

Brutal Dube, Jaiswal power India to six-wicket win

STATE TIMES NEWS
INDORE: Riding on a flurry of mighty maximums, Shivam Dube and Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed Afghanistan's bowlers to smithereens on way to swashbuckling half-centuries as India made short work of a 173-run target to win the second T20I by six wickets here on Sunday.

While Yashasvi got out after hammering 68 off 34 balls, including six sixes, Dube ended unbeaten on a 32-ball 63, hitting four maximums in the process.

India completed the chase with 26 balls to spare, taking an unassailable lead in the three-match series.

Gulbadin Naib top-scored with a breezy 35-ball 57 before the lower-order batters Mujeeb Ur Rahman (21 off 9 balls) and Karim Janat (20 off 10) chipped in with useful contributions to lift Afghanistan to 172 all out.

India's chase began on an eventful note that saw a first-ball boundary by Yashasvi Jaiswal, a loud shout for an lbw and an unsuccessful Afghanistan review, and a first-ball duck for Rohit Sharma.

In his first T20I since November 2022, Virat Kohli



began with a lovely boundary before Jaiswal smashed Fazalhaq Farooqi for two sixes.

Recreating the famous shot he played against Harris Rauf in the last T20 World Cup at MCG, Kohli hit a short-of-a-length Naveen-ul-Haq delivery back over the bowler's head for a four. On that night in Australia though, it was a six.

Having switched ends, Mujeeb leaked 19 runs with Jaiswal collecting three fours and Kohli one.

However, Naveen-ul-Haq cut short Kohli highly promising stay at the crease by having the maestro caught at mid-off for a 16-ball 29.

Unperturbed by the Kohli's dismissal, the duo of Jaiswal

and Dube went about their task in a brutal manner, leaving the Afghan bowlers bruised and battered.

Asked to bat first, Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz signalled his intent straight-away and flicked Arshdeep Singh (3/32 in 4 overs) for a four through square leg and then tried to hit one straight down the ground, which however did not result in a boundary.

While Arshdeep started the proceedings with two wides on either side of the wicket, Mukesh Kumar was welcomed with a six over the bowler's head by Gurbaz, before his opening partner Ibrahim Zadran, having got a review for lbw in his favour,

got into the act by lofting one over cover for a boundary.

Trailing 0-1 in the three-match series, Afghanistan raced to 20 for no loss in no time, forcing Rohit Sharma to introduce spin in the form of Ravi Bishnoi (2/39 in 4 overs).

Leg-spinner Bishnoi, who has a penchant for picking a wicket in his first over, did an

encore as he lured Gurbaz to offer a catch to Shivam Dube at mid-on, having failed to get elevation.

Taking a cue from Gurbaz's approach, one-down batter Gulbadin Naib started to play his shots from the get-go, pulling Mukesh through mid-wicket and then driving him through for successive fours.

SCOREBOARD	
AFGHANISTAN	
Rahmanullah Gurbaz † c Dube b Ravi Bishnoi	14
Ibrahim Zadran (c) b Patel	08
Gulbadin Naib c RG Sharma b Patel	57
Azmatullah Omarzai b Dube	02
Mohammad Nabi c Singh b Ravi Bishnoi	14
Najibullah Zadran b Arshdeep Singh	23
Karim Janat c Patel b Arshdeep Singh	20
Mujeeb Rahman run out (†JM Sharma/Arshdeep Singh)	21
Noor Ahmad c Kohli b Arshdeep Singh	01
Naveen-ul-Haq not out	01
Fazalhaq Farooqi run out (†JM Sharma/Jaiswal)	00
Extras	11
Total	172/10
INDIA	
Jaiswal c †Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Karim Janat	68
Rohit Sharma (c) b Fazalhaq Farooqi	00
Virat Kohli c Ibrahim Zadran b Naveen-ul-Haq	29
Shivam Dube not out	63
Jitesh Sharma † c Mohammad Nabi b Karim Janat	00
Rinku Singh not out	09
Extras	04
TOTAL	173/4

Secretary R&B reviews progress on NH-44 four laning project in Ramban



STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Secretary, Roads and Buildings (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar, conducted an exhaustive visit of Ramban to assess ongoing construction works on Banihal to Ramban and Ramban to Nashri stretch of NH-44 four laning project.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and other officers, Bhupinder Kumar conducted site inspections to ensure a thorough review of construction works. He exhorted upon the executing agencies to further speed up the pace of progress on these vital works ensuring timely completion.

Secretary reviewed the functioning of Banihal-Qazigund tunnel, sought updates on the viaduct bypassing Banihal Bazar, and directed the officers to redouble their efforts to meet the deadlines. He reaffirmed government's commitment towards enhancing infrastructure and road connectivity while assuring timely completion of 32 km stretch between Ramban and Banihal.

Deputy Commissioner briefed the Secretary about the status of all ongoing construction works being executed on these stretches under the ambitious four laning project. He said that the district administration is creating an enabling environment for efficient and speedy execution of Jammu-Srinagar NH-44 four laning project. He also elaborated several measures being implemented to ensure a seamless and smooth journey for commuters on the national highway. He informed the Secretary about the progress achieved on the viaducts at various locations, including Makerkote to Ramsoo, Dalwas, Nachilana to Wagon, reflecting the advanced stage of construction. Later, Secretary convened a meeting at Banihal and had detailed discussion on various issues related to the national highway road project.

Indian Divyang Cricket Team Captain calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sayed Shah Aziz, Captain, Indian Divyang Cricket Team, hailing from Poonch called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, on Sunday. He was accompanied by Ghazal Khan, CEO, Divyang Cricket Control Board of India. The Lt Governor congratulated Sayed Aziz for his remarkable achievements at the National and International sports arena. He also released a promotional video for the upcoming India Vs Sri Lanka International Wheelchair Cricket Series scheduled to be held in Jammu in the month of February this year. Meanwhile, Daleep Singh Parihar, former Legislator from Bhandarwah also called on the Lieutenant Governor at Raj Bhawan.



Sayed Shah Aziz, Captain, Indian Divyang Cricket Team calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

35th District Samba Volleyball Championship Barjani Club lifts men, Abhyaas Club women's trophies

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Barjani Volleyball Club and Abhyaas Volleyball Club lifted respective men and women trophies of the 35th District Samba Volleyball Championship organized by Volleyball Association of District Samba under the aegis of Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir at Abhyaas Volleyball Academy Tarlokpur, Jakh, here on Sunday.

Sanjeev Sharma, PRO of Dr Jitendra Singh (PMO office) was the Chief Guest while Sudershan Singh Slathia (DDC) member



Winner team posing for a photograph with Chief Guest and other dignitaries after receiving trophies.

and Retd Captain Prem Nath Sharma were the Guests of Honour in the closing ceremony of the championship.

Other dignitaries present

were Ramesh Kumar Sharma, President District Volleyball Association Samba, B.S. Jamwal Secretary district volleyball Association Samba,

Variender Singh (Ex panth), Retd Subedar Parshotam Kumar, Ex Sarpanch Randhir Sharma (Palli), Ex Sarpanch Jitender Singh of Gurha

Slathia, Ajit Singh, Bhopinder Singh, Anil Kumar, Jitender Singh, Davinder Dubey, Rakesh Kumar, Naveen Sharma, Retd teacher Sampurna

Chand, Master Waryam Singh, Anwar Sadotra, Sham Lal Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Sukhjinder Singh, Shalvi Charak, Raghunandan Sharma and Sheetal Kumari.

Today's matches were officiated by Sat Paul, Neeraj Kumar, Aman Kumar, Raman, Rohani and Shivali.

Today's results
MEN Final: Barjani Volleyball Club beat Abhyaas Volleyball Club by 3-0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-17).
WOMEN Final: Abhyaas Volleyball Club beat Trikuta Volleyball Club by 3-0 (25-16, 25-16, 25-9).

MP Khatana affirms PM Modi's commitment to minority welfare

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAUNPUR: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana highlighted the deep-rooted commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the welfare of minorities in India.

He said that during past nine years minorities have witnessed and tsaken benefit of the common people friendly schemes of the Modi government.

Addressing the participants of 14th National Senior Women/Men Softball Cricket Championship 2024 at Mohammad Hasan PG College, Jaunpur, MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana emphasized the government's dedication to uplifting minorities both educationally and economically.

He said that PM Modi gave the slogan of Ek haath Mein Koran, Ek Haath Mein Computer symbolizing the importance of following both the religion as well getting



MP Gulam Ali Khatana presenting trophy to winner team.

well versed in the modern technology.

Education is the key to success in the present day world where digital revolution has made it necessary for everybody to get well versed in technology.

Khatana spoke passionately about the pivotal role of education and sports in shaping the future of the youth.

"Along with education, we all can shape our future through sports, for which the

Government of India is continuously committed towards the youth," he declared.

The Chief Guest MP was introduced to all the participating teams, and the championship matches were officially inaugurated under his patronage.

The final match in the men's category unfolded as a thrilling encounter between Uttar Pradesh and Purvanchal. In a 6-over game, Uttar Pradesh set a

target of 62 runs at the loss of 6 wickets. Purvanchal's Farhan displayed exceptional batting prowess with 29 runs on 11 balls during the chase. Purvanchal secured victory by 8 wickets, with bowlers 19 and Harsh taking two wickets each. Farhan was awarded the well-deserved Man of the Match.

The women's final featured a competitive match between Orissa and Bihar. Bihar won the toss and chose to field first, restricting Orissa to 28 runs at the loss of 4 wickets. In an impressive performance, Bihar's batsmen secured all 10 wickets without any loss. Kajal of Bihar, with her stellar contribution, was honored as the Man of the Match. Ankita took two wickets for her team.

MP Gulam Ali Khatana presented trophies to the winning and runner-up teams, fostering a sense of achievement and recognition among the players.

Mohammad Shahid of

Jammu and Kashmir was presented the man of the series award while Kajal of Bihar was presented the woman of the series.

The championship also recognized and honored coaches from various states for their dedication and contributions to the sport. Among those present were Arshad Kamal, Dr. Jeevan Yadav, Shivkumar Gupta, Ganesh Sahu, Shojab, Sheikh Mohammad Shafi, Firdous Ahad, Nazir Ahmed, Merajuddin, Bhupendra Nagpal, Pawan Singh Madan Singh Rathod, Mohammad Shahid, Sanjeev Jha, Shashi Pratap, Vijay Kumar Rupashree, Vinoo D'Souza, Ragini Sonkar, Mohammad Shafiq, and Alankar Gautam. The program was conducted by Ahmed Abbas Khan, saw umpires Akash Prajapati and Dhaneish Jaiswal ensuring fair play. Kanchan Patel, Priya Garwal, and Saba Rashid served as dedicated scorers for the championship.

JK artists enthrall audience in National Youth Festival



J&K artists at National Youth Festival at Nashik in Maharashtra.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NASHIK: The stunning performances of artists from Jammu and Kashmir at National Youth Festival under way at Nashik in Maharashtra made the audience spellbound while receiving standing ovations.

The Dogri song and Bansuri vadan fetched attention of the audience as well as Judges and attracted

biggest ever crowd in the festival in which thousands of youth from all over the country are exhibiting their talent performing in competitive as well as thematic events.

Earlier, after the inauguration of National Youth Festival by Prime Minister on 12th Jan, the J&K stall of local Handicrafts under Yuvakriti was highly appreciated by the visitors.

Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Suram Chand Sharma, who is Nodal Officer National Youth Festival, also joined the JK Contingent at Nasik and camping there for encouragement of participants besides monitoring the UT event. The Festival will culminate on 16th of Jan 2024.

encouraged the people to embrace cleanliness as a way of life. Let us set an example for others to follow and make our temples not just places of worship, but also models of cleanliness, he said, adding that this will be a befitting response to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Devender Rana also joined in the Kanya Poojan and

Sadhotra calls for strengthening amity, eschewing hatred

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Sunday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, praying this festival to foster the spirit of unity and joy among the people.

On Sadhotra's arrival at Dev Bhoomi Baba Kapil Muni Ji Maharaj Ram Mandir Changhi Wale Babaji at Chakrali, last village on the border, Baba Som Dutt Ji and Committee of the temple welcomed Sadhotra and offered Mata ki Churni of blessing. Addressing a big congregation at the Ram Mandir of Changhi Wale Babaji, Sadhotra prayed this festival to bring prosperity and happiness to all. "Let us share the joy of Makar Sankranti with the world and foster a sense of togetherness", he said, adding that all religions preach amity and brotherhood.

This spirit of inclusiveness has to be carried forward with a



Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretary National Conference and Former Minister paying obeisance at Baba Kapil Muni Ji Ram Temple at Chakrali.

sense of commitment to make this world a better place to live in, he said adding the biggest challenge before the civilized world is to eschew the tendencies of hatred and divisiveness.

Sadhotra urged the devotees to rise to the occasion and foil the machinations of the divisive forces to retain the composite culture of the country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

He said the erstwhile state has a rich legacy of togetherness that is not only to be sustained but promoted for overall

good of the posterity.

Referring to the long pending demand of the connectivity to the temple, Sadhotra expressed happiness over the work having finally been taken up after continued persuasion. He called for adequate infrastructural development of the place, locating the heritage worship place adjacent to the Sangam of three rivers.

He hoped the road network will also benefit the people of the adjoining areas.

Sadhotra prayed for peace and tranquility besides well

being of all, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He hoped that all the festivals are observed as per the glorious heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his discourse Baba Som Dutt Ji blessed Sadhotra and called for strengthening the bonds of amity, ensuring social justice and working towards harmonious growth of the society. This is essence of Dharma that stands for equality and justice for all, he added.

Baba Som Dutt Ji wished the devotees a joyful and prosperous Makar Sankranti.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Mr Ghar Singh Joint Secretary, Jammu Provincial National Conference, Rakesh Sharma District President Youth National Conference District Jammu, Randhir Singh Senior Vice President Block March, Ch Keemat Lal Ex-Sarpanch, Ch Nagar, Anil Chib YNC leader, Balkar Saini and Nika Ram.

Rana leads Swachh Teerath Abhiyan at Kol Kandoli Temple, greets people on Makar Sankranti

STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Leading the cleanliness drive at historic and heritage Kol Kandoli Temple- the first destination to pilgrimage of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine from the ancient route-as part of BJP's country wide initiative ahead of the consecration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today participated in the Swachh Teerath Abhiyan saying temples being the sanctuaries of faith hold special place in the hearts of every Sanatani.

"It's important we maintain these sacred spaces with utmost care and cleanliness, which is not just a physical aspect but a reflection of our devotion for the diviner", Rana said while interacting with the devotees.

Referring to the BJP's commitment to nation-building, he said the party has all along



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana participating in the Swachh Teerath Abhiyan.

encouraged the people to embrace cleanliness as a way of life. Let us set an example for others to follow and make our temples not just places of worship, but also models of cleanliness, he said, adding that this will be a befitting response to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Devender Rana also joined in the Kanya Poojan and

Havan, held on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, the festival widely observed in various parts of the country, symbolizing the end of the winter solstice and the beginning of longer, warmer days. He also partook in the community langer, organised for the devotees thronging from the adjoining areas.

The prayers and Havan

were organised to invoke the Blessings of Almighty for the Sacred Pran Prathishtha of Shri Ram Temple at Ayodhya at the august hands of Prime Minister Yashasvi Narendra Modi on 22nd January.

He greeted the devout on Makar Sankranti, praying the festival to bring people together in joy and gratitude.

"Let this festival be our endeavor to soar high in our endeavors and bring joy, prosperity, and unity to all", Rana said, adding that prayers for wellness of humanity is core of Sanatan Dharma that believes in Vasudeva Kutumbakam. He said unity in diversity is the strength of India that has to be further strengthened by fostering brotherhood and amity to realise the vision of the Prime Minister, making the country Vishwaguru with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.