

Sooryavanshi fires India to record-extending sixth U-19 World Cup title with a knock for the ages

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HARARE: Cricket's latest wunderkind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi played arguably the most breathtaking knock in the history of U-19 World Cup to fire India to a record-extending sixth title with a 100-run drubbing of England in the summit clash here Friday.

Sooryavanshi's 80-ball 175, which comprised a record 15 sixes and as many fours, propelled India to an imposing 411 for 9 after England opted to bowl first.

Bruised and battered following Sooryavanshi's brutal onslaught, England's innings ended at 311 in 40.2 overs after being set an improbable target of 412 against a well-rounded bowling attack.

Caleb Falconer top-scored for England with a scintillating 67-ball 115, leaving a lasting impression on the biggest stage while helping his side reduce the margin of defeat.

This was after the 14-year-old Sooryavanshi produced a knock for the ages and raced to the three-figure mark in a



mere 55 balls to become the second fastest centurion in this competition.

The triumph, which ensured India's continued dominance in the age-group showpiece, could be attributed to a robust domestic structure, vast talent pool, exposure to advanced coaching, high-quality preparation, and passion for the game among the country's youth.

India last won the tournament in 2022.

Once India crossed 400 in

the final, they were the overwhelming favourites to emerge victorious, and that is exactly how the script panned out, with the bowlers performing as a collective outfit.

To some extent, the achievement bore resemblance to the exploits of world-class Indian U-19 teams of the past that featured the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but this side led by Ayush Mhatre has carved a niche of its own, especially in terms of sheer ruthlessness, and no one

exemplifies that better than that raging force called Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Sooryavanshi's knock is the record for the best individual score in a U-19 World Cup final and is also the highest team total in the summit showdown of the tournament.

The opener exploded when it mattered the most, reaching his fifty in just 32 balls and continued in the same vein to torment the English bowlers with his wide range of strokes. His second fifty came off just 23 balls.

As many as 150 off his 175 runs came off boundaries thanks to his 15 sixes and as many fours during a knock in which he literally toyed with the opposition attack and turned the Harare Sports Club into his playground.

He now holds the record for most sixes in a Youth ODI innings, surpassing his own 14 maximums against UAE at ICCA Dubai in December.

Shambhavi, Chitra score big fifties as J&K outplays Tamil Nadu by 7 wkts

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GUWAHATI: In a clinical display of batting prowess, promising Shambhavi Rajput smashed an unbeaten 81 and talented Chitra Singh Jamwal blazed 71 as Jammu & Kashmir out-classed formidable Tamil Nadu by 7 wickets in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy at ACA Stadium, Barsapara, today.

Chasing a challenging 237, J&K's top order fired on all cylinders. Shambhavi (81* off 98 balls, 8 fours) anchored the chase with elegant strokeplay, while Chitra (71 off 109 balls, 5 fours) provided the thrust. Opener Bavaandeep Kaur laid the foundation with a



J&K women team posing for a photograph with officials.

gritty 35 (60 balls, 5 fours), and Rubia Syed accelerated with a brisk 38 (36 balls, 3 fours, 2 sixes). The target fell in just 49.1 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Tamil Nadu's S. Anusha, Nida Rehman, and Sarthi Priya picked up one wicket apiece but couldn't

stem the tide.

Earlier, invited to bat, Tamil Nadu posted 237/6 in 50 overs. Arshi Choudhary led with a classy 80, supported by N.S. Subhaharini's 67 and Roshini's 41.

J&K's bowlers struck back effectively, with

Bismah Hassan (2/26 in 9 overs) and Mahika Singh Rana (2 wickets) the stand-out performers. Sandhya chipped in with 1 wicket.

Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration JKCA lauded the efforts of the team members for this emphatic victory.

Amrita makes a comeback in J&K Chess

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two-time J&K women champion, Amrita Gupta has made a comeback to the game of Chess winning back to back titles in the domestic events and impressive show in the just held prize money tournament at IDPS, here. Rested for two long years because of the non-availability of any training facility in the city, in view of closer of VCA for the same period, she returned to the Academy soon after it (Academy) reopened in May last. And, within no time she regained her control over the pieces and moves. Winner of the recently concluded VCA Smart girl chess tournament twice, Amrita has played brilliant game, although she could not make it to the podium finish in the just held J&K UT Open Chess Championship. So much so, she secured points equal to that of the women title winner. Pursuing her Bachelor Arts (English Literature), 19-year old, Amrita Gupta, who has got the FIDE rating of 1410, looks confident to soon join the club of women achievers from J&K, Arushi Kotwal (1850 plus) and Meenal Gupta (2067).



Ranji Trophy: J&K scores 194 against MP's 28/0 in 1st innings

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INDORE: Inserted to bat by hosts Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir crumbled to 194 all out in their first innings of the Ranji Trophy quarter-final at Holkar Stadium today. In reply, MP closed Day 1 at a solid 28/0, still 166 runs adrift with all 10 wickets intact and four days remaining.

Yash Dubey (14) and Harsh Gawli (8) saw MP through to stumps without alarm. J&K's innings was a tale of steady collapse, with wickets tumbling at regular intervals. Shubham Khajuria anchored the effort with a gritty 60 off 140 balls (6x4), while Yudhvir Singh unleashed a blistering 41 off 35 (3x4, 3x6). Skipper Paras Dogra grinded out 33 off 91 (4x4), and Abdul Samad along with Vanshaj Sharma chipped in 16 apiece.

MP's Kuldeep Sen starred with a devastating 5/66 from 15 overs, backed by Kumar Kartikeya Singh's 3 wickets and Aryan Pandey's 2. With time on their side, MP hold the upper hand-but J&K's fightback potential keeps this quarterfinal tantalizingly alive.

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SAMBA: Humanity Public School organised its prestigious Achiever's Award Ceremony with great enthusiasm and dignity to honour the outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements of its students. The programme began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a melodious welcome song presented by the students of Class IV, setting a graceful tone for the event.

The ceremony was graced by eminent dignitaries. The Chief Guest, Romi Kumar Vasheshtha, Joint Director, Directorate of School Education, Jammu, honoured the occasion with his presence, while Surinder Balgotra, Zonal Education Officer, Vijaypur, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The school management was represented by Principal Gaurav Charak, Vice Principal Anku Charak, Admin Incharge Akashdeep Raina, along with in-charges of various wings of the institution.

Adding to the spiritual ambience, students of Classes VI and VIII presented a soulful Bhakti song under the guidance of music teachers Rajan Kumar and Kumar Abilash. The welcome address was delivered by the Head Girl,



Manyata Billowria, who warmly greeted the guests, staff, parents, and students.

The highlight of the ceremony was the distribution of Academic Excellence Awards. Students of Classes I to IX were felicitated with trophies for consistent academic performance. Special recognition was accorded to students of Board Classes X, XI, and XII for their commendable results in the JKBOSE examinations. Position holders of Class XII were awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000, while other merit holders received trophies along with cash prizes of Rs 5,000, Rs 3,000, and Rs 2,000. Awards were also presented for excellence in sports, and special appreciation was extended to Best Parents and Best Grandparents for their invaluable support.

The Guest of Honour shared inspiring words, motivating

Emrin Kour bags bronze in International English Olympiad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shaurya International School is beaming with pride as Class 1 student, Emrin Kour, has clinched Zonal Bronze Medal in the International English Olympiad.

Competing with 25-30 students, Emrin's achievement is a testament to her hard work and strong academic foundation.

The Olympiad, designed for young learners, focuses on building essential language skills like vocabulary, phonics and comprehension. Emrin's success inspires her peers to strive for excellence. The school management, teachers and staff has congratulated Emrin and her parents, Gagandeep Singh and Manpreet Kour, on this remarkable achievement. This feat reinforces Shaurya International School's commitment towards nurturing young talent and promoting academic excellence.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA UNDER-19S

Aaron George c Mayes b Green	09
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c †Rew b Lumsden	175
Ayush Mhatre (c) c Mayes b Green	53
Vedant Trivedi c Mayes b Minto	32
Vihaan Malhotra c Dawkins b Minto	30
Abhigyan Kundu † c Albert b Morgan	40
RS Ambrish b Minto	18
Kanishk Chouhan not out	37
Khilan Patel c Moores b Morgan	03
Henil Patel run out (Lumsden/†Rew)	05
Deepesh Devendran not out	00

Extras

Total 411/9

ENGLAND UNDER-19S

Ben Dawkins c Khilan Patel b Mhatre	66
Joseph Moores b Ambrish	17
Ben Mayes c Henil Patel b Khilan Patel	45
Thomas Rew (c)† c Mhatre b Chouhan	31
Caleb Falconer c Khilan Patel b Chouhan	115
Ralphie Albert run out (Khilan Patel/†Kundu)	00
Farhan Ahmed c †Kundu b Deepesh	01
Sebastian Morgan c & b Deepesh	00
James Minto c sub (Mohamed Enaan) b Ambrish	28
Manny Lumsden c Vedant Trivedi b Ambrish	03
Alex Green not out	00

Extras

Total 311/10

at the same venue earlier in the competition.

To put things into perspective, Vedant Trivedi saw

Sooryavanshi celebrate both his 100 and 150 while facing only four balls between the two landmarks.

Anuj Langer to participate in Handball Pro League 2026

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a moment of pride for Jammu and Kashmir, Anuj Langer has been selected to participate in the Handball Pro League (HPL) 2026, South Asia's biggest and India's first-ever professional Handball League for both men and women.

According to an official communication issued by the Handball Pro League (HPL), Nagpur, the selection was made on the basis of the player's performance, achievements, trials, and official auction conducted by the team owners. Anuj Langer has been selected as a Main Player to represent the Bhilai Battalion Team in the upcoming league.

The Handball Pro League 2026 is being organized in Nagpur and is scheduled to begin with a coaching camp from 5th to 9th February 2026 at Mankapur Prabodhini Ground, followed by the main competition from 10th to 15th February 2026 at Mankapur Indoor Stadium.

The league is being organized under the aegis of N-Kash Events, Khel Sena Mandal, and the Nagpur District Handball Association, with prominent national leaders and sports administrators associated as patrons and committee members.

Kavita Lakhotra qualifies NET

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kavita Lakhotra, daughter of Sunila Kumari and Ram Dhan, resident of Ward No 75, Akalpur, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu has qualified for National Eligibility Test (NET) in Environmental Science, the result of which was declared by University Grants Commission (UGC) recently.



28th Shiv Khori Kesari Dangal on Feb 16

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The 28th Shiv Khori Kesari Annual Dangal, popularly known as Ching, will be organised on February 16, 2026 (Monday) at the Ransoo base camp of the holy Shiv Khori Shrine in Reasi District. The traditional wrestling event will mark the culmination of the three-day historic Maha Shivratri Mela, scheduled from February 14 to 16, 2026.

The prestigious Dangal is being organised by the J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association in association with the J&K Shiv Khori Dangal Committee. The event is receiving active support from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, the Shiv Khori Shrine Board, and the Reasi District Administration.



The Dangal will be conducted under the overall supervision of Shiv Kumar Sharma, President of the J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, along with Kewal Krishan, former Sarpanch Bhagwan Singh, and Ramesh Chander Kohli. The Kuldeep Dubey, MLA Reasi, will be the Chief Guest and is scheduled to inaugurate the Dangal at 1:00 PM.

Expressing gratitude, Shiv Kumar Sharma thanked Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, for sanctioning Rs 1,00,000, and Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi and Vice Chairperson of the Shiv Khori Shrine Board, for sanctioning Rs 50,000 as financial assistance for organising the Vishal Dangal.

Shiv Kumar Sharma appealed to the Mela Officer and concerned authorities to ensure foolproof arrangements, including adequate security, public address systems, ambulance and medical facilities, proper barricading, uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, and cleanliness in and around the Dangal venue.

Meanwhile, interested wrestlers from the Jammu region and outside the Union Territory can still submit their entries by contacting Shiv Kumar Sharma at 94191-61880 or 99069-72888. The organisers expect enthusiastic participation from renowned wrestlers, making the event a major attraction of the Maha Shivratri celebrations at Shiv Khori.

RCC Women, Sharda Club Boys claim Herath Milan Cup titles

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In exciting summit clashes at MA Stadium, Rainawari Cricket Club (RCC) Women and Sharda Cricket Club Boys dominated their finals to lift the prestigious Herath Milan Cup titles. Organized by Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organisation (LSEHO) under the rallying cry "Say No to Drugs and Yes to Sports"-echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement-the event ignited passion among young cricketers, fostering fitness and discipline.



Boys team receiving winner trophy.

At the prize distribution, chief guest Dr. Abid Rasheed Shah, joined by Sanjay Bhat, Dr. Shakeel, Sujit Matoo, Kirti Dhar,

and Nisha Gupta presented trophies to winners and runners-up, alongside special and individual awards to standout players.

Dr. Shah praised the organizers for their flawless execution, urging them to host such events annually. "Sports build a healthy, prosperous nation," he declared, inspiring the packed stadium.

Earlier, in the Women's finals, RCC Women defeated Durga Club in an easy contest by 45 runs. Batting first in the 10-over contest, RCC Women posted a formidable 107/2. Ayushi Ambardar dazzled with 46 off 21 balls (5 fours, 2 sixes), while Vitasta Kitchlu smashed 42 off 25 (4 boundaries). Ashima Pathania (9*) and

Mehak Karihaloo (3*) finished unbeaten.

Durga Club's Nirvi Jotshi and Anjana snared one wicket each, but their chase faltered at 62 all out. Nirvi top-scored with 32 off 27, aided by Arzoo Vakhloo's 11 off 8. Ayushi, Deepu, and Vitasta grabbed one wicket apiece for RCC. Ayushi and Vitasta shone brightest, with Ayushi earning the Player of the Tournament kit bag for her explosive all-round display.

In the Boys' Final, Sharda Club Boys romp to 9-wicket win over Kupwara Lions. Batting first,

Kupwara Lions crumbled to 50 all out. Bhavishya (11) and Lakshvi Raina (8) fought valiantly, but Sharda's bowlers ran riot as Prateek Bhat took 4 wickets, while Manav Koul and Adhyan Bhat bagged 2 wickets each. Krishvi Bhat and Manas Pandita claimed one wicket each.

Sharda chased 51 in just 4.5 overs for 1/52. Manav Koul (16), Harsh Vaishnavi (16), and skipper Krishvi Pandita (15*) starred, with Krishna Raina claiming the lone wicket. Manav Koul's all-round brilliance clinched him Player of the Tournament honours.

Lecture on 'Skill Ecosystem for Viksit Bharat 2047' organised



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Community College, in collaboration with the School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), organised an Expert Lecture on "Skill Ecosystem for Viksit Bharat 2047" with the objective of deliberating on India's long-term national vision of becoming a developed, inclusive, and skill-driven economy by 2047.

Under the guidance and visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, the programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment. This was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Naresh Kumar, Principal, Community College, who emphasised the critical role of skill-based education, vocational training, and industry-linked programmes in enhancing youth employability and supporting national development goals.

Setting the academic context, Prof. Jaya Bhasin highlighted the importance of aligning higher education with evolving skill requirements, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning to strengthen India's human capital and ensure sustainable growth.

The keynote address was delivered by Chand Kishore, Joint Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute

(JKEDI). He elaborated on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, focusing on emerging opportunities, entrepreneurship-led growth, and the strategic role of Jammu & Kashmir in contributing to the national skill ecosystem. He underlined the importance of innovation, start-ups, MSME development, and institutional support in empowering youth and promoting self-reliance.

Prof. Neelika Arora, Dean, School of Business Studies, stressed the need to integrate management education with practical skills, industry engagement, and policy relevance to prepare future-ready professionals.

Delivering the expert lecture, Prof. N. S. Gupta, a distinguished academician and thought leader, provided a multidisciplinary perspective on skill development, linking it with management education, commerce, international relations, critical minerals, experiential learning, and global competitiveness. He emphasised that continuous learning, hands-on experience, and adaptability are essential to thrive in a rapidly evolving global economy.

The proceedings were efficiently coordinated by Dr. Printka Dogra, Community College. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vinay Kumar, Head, Department of Marketing and SCM.