

Lalitaditya CC to lock horns with Sydney Thunders in summit clash

TRT Kings to face Moon Strikers in final

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Getting the better of their rivals convincingly in the semifinals, Lalitaditya Cricket Club and Sydney Cricket Club sealed berth in Tennis Ball Cricket finals, while TRT Kings and Moon Strikers reached cricket finals in the ongoing mega cricket tournament at Sports Stadium, Jagti, near here.

Twenty seven teams from J&K and outside the Union Territory are taking part in this cricketing extravaganza, which is being organised by Orzo (Gym) Cultural, Sports and Education Trust, under the overall supervision of Chief Organiser, Subash Zutshi, while Sanjay Batra is the Media Incharge.

Earlier, Lalitaditya Cricket Club defeated Royal Champions by 27 runs in the



Winners posing along with chief guest and organisers at Jagti Sports Stadium on Saturday.

first semifinal of Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament.

Batting first, Lalitaditya Cricket Club scored 58 runs in the stipulated 10 overs, while Royal Champions bundled out for 27 runs, thus lost the match by 27 runs.

In another semifinals of Tennis Ball Cricket, Sydney Thunders defeated TRT Kings in a low scoring game to enter the finals.

In Cricket, TRT Kings will

face Moon Strikers in the title clash.

In first semifinal, TRT Kings defeated Tigers XI by 20 runs

while in another semifinal, Moon Strikers drubbed Jagdambay Warriors by 7 wickets.

In the first semifinal, TRT Kings scored 123 runs, while Tigers XI bundled out for 103 runs. Bhumes Bhat was declared man of the

match, while another semifinal, Jagdambay Warriors scored 153 runs while Moon Strikers chased it by losing 3 wickets to win the match by 7 wickets. Chandr Mohan was adjudged as the man of the match.

The event is being sponsored by Landmark Crafts Pvt Ltd and Nirvana Buildtech Pvt Ltd.

Vishav Pratap Singh, SHO Nagrota was the chief guest on the occasion, who lavished praise on the Organisers for holding this mega event in a most befitting manner.

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JAMMU: The duo of Rajasthan skipper Anshu Saini and Angel Choudhary overpowered the efforts of J&K pair of Manya Banotra and Sheetal Devi, thus guiding Rajasthan to 4-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing Women's U-15 One Day Tournament at Railway Cricket Ground, Rajkot, ON Sunday.

Earlier, winning the toss and batting first, J&K scored a modest total of

JKP Samba beats Media CC in a nail biting finish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: JKP Samba defeated Media Cricket Club Jammu by nine wickets in a nail biting match played at DPL Samba.

The match was played under Civic Action Programme by JKP Samba under the guidance of SSP Samba Abhishek Mahajan.

Vivek Suri, Captain of Media Cricket Club Jammu won the toss and elected to bat first but couldn't capitalise as JKP Samba bowlers kept bowling on a testing line and length.

Vivek Suri and Amit Kumar shared 35 runs for 1st wicket before Amit



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

was out on 15 runs. Wickets kept on tumbling from other end and MCC scored 101 runs in stipulated 16 overs for losing 8 wickets. Raghav scored 24 and Vivek Suri scored 14 runs for the team.

Manish took three wickets whereas G R Bhardwaj Captain of JKP Samba,

Sunil, Surjeet, Abinash claimed one wicket each.

Chasing a modest target of 102 runs in 16 overs, JKP Samba openers Deepak Jasrotia & Sunil Sharma started on a blistering note and shared 80 runs for the first wicket before Sunil was out by Vivek Suri. MCC bowlers

tried to comeback and bowled on good line but there was not much on the board and JKP Samba won the match in 14.3 overs.

SHO Samba Deepak Jasrotia scored magnificent fifty and was declared Man of the Match.

Women's U-15 OD Trophy

Anshu, Angel duo overwhelm Manya, Sheetal pair as J&K eves lose to Rajasthan

Ahead of India tour, Taylor tells Australia to experiment with five bowlers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With the high-profile tour of India fast approaching, former Australia skipper Mark Taylor wants the Pat Cummins-led side to explore the option of playing with five bowlers in the third and final Test against South Africa beginning on Wednesday.

The tour of India, comprising four Tests for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, will take place in February-March. Going into the final Test at Sydney, the hosts are holding an unassailable 2-0 series lead, providing them with an opportunity to explore few other options.

"They've got an opportunity in Sydney to try a few things. I know people say you shouldn't try things in Test matches, but with Cameron Green not playing, I'd really like to see Alex Carey bat at six and Australia pick five bowlers.

"They can go all out attack with the ball and rely on their top five and Carey to make enough runs to win the Test match," Taylor was quoted as saying by Wide World of Sports.

Because of injuries to Mitchell Starc and Cameron Green during their massive win in Melbourne, Australia have called up Matthew Renshaw and Ashton Agar.

Indians need to punch above their weight to make their presence felt at home tourney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUNE: The Indian singles players, who needed either wildcard entries or came through the qualifying route in the main draw of Tata Open Maharashtra, will need to play out of their skin to go deep in the biggest home ATP event, beginning here from Monday.

The Indians have done well in the doubles, going even full distance in the previous editions but no singles player has gone beyond the second round since the tournament moved to Pune from Chennai.

The very purpose of bringing the tournament to the country is to help home players rub shoulders with the best in the business.

The gulf is apparent, and sometimes, even led to a debate if such a tournament, hosting of which requires at least Rs 15 crore, is required since the home players do not back it with results.

But it is also extremely tough to put on a show just because the players are com-



peting at home. The competition level remains high and nothing changes except that the Indian players get crowd support in familiar environment.

The seasoned Rohan Bopanna, though, has done extremely well at home. He also remains a contender even in overseas tournaments because of the quality in his game.

Rankumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal, on their day, can fight hard against the

top players but stitching together such performances is what is required at this level.

The singles rankings are well beyond the direct entry, and hence, the organisers handed wildcard entries to the country's best ranked singles player Sasikumar Mukund, Nagal, and talented local player Manas Dhamne. Unfortunately, Yuki Bhambri who used his Protected Ranking, could not qualify for the main draw, losing in the second round. Bhambri,

Rankumar, and Prajnesh Gunneswaran have kept the Indian flag flying at this tournament, but gradually, these stars are fading. Prajnesh is already 33, Yuki has touched the 30s and Rankumar is into his late 20s.

Nagal, 25, has struggled with injuries in what looked like a promising career.

Yuki was always considered a top-50 prospect but both him and Prajnesh lost crucial time to injuries.

The game has only become brutal with tall European players blasting the ball around tirelessly from both the flanks, with insane fitness backing their superior stroke-play.

Nagal will have to pull off something special if he has to extend his stay beyond the first round as he is up against world number 54 Filip Krajinovic from Serbia.

Sasi Mukund is up against Flavio Cobolli and if he clears the first round he will clash with second seed and world

number 17 Botic Van de Zandschulp from the Netherlands.

Rankumar will lock horns with Pedro Martinez of Spain while young Dhamne will clash with American Michael Mmoh.

So it will be really tough for the Indians to advance in the singles and even reaching the quarterfinals will be decent for them.

In the doubles though there will be a lot of Indian interest with a number of players competing.

Defending champions Bopanna and Rankumar are playing with different partners and are on a collision course in the second round if they clear their respective opening rounds.

Yuki and Saketh Myneni have paired as a team and the successful combo in the past of Divij Sharan and Purav Raja are back with a wildcard entry.

Arjun Kadhe is also there with Brazilian Fernando Ramboli.

important wickets by conceding 30 runs in her 7 overs, while Priya Samotra claimed one wicket.

In reply, Rajasthan chased the target in 27.1 overs by losing 6 wickets, thus won the match by 4 wickets.

Rajasthan were struggling at 49/6 but they rode on a big partnership of 81 runs between their skipper Anshu and batter number-8 Angel to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Skipper Anshu Saini was brilliant with the willow as

she scored magnificent 58* runs off 67 balls, studied with 8 boundaries, while Angel Choudhary contributed unbeaten 27 runs off 51 balls with 4 boundaries.

Jammu and Kashmir eves missed the opportunity of qualifying for the knockout stage by a whisker as they were in a commanding position when Rajasthan were struggling at 49/6. J&K were almost certain to qualify for the knockout stage had they registered a win today.

Anyway, winning and los-

ing is a part of the game, but one thing is certain that J&K women cricketers are emerging as a force to reckon with at the national scene in the years to come.

J&K team is being accompanied by Ravi Dogra as Manager, Nayna as Co-Manager, Meenu Singh Skathia as Head Coach, Summayah as Assistant Coach, Satika Sharma as Trainer, Shallu Bala as Throwdown Side-Arm Expert, Sakshi Raina as Physio and Sameer Malik as Video Analyst.

BCCI review: Yo-Yo test returns, Dexta also added to selection criteria for Indian team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Yo-Yo fitness test was on Sunday reintroduced in the eligibility criteria for selection in the Indian cricket team following the high-profile review meeting of the BCCI here.

The meeting, which was pending since India's semi-final exit from the T20 World Cup in November, finally took place in the presence of BCCI secretary Jay Shah, president Roger Binny, captain Rohit Sharma, coach Rahul Dravid, NCA chief VVS Laxman and selector Chetan Sharma.

Besides Yo-Yo test, Dexta (bone scan test) has also been made part of the selection criteria. It was also decided that emerging players, who tend to prioritise white-ball cricket for IPL riches over red ball cricket, will be required to play a "substantial domestic season" to be eligible for national selection.

"The emerging players will have to play a substantial domestic season to be eligible for selection to the national team.

"The Yo-Yo Test and Dexta will now be part of selection criteria and implemented in the customized roadmaps of the central pool of players.

"Keeping in mind the men's FTP and preparations for ICC CWC 2023, the NCA will work in tandem with the IPL franchisee to monitor the targeted Indian players participating in the IPL 2023," said Shah in the BCCI statement.

The Yo-Yo test is an aerobic endurance fitness test which involves running between markers placed 20 metres apart at increasing speeds.

The test was introduced during Virat Kohli's tenure as India captain and the passing score initially was 16.1 before it was increased to 16.5.

The entire selection panel was sacked after the World Cup but Sharma attending Sunday's meeting has also attracted attention. For the record, he has re-applied for the job alongside Harvinder Singh, who was also part of the sacked panel.

In a statement, the BCCI said the roadmap for the 2023 World Cup at home was also discussed in the meeting.

"The issues of player availability, workload management and fitness parameters were also discussed at length during the meeting along with the roadmap to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023," it read.

The fitness of the Indian cricketers has been a matter of concern with the likes of Deepak Chahar breaking down regularly. Premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, too, has been out of action for a long time due to a back injury.

National Boxing C'ships: Gaurav Solanki, Hussamuddin and Biswamitra register commanding victories

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HISAR: Gaurav Solanki, Mohammad Hussamuddin and Biswamitra Chongtham recorded comprehensive wins on the second day of the 6th Elite Men's National Boxing Championships here on Sunday.

Haryana's Solanki (60kg), the 2018 Commonwealth Games champion, was competing against Navraj Chauhan of Himachal Pradesh.

In what was a hard-fought contest, Solanki showcased tremendous grit and vigor to defeat his opponent 5-2 after the bout was reviewed. He will now be in round-of-16 action against Harendra Singh of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday.

Representing Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), two-time CWG bronze medalist Hussamuddin (57kg) was squaring off against Bulen Buragohain of Assam.

The SSCB pugilist was in control throughout the bout and showcased his attacking prowess as well as swift movement to secure a 5-0 win by unanimous decision.

The 2022 Asian bronze medalist will face Lallawmawma of Mizoram in his round-of-16 bout on Tuesday.

Hussamuddin's SSCB



teammate, Biswamitra (51kg) also put up a sensational attacking display against N Madhaba of Orissa.

His superior technical ability allowed him to dictate the bout from the start and triumph over his opponent as the referee stopped the contest (RSC) in the first round.

Biswamitra will go head-to-head against Prabhudas Yadla of Andhra Pradesh in his pre-quarter finals bout on Tuesday.

The 2021 Asian Championships bronze medalist Varinder Singh (60kg) who is representing Railway Sports Control Board (RSCB) prevailed against Rahul of Chandigarh.

Registering a thumping 5-0 win, Varinder will take the ring against Ibrahim Mohammed of SSCB in the round-of-16 bout on

Tuesday.

Another RSCB pugilist, Ankit Narwal (63.5kg) also powered his way to an impressive victory against Arun Kumar of Pondicherry after the referee stopped

contest (RSC) in round 1.

The 2019 Asian Youth Championships silver medalist will face the winner of the bout between Karnataka's Karan BK and Uttar Pradesh's Ratandeep Sharma in the pre-quarters stage on Tuesday.

On Monday, the record six-time Asian medalist Shiva Thapa, who is representing Assam, will begin his campaign from the round-of-16 stage as he takes on Jaswinder Singh of Delhi.

A total of 386 boxers across 13 different weight categories are participating in the championships.

Rohit to remain captain, BCCI shortlists 20 players for World Cup

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: There is no imminent threat to Rohit Sharma's ODI and Test captaincy as the BCCI brass hasn't found anything unsatisfactory about his leadership in the traditional formats, according to sources in the board.

Skipper Rohit, along with head coach Rahul Dravid, attended the review meeting in Mumbai. The meeting was conducted by BCCI secretary Jay Shah. Along with last selection committee's chairman Chetan Sharma, NCA head VVS Laxman, president Roger Binny also attended the

review meeting. Since the focus is the World Test Championships (WTC), where India have a good chance of making it to the finals, and the 2023 ODI World Cup, new T20 captain Hardik Pandya wasn't a part of the meeting. Hardik is in Mumbai for the T20 international series against Sri Lanka, which starts on Tuesday. "Rohit is leading India in Tests and ODIs and there was no such discussions about his future as leader in these two formats. Look at his captaincy record in Tests and ODIs and it is more than impressive," a BCCI



source privy to the development told PTI on the condition of anonymity. It was also decided that a pool of 20 players will be rotated till the 2023 World Cup. "The BCCI has shortlisted 20 players who will

be rotated till the 50 overs ICC World Cup," Shah said after the meeting. In what could be a significant move by the board, Sharma, who attended the review meeting on Sunday, could once again retain his

chairmanship of the senior national selection panel. If not chairman, he is likely to be the representative from North Zone.

The name of former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad is also doing the rounds from South Zone, but his induction in the panel isn't a certainty. Sharma being included in the planning of roadmap up to the 2023 ODI World Cup in itself is a significant development. "First things first, if Chetan wouldn't have been told, he wouldn't have applied in first place. That itself is an indication. India have a World Cup to play

in 10 months. Chetan and Harvinder's presence will add continuity along with three new members," the source added.

It is understood that SS Das, a former opener, is a big favourite from East Zone because of his 21 Test experience, unless some other compulsions lead to the BCCI choosing a lightweight candidate from east. From West, Gujarat veteran Mukund Parmar, Salil Ankola, Sameer Dighe are engaged in a three-way race.

The new committee will be named in the coming week.