

# All-rounder Mukesh helps Jammu Sports defeat Wild-XI by 4 wickets

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All round performance by Skipper Mukesh Sharma (53 runs & 2 wickets) helped Jammu Sports chase down 133 runs to register a thrilling victory over Wild XI Cricket Club in the first T-20 match of the ongoing three-match series being played at Rehal Cricket Stadium.

Earlier, Wild XI skipper Abhishek Gupta won the toss and decided to bat first and posted 132 runs on the scoreboard in the stipulated 20 overs. Sunit (36 runs) was the top scorer whereas skipper Abhishek and Aditya scored 21 and 20



Winner team posing for a photograph.

runs respectively.

For Jammu Sports, Skipper Mukesh Sharma with 2 wickets remained the

pick of the bowlers, while Vikram Dogra was quite economical with the ball clinching one wicket by leak-

ing just 12 runs from his four overs. Arun Raina, Yash Khajuria and Akshit Singh also shared one wicket each.

In reply, Jammu Sports

openers Mukesh Sharma and Rajesh Bandal were imperious. The duo stitched an 88 runs stand in 11.3 overs to lay a solid foundation. Jammu Sports were

headed to a convincing win

before Chiku produced a sensational spell and clinched three crucial wickets to pull Wild XI into the contest.

With 7 needed of the final over, Jammu sports lost two

wickets but Ashu hit boundary (on his first ball) on the

last ball of the match to hand Jammu Sports a thrilling 4 wickets win and 1-0 lead in the series.

For Jammu Sports, Skipper Mukesh Sharma (53 runs) remained the highest scorer while Rajesh Bandal and Vikram Dogra also chipped in with 25 and 17 runs respectively. For Wild XI, Chiku took 3 wickets to remain the pick of the bowlers. Vishal and Deepak also shared one wicket each.

Later, Jammu Sports Skipper Mukesh Sharma was declared as Player of the Match for his all round performance in the Match.

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# Soham wins maiden Mayor Cup Chess title

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Top rated player and J&K champion, Soham Kamotra clinched the maiden Mayor Cup Chess Championship scoring highest points, here today.

He received a cash prize of Rs 11000 and a glittering trophy. Experienced Sunit Grover won second place to become rich by Rs 6000 while third place went to Arvind with a cash prize of Rs 3000.

Others who won cash prizes of Rs 1100 each included Arvind, Arushi Kotwal (best among woman), SP Sharma (best among veteran) and Aarav Gupta (best under-12).

Mayor Jammu, Chander Mohan Gupta along with officials and winners posing for a photograph.



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among the winners. The

Mayor praised All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) for conducting such an events thus providing continuous platform to the players.

He promised help in conduct of more such events for channelizing the energy of youth in a positive direction.

Also present were president AJKCA, Atul Kumar Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta, Baldev Raj, Kuljeet Jamwal, Raj Kumar, Vikas Nanda and Khalid Amin.

The event was organized by Jammu District Chess Association in collaboration with Crown Trust.

## Samba District Athletics Championship from Jan 8

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba District Athletics Association will organize Samba District Athletics Championship for boys & girls at Baba Santokh Singh Stadium Sainpur from January 8 to 9, 2022.

The championship will be held in various categories including under-14, 16, 18, open category, long jump and shot put under the aegis of J&K Amateur Athletics Association. The Athletes are directed to bring with them DoB certificate, Aadhaar card and one passport size photograph. For any queries the Athletes can contact Rakesh Singh charak (8825010618).

## Renovated Billiards & Snooker Hall of Amar Singh Club opened



Dr Nandita & Dr Nirupam Dogra inaugurating Billiards and Snooker Hall of Amar Singh Club.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The newly renovated Billiards and Snooker Hall of Amar Singh Club was opened on Sunday for the members of the Club.

The opening was done by Dr Nandita Mehta and Dr Nirupam Dogra Mahajan. They were accompanied by Dr Vikram Handa and Dr Anil Mehta.

disciplined manner.

The Chief Guest declared the tournament open & officials called both the captains to the net at the start of the game to clarify rules and conduct a coin flip.

The toss winning team (pty Dharbadhan) chose to serve and the game started with full support of spectators.

Teams participating were from panchayat Filler-A, Filler-B, Dharbadhan & Anjol.

Team Dharbadhan won the final match by defeating Panchayat filer-A in straight two sets 25-22 & 25-18.

Officials and NYCs including Vikas Deep, Kulwant Singh, Chander Sheel Sharma, Tariq Hussain, Yasir Jaan, Bansi Lal & Sunny Shan were also present.

## YSS-Cup 2021: Volleyball tournament hosted at Thakrai

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Youth Services and Sports Department Kishtwar on Sunday organized a volleyball tournament at block Thakrai under the aegis of YSS-Cup 2021.

Sports department, under the leadership of Director YSS J&K UT Gazanfar Ali, has been holding series of sports events to provide youth sports platform to channelize their energy in the right direction.

In Kishtwar, the events are being held across all blocks in coordination with District Administration and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kumar Sharma, by DYSSO Kharati Lal Sharma, said Suman Kant, Incharge block Thakrai in his



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

inaugural speech.

At the venue HSS Filler, which has been set for inter Panchayat block level tournament, Suman Kant addressed to participants and said underlined the need to instil proper knowledge among youth and teach them discipline,

brotherhood, discernment and intense desire to do something good for the society and nation.

Chief Guest, Rajesh Roshan Sarpanch, Dharbadhan & Guest of honour Sanjeet Shan, interacted with the players and advised them to play the game in a well

### Messi among 4 PSG players test positive for COVID-19

#### AGENCY

PARIS: Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi is among four players in the Paris Saint-Germain squad to have tested positive for the coronavirus ahead of the team's French Cup game on Monday night.

PSG added that one staff member also had COVID-19 in a statement on Saturday night.

None of them were named at that point, but in a further statement on the team's

medical news Sunday the club named Messi, left back Juan Bernat, backup goalie Sergio Rico and 19-year-old midfielder Nathan Bitumazala.

PSG is playing at third-tier Vannes.

On Cusp of History: Kohli's India ready to roll over South Africa for elusive series win

#### AGENCY

JOHANNESBURG: India's formidable consistent match-winners have a date with history in the New Year when they take on an out-of-sorts South Africa in the second Test here from Monday in pursuit of a coveted first-ever series win in the Rainbow Nation.

If the 'Boxing Day' Test was used to breach the Proteas' fortress at the Centurion, the New Year's game will be all about stoutly defending the 'Bull Ring' bastion which has been a 'home' away from home for the Indian team.

Also, it was right here in 2018 when the foundation of one of India's greatest Test teams was laid with a solid win on a track that bordered on under-prepared and perhaps gave this unit self belief to take on the world.

They have been doing that for nearly four years now and are in no mood to stop.

For captain Virat Kohli, a Test victory at the Wanderers would reaffirm his status as one of the greatest Indian captains of all time in the traditional format with series wins in three of the four SENA nations barring New Zealand.

There cannot be a more opportune time to achieve the feat against a South African side that lacks Graeme Smith's grit, Hashim Amla's class, Jacques Kallis' maniac consistency, Dale Steyn's x-factor and Morne Morkel's relentless.

To be fair, this South African team will find it incredibly difficult to com-

pete against the current Indian line-up leave alone harbour dreams of a win.

Yes, they have a Kagiso Rabada, who is carrying the load, and Lungi Ngidi, who has looked good, but Quinton de Kock's sudden retirement from the toughest form of cricket at the age of 29 is another reminder of a tough transition period that never seems to end for the Proteas.

So even if Ryan Rickleton, the 25-year-old dashing keeper-batter who is slated to make his debut, created some noise, he will find that scoring runs at the domestic level is very different from facing Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami with the red Kookaburra.

Even Duanne Oliver, likely to replace Wiaan Mulder who was out due to a hamstring injury in the first Test, will find it extremely difficult against a seasoned Indian batting line-up which would like to give a better account of itself compared to the first Test.

On a personal note for Kohli, it would be the ideal breathing space that he will require, now that it's official that he is no longer the establishment's blue-eyed boy after his much publicised battle of "your truth versus mine" with no less than BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

Kohli the batter is still insulated from the heat despite that missing 'three-figure mark' for last two years but 'King Kohli' is metaphorically "wearing a crown of thorns".

He didn't face the media before and after the first Test

# Dr Jatinder releases book 'The Unsung Hero' written by Sodhi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The dedicated efforts on part of the Government of India to develop sports should reach the grass root level with focus on basic trainings at the school level.

This was stated by ace fencer of J&K, Vansh Mahajan while reacting to the laying the foundation stone of Major Dhyani Chand Sports University in Meerut by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi today.

"Major Dhyani Chand Sports University has become second such institution of higher learning in sports after first being in North East. A new beginning has been made in the year 2022. Now, onus on the States and Union Territories to take the sports to schools to appoint such coaches to run sports, but the Government

schools lack such past champions to train those talented stuff on professional lines. A change in the existing system is need of the hour," further said Vansh. He (Vansh) has made an appeal to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to also establish a sports university in Jammu on the lines of those set in UP and North East and also issue order to introduce one sports discipline at least in each school.

Presently, the Government run schools have Physical Education Teachers (PETs) and Physical Education Masters (PEMs) with primary job to look into discipline and physical activities of the students. "Though schools in private sector appoint such coaches to run

schools, but the Government

openly supports the fencers and

athletes in the sports," said Vansh.

He further said that the Government

should take the sports to schools to

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