

Kohli, Gill power India to series sweep with record 317-run win



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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Virat Kohli lit up the dead rubber with an epic 166 not out, his third century in four innings, as India annihilated a clueless Sri Lanka with a record 317-run win in the third ODI to sweep the series here on Sunday. Skipper Rohit Sharma (42 off 49) and Shubman Gill (116 off 97) shared a fluent 915-run opening partnership before Kohli (166 not out off 110) propelled India to a daunting 390 for five with his 74th international hundred and 46th in the 50-over format. Sri Lanka succumbed to the high quality fast bowling of Mohammed Siraj who struck four times inside the 10 overs to shut the door on the opposition. Sri Lanka were all out for a meagre 73 in 22 overs, highlighting the gulf between the two teams. It was the biggest margin of victory by runs in the history of men's ODIs.

Worked on my speed and variations: Lakshya Sen in pursuit of Olympic berth

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NEW DELHI: Star India shuttler Lakshya Sen has worked on his "speed and variations" to be battle ready for the new season as he seeks title triumphs in the Asian and European circuits to seal a Paris Olympic berth at the earliest.

Sen began 2022 with his maiden Super 500 title at the India Open and claimed a silver medal at the All England Championships, besides securing the Commonwealth Games gold and playing a part in India's monumental Thomas Cup win.

The 21-year-old from Almora feels that the time is just right for him to push the envelope further in another busy season, comprising big-ticket events such as the Asian Games and the World Championships.

"This is the right time for me. If I can maintain this ranking and keep improving, I have a good chance to qualify. Unfortunately, last time I was close to qualifying but few events didn't happen due to COVID-19 but those are all learning experiences," Sen told PTI in an interview.

"I'm mainly focusing on my fitness. After my nose surgery, my fitness went down but I got time during the off-season to get it back. I worked a lot on my speed, quickness in attacking and variation from the backcourt. I am steadily working on my defence.

"Playing the big events gave me a lot of confidence. I have experienced playing in the top circuit. So I will try to remain injury-free and play freely in the event."

Sen underwent a nose surgery for a deviated nasal septum after the World Championships in August. In December, he was in Dubai to train with new coach Anup Sridhar, Anders Antonsen and Sameer Verma.

"I have to plan the season properly as lots of important events are coming up. I have to pick and choose the right ones. It will be all about

maintaining a good ranking and pre-tournament and off-season training to keep myself fit.

"I plan to play three events in Asia and three in Europe in next few months. Once Olympic qualification starts in May, I have to see how I do and take a call as the season goes ahead. My target is to qualify in the first half so that I can plan the rest of the tournaments better."

Sen had suffered a narrow defeat in the season-opening Malaysia Open and will compete in the India Open and the Indonesia Masters Super 500.

The European circuit will comprise three Super 300 events in Germany (Mar 7-12), Switzerland (Mar 21-26) and Spain (Mar 28-Apr 2), besides the all-important All England Championships (Mar 14-19).

The second half of the season will have marquee events such as the BWF World Championships (Aug 21-27), Asian Games (Sept 23 to Oct 8) and World Tour Finals (Dec 13-17).

The winner of main bout Parvesh given away cash prize of Rs. 31,000 in addition to Gurj and Patta while runners-up Chota Gani got Rs 30,000.

Former Minister, Ajay Nanda was the chief guest, who along with presiding guest, former Joint Secretary of J&K Sports Council, Shiv Kumar Sharma presented the dangal title.

The DDC Pathal Rajinder Kumar Mengi, SDPO Katra, SS Billoria; Naib Tehsildar Panthal, Ashok Kumar and SHO Katra, Nishant Gupta were the

guests of honour. Retired SP, Prithvi Raj Sharma, Sarpanch Panthal Suresh Mengi; NC Sher Singh; social activist Sohan Singh Thakur; vice President, J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakri); Varinder Badyal (Retd. joint secretary BOSE); Koshal Kumar, president District Reasi Democratic Azad Party; Surinder Kumar Bhagat, Sub-Inspector; Ashutosh and Sohan Chand were among those prominent present.

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India going. After Rohit flicked him for a six over deep mid-wicket, Gill collected four straight boundaries off Kumara, three on the off side and one was a leg side flick off a full toss. Rohit too was looking good at the other end but got out against the run of play while trying one of his signature shots, the front foot pull. Gill and Kohli then shared a 131-run stand in which they were hardly troubled by the Sri Lankan bowlers. Kohli began the innings with a flurry of boundaries before accumulating runs with his exemplary running between the wickets. His first of his eight sixes came in the 80s and it was a mishit over long on, leaving him in a chuckle. He got to 99 with a boundary which came following a collision with Ashen Bandara and Jeffrey Vandersay, who both were running towards the ball from deep square leg and

Parvesh of Haryana lifts Panthal Kesari Dangal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Wrestler Parvesh of Bahadurgarh (Haryana) lifted the 123rd Annual Panthal Kesari Dagal title defeating Chota Gani of Hamirpur in Punjab in a neck to neck contest that took place at village Panthal in district Reasi.

Parvesh was adjudged as best wrestler of the dangal which was organised by Shri Swami Nitya Nand Dangal Committee on Makar Sankranti.

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deep midwicket. Both the fielders were eventually stretched off the field.

The last 10 overs saw India smashing 116 runs with Kohli going ballistic after his century. It was raining sixes from his bat post the milestone and one over long on had shades MS Dhoni's helicopter shot that left Kohli with a big smile. Most of his maximums came in the cow

corner region.

In response to India's mammoth total, Sri Lanka never really turned up in the chase. Siraj had Avishka Fernando caught at widish slip in the second over of the innings. It was a procession thereafter with Siraj running through the top order.

Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with a couple of wickets each.

SR College conducts Test Series for JKAS Mains

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JAMMU: SR College Of Competitions, J&K's premier academy for Civil Services coaching, has started a test series for the aspirants preparing for the 2022 JKAS Mains Examination to be conducted by the JKPSK scheduled from February 20 in the college premises.

SR College of Competitions has been providing guidance to the civil services aspirants since the year 2000 and a number of students guided by the college have made their entry into various prestigious and coveted All India and other services like IAS, IFS, IPS, IIRS, IRoS, JKAS, JKPS, KCS and many other national and state level services.

The test series for Mains 2022 consists of 10 sectional and 04 full mock tests of General Studies and 4 sectional

and 2 full length tests for each Optional.

The students are also being provided with explanations and doubt clearing classes by the evaluators and the strategy to complete the paper in time and to put more content in less time by resorting to flow charts and diagrams.

"The response is overwhelming and the tests are scheduled every Sunday and Wednesday. Further Full Mock Tests will help the aspirants in getting

their preparation assessed and evaluated," said Shikha Sharma, Office Coordinator.

The College has also started personality test program including mock interviews for students appearing in JKAS 2021 and IAS 2022 personality test being conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission and Union Public Service Commission. Further the college is going to start a Test Series for IAS 2023 Prelims comprising 20 tests.

U-25 CK Nayudu Trophy

Dutta plots J&K collapse as Punjab gains 1st innings lead

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JAMMU: Left-arm spinner Prerit Dutta spun web and plotted collapse of J&K team before Punjab batters surpassed J&K's paltry total of 78 runs in U-25 CK Nayudu

Trophy at PCA Ground, Mohali, on Sunday. Earlier, winning the toss and batting first, J&K batsmen faltered from the word go and failed to show resistance against quality stuff from Punjab bowlers to bundle out for meagre 78 runs in 31.4 overs.

Arya Thakur (35) and Lone Nasir Muzaffar (23) were the only batters to cross double figure mark. Arya hit 6 boundaries in his 57-ball knock, while Nasir struck 5 fours in his 24-ball innings. Prerit Dutta was the wrecker-in-chief, who captured 6 wickets by conceding 11 runs in his 6.4 overs, while Aradhyia

Shukla bagged 3 wickets and Abhinav Sharma claimed one. In reply, Punjab were comfortably placed at 144/2 in 58 overs in their first innings, thus gaining a lead of 66 runs with 8 wickets in hand. Pukhraj Mann was at the crease on 72 runs off 144 balls, studded with 11 boundaries, while Jaskaranvir Singh Paul was unbeaten on 12 runs. Vishwa Pratap Singh (45) and Kunwarjeet Singh (12) were the two batsmen dismissed today. For J&K, Vishal Kumar was the pick of the bowlers, who took 2 wickets by conceding 45 runs in his 24 overs.

Imran, Udeep, & Sahib enjoy run fest as ACB registers 158-run win over KV Masters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Leading from the front ACB skipper Imran Khan made the most of his roles in batting and bowling to register a cruising victory over KV Masters in a 25 overs friendly cricket match being played at K V 2 Ground, here on Sunday. After opting to bat first, ACB openers Udeep Raina (80 runs of 48 balls) and Sahib Vaid (76 runs off 29 balls) took maximum benefit of the hapless KV Masters bowlers before skipper Imran Khan (72 runs off 37 balls) compounded their misery and took ACB XI to a mammoth 327/5 in the stipulated 25 overs. For KV Masters, Arshad took 3 wickets to remain the pick of the bowlers while Sunny Kotwal and Samendrar Rathore shared one wicket apiece. In reply, KV Masters had a nightmarish start and the team was reeling on 31/4 within the powerplay. Arshad (49 runs 37 balls) showed some grit and intent but he didn't get the support from the opposite end as wickets kept falling like a house of cards and the whole team was bundled out on 171 in 24.3 overs and lost the match by a huge margin of 156 runs. For KV Masters Tejinder (22), Sam (32) and Amit Pal 24 also contributed with the bat. For ACB XI, skipper Imran Khan and Sanjeev shared 2 wickets each while Sahib Vaid, Maninder, Shahid Khan and Mohd Amir shared one wicket apiece. Later, ACB skipper Imran Khan (72 runs and 2 wickets) was declared as Player of the match for his all round performance with bat and ball in the match.

Follow India's model to come out of slump: FIH President Ikram tells Pakistan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ROURKELA: International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Tatyab Ikram on Sunday said Pakistan should "follow India's model" to come out of the slump it has endured in recent years.

Pakistan, the most successful team in World Cup history with four titles, did not qualify for the ongoing edition in India.

"Pakistan is an important stakeholder. If you see in recent tournaments, the Pakistan-India match is still the world's best property."

"As general secretary and chief executive of Asian Hockey (earlier) that property was with me in the Asia Cup and the Champions Trophy. I know the value of that," Ikram, who was born in Pakistan but is now based in Macau, said at a press conference here.

"There is always assistance from the global governing body. I remember I was involved in the launch of the Indian hockey project, the India specific project of the FIH. I will be happy to launch such a project for Pakistan but there should be a willingness from their side. They should join the journey."

Ikram was referring to the 'Promoting Indian Hockey' project launched by the FIH in 2007 to raise the standard of the game in the country. The game was on decline in India at that time. The project was later renewed and India hosted the 2010 World Cup in New Delhi.

Div Com flags-off NCC Jammu's 75th anniversary marathon



Participants posing for a photograph with dignitaries during prize distribution ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar on Sunday flagged off a Marathon run organised by National Cadet Corps (NCC) to commemorate its 75th Raising Day celebration. The theme of the event was "Campaign

against Disinformation".

The Marathon was held at Jammu University and featured participation from enthusiastic runners, a cultural program by J&K Academy of Art Cultural & Languages Jammu, special invitees from Balgran Child Home, Red Cross Society

Jammu and motorecyclists of Bull Riders Club Jammu.

While awarding the winners of the marathon, the chief guest congratulated all the participants and emphasized the role of youth in nation building and importance of sports in our lives.

He exhorted all present to be a role model for the society to ensure that we collectively take the nation ahead towards peace, progress and prosperity.

Brigadier Vikram Raina, Group Commander of NCC group Jammu, thanked the participants and congratulated them for making the event a success. He also expressed gratitude to the chief guest, special invitees and J&K traffic police for their support.

Officers of School Education Department, Police, Army, Jammu University, Youth Services and Sports, J&K Academy of Art Cultural and Languages were also present on the occasion.

Sukhnandan inaugurates Cricket Tourney at Chak Jaffer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary on Sunday inaugurated the first Friendship Cup Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament at Peer Baba Cricket Ground, Chak Jaffer in Marh area.

DDC Member Balbir Singh along with Panch Billa, Sushil Singh, Davinder Singh and Rajesh Kumar were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

Sukhnandan Choudhary, in his address, lauded the efforts of the organisers for the conduct of a cricket tournament saying that it will benefit the local youth.

In the opening match,

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary after inaugurating Friendship Cup Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament.

Chak Jaffer team toppled Chak Jaffer B team by 27 runs convincingly. Batting first, Chak Jaffer A team accumulated 147 runs for the loss of five wickets in the stipulated 12 overs. In reply, Chak Jaffer B team could

muster only 120 runs losing 8 wickets in the process. A large number of locals witnessed the contest between both teams. They also thanked the dignitaries for their presence in the opening ceremony of the tournament.



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