

Rahul strikes, unbeaten ton helps India make near perfect start in South Africa

■ AGENCY

CENTURION: Opener K L Rahul produced a majestic knock in testing conditions en route to his sixth overseas century as India made a near perfect start to the Test series against South Africa, here on Sunday.

Rahul (122 batting off 248), alongside opener Mayank Agarwal (60), set up a strong platform for India with a 117-run stand, enabling the visitors to reach 272 for three at stumps.

Skipper Virat Kohli (35 off 94) fell to a loose shot after doing all the hardwork while under-pressure Cheteshwar Pujara lasted only one ball.

Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane (40 batting off 81), who like Pujara is fighting to save his place in the team, were in the middle at close of play. Rahane looked in a good touch and will be aiming for a big score on day two.

Barring Lungi Ngidi, who took all the wickets to fall on the day, South Africa pacers were not probing enough in their line and lengths and



offered too many loose balls.

The day belonged to Rahul, who showed remarkable resolve and application during his seventh Test hundred. He reached three-figure mark in England earlier this year and has also scored a hundred in every country he has played in.

Just like he had done it in England alongside Rohit Sharma, Rahul played with absolute clarity knowing which balls to leave and which ones to go for his shots. His friend and Karnataka teammate Agarwal also made it easier for Rahul early on by being the aggressor in the partnership.

He also shared a crucial 82 run stand with Kohli after Ngidi removed Agarwal and Pujara off successive deliveries.

The India skipper was the only wicket to fall in the evening session and that was rather a gift to the struggling

South Africa. Kohli went for an expansive drive off a very wide ball, something he didn't need to with India in a commanding position.

Earlier, South Africa fought back with a couple of wickets in the afternoon session via Ngidi but India still controlled the proceedings by reaching 157 for two at tea.

India scored 74 runs in the second session while Ngidi removed Agarwal and Pujara off successive balls to provide the hosts much needed breakthroughs.

Agarwal, who got to his half century after lunch, was dismissed against the run of play.

Soon after, Rahul brought up his fifty with a delightful cover drive off Ngidi.

His fall also ended a memorable partnership, making Rahul and Agarwal only the third Indian opening pair to stich a century stand in 21 games in South Africa.

With sun coming out, Pujara walked in and was dismissed first ball, inside edging a defensive shot to Keegan Petersen at short leg.

With superb game to help the side excel.

Earlier, the J&K contingent had to face a lot of hardships to reach the venue owing to Railways disturbance in Northern India and boarded train at Sambharpur by reaching there by road.

Meanwhile, the girls team of J&K (VAJK), Raj Daluja, President, Sidharth Daluja and other office bearers congratulated the boys team and Amil Kumar (coach) and Muddasir Ahmad Dar (Manager) while wishing them better performance in subsequent matches.

J&K maintains winning spree in Junior Volleyball



Volleyball match between J&K and Maharashtra in progress.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The young team of Jammu and Kashmir won their second consecutive league match when defeated Maharashtra in straight sets of 25-21, 26-24, 25-18) in the ongoing 47th Junior National Volleyball Championship at Burdwan in West Bengal.

As per a handout issued by the Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK), J&K made their first outing against Puducherry beating latter 3-0 (25-17, 25-23, 25-19).

Manhat Chowdhary,

Kanahaiya, Haroon Rashid,

Musharaf Khan played

08-25).

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SCOREBOARD

INDIA 1ST INNINGS

KL Rahul not out	122
Mayank Agarwal lbw b Ngidi	60
Cheteshwar Pujara c Petersen b Ngidi	00
Virat Kohli (e) c Mulder b Ngidi	35
Ajinkya Rahane not out	40
Extras	15
Total	272/3

AKAM: Peer Panjal Champions Trophy All India Cricket tournament concludes at Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The month-long Peer Panjal Champions Trophy All India Cricket tournament 2021, organised by the District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Hill View Cricket Club under the aegis of ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, concluded at Sports Stadium Kheora, here on Sunday. The closing ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, ADC, Sachin Dev Singh; DSEO, Bilal Rashid Mir besides President MC Rajouri, Mohd Arief and scores of people from all sections of the society were present at the event.

The final match was played between the Fatehpur line and Hill view Rajouri. The match was won by Rajouri Hill View by Eight wickets in a thrilling game.

Addressing the players, the Deputy Commissioner said that the motto behind organising such tournaments is to nurture the sports talent of local youths and encourage the young minds to participate in constructive activities. Reiterating the Government's commitment towards promoting sports activities, the DC said that the necessary measures are being taken to create adequate sports infrastructure to provide best possible platforms to the budding players where they can showcase their talent. Congratulating the winning team, the DC extended best wishes to the players for achieving new heights of success and urged upon them to keep playing with the same zeal. Later, cash prizes of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh were presented to the winner and runner up teams, respectively.

Body Building camp organised at Manda



Body builders along with BBAJK officials during a camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Body Building Association of Jammu and Kashmir (BBAJK) on Sunday organized bodybuilding preparatory coaching camp for body-builders at Manda, Amphala here.

The selected bodybuilders of J&K are being trained to take part in Mr India event being held at Khammam, Telangana from January 6 to 8, 2022.

The people surrounding Manda were impressed by seeing our bodybuilders

performing body show.

All the body builders are trained by Chief Coach and Secretary General BBAJK, Rajesh Datta and President Bupinder Singh Tirthi, Vice President Vinay Sharma, Sanjay Bali and Naresh Gupta.

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