

# ‘King Kohli’ hits 51st ODI ton as India all but seal CT semifinal slot with thumping win over Pakistan

■ AGENCY DUBAI: Virat Kohli showcased his penchant to lord over Pakistan in ICC tournaments once more as the batting icon's glittering unbeaten 100 helped India claim an authoritative six-wicket win over their traditional rivals and all but seal a semifinal spot in the Champions Trophy here on Sunday.

The victory should be enough for India, who are now on top of Group A with four points, to make the last four. However, Pakistan are staring at early elimination from the eight-team event after their second successive loss.

Chasing a tricky 242, India rode on Kohli's 51st ODI ton, Shreyas Iyer's classy 67-ball 56 and Shubman Gill's brilliant start of 46 off 52 balls to overhaul the target with more than seven overs to spare.

Kohli rebelled against his own modest recent form and a dangerous opposition to peel off a memorable knock that took 111 balls and was



punctuated with seven fours.

Pakistan, on the other hand, are on their way out of the tournament of which they are the hosts.

Once again, they ran into their old nemesis - Kohli. The 36-year-old had several demons of his own to tame - a lean run, recurring form of dismissals and struggles against spin.

But he slayed each one of them, in a manner befitting a batter who also became the quickest to 14,000 ODI runs during the course of the knock.

Pakistan might have hoped to hustle him a bit through pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris

Rauf.

But Kohli drove them on the up with elan or pulled them with audacity as Pakistan's premier pacers transformed into dejected figures after the early high of Afridi castingling Rohit Sharma (20 off 15 balls) with a peach of a yorker.

Perhaps, the biggest hope Pakistan harboured against Kohli would have been leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, considering the Indian's recent travails against England's Adil Rashid.

Kohli did have a couple of tough moments against Ahmed but none big enough to put him in distress. He largely dealt with him in singles, cutting down risks.

But the Pakistan quicks offered him enough chances to free his arms.

At the other end, Iyer flowed with a variety of shots but a 103 metre six off spinner Salman Agha was the standout hit during his tenure, in which he assisted Kohli to raise 114 runs for the third wicket.

Iyer had to walk back to the hut after Imam-ul-Haq pulled off a stunner at covers off spinner Khushdil Shah although replays suggested that the ball might have been grounded.

But by then, India had already shut the door on Pakistan.

A large chunk of credit for this win can also be rightfully claimed by Indian bowlers, who were stunningly accurate while limiting Pakistan to 241.

That total was made possible by Saud Shakeel's polished fifty and Khushdil's cameo.

Shakeel (62, 76b, 5x4) was largely untroubled and added 104 runs for the third wicket with skipper Mohammad Rizwan (46),

but Pakistan never really managed to break the shackles after opting to bat.

The pitch expectedly grew slow once the match entered the middle passage, and the precision of Indian bowlers made run-making a laboured task with left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav leading the way (3/40).

There was a period in Pakistan innings when both Rizwan and Shakeel failed to find the boundary rope for 55 consecutive deliveries.

They were forced to traverse a cautious path because of the early departure of Babar Azam (23) and Inam (10).

Azam looked million dollars while playing those trademark cover drives for a few boundaries off Harshit Rana and Hardik Pandya.

But that desire to drive brought his doom as well. Pandya immediately pulled the length back after getting driven for a four and Azam's full-throttle shot took an edge to KL Rahul's big gloves.

Soon, Imam took off for a non-existent single and Axar Patel at mid-on just had to hit the stumps, which he did.

At 47 for two, Pakistan had their task cut out in a high-pressure match but Rizwan and Shakeel brought some stability to their innings with composed knocks.

India also had a couple of worrying points at this stage as veteran pacer Mohammed Shami and skipper Rohit Sharma had to stay off the field for some time.

Shami had to tend to his shin while Rohit looked in some discomfort primarily because of the heat here. However, both of them returned to the field to allay the concerns.

Rizwan's adventurous shimmy down the track against Axar saw him losing the stumps, and from there on Pakistan went on a downward spiral.

Shakeel, who played the pull with some conviction, perished to the same shot against Pandya, skyng a

simple catch to Axar in the deep.

Salman, Afridi and Naseem Shah fell to Kuldeep's guile as India tightened their grip.

Khushdil (38, 39 balls)

played a couple of big shots, including the first six of Pakistan innings, that helped his side reach a healthy total but Kohli's brilliance was too high to match on the night.

## SCOREBOARD

### PAKISTAN INNINGS

Imam-ul-Haq run out (Axar)	10
Babar Azam c Rahul b Hardik Pandya	23
Saud Shakeel c Axar b Hardik Pandya	62
Rizwan (c & wk) b Axar	46
Salman Agha c Ravindra Jadeja b Kuldeep Yadav	19
Tayya Tahir b Ravindra Jadeja	04
Khushdil c Kohli b Harshit Rana	38
Shaheen Afridi lbw b Kuldeep Yadav	00
Naseem Shah c Kohli b Kuldeep Yadav	14
Haris Rauf run out (Axar/Rahul)	08
Abrar Ahmed not out	00
<b>Extras</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>

### INDIA INNINGS

Rohit Sharma (c) b Shaheen Afridi	20
Shubman Gill b Abrar Ahmed	46
Virat Kohli not out	100
Shreyas Iyer c Inam-ul-Haq b Khushdil	56
Hardik Pandya c Rizwan b Shaheen Afridi	08
Axar Patel not out	03
<b>Extras</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>244/4</b>

## JKP Wrestlers dominate in Senior J&K C'ship

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 32nd senior Men and 18th Women J&K UT Wrestling Championship concluded today at Gymnasium hall, University of Jammu. The day-long event saw fierce competition among the participating wrestlers in different weight categories from different districts.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma was chief guest in the inaugural function, who declared open the competition. He lauded the Wrestling Association of J&K for its efforts in promoting the sport and providing a platform for budding



Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma along with organisers and players.

wrestlers. The Minister emphasized that the wrestling played from the ancient time has become one of the most decorated sports in the world. He also briefed that he will do all possible help and cooperation for the players.

Dushyant Sharma, SSP and former international wrestler and former president of Westling Federation of India, was guest of honour, he praised the Association and also motivated the wrestlers, sharing his tall

experience.

Later, Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister J&K gave away the prizes after witnessing the finals. He lauded the efforts of organizers for conducting the championship and channelizing the energy of the youth towards wrestling sports.

Other dignitaries present included Ajay Vaid, general secretary J&K Olympic Association (JKOA), Vasudev Samotra, Vijay Pahalwan, Raju Sharma, Dheeraj Sharma, Jai Bharat, Sanjay Gupta, Ankit Chib, Swarn, Sadiq, Mohd Iqbal, Om Parkash, Krishan Lal, Ravinder and Kusam (Coaches).

Earlier, the competition

conducted in a smooth manner following the rules of UWW, world governing body of wrestling.

### The (Final) Results:

**MEN: 61 kg:** Natter Singh of Reasi beat Rohit Singh of JKP. 79 kg: Gulshan Chib of JKP beat Amarjit of Jammu. 72 kg: Sahil of RS Pura beat Wasim of Kathua. 86 kg: Ranjeet Singh of JKP beat Maksood of Udhampur.

**WOMEN: 50 kg:** Maary of Jammu beat Rekha of Udhampur. 53 kg: Samreen of Udhampur beat Nitisha of Jammu. 57 kg: Barsha of Jammu beat Mamta of Samba. 76 kg: Sunakshi of Jammu beat Manvi of Kathua.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: SDH Bhaderwah beats SDH Gandoh in promotional cricket match

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDOH: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and the anti-drug campaign, a friendly cricket match was played today between Sub District Hospital Gandoh and Sub District Hospital Bhaderwah here at Sports Ground Kilhotran.

The thrilling encounter saw SDH Bhaderwah emerging victorious by 26 runs.

Winning the toss, SDH Bhaderwah chose to bat first and set a competitive target of 171 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in the allotted 20 Overs. The standout performer was Dr. Yasir Riaz, who scored a brilliant 77 runs off 48 balls, supported by Dr. Touseef Malik with a valuable 46 runs. From SDH Gandoh's bowling side, Dr. Farooq Saleem, Arif Rather, Jahangir Mehta and Arif Batt each claimed one wicket.

In response, SDH Gandoh put up a strong fight but fell short, managing only 145 runs for 5 wickets in 20 Overs. Dr Farooq Saleem scored highest 42 runs, while Arif Rather con-

tributed 21 runs.

For SDH Bhaderwah, bowlers Dr. Mohammad Ashraf, Kalwant Singh, Anzar Shah and Dr. Touseef Malik each took a wicket, effectively restricting the opposition's run chase.

Dr. Yasir Riaz was awarded Man of the Match for his outstanding batting, playing a pivotal role in securing the win for SDH Bhaderwah. During the closing ceremony, BMO Gandoh Dr Farooq Saleem, who hosted the event, congratulated both teams for their spirited participation. In his address, he emphasized the importance of engaging in sports activities alongside official duties, highlighting how such events promote physical fitness and contribute to mental well-being, aligning with the broader goals of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The event concluded with a message encouraging everyone to stay united in the fight against substance abuse while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle through sports.

## 27th Shiv Khori Dangal on Feb 27

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The 27th Shiv Khori Kesari annual Vishal Dangal shall be held at Ransoo, the base camp of holy Shrine, on February 27. Dangal is part of the three-day historic Maha Shivratri Mela at Shiv Khori starting February 25.

The winner of the top bout shall get a prize money of Rs. 31,000 along with traditional Gurj and Shiv Khori Kesari Patta.

Further, it has been decided and agreed by the organising committee that the top bout will be fought between Sumit of Guru Leelv Akhada Ladpur in Haryana and Pahelwan Nadeem (Shiv Khori Kesari 2023) of J&K Police and a resident of Doda.

Giving details of the dangal, Shiv Kumar Sharma, President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association said that MLA Reasi, Kuldeep Dubey will be the chief guest in this dangal, who shall declare the event open at 1 PM, while Kewal Krishan Sharma, DDC member shall be the guest of honour. This Dangal is being organised by Shiv Khori Dangal Committee in associa-

tion with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association with the active support of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, District Administration Reasi, Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB) under the overall supervision of Shiv Kumar Sharma, DDC Member, Kewal Krishan Sharma; former Sarpanch Bhagwan Singh; Romesh Chander Kohli (Bittu); Pawan Kohli and Kapoor Singh.

Shiv Kumar Sharma who is also former Joint Secretary of J&K State Sports Council thanked Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta for a financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000 and Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik who is also Vice Chairman Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board for contributing Rs. 50,000 for organizing Dangal. Shiv Kumar Sharma also thanked SSP Reasi, Paramvir Singh for their contributions.

Meanwhile those interested wrestlers of Jammu region or outside J&K can still submit their entries to Shiv Kumar Sharma (94191 61880).

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Badminton Tournament 2025 organised by Reasi Police under Civic Action Programme concluded today at Indoor Stadium Reasi. Paramvir Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi was chief guest at the final match event.

32 badminton players from different parts of Reasi District participated in the tournament witnessed by large number of prominent citizens, locals and sportsperson. In a



Dignitaries along with players and organisers.

series of matches, 16 teams for 'Men Double' category played in closely

## HSS Seri Khawaja junior wins Pir Panchal Kho Kho Tournament



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Pir Panchal Kho Kho Tournament culminated in a spectacular show-down, as Team HSS Seri Khawaja junior triumphed in a thrilling final against Dream Club Kho Kho, Poonch.

Kicking off on February 17, the tournament showcased high-intensity competition, with teams demonstrating exceptional agility, strategic prowess, and unwavering determination.

The grand finale was a remarkable display of speed, coordination, and resilience, with both teams delivering stellar performances.

The electric atmosphere was further amplified by an enthusiastic crowd, passionately cheering for their favorite players.

Despite a fierce challenge from Dream Club Kho Kho, Poonch, Team

HSS Seri Khawaja Junior held their nerve and clinched the championship title, exhibiting extraordinary skill, endurance, and sportsmanship.

The tournament concluded with a prestigious prize distribution ceremony, where the Champion Team, Runners-up, Best Player, and other outstanding performers were honored for their dedication and contributions to the sport.

As an integral part of the Pir Panjal Winter Festival, the Kho Kho tournament embodied the spirit of youth and the Indian Army, serving as a platform that nurtures passion, discipline, and competitive excellence. The festival continues to reinforce the unifying power of sports, fostering teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie among aspiring athletes.

events under Civic Action Programme of J&K Police with the aim to provide platform for the youth so that they can show their talent. The youth of J&K have been taking the benefits of these activities organised by Jammu & Kashmir Police from time to time.

Surinder Sharma President District Badminton Association Reasi along with Vice-President Vikas Sharma, General Secretary Abhinav Sharma and others expressed gratitude to J&K police especially to SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh and DySP Hq Reasi Vishal Singh Jamwal for sparing time from their busy schedule to promote sports activities in Reasi which is required for welfare of youth of the District.

SSP Reasi expressed

youth are asset & future for the nation and further added that Sports activities are prerequisite for a healthy lifestyle and local players of Reasi are participating in these events with great zeal and enthusiasm.

## Ria Kohli qualifies NET-JRF

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ria Kohli, wife of Rishabh Choudhary, resident of Nowshera, District Rajouri has qualified National Eligibility Test- Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) in Computer Science and Applications with 99.4 percentile. The result was announced by University Grant Commission recently.



## GCW Gandhi Nagar hosts special program to mark Int'l Mother Language Day Week

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a vibrant celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural pride, Government Women's College, Gandhinagar, Jammu, hosted a special program today as part of the International Mother Language Day-Week Celebrations.

The event, organized by the college's Language Club, brought together students, faculty, and esteemed guests to reflect on the profound significance of mother languages in shaping a conscious and living society.

The program was graced by the presence of three distinguished luminaries from the fields of linguistics, journalism, and cultural activism in Jammu and Kashmir: Ram Bahadur Shukla, Head of the Sanskrit Department at Jammu University, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala-Kendra Jammu, and Surendra Sagar, Head of the Dogri Section of popular "The Straight Line" Web Portal, delivered thought-provoking speeches. Their words res-

onated deeply, emphasizing the vital role of mother languages in preserving cultural identity and fostering societal harmony.

Presiding over the event, the college Principal, Dr. S.P. Saraswat, inspired the audience with his impassioned address. He urged students to take pride in their linguistic roots and embrace their mother tongues-be it Dogri, Gojri, Pahari, Kashmiri, Punjabi, or any other-without hesitation or shame. "Our languages are the soul of our heritage," he remarked, "and speaking them is a celebration of who we are."

The keynote address was eloquently delivered by Dr. Liaqat Jafri, HOD Urdu Department, who underscored the unifying power of language in a diverse society. Dr. Vijender Sharma, Head of the Sanskrit Department, skillfully orchestrated the proceedings, ensuring the event flowed seamlessly. The guests were warmly welcomed by the principal, while Professor Bindu Chib, HOD Hindi Department, expressed grati-

tude with a heartfelt vote of thanks.

The program was a collaborative effort, with Dr. Tarsem Lal, HOD Dogri Department, overseeing its meticulous organization. The audience, comprising students and faculty from all language departments, was further enriched by the presence of esteemed professors, including Professor Rupinder Kaur, Professor Paramjit Singh, Professor Anjad Bharti, Professor Rohit Gupta, Professor Tahira Shah, Professor Poonam Rajput, Professor Balbir, Prof Ajaz, Professor Vipran and Professor Omar.

This gathering was not merely an academic exercise but a heartfelt tribute to the linguistic tapestry that binds communities together. It served as a reminder that every language carries within it the stories, wisdom, and dreams of its people. As the echoes of the event lingered, the message was clear: to honor one's mother tongue is to honor the very essence of humanity.