

Shivam Dube shines on comeback to script comfortable win for India

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
MOHALI: India's fringe players, led by Shivam Dube, made the opportunity count to set up a six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the first T20 of the three-match series here on Thursday.
A lively 68-run partnership off 43 balls between the seasoned Mohammad Nabi (42 off 27) and youthful Azmatullah Omarzai (29 off 22) lifted Afghanistan to 158 for five after India dominated the powerplay.
The total posted was not enough in good batting conditions as India got home comfortably in 17.3 overs.
Dube (60 not out), playing his first T20 since the Asian Games, and Tilak Varma (26 off 22) shared a 44-run stand off 29 balls to give Indian innings momentum after losing the openers inside four overs.
Rohit Sharma (0), returning to T20s after 14 months, and Shubman Gill (23) got involved in an avoidable mix-up that limited the Indian skipper's stay to just two balls. The usually calm and cool Rohit did not



hide his anger on this occasion as Gill did not pay heed to his call for a quick single.
Gill was not able to stay for long but Varma and Dube were able to take the innings forward and India did not look back from there on.
Dube, who is seen as a back up to injury prone Hardik Pandya, used his long levers efficiently and his disdainful drives on the off side stood out. He ended the game in style with a straight six and four in the fine leg region.
Jitesh Sharma (31 off 20) also gave a good account of himself before Rinku Singh (16 not out off 9) joined Dube in the middle and took the team home.
Earlier, a stroke-filled partnership between Nabi and Omarzai was just what Afghanistan needed after India reduced the visitors to 57 for three in 10 overs amid chilly conditions at the PCA Stadium.
Openers Rahamanullah Gurbaz (23 off 28) and skipper Ibrahim Zadran (25 off 22) could only find four boundaries in the powerplay.
The start of the game was delayed by a few minutes as a flickering blue light around the sightsscreen distracted Gurbaz.
Pacer Arshdeep Singh opened the innings with a maiden before the spinners got into the game as early as the fourth over.
Axar Patel, who ended up as the stand out bowler for India

with figures of 4-0-23-2, had Gurbaz stumped with a fast and straight delivery after the opener slog swept him for a six.
Zadran was the next to depart as he smashed an innocuous ball from Dube straight to India skipper Rohit Sharma at cover. It was only the second ball of his opening spell.
Rahmat Shah, making his T20 debut after playing 106 ODIs for Afghanistan, chopped on to stumps a flatter one from Axar.
Afghanistan badly needed a move on and that came via the experience of Nabi and Omarzai, who had impressed with his all-round abilities in the ODI World Cup in India.

SCOREBOARD	
AFGHANISTAN	
Rahmanullah Gurbaz † st †JM Sharma b Patel	23
Ibrahim Zadran (c) c RG Sharma b Dube	25
Azmatullah Omarzai b Mukesh Kumar	29
Rahmat Shah b Patel	03
Mohammad Nabi c Singh b Mukesh Kumar	42
Najibullah Zadran not out	19
Karim Janat not out	09
Extras	08
Total	158/5
INDIA	
Rohit Sharma run out Ibrahim Zadran/†Rahmanullah Gurbaz) 0	
Shubman Gill st Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 23	
Tilak Varma c Gulbadin Naib b Azmatullah Omarzai 26	
Shivam Dube not out	60
Jitesh Sharma † c Ibrahim Zadran b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 31	
Rinku Singh not out	16
Extras	03
Total	159/4

Mir elected Srinagar Mountaineering president



Elected members of the District Mountaineering Association, Srinagar posing for a photograph after the election.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Muzaffar Ahmad Mir, a prominent businessman and a nature lover of Srinagar has been unanimously elected as the president of District Mountaineering Association, Srinagar in an election meeting held at Government Middle School, Athwajan, Srinagar.
Irshad Ahmad Mir, a seasoned trekker was elected as general secretary of the Association.
Whereas Mushtaq Ahmad Parrey was unanimously elected as vice president, Adil Bashir Rather and Tanveer Ahmad, both avid trekkers were elected as joint secretary and treasurer respectively of the district association.
Five members of the executive body which included Muzamil Akhter, Roshni, Irfan Sofi, Amin Ul Aziz and Arshad Majeed Bhat were also elected unanimously.
The elections were conducted in a very cordial and smooth manner by Payaz Ahmad Bhat, the returning officer of the elections. Syed Mohammad Hussain, president District Mountaineering Association, Pulwama was deputed by Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK), as observer.
Muzaffar Ahmed Mir, the newly elected president, who is a passionate lover of mountains while addressing the members thanked them for the trust they had imposed in him and promised to do

everything to promote trekking, mountaineering and sport climbing in the district. Syed Mohammad Hussain, the returning officer of the elections thanked all the representatives from various adventure clubs of Srinagar for enthusiastically participating in the district elections. He advised them to work with complete dedication and zeal for the promotion of adventure activities in the district and hoped that very soon the sport climbers of the district would excel at the national sport climbing competitions. He also assured all possible help and cooperation to the district association from the Mountaineering Association of J&K.

Secy H&ME makes surprise inspection at SMGS Hospital



Secy H&ME, Dr. S.A.R. Shah assessing medical facilities at SMGS Hospital.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital to assess the medical facilities provided there.
Accompanied by Principal GMC Jammu & Associated Hospitals, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Medical Superintendent SMGS Hospital, Dr. Dara Singh, EXEN, Heads of Departments, Senior Professors, Doctors, Paramedics, and other stakeholders, Dr. Abid Rasheed in detailed examined various departments.
The Secretary's inspection covered ENT Head & Neck Surgery wards, NICU, Triage, Ayushman Bharat facilitation center, ICU of Gynecology & Obstetrics, and MICU.
During his visit, Dr. Rasheed actively engaged with patients, their attendants, doctors, and paramedics, seeking valuable feedback on the quality of services and healthcare facilities at the hospital. Addressing the medical professionals, he emphasized the importance of promptly addressing any issues flagged by the staff. The Secretary assured that the government considers the

health sector a top priority and is committed to resolving identified concerns.
Dr. Abid Rasheed also inspected the new block building, assessing key infrastructure components such as the oxygen plant, laundry, and parking space. He issued on-the-spot instructions to prioritize works in civil and mechanical engineering aspects.
Highlighting the hospital's potential to become a state-of-the-art facility, he expressed optimism about its growth. Dr. Rasheed inspected a 240-bedded maternity hospital and directed executive agencies to complete pending work within stipulated time, pledging enhanced maternity care services for the population of Jammu division. The Secretary also reaffirmed the administration's commitment to delivering the best possible treatment and health facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
The department continues to work tirelessly towards this goal, striving for excellence in healthcare provision, he added.

T20 Winter Cricket Championship concludes at Kupwara

Sporting initiative under VBSY to combat drug menace in the district appreciated by all



DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan presenting trophy to winner team.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KUPWARA: In a proactive effort to engage the youth in constructive and healthy activities and as a pivotal measure to curb the drug menace in the border district, a Winter Cricket Championship organized by the District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports culminated here on Thursday.
This initiative, aligned with the larger vision of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, focuses on the holistic development of the nation.
On the occasion, a colorful closing ceremony was held after the final match of the tournament was played between Ganapora and Kupwara Town at Galizoo sports Stadium where Kupwara town emerged as winner in a thrilling clash.
The final match witnessed overwhelming participation of youth, cricket lovers, PRIs, officers of the District Administration giving a festive look to the beautiful Galizoo sports stadium.
Speaking on occasion, DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan congratulated the Department of Youth Service and Sports, Kupwara for organizing a successful and a very impressive Winter Cricket Championship.
She thanked the partici-

pating teams for their spirit of sportsmanship and enthusiasm during the tournament. She also expressed gratitude to PRIs, Officers of district administration, spectators, and public at large for their support and Cooperation in making this event a huge success in Kupwara district.
The DC on the occasion said that the situation of substance abuse is a serious issue all over the country and these vibrant sports platforms are set up to counter this menace.
She said that youth participating in sports are the true ambassadors to overcome this challenge of drug menace.
DC on the occasion added that despite cold weather conditions this Tournament witnessed healthy competition and the sportsmanship spirit of the youth was amazing.
She further said "I expect this spirit will continue in future also".

The DC in presence of Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir, and DDC Member Drugmulla, Adv. Amina presented trophies to the winner and runner up teams. Both the teams were awarded with Trophies, Cash Prize of ₹50000/- and ₹25,000/- respectively.
Final match was attended by ADC Kupwara, GH.Nabi Bhat, DYSSO Kupwara, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and other officers of district administration.
The championship witnessed overwhelming response as 158 teams from different panchayats, across the district participated in the tournament with great enthusiasm, passion and valour, promoting inclusivity and collaboration among diverse groups within the district from Karnah to Langate.

VC SKUAST-J felicitates skaters of IHRSC for winning medals in national tourney



VC SKUAST-J, Dr B N Tripathi felicitating skaters of IHRSC for winning medals in the 61st national skating championship.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Dr B N Tripathi Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu felicitated the ace skaters of Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) for winning nine medals in the 61st national skating championship held recently in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
In a simple ceremony organized at the Office Chamber of the VC SKUAST Jammu, Dr Tripathi honoured and commended a cohort of exceptional young talents who clinched national medals in skating discipline.
Admiring the stupendous performance of the skaters who took medals representing UT of J&K at national arena, the Vice Chancellor eloquently extolled the remarkable feat of the young skaters who have brought glory to the UT of J&K through their phenomenal performance.
The felicitation ceremony was a testament to the convergence of excellence in both sports and mentorship, as Dr Tripathi emphasized on the pivotal role of mentorship in nurturing the potential of budding Skaters namely Udhay Narayan (3 gold medals and declared as National Speed Champion), Samarjot Singh (2 gold and 1 bronze medal), Kartikeya Puri (2 silver medals) and Puneesh Puri (1 gold medal).
Each medal winner was individually acknowledged, their achievements recounted with precision, and their aspirations for the future illuminated with a spotlight during the event.
It is pertinent to mention that VC SKUAST Jammu has accorded special permission to the skaters of IHRSC to practice on the University Campus roads during the evening hours as skaters confront difficulty due to absence of road circuit in the sports facilities provided by the government. The benevolent gesture by the SKUAST administration in allowing the skaters of the Indian Hawks Club acted as a cornerstone in ensuring such a big feat at the national sporting arena.
Other officials of SKUAST Jammu's admin-

Power shutdown

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Martha, Nagrota, Basohli, Mahanpur, Saman Jandrola, Bhoond, Duggan, Sewa Hydral Project, Mashka, Chalag and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.
Similarly, the power supply to Potha, Sawjain, Mandi, Loran, Lassana, JWG-I, Harni, Mankote, Chattral and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 14 from 11 am to 1 pm.
Likewise, the power supply to Padder and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.
Similarly, the power supply to Thatiri, Premnagar, Dhara and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.
Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to VP-1, VP-2, VP-3, Koulpur, Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected from January 12 from 10 am to 2 pm.
However, the Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle Rajouri, JPDCL has informed that the power supply to Tehsil Office Rajouri, Gujjar Mandi and DC Office will remain affected from January 14 and 17 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Shrine Board gives rousing welcome to Arjuna awardee Para archer Sheetal Devi

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Para archer Sheetal Devi was received and welcomed on Thursday by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member Shrine Board alongwith other higher officials of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on behalf of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) with Mata Ki Chunri at Jammu Airport.
The para archer received the prestigious Arjuna award on Tuesday from President Droupadi Murmu, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. Sheetal Devi was among the 26 sportspersons conferred with the Arjuna Award.
Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board posted on X "Proud moment for J&K Para Archer Sheetal Devi to be conferred with Arjuna Award 2023 by Hon'ble President.



SMVDSB members felicitating Para archer Sheetal Devi for conferring Arjuna Award.

Heartiest congratulations to Sheetal for her remarkable achievements. Wishing you all the best for your future. May you continue to shine & bring more glory to our nation."
Noteworthy is that she won a record three medals at her maiden Asian Para Games in Hangzhou in October last year. The impressive

pound section at the inaugural Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi on December 16, is eyeing glory at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games.
Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board while congratulating the Para-archer on receiving the Arjuna Award added that she has done extremely well and exuded confidence that given the excellent facilities, expert coaching, hard work and dedication, the Para-archers being trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex will be creating new records in the days to come as they will now be preparing hard for the 2024 Paralympics. The Para-archer was overwhelmed by the gesture and affection of the recipients adding that it has been an unprecedented campaign, thanked and appreciated everyone for their love and support.