced to stay in bio-bubbles, the former India cricketer said it is better to get used to it than complain.

"Yes...it is a challenge. What we need to realise is that this is the norm now. It is the reality now, staying in the bubble. The boys will be able to learn from this, after this World Cup also, when

INDIA U19 SCHEDULE

Jan 15: India U19 vs South Africa U19

Jan 19: India U19 vs Ireland U19

Jan 22: India U19 vs Uganda U19

they need to stay in bubbles, they will be up for it," he said.

The Indians head into the Under-19 World Cup with a victory in the under-19 Asia Cup and the head coach said it was of great help as the team got to play together.

"It is important because we had not played together as a team. For us, it was important in terms of team building and getting matches under our belt. It has been of great help," Kanitkar said of the win in the U-19 Asia Cup.

The coach emphasised that the team had good fast bowling all-rounders with Rajvardhan Hangargekar of Maharashtra developing well

"It augurs well for the future. The talent is there...it is about grooming and handling them well. Rajvardhan is a really exciting prospect and bowls at a fair clip.

"He has a good yorker and a bouncer and he is not a bad batsman. You will find that out in the tournament. He is keen to do well for the team. These are good signs," he said.

Asked what went in favour of Yash Dhull that he got the captaincy, Kanitkar said he had the respect of the play-

ers which was important.

"The primary quality is to have respect from the players. I think that is what he has, the respect of the team. He is able to take tough calls.

"Every time, especially while fielding, he can't be told to do things, he needs to take his decisions. He is up to it. I think his instincts are tuned fine and think he can do justice to the job," Kanitkar added.

The Indian under-19 captain Dhull, who looks up to the Indian Test skipper Virat Kohli, felt it was important to take it game by game.

"The morale in the team was good. It is important to take it game by game and see how to improve game by game. We will keep our intent and take it as it comes," he said.

About the interactions the team had with the legendary VVS Laxman, who heads the NCA now and India's white ball skipper Rohit Sharma, Dhull said, "They told us about their experiences and that will surely help us in the tournament ahead."

The Indian under-19 skipper said the pitches in West Indies were on the slower side.

South Africa on firm footing for series win despite brilliant Pant hundred, Kohli cries foul

■ AGENCY

CAPE TOWN: Rishabh Pant was fearless without being careless during a brilliant hundred in the most adverse circumstances but South Africa were on course for a memorable series win against India on a day when visiting skipper Virat Kohli was left fuming due to a contentious DRS decision in the third and final Test here.

Pant's (100 not out off 139 balls) fourth Test hundred constituted for more than 50 per cent of India's shoddy second innings total of 198 with Kohli's 29 off 143 balls being the second highest individual score.

With an easy target of 212 to chase, South Africa were 101 for 2 at stumps as their dogged skipper Dean Elgar (30) was finally out tieling down the leg side giving India some breathing space going into the fourth and probably the final day of the series.

With 111 runs left, the match is expected to end early on Friday either way but at this moment Proteas look way ahead.

With eight batters failing to reach even double figures, no amount of excuses would be enough for India when they analyse the below par show along with the new team management's decision to carry over-the-hill out of form seniors, which only compounded problems. It's up to the bowlers now.

This was the first Test match in 145-year-history where all 20 batters of one

team were caught.

It was in the 21st over that R Ashwin flighted one that straightened enough after pitching as Elgar was beaten trying to play a forward defensive stroke. Straight umpire Marais Erasmus gave it leg before but Elgar went for DRS, which surprisingly ruled that the ball would miss the leg stump.

It seemed a howler and more so a technical one rather than umpiring which left the Indian team very angry.

Funnily enough Elgar, after seeing that he was beaten, had started walking before he came back. An angry Kohli kicked the ground in

disgust and then used the stump microphone to good effect.

One of the players (not confirmed) even said: "Whole country is against eleven players."

Another one chimed in to say, "broadcasters are here to make money boys".

For some time, the bowlers lost focus before getting Elgar at the fag end of the day. The day belonged to Pant as he scored a hundred which was as good as one would ever see and what stood out was his immaculate shot selection. He was aggressive without being reckless and fearless without being careless.

SCOREBOARD	
India 1st Innings	223/10
South Africa 1st Innings	210/10
India 2nd Innings	
KL Rahul c Markram b Jansen	10
Mayank Agarwal c Elgar b Rabada	07
Cheteshwar Pujara c Petersen b Jansen	09
Virat Kohli (c) c Markram b Ngidi	29
Ajinkya Rahane c Elgar b Rabada	01
Rishabh Pant † not out	100
Ravichandran Ashwin c Jansen b Ngidi	07
Shardul Thakur c †Verreynne b Ngidi	05
Umesh Yadav c †Verreynne b Rabada	00
Mohammed Shami c van der Dussen b Jansen	00
Jasprit Bumrah c Bavuma b Jansen	02
Extras	28
Total	198/10
South Africa 2nd Innings	
Aiden Markram c Rahul b Mohammed Shami	16
Dean Elgar (c) c †Pant b Bumrah	30
Keegan Petersen not out	48
Extras	07
Total	101/2