

Skipper Dhull leads India to fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final

■ AGENCY

OSBOURN: Skipper Yash Dhull gave a glimpse of his rare talent with a well-paced hundred as powerhouse India reached their fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final with an emphatic 96-run win over Australia here on Wednesday.

Dhull struck a sublime 110 in as many balls and shared a game-changing 204-run stand with his deputy Shaik Rasheed (94 off 108 balls) to fire India to a formidable 290 for five after opting to bat.

Indian bowlers then performed their roles to perfection to bowl Australia out for 194 in 41.5 overs. Lachlan Shaw's fine 51 came too late in the day for Australia.

Pacers Rajvardhan Hangargekar (0/26) and Ravi Kumar (2/37) were impressive in the first powerplay before spinners Nishant Sindhu (2/25), Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Kaushal Tambe (1/32) dominated the opposition in the middle overs.

The professional bowling



performance came after a remarkably mature knocks from Dhull and Rasheed who was unfortunate to miss out on a hundred.

Record four-time champions India face England in the final on Saturday and will be aiming to extend their dominance in the competition.

Dhull became the third Indian captain to hit a hundred in the tournament history after the illustrious Virat Kohli (2008) and the prodigious Unmukt Chand (2012), who also hail from Delhi.

India, the most successful team in tournament history,

were hit by COVID-19 at the start of the competition, losing the likes of Dhull and Rasheed for two games but the depth in the squad ensured that they sailed to the knock-outs.

Chasing a record target, Australia lost their in-form opener Teague Wylie cheaply with Ravi Kumar trapping him in front off his first legitimate ball with a late inswinger into the right-hander.

Campbell Kellaway (30) and Corey Miller (38) forged a fluent 68-run stand before perishing in a space of six balls, leaving Australia at 73 for three.

Left-arm spinner Ostwal took a return catch for his second wicket to make it 119 for six in 30 overs, shutting the door on the opposition.

SCOREBOARD		
India Under-19s Innings		
Angkrish Raghuvanshi b Salzmann		06
Harnoor Singh c †Snell b Nisbet		16
Shaik Rasheed c Sinfield b Nisbet		94
Yash Dhull (c) run out (Nisbet)		110
Rajvardhan Hangargekar b Salzmann		13
Nishant Sindhu not out		12
Dinesh Bana † not out		20
Extras		19
Total		290/5
Australia Under-19s Innings		
Campbell Kellaway c Sindhu b Ostwal		30
Teague Wylie lbw b Ravi Kumar		01
Corey Miller lbw b Raghuvanshi		38
Cooper Connolly (c) c Rasheed b Sindhu		03
Lachlan Shaw b Ravi Kumar		51
Nivethan Radhakrishnan b Sindhu		11
William Salzmann c & b Ostwal		07
Tobias Snell † b Ostwal		04
Jack Sinfield st †Bana b Tambe		20
Tom Whitney run out (Hangargekar)		19
Jack Nisbet not out		00
Extras		10
Total		194

Ranji Trophy first phase from Feb 10, knockouts from May 30; matches reduced for teams

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The first phase of the much-anticipated Ranji Trophy will take place from February 10 to March 15 before the premier domestic event takes a break during the IPL and resumes from May 30 to June 26 for the knockouts, BCCI secretary Jay Shah informed state units on Thursday.

Shah's letter made it clear that it is set to be one of the shortest first-class seasons with most teams getting to play only three matches which effectively means that increased match fees will not have an impact on most of the teams that will be ousted at the group league stage.

As PTI reported earlier, four teams each have been divided into eight elite groups while the remaining six form the plate division. The new pay slabs offer those who have played 40-plus games Rs 60,000 per day, a significant hike from the previous Rs 35,000 per day scale. Those with experience of 21 to 40 matches will get Rs 50,000 per day.

The tournament will have 64

games in 62 days with the first phase comprising 57 matches and the second stage having seven knock-out games, including four quarter-finals, two semi-finals and the final.

The elite group matches will be played in Rajkot, Cuttack, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Delhi, Haryana and Guwahati. Plate league matches will be held in Kolkata, requiring nine bio-secure bubbles for nine venues.

Each team from elite group, barring one, will qualify for the quarterfinals.

The lowest ranked qualified team from elite group will play the plate toppers in the sole pre-quarterfinal.

The tournament was cancelled for the first time ever last season and this year, the third wave of COVID-19 forced the BCCI to postpone the scheduled start of January 13.

The last red ball game in the country took place in March 2020.

In his letter to state units, Shah wrote: "I am pleased to share that we are now truly set to resume both international and domestic cricket with full

thrust. We have waited patiently for the grip of the pandemic to loosen and the time has come for our cricketers to take centre stage all over again.

"The structure of revised Ranji Trophy format is now ready. We have spread out the Ranji Trophy to nine different venues across the country to mitigate any cross transmission risk while also ensuring that bio-bubbles are not over-burdened."

The bubbles have been breached in the past including during the IPL, but Shah said the board has contingency plans in place.

"While the persistent virus has still breached the bubble, we have factored in contingency plans drawing from our past experience while formulating this structure," Shah wrote.

Two stadiums will be used in each of the venues in elite groups while three stadiums will be used in Kolkata for the plate group.

Delhi has been clubbed in Elite H group also comprising Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh with the games to be held in Guwahati.

GGM Sc College organises lecture on 'Wetlands: Action for People and Nature 2022'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSS unit of GGM Science College organised an extension lecture on Wetland day with theme 'Action for People and Nature' here today under aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the guidance of Principal Dr. Ravinder Tickoo and supervision of Dr. Narinder Kumar NSS PO.

Dr. Ravinder Tickoo said it is the duty of citizens to protect and conserve the wetland ecosystems as it house flora and fauna.

Dr. P. Uniyal (Professor Delhi University) was the resource person in today webinar. He emphasised on the importance of wetland including purifying, replenishing water, prevent flooding and control erosion.

He added that our wetland ecosystems become endangered as world has lost 87% in last 300 years and 35% since 1970. He further added that wetland is dwindling 3% faster than any other ecosystem.

NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar started the event that the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 75/317 in August 2021, proclaiming 2 February as World Wetlands Day. World Wetlands Day raises awareness about wetlands as critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, economies and more.

He added that wetlands should be used wisely and restored for improving human well-being and local

livelihoods - conserving biodiversity, sustaining the water cycle and reducing climate change and its impacts. The formal vote of thanks was presented by NSS PO.

Large number of NSS volunteers and students of the college participated in the event enthusiastically.

Cyber Jagrookta Diwas observed in Government Schools of Jammu Division

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of School Education Jammu today observed Cyber Jagrookta (Awareness) Diwas in Jammu Division schools by organizing a series of diverse activities like webinars, virtual meets, short movie screening, lectures, paragraph writing, slogan writing and painting along-with poster making being the chief feature for the day.

District Counselling Coordinators and Zonal Counselling Coordinators generated awareness amongst the students and staff members regarding various aspects of cyber crime, cyber security and cyber hygiene.

The event was coordinated by the Counselling Cell of Directorate of School Education Jammu under the supervision and able guidance of Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education, Jammu. Directorate of School Education, Jammu has issued written directions along with suggestive topic to all the Heads of Schools through CEOs to create mass awareness about cyber security by observing 'Cyber Jagrookta (Awareness) Diwas' on the first Wednesday of every month besides other awareness programmes.

J&K UT men team leaves for Sr National Volleyball



J&K UT senior Volleyball men team posing with VAKJ office bearers and other officials before leaving for nationals.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K UT Senior volleyball men team on Thursday left for Bhubaneshwar in Odisha, under the banner of Volleyball Association of J and K, to take part in the 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship to be held from February 7 to 13, 2022.

Earlier, the selected team underwent a nine-day coaching camp conducted by Volleyball Association of J&K at Play Field Shastri Nagar, Jammu under the supervision of Ashok Singh, Divisional Sports Officer (J) and Dalvir Mehta, Incharge Play Field Shastri Nagar Jammu of J&K Sports Council.

President, Sidharth Daluja and office bearers of Volleyball Association of J&K distributed sports kits and track suits among the players and officials and also wished the team for good result in the national championship.

The team was screened by Ashok Singh, Divisional Sports Officer (J), J&K

Sports Council and Satish Gupta, Manager MA Stadium Sports Complex Jammu on February 2, 2022.

Team: Shahid Majid (Captain, Baramulla); Sahil Sharma (Jammu); Rahul Verma (Kathua); Shakir Ashraf (Kulgam); Shabir Ahmed Tantary (Baramulla); Sachin Sharma (Rajouri); Vipin Kumar (Jammu);

Pankaj Sharma (Jammu); Varun Singh (Kathua); Mohd Aris Khan (Poonch); Zahid Hussain (Poonch); Parvinder Singh (Doda).

Mohinder Kumar (Kathua), Mohd Tariq (Poonch) and Wasif Ahmed Allayie (Budgam) are accompanying the team as Manager, Head Coach and Assistant Coach respectively.

Former national ice hockey player calls on LG Mathur



Former Indian ice hockey player Zia-Ur Rahman Mir interacting with Lt Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Former Indian ice hockey player Zia-Ur Rahman Mir on Thursday called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, here.

Rahman requested LG Mathur for the development of winter sports infrastructure in Drass, including the installation of a zipline at Man Man ski slopes.

Rahman also requested for ski-lift at various

tracks such as basic, intermediate, advance, cross-country, snowboarding and snow-rugby field, at Man Man ski slopes; snow-bidder machine, ski shop, development of VIP restroom and helipad for heli-skiing; dash border for ice hockey rink with player box, Zamboni machine for maintenance of ice hockey rink at Drass, ice skate sharpening machines and dressing rooms for teams.

SRS condemns acid attack on woman, demands death penalty for culprits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Condemning recent acid attack incident on a girl at Srinagar, Shri Ram Sena (SRS) J&K, President, Rajiv Mahajan on Thursday demanded death penalty for culprits so that no one can dare to do such

crime again in future. Terming the incident fit for death sentence, Rajiv Mahajan said that acid attack is a gruesome crime against women and capital punishment is must for culprits.

"Culprits did not commit

crime on spur of a moment but it was a pre-planned attack. If they are given a lesser punishment, other girls will not be safe in society," said Mahajan, urging J&K Government to provide free medical treatment to victim.

Chess training centre opened at MA Stadium



Chess matches in progress at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Thursday opened the designated hall for those Chess enthusiasts within New Indoor Complex, MA Stadium,

here.

The training facility was dedicated to the Chess players by Sports Officer of JKSC, Ashok Singh in the presence of office bearers of the All J&K Chess Association

Budget 2022-23 a yout-friendly budget: Yudhvir



Vice President BJP J&K, Yudhvir Sethi and others at public Darbar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir while welcoming the Union Budget 2022-23 presented by the Union Finance Minister in the Parliament has said that after its proper analysis one can undoubtedly term it as a youth friendly budget. The senior BJP leader stated this while addressing the routine Janata Darbar at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni here today. Sethi said that the PM Modi led Govt at the Centre being fully aware of the changing trends has been taking due care of accommodating every section of the society in its fiscal plans which is evident from the Budget 2022-23. He said that while creating a marvelous symbiosis between the Macro and Micro sectors ensuring that both get benefited the most, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has ensured that youth constituting major portion of Indian population are taken due care of. Sethi said that this year's Budget is unique in many ways and the best part of it is that it is bound to generate ample avenues of employment. Making special mention of PLI scheme, he said that this alone is going to generate create 60 lakh new jobs.

Moreover the capital expenditure of Rs. 7.5 lakh crore for the year is the highest ever in the history of India's annual fiscal documents. He said that the push up to the StartUps besides providing additional credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore to MSMEs is ultimately benefit the youth both as StartUp entrepreneurs as well as employees of StartUps or MSME units. He asserted that overall youth will be tremendously benefitted from this year's Budget. Meanwhile, during the routine Janata Darbar held here today, Yudhvir Sethi interacted with party cadre and general public. The people attending the Darbar brought to his notice various issues and problems faced by them in their areas. After listening to them patiently Yudhvir got some of the issues resolved by talking to the concerned authorities telephonically. He assured to take up the rest of the issues with the concerned authorities and get the same resolved at the earliest. Addressing the party cadre, the BJP Vice President asked them to remain on ground in public 24X7 to address their grievances of people especially those pertaining civic amenities on topmost priority. He also assured the party cadre of resolving their issues brought to his notice at the earliest.

'Rename Sports Stadium Poonch as Yashpal Sharma Stadium'



Sportspersons paying candle light tributes to Ex-MLC Yashpal Sharma.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Sportspersons and coaches, while paying candle light tributes to former Member Legislative Council(MLC) Yashpal Sharma, urged Lt Government led J&K UT government to rename the Sports Stadium Poonch as Yashpal Sharma Stadium.

Players and coaches of Sports Stadium Poonch taken out candle march in memory of Yashpal Sharma from Stadium to his residence.

Besides players, coaches Nirdosh Sharma, Matinderpal Singh Coach of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Hockey Club Poonch, Pawan Sharma, Afridi, Neeraj Sharma, Mushtaq Ahmed, Sourab Sharma and staff of Sports Stadium Poonch participated in the march.

NCC girl cadets of KV Nagrota carry out cleanliness near Shaheed Bhagat Singh statue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: NCC girl cadets of Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Nagrota visited the statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh at Sanjay Lehi Chowk in Jammu and paid tribute to the greatest nationalist Bhagat Singh. Shaheed Bhagat Singh was a charismatic Indian revolutionary who initiated the revolutionary emotions towards our motherland in young mind.

The unmatched courage and sacrifices displayed by the brave soul was an inspiration for the cadets. Under the guidance of Incharges Isha Mittal (SW) and Farzana (JW), cadets cleaned the area.

KV Nagrota had adopted the statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh in 2021 and has taken the responsibility of cleanliness of the statue. Cadets said that they feel proud to contribute towards maintenance of this statue. Didar Singh Chahal, Principal KV Nagrota appreciated and motivated the cadets for their dedication.



NCC cadets cleaning nearby area of statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: To reaffirm value of Independence and provide an impetus to education and reasoning ability of children, Indian Army organised a Quiz Competition on the theme of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Chas, District Kishtwar.

The aim of this event was to inculcate and further promote knowledge and a sense of

pride in celebrating 75 years of Independence. A total of 57 children participated in the Quiz Competition and the competitive spirit displayed by them was phenomenal.

Three best teams were felicitated with medals and certificates. The audience at the event hugely appreciated the efforts of the Army for conducting the event.

Army officer posing with participants of quiz competition.