

Virat Kohli's 93 sets up India's nervy four-wicket win in 1st ODI against New Zealand

STATE TIMES NEWS

VADODARA: Virat Kohli reigned supreme once again with a 91-ball 93 and skipper Shubman Gill hit 56 but India huffed and puffed before completing a nervy four-wicket win against New Zealand in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Sunday.

In pursuit of 301, India were in complete control when Kohli departed in the 40th over but a flurry of wickets saw the home side going over the line with 306 for six in 49 overs.

Kohli fell a few runs short of what could have been his 54th ODI century when India needed 67 from 66 balls with seven wickets in hand. Ravindra Jadeja (4) and Shreyas Iyer (49) followed him soon in the dressing room, giving New Zealand a real chance to clinch the game.

However, KL Rahul (29 not out) put on 37 runs with Harshit Rana (29), and the remaining runs came in company of an injury-hit Washington Sundar (7 not out), aided by a few uncharacteristic dropped catches by the Kiwis towards the end.

It was Kyle Jamieson (4/41) who dragged New Zealand back in the game when all seemed lost, getting Kohli caught at mid-on to deny the India batting stalwart a deserving ton. He also cleaned up Iyer with an off-cutter and got rid of Jadeja.

Even as he fell a few runs short of a century, Kohli became the quickest to reach 28,000 runs in international cricket and now only the second behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, going past



Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

New Zealand had posed an at-par 300/8 but with Kohli in such imperious form, it never was enough especially with a depleted bowling attack.

If he didn't refrain from hitting over the top early on against South Africa, Kohli pulverised the Kiwis from the moment he arrived on the crease with a flurry of fours.

There was that trademark planted front foot for a majestic on-drive to pull behind the short fine leg for a four.

And if the 23-year-old Adithya Ashok was star-struck, Kohli pummelled boundaries off the leg-spinner to make another brisk start.

There was a stroke of luck involved too. Batting on a 'different level' by his own admission, Kohli went hard on a full delivery from debutant Kristian Clarke and an inside edge missed the leg stump.

Kohli added 118 runs off 102 balls for the second wicket with Gill, and the pair went nonchalantly about their task even if no boundary was found for 52 balls at

a stretch. The drought was ended by Gill when he hit one down the ground, which almost cleared the ropes.

The Indian skipper took time to find his groove to bring up his 16th half-century in ODIs but as the innings progressed, Gill also struggled, possibly with cramps. Having stretched his legs a few times, he called the team physiotherapist for some on-field treatment.

But the break seemed to have broken the momentum at least for Gill, who hit a googly from rookie leg-spinner Adithya straight to mid-off, walking away for a 71-ball 56 with three fours and two sixes.

The right-handed opener, who had missed the majority of the home series against South Africa, would've been pleased with his returns which included a spectacular straight drive and a powerful sweep for a six over deep square leg.

The chase began with a few tight overs before Rohit Sharma (26) took the initiative as Gill showed no intention to attack early on. Having put away a wide ball for a four past point, Rohit picked one off Zakary

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	
Devon Conway b Harshit Rana	56
Henry Nicholls c †Rahul b Harshit Rana	62
Will Young c †Rahul b Mohammed Siraj	12
Daryl Mitchell lbw b Prasidh Krishna	84
Glenn Phillips c Iyer b Kuldeep Yadav	12
Mitchell Hay † b Prasidh Krishna	18
Michael Bracewell (c) run out (Iyer)	16
Zak Foulkes b Mohammed Siraj	01
Kristian Clarke not out	24
Kyle Jamieson not out	08
Extras	07
Total	300/8
INDIA	
Rohit Sharma c Bracewell b Jamieson	26
Shubman Gill (c) c Phillips b Ashok	56
Virat Kohli c Bracewell b Jamieson	93
Shreyas Iyer b Jamieson	49
Ravindra Jadeja c Clarke b Jamieson	04
KL Rahul † not out	29
Harshit Rana c †Hay b Clarke	29
Washington Sundar not out	07
Extras	13
Total	306/6

Foulkes over square leg, and danced down to hit Jamieson over mid-on for another, taking his tally to 650 sixes in international cricket.

However, Jamieson appeared to have followed Rohit who moved away from wickets to clear the infield, but his bat twisted inside at the time of connection and he was dismissed in the ninth over.

Earlier, Daryl Mitchell stood tall with a stroke-filled half-century to help New Zealand post 300 for eight.

Mitchell, ranked world No. 3 behind India superstars Kohli and Rohit, lived up to expectations with a gritty knock which gave New Zealand a much-needed impetus amid middle order collapse.

Mitchell clobbered five fours and three sixes to make 84 off 71 balls after New Zealand middle order failed to build on an ideal start given by Devon Conway (56 off 67 balls; 6 fours, 1 six) and Henry Nicholls (62 off 69 balls; 8 fours).

Openers Conway and Nicholls had put on 117 runs to defy India for the first 21 overs, but Harshit Rana's (2/65) second spell of 2-0-13-2 turned the tables and the home side chipped away with regular strikes.

New Zealand skidded from 117 for no loss in the 22nd over to 198 for five in the 38th. But Mitchell forged vital stands to come to their rescue, while debutant Kristian Clarke struck three late fours to make 17-ball 24 not out.

Participates in Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 Satish meets Jiten Prasada, Rohan Jaitley; discusses dev projects, new cricket stadia in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, on Sunday participated in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 being held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from January 9 to 12.

The national level youth dialogue, organised under the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, brings together the young leaders, innovators, policymakers and domain experts from across the country to deliberate on India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

During the programme, Satish Sharma attended multiple thematic tracks focusing on Aatmanirbhar Bharat, MSME support, innovation, skill development and youth entrepreneurship. He actively interacted with the participants and stakeholders and also presided over sessions as a Jury, where innovative ideas and youth-led projects were evaluated.

The Minister appreciated the passion and innovative spirit of young leaders. He said that such platforms are vital for nurturing next-generation change makers who will shape India's economic, technological and social future. He said the focus on MSME development and Vocals for Local is especially relevant for empowering grassroots entrepreneurs and strengthening domestic manufacturing.

Satish Sharma highlight-



Minister FCSCA, Satish Sharma at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, New Delhi, engaging with young innovators and policymakers.

ed that Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential in start-ups, handicrafts, agri-based industries, tourism and IT-enabled services. He assured that the government is committed towards creating a supportive ecosystem for youth-led enterprises.

He said that the ideas and innovations emerging from the Viksit Bharat Dialogue would play a crucial role in realising the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development across all regions of the country.

The Minister also commended the organisers for providing a vibrant national platform for youth engagement, leadership and innovation.

Later, Satish Sharma today met Chairman Infrastructure Committee, BCCI & President Delhi Cricket Association Rohan Jaitley. He held detailed discussions regarding development of new cricket stadia in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister highlighted the immense sporting talent in

the Union Territory. He emphasised the need for world-class cricketering infrastructure to nurture the young players and promote sports culture across the region. The proposed stadia are expected to provide modern training facilities and enable Jammu and Kashmir to host national and international-level cricket events.

The Minister also met Union Minister Jiten Prasada, during which several important issues related to the departments of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and Science and Technology were discussed. The discussions focused on strengthening coordination between the Centre and the Union Territory for faster implementation of development projects and improving public service delivery.

Satish Sharma reiterated the commitment of J&K government to promote sports, improve infrastructure and ensure effective governance through close collaboration with central ministries and national sporting bodies.

J&K team shines in 10th North India Karate Championship



J&K karate players posing with officials at the 10th North India Karate Championship in Amritsar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Players from Jammu and Kashmir participated in the 10th North India Karate Championship, organised by the Kyo Rin Shotokan Karate Do Association India and hosted by the Amateur Karate Do Foundation Punjab at Khalsa College, Amritsar, from January 10 to 11, 2026. The championship witnessed strong competition from various states, and the Jammu and Kashmir team delivered an impressive performance by winning several medals across different categories.

The medal winners from Jammu and Kashmir included Ayaan Wani, Rumais Khurshed, Ananay Sharma, Varun Thakur, Arish Chandan and Anmolik Sudan, who clinched gold medals with outstanding performances. Silver medals were won by Rudraksh Aggarwal, Haridyanish

Aggarwal, Akarshit Singh, Arav Suryavanshi, Arul Raina, Aavya Thakur, Naksh Thakur and Anami Gupta, showcasing excellent technical skills and discipline. The bronze medal winners were Divyansh Kundal, Shiven Singh, Piyush Thakur, Raghu Bharat, Faizan Bhat, Rahul Kumar, Sachika Verma, Madhvi Sharma, Girish Singh, Tarisha Verma, Bhavab Singh, Arav Sharma, Taksh Anotra, Kanish Verma, Shivanshu Sharma and Mohamad Kamran, reflecting the depth of talent within the team. The team's success was guided by Happy Kohli, who served as the team coach, while Aamir Gulzar acted as the team manager. Their leadership and support played a vital role in the strong showing of the Jammu and Kashmir contingent at the championship, earning appreciation for both the athletes and the support staff.

BJP pays tribute to martyrs Bhikham Singh, Bihari Lal on their martyrdom day at Hiranagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Remembering the supreme sacrifices of Bhikham Singh and Bihari Lal, on their martyrdom day, who laid down their lives on 11 January 1953 during the historic agitation demanding "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan", the Jammu & Kashmir BJP led by its President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma CA, along with senior party leaders, paid heartfelt tributes at the memorial site in Hiranagar today.

Paying floral tributes, Sat Sharma emphasized that the sacrifices of these brave sons of Hiranagar were instrumental in intensifying the movement for full integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India under a single Constitution, flag, and leadership. He recalled how the martyrs Bhikham Singh and Bihari Lal fearlessly defied all threats and laid down their lives for the nation's unity and



J&K BJP leaders led by MP Sat Sharma paying floral tributes to martyrs Bhikham Singh and Bihari Lal on their martyrdom day at Hiranagar.

constitutional integration to uphold the dignity of National Tricolour amidst police firing.

Sat Sharma said that the Praja Parishad agitation of 1953, under the clarion call of "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan", galvanized patriotic sentiment across the region. He reaffirmed that it was the courage and ultimate sacrifice of these martyrs that laid the foundation for future generations to strive for the complete integration of J&K

into the national mainstream, culminating in the historic abrogation of Article 370.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now completed J&K's unification with the rest of nation by abrogating Article 370, completing the mission of these martyrs and now it's our responsibility to remember and honour their struggles and the sacrifices," Sat Sharma stated.

Priya Sethi, Vice-President & District Prabhari, stressed

that remembering such selfless contributions is essential for nurturing a sense of national pride and responsibility among future generations.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA, highlighted that their sacrifice should inspire all citizens especially the youth, to embrace the values of patriotism and service to the nation.

Advocate Vijay Sharma, MLA, reiterated the need to

keep the legacy of Bhikham Singh and Bihari Lal alive by actively participating in nation-building.

Sanjay Baru, District Seh-Prabhari, called for ensuring the principles of unity and constitutional integrity at the core of social and political discourse.

Udesh Andotra, District President, called upon the party workers to rededicate themselves to the cause of national integration.

The tribute ceremony was attended by Th. Ranjit Singh, Raghunandan Singh, Former MLAs Kuldeep Raj, Prem Dogra, Subash Sharma and Dewan Singh, Mandal President Hiranagar Mukesh Padha, Mandal President Marheen Pardeep Singh, Mandal President Kootah Som, Vice President Rajinder Bakshi, Mahila Moreha President Bobby Rani, senior leaders Sudesh Sethu, Asha Nand, Asha Devi, Devo Rani, ex-Sarpanch Ashwani Sharma, and others.

Rana holds mega outreach with OBC, ST, SC communities

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an initiative aimed at strengthening democratic engagement and advancing the constitutional mandate of social justice, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Sunday held a day-long mega public outreach programme with members of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) at Panchayat Bhawan, Jammu. The outreach programme was conceived as a rights-based participatory platform, enabling historically marginalised communities to directly articulate their grievances, lived experiences and developmental aspirations before the government. The interaction marked a shift from file-centric governance to people-centric administration, ensuring that policy decisions are informed by ground realities and guided by the principles of equity, dignity and distributive justice.



Forest Minister Javed Ahmed Rana chairing a meeting on Sunday.

Conservator of Forests; Mohammad Hanief, Chief Engineer; Jal Shakti (PHE); Manoj Gupta, Chief Engineer; Irrigation & Flood Control, along with officers from various departments.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored that meaningful public outreach is a constitutional obligation of the State, particularly towards marginalised communities. He stressed that transparent, accessible and responsive governance is essential to dismantle the historical exclusions. Quoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he said political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy; and such interactions aim to translate that vision into administrative action. Delegations raised pressing issues related to safe drinking water, erratic supply, leaking pipelines,

defunct filtration plants and shortage of tube wells, especially in rural, tribal and Kandi belts. Housing insecurity among migratory tribal families, lack of stable shelters and delays in forest and revenue clearances were also highlighted. Poor road connectivity in remote and hilly areas emerged as a recurring concern. Education-related issues, particularly the lack of hostel infrastructure for Gujjar-Bakarwal students—especially girls—were discussed at length. Delegations from Doda, Ramban and Udhampur demanded early construction of Gujjar-Bakarwal hostels, including a dedicated girls' hostel to improve access to education and reduce dropout rates. Healthcare access in tribal and rural areas was another major concern, with demands for strengthening Primary

Health Centres, mobile medical units and referral systems. SC delegations raised the issue of the Boria Filtration Plant, while representatives from Samba, Kathua, Reasi and Katra highlighted water scarcity, damaged pipelines and deteriorating roads. Livelihood-related concerns, including protection of traditional migratory routes and establishment of milk collection centres, were also raised. Responding to the issues, the Minister assured that all grievances would be documented and addressed through time-bound action plans, inter-departmental convergence and regular field reviews. He reiterated that access to water, housing, roads, education and healthcare are core governance responsibilities flowing from constitutional morality, not fragmented departmental schemes.

VLW delegation meets Javid Dar; expresses gratitude for pay upgradation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Sunday met a delegation of Village Level Workers (VLWs), who called on him to express their sincere gratitude for approval of their long pending demand for pay upgradation from Level-2 to Level-4.

The VLWs hailed the decision as a historic and long-awaited step that has significantly boosted their morale and acknowledged their tireless efforts at the grassroots level. They stated that upgradation is a meaningful recognition of the dedication, commitment and crucial role played by VLWs in implementation of government schemes and delivery of services in rural areas.

Interacting with the delegation, the Minister con-



gratulated the VLWs on approval of their demand and lauded their contribution towards rural development, agriculture extension and strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions. He emphasized that the government remains committed to the welfare of employees besides ensuring that their genuine concerns are addressed in a timely and fair manner.

Javid Dar further stated that Village Level Workers form the backbone of rural administration and development, acting as a vital link between the government

and the people. He reiterated that the present dispensation values hard work, sincerity and dedication and will continue to take progressive decisions aimed at empowering the employees and improving governance at the grassroots.

The delegation thanked the Minister for his proactive approach and sustained efforts in resolving their long-standing issue, expressing hope that the decision would further motivate VLWs to work with renewed zeal and dedication in the service of the people.

Rupali Sharma qualifies NET

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rupali Sharma, daughter of Ramakant Sharma, a P h . D . S c h o l a r , Division of Silviculture a n d Agroforestry, FOH&F SKUAST Jammu qualified National Eligibility Test (NET-2025) in Agroforestry conducted by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Pusa, New Delhi.

