

Bumrah 200 Test wickets: Joint second fastest Indian and first bowler with below-20 average

■ **AGENCY**
MELBOURNE: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Sunday became the second fastest Indian along with Ravindra Jadeja to complete 200 Test wickets and the first bowler ever to reach that milestone with a sub-20 average during the fourth day's play of the fourth Test against Australia here.

Bumrah dismissed Travis Head (1) for his 200th victim in the post-lunch session, joining Jadeja in the list of bowlers who are fastest to 200 wickets in Tests.

He is also the fastest Indian pace bowler to achieve the feat, going past legendary Kapil Dev who went past the mark in 50 matches.

Both Bumrah and Jadeja achieved the feat in their 44th Test, and overall he is 12th Indian bowler in the format to complete the landmark.

The recently retired Indian



spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was the quickest among Indians to have taken 200 wickets, a feat that he achieved in his 37th Test.

Among all bowlers who have crossed the 200-wickets mark in Test cricket, Bumrah is the only bowler with an average of under 20 which includes some of the fearsome fast bowlers from the West Indies such as Malcolm Marshall (376 wickets at 20.94), Joel Garner (259 wickets at 20), Curtly Ambrose (405 wickets at 20.99) as well as England's James Anderson (704 wickets at 26.45) and

even Glenn McGrath (563 wickets at 21.64).

Ashwin is ranked third in the overall list of bowlers who were fastest to 200 Test wickets, behind two leg-spinners -- Pakistan's Yasir Shah (33 Tests) and Australia's Clarrie Grimmett (36 Tests).

The dismissal of Head followed by that of Mitchell Marsh's (0), caught behind the wicket, as Bumrah took his wickets tally in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to 28.

He had earlier dismissed opener Sam Konstas (8) for his first wicket in Australia's second innings.

Humpy's grit and brilliance continues to inspire millions: PM Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Grandmaster Koneru Humpy's feat of winning the FIDE Women's World Rapid Chess championship title twice in her career.

Humpy capped a wonderful year for Indian chess, defeating Irene Sukandar of Indonesia to emerge champion in New York on Sunday.

She had won the event back in 2019 at Georgia, and the India No. 1 is only the second player after China's Ju Wenjun to clinch the title more than once.

"Congratulations to @humpy_koneru on winning the 2024 FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship! Her grit and brilliance continues to inspire millions," wrote Modi on 'X'.

Humpy's achievement laced a sensational year for the chess fraternity after D Gukesh defeated China's Ding Liren to emerge champion in the classical format World Championship



recently in Singapore.

"This victory is even more historic because it is her second world rapid championship title, thereby making her the only Indian to achieve this incredible feat," noted the PM.

Humpy said her victory will inspire other Indians to take up chess.

84 Bn CRPF organises 'Fit India Sunday on Cycle Rally'



Participants posing for a photograph with N Ranbir Singh Commandant 84 Bn CRPF.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a nationwide fitness mission, Fit India Cycling on Sunday, 84 Bn has organized a 10 km long Cyclothon from Bn Hq Chatha Jammu to SKAUST Chatha Jammu and back on 29 Dec 24 Sunday.

The Cyclothon was flagged off by N Ranbir Singh Commandant 84 Bn CRPF @ 0900 h, in presence of Suma K P Dy Cdt.

The event was participated by around 40 school students of R V Public Hakkal Chatha, The Seminary High School Chatha and Wazir Janki Nath Memorial School

Rani Bagh and CRPF personnel of 84 Bn.

Avtar Singh Sarpanch Chatha, P P Singh a former International Hockey player and coach, Surbi Sharma Principal Seminary High School Chatha, Advocate Jasmeet Kour Pandey Principal R V Public School Chatha and Corporator Jammu Cantonment Board also attended the event.

While speaking during the flag off ceremony, Commandant 84 Bn emphasized the need for a Fit and Healthy society.

The young students, who are the future pillars of the nation, should make

efforts to stay fit by taking up different physical activities.

Cycling is a low-impact, eco-friendly, fun and cheap activity that can be undertaken, by both young and old, on regular basis to stay healthy.

The Sarpanch and School principals thanked 84 Bn CRPF for organizing such positive activities for the school children of Chatha area.

The participant school children were served light refreshment and presented mementos by 84 Bn CRPF, after successful completion of the Cyclothon.

Akhnoor Tigers Football Club unveils new jersey



Akhnoor Tigers Football Club members unveiling new jersey during press conference.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Akhnoor Tigers Football Club held a significant meeting and press conference today, during which the club's new jersey was unveiled, and the team for the upcoming Christmas Gold Cup was selected.

Sandeep Sharma was

appointed as the captain of the team, while Rajan Sharma was named vice-captain. The event was graced by Amit Kaehroo as the chief guest, with Advocate Dharam Pal Gupta, the president of the Akhnoor Sports Club, serving as the guest of honor.

Additionally, the club's executive committee was elected, with the following members announced: Pawan Kumar Bharti as President, Anshul Gupta as Vice President, Devender Chandan as General Secretary, Chandan Sharma as Secretary, and Vishav Bharti as Treasurer.

Pawan Bharti, the President of Akhnoor Tigers Football Club, appealed to the Ministry of Sports, requesting the provision of better sports infrastructure in Akhnoor. He emphasized the importance of such developments for the new generation and for the overall improvement and growth of the sports sector in the region.

Kids Planet Pre-School celebrates Annual Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kids Planet Pre-School, celebrated its much-awaited Annual Day Function with grandeur and enthusiasm at the Government Polytechnic College Auditorium, Birkram Chowk, Jammu.

Themed "Rainbow - Unity in Diversity," the event was a vibrant showcase of cultural harmony, inclusivity, and the creative talents of tiny toddlers.

The school management, led by Chairman Ravi Gupta as the Chief Guest, Director Kanchan Gupta as the Guest of Honour graced the occasion with their presence.

Principal Shilpa Kalsotra extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and parents, emphasizing the school's commitment to fostering creativity and promoting unity among children from diverse



backgrounds.

The event commenced with a heartfelt welcome address by Principal Shilpa Kalsotra, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and a bouquet presentation to the Chief Guest.

"The Annual Day Function 2024 was a memorable celebration that not only highlighted the talents of the students but also reinforced the importance of cultural harmony and teamwork," said

Director Kanchan Gupta.

"This year's celebration stands as a testament to Kids Planet Pre-School's commitment to holistic education and fostering a vibrant, inclusive community for its students," she added.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement as the program unfolded, featuring a series of captivating performances that left the audience enthralled.

The celebrations began

with a Ganesh Vandana by students followed by melodious welcome song by the teachers, setting a joyful tone for the day.

The graceful Ganesh Vandana, was invoking blessings for the success of the event. A Qawwali performance mesmerized the audience, while the Play Group (Papa, Jingle Bell, New Year) delighted everyone with their charming festive songs. Audience also enjoyed the regional soulful songs of Dogri and Punjabi performed by the little champs.

The event also celebrated the students' achievements through prize distributions, which were interspersed between the performances. Levels II and III showcased their patriotism with a stirring Patriotic Song and a Mobile Act that highlight-

ed modern-day social messages. Karate demonstrations by Levels II and III exhibited the students' physical agility and discipline, leaving the audience in awe.

A special highlight of the event was the Mother's Dance, a heartwarming performance that celebrated the bond between children and their mothers. The day concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Chairman Ravi Gupta, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, parents, and staff for their unwavering support in making the event a resounding success.

The theme "Rainbow Unity in Diversity" resonated throughout the program, symbolizing the harmonious blend of cultures and the inclusive ethos of Kids Planet Pre-School.

13th Police Martyr's NZ T-20 Cricket Tournament Vicky XI Pathankot, KKR XI register wins in ties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: On the 11th day of the 13th Police Martyr's Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2024-25, two thrilling matches were played at the Sports Stadium Kathua.

The first match saw Vicky XI Pathankot taking on Sandhu XI Ludhiana, while the second match featured KKR XI against Bhawani Youth Academy Delhi.

In the morning session, Vicky XI Pathankot won the toss and chose to bowl first. Sandhu XI Ludhiana, batting first, managed to score 127 runs in 19.4 overs, getting all out. The standout performer for Ludhiana was Sachit



A player receiving Man of the Match award.

Sharma, who top-scored with 29 runs from 27 balls, including 3 boundaries, while Vivek Vishist contributed 20 runs off 10 balls, with 3 sixes.

Chasing the target of 128 runs, Vicky XI Pathankot

made light work of the chase, reaching the target in just 13 overs with the loss of 3 wickets. Kuwar Pathak was the star of the chase, scoring a brilliant 60 runs off 37 balls, with 8 boundaries and 2 sixes.

Vicky XI Pathankot won the match by 7 wickets. The standout bowler for Pathankot was Vishwas, who took 4 crucial wickets for 15 runs in 4 overs, earning him the Man of the Match award.

In the second match, Bhawani Youth Academy Delhi won the toss and chose to bowl first. KKR XI, batting first, posted a challenging total of 188 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs. The key scorers for KKR were Dishant Mishra, who made 55 runs off 37 balls, including 3 boundaries and 5 sixes, and Abhishek, who scored 48 runs off 31 balls, with 9 boundaries.

In response, Bhawani Youth

Academy Delhi struggled to chase the target and could only manage 144 runs, getting all out in 18.2 overs. Rinku was the top scorer for Delhi with a valiant 64 runs from 41 balls, including 6 boundaries and 4 sixes.

KKR XI won the match by 44 runs. Abhishek's excellent performance with the bat, scoring 48 runs, earned him the Man of the Match award.

Both matches showcased excellent performances, with Vicky XI Pathankot and KKR XI emerging victorious. The tournament continues to feature exciting cricket action as teams battle for the title in this prestigious competition.

Shivnandan Singh bags silver, bronze in J&K UT Athletics C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Keeping flag of the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) high and adding feather to its colourful cap, the employee of DYSS, Shivnandan Singh Mankotia clinched two medals in the J&K UT Master Athletics Championship 2024, organised successfully by Master Athletics Association at the University of Jammu ground, here today.

The Championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from athletes across the Union Territory, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship in various track and field events.

Tajinder Singh, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, was the chief guest on the valedictory function, who lavished praise on the participants for their dedication, determination and devotion for athletics, emphasizing the importance of sports in fostering fitness and camaraderie.

Shivnandan Singh claimed a Silver medal in the 200-meter race and a Bronze in the 800-meter event, earning praise from the spectators.

In a congratulatory message, the Secretary to Government Youth Services and Sports J&K, Sarnad Hafeez and the Director General Youth Services and Sports Rajinder Singh Tara said "You have set a benchmark for the employees of the Department. For which you deserve appreciation. Keep the spirit high and serve as an inspiration for the budding athletes. It is always an uphill task to display motor-ability, anticipation and reflexes when one is 50 plus. Congratulations for your achievement".

The championship concluded with a spirit of celebration, encouraging athletes to continue striving for excellence and promoting the culture of sports in J&K UT.



Arshdeep, Mandhana nominated for ICC awards



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DUBAI: Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh has been nominated for the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award following a stellar season in which he emerged as the joint highest wicket-taker and played a pivotal role in India's T20 World Cup triumph.

The 25-year-old will compete for the prestigious honour alongside Pakistan's Babar Azam, Australia's Travis Head, and Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza, all of whom are among the standout performers this year.

Stylish Indian opener Smriti Mandhana too will be vying for an ICC award after being nominated for ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for her standout performance in international cricket.

Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Chamari

Athapathithu (Sri Lanka) and Annabel Sutherland (Australia) are the other experienced cricketers competing for the award.

Singh, a left-arm pacer, was a key figure in India's T20 World Cup victory in Barbados. He finished the year as the joint highest wicket-taker in T20Is, with 36 wickets in 18 matches at an impressive average of 13.5.

His tally was the second-highest by an Indian pacer in T20Is in a calendar year, just behind Bhuvneshwar Kumar's 37 wickets in 2022.

Singh claimed 17 wickets in the T20 World Cup, tying with Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi for the most wickets in the tournament.

His most memorable moment came in the final, where he dismissed key players Aiden Markram and Quinton de Kock early, derail-

gratitude to the Adani Group, Amir shared that the academy will be built on two canals of land in his village, Bijbehara, Anantnag. Once completed, it will provide free coaching to around 100 children.

Amir stated, "The academy will be ready by March next year. Heavy snowfall in the region poses challenges, especially for players, and that's why we decided to create an indoor facility. The academy will feature two turf pitches inside the building, and players will also have the option to practice outdoors when the weather permits. This setup will ensure uninterrupted training regardless of the season."

Amir's story is one of unparalleled determination. Recalling his journey since 2013, he said, "I always

dreamed of playing cricket at the top level, but an accident at the age of eight left me without both arms. However, I never gave up. I represented Jammu & Kashmir in the Divyang (disabled) category. My wife even sold her jewelry to support my passion for cricket."

A few years ago, Amir's videos showcasing him bowling with his feet and batting by holding the bat with his neck went viral on social media, earning him praise from cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar and other prominent personalities from various fields.

With his dream finally coming true, Amir's academy is set to become a hub of talent, inspiring young cricketers not just in his village but across the surrounding districts of Kashmir.

NCC Officer Lt Ruksana Kousar of 1 J&K Girls Bn shines at OTA Gwalior

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Ruksana Kousar of 1 J&K Girls Battalion NCC, Srinagar, has successfully completed the Pre-Commission Course (PRCN) at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gwalior. Graduating with an 'A' grade, Lieutenant Ruksana demonstrated

academic excellence, leadership and operational expertise throughout the training. She performed duties of Platoon Senior, managed

responsibilities as Camp Adjutant during Exercise "Shakti" and earned a Certificate of Excellence in firing for her outstanding marksmanship.

Her contributions to the National Integration Awareness Programme (NIAP) through a vibrant Assamese-Manipuri cultural performance further highlighted her commitment to fostering unity and diversity. Additionally, she was recognized as Performer of the Month for her impeccable turnout.

The ANO anchored cultural events, participated in the Flag Area Exercise and served as the English Editor for the 10th edition of the OTA Newsletter.

Lieutenant Ruksana's achievements are a testament to her dedication, competence and leadership.

Major General Anupinder Bevi, VSM, Additional Director General, NCC Dte, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, felicitated the ANO and appreciated her achievements.