

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



STATE TIMES NEWS

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 95-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 Lankans 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.

The night well and truly belonged to King Kohli. The 34-year-old, who had ended a nearly three-year wait for an international hundred in the Asia Cup last year, showed that he is back to his best. Kohli is now only three short of equaling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries. Kohli's conversion ratio is remarkable as he got to his 46th ton in 259 innings while Tendulkar had taken 452 innings to get to 49 centuries. Before Kohli took over, Gill had played some high quality strokes en route to his second ODI hundred. With that effort, he repaid the faith of the team management which had picked him to open ahead of Ishan Kishan, who came into the series with a double hundred under his belt. The 23-run over from Lahiru Kumara in the initial stage of the innings got

India going. After Rohit flicked him for a six over deep midwicket, 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

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

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

India play out goalless draw against England, remain in contention for direct QF berth

STATE TIMES NEWS

ROURKELA: India played out a goalless draw against England in an entertaining pool match to remain in contention for a direct quarterfinal berth in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here on Sunday.

In an evenly contested Pool D match, both the sides failed to score despite getting ample chances to force a result at the jam-packed Birsa Munda Stadium.

England got eight penalty corners as against India's four. But the home team's penalty corners defence was impeccable.

England and India are now on four points each from two matches and who tops the pool and qualify directly for the quarterfinals will be decided on January 19 when India play Wales while England take on Spain, both

the matches to be played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

If two teams are on equal points and have won same number of matches, the side which have better goal difference will be ranked higher. England now have a goal difference of plus five after beating Wales 5-0 in their opening match as against plus two of India, who had emerged 2-0 winners against Spain.

It was England who dominated in the first quarter as they got five penalty corners one after the other. But India defended the PCs quite well as Manpreet Singh was the first to rush out and close down the angle.

Mandeep Singh won India's first penalty corner towards the end of the first quarter but Manpreet's stop was not the best one, forcing captain

Harmanpreet Singh to abort his dragflick.

As soon as the second quarter started, Wallace Zachary's hit from inside the Indian circle came off Krishan Bahadur Pathak high and England got their sixth PC but again wasted it.

England kept on entering the Indian circle and got their seventh penalty corner

but first rusher Amit Rohidas was quick enough to fend off the strike.

It was end-to-end stuff for a few minutes before Harmanpreet corner for India, the second of the match, but he fluffed it.

After Nilam Sanjeep Xess made a last minute clearance in the Indian 'D' in the 24th

minute, Hardik Singh attempted a fierce reverse shot from the top of England circle, only to miss the target by a whisker.

India pressed and earned their fourth PC but England were able to clear after a scramble inside the circle. It was then the turn of Varun Kumar to try his luck but his shot failed to cause any harm. India were the dominant side in the second quarter but could not score as the two sides failed to break the deadlock at half time.

David Condon had a try in the 37th minute but went wide. But India were unlucky not to have taken the lead the next minute as Hardik's double shot was saved by England goalie.

The match was spiced up and it was the turn of England to get a golden chance as the Indian defence



allowed Sam Ward to take a reverse shot from a one-on-one situation with goalie P R Sreejesh but it went wide.

India responded quickly and it was Mandep who had a glorious chance to score in the 41st minute as he got a free hit just near the top of England 'D' but he missed the target. The full capacity crowd of 21,000 thought India had taken the lead in the last minute of the third quarter which was contested evenly after the ball landed into the English goal but the

umpire

ruled that it had already hit an Indian leg. India were one man down in the last few minutes of the match and England pressed for the winner but failed to breach the home team's defence. England got a PC in the last minute but wasted it. In an earlier Pool D match, Spain beat Wales 5-1.

"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," Ikrak, 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."

Ikrak 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



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 Balgrarian Child Home, Red Cross Society

Jammu and motorcyclists 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 Culture and Languages were also present on the occasion.

Jammu and motorcyclists of Bull Riders Club Jammu. Both the teams played a friendly match and the match ended in a draw. The chief guest distributed the prizes to the winners.

In the opening match, Chak Jaffer team topped 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

SR College conducts Test Series for JKAS Mains

STATE TIMES NEWS

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 JKPSCL 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, IIPS, IRS, IFS, JKAS, JKPS, KCS and many other national and state level services.

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

SR College of Competitions

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

U-25 CK Nayudu Trophy

Parvesh of Haryana lifts Panthal Kesari Dangal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Wrestler Parvesh of Bahadurgarh (Haryana) lifted the 123rd Annual Panthal Kesari Dangal 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.

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 whole event, a handout issued by the organisers informed.

The second main bout went to Ishaq Ahmed (Lallu) of J&K Police Jammu, who defeated Sagar of Delhi to receive a cash price of Rs 16,000. Runners-up Sagar got Rs 15,000. In third bout, Rashid of Domana Jammu emerged winner beating Sagar of Gazabid. In other fights, Ajay Sharma of Udhampur defeated Kamal of Bahadurgarh and Muneeb of Panjgiran defeated Rishu of Lallian in Punjab.

Members and technical officials who helped for smooth conduct of this Dangal included Pritam

Magotra, Mukesh Khajuria, Rajinder Kumar Thappa (Sarpanch) Parshotam Kumar Khajuria (Bittu) Mohan Lal Sanmotra, Ved Parkash, Om Parkash Sanmotra, Parshotam Kumar Mengi, Sat Pal Verma, Dheeraj Kumar, Murli Dhar (Munna).

Other Results: Billu of Hamirpur beat Dillar Khan of J&K Police Jammu; Jaker of Lallian beat Ranjit Singh of J&K Police; Rajesh Sharma of J&K Police beat Gynsham of Delhi; Bablu of Basantgarh beat Sonu of Delhi Liaqat of Jammu beat Baber of Kathua; Salman of Udhampur beat Balkar of Jammu; Varinder of Panipat beat Sethi of Domana; Madan Lal of Reasi beat Ali of Kathua; Gulshan of Jammu beat Ajay of Delhi and Fiza of Billawar beat Deepak of Bahadurgarh.

Meanwhile, Shiv Kumar Sharma thanked the Police Department, media and the wrestling lovers for their support and appreciated the organizers and technical officials for the smooth conduct of the mega event.

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

ROURKELA: International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Tayyab Ikrak 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," Ikrak, 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."

Ikrak 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.

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mustered 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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