

Suryakumar, Siraj shine in India's 29-run win over USA in T20 World Cup opener

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MUMBAI: Skipper Suryakumar Yadav batting just like he does and Mohammed Siraj's incisive first spell headlined defending champions India's scathingly 29-run win against the United States of America despite a stunning top-order collapse in the opening encounter of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday. A veteran of many-a-battle here at the Wankhede Stadium, Suryakumar's 49-ball unbeaten 84 was a blend of fine rescue act and a defiant counter-attack against a USA attack that proved to be more than mere pushovers. The Indian captain garnered all his experience of playing at his home ground, reaped rich dividends for being patient but more importantly, disciplined, as plucky USA had India on the mat at 77 for 6 at one stage in the first half. But Suryakumar's late onslaught which had 10 fours and four sixes after being dropped on 15, took India as far as 161/9 after being pre-



cariously placed at 128/7 after 18 overs. USA, in reply, finished at 132/8 in a meek response with the bat, especially in comparison to their first-innings show in which bowlers kept the high-flying Indians on a tight leash and held on to their catches. Siraj, who joined the team late Friday evening, came in as a replacement for an indisposed Jasprit Bumrah and bowled a fuller Test match length to take two wickets in

his first spell and ended with 3/29 in 4 overs. Once USA were 13 for 3 within fourth over, they didn't have a chance to surpass the mid-dling total. USA's fight petered out with Siraj accounting for openers Andries Gous (6) and Saiteja Mukkamalla (2) and Arshdeep Singh (2/18) removing skipper Monank Patel for a duck. From 13/3 in the fourth over, USA stitched multiple partnerships but never really got

back on track of their chase. Milind Kumar (34), Sanjay Krishnamurthi (37) and Shubham Ranjane (37) played useful knocks which only reduced the margin of defeat. None of them could really dominate and once Varun Chakravarty (1/24) and Axar Patel (2/24) took charge of the post Powerplay overs giving only 48 runs and taking three wickets in those eight overs. Earlier, Suryakumar stood tall with a 49-ball innings, single-handedly driving India out of woods after a stunning collapse saw them reeling at 77 for six in the 13th over. South Africa born Shadley van Schalkwyk returned with figures of 4-0-25-4 as India's famed batting line-up, barring Suryakumar, endured a horrendous outing with the bat and were in real trouble of being restricted for an under-par total. The writing was perhaps on the wall when India failed to find a run on the first four balls of the innings with USA not giving any room for the Indian batters to free their

arms. While Ishan Kishan (20) snacked a six off the fifth ball to get rolling, the first blow to India came when Abhishek Sharma fell for a first-ball duck in the second over.

The world No. 1 Abhishek hit Ali Khan's delivery straight to Sanjay Krishnamurthi at deep cover, and for the first of the several times in the night the Wankhede Stadium fell silent.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA	
Ishan Kishan † c Milind Kumar b van Schalkwyk	20
Abhishek Sharma c Krishnamurthi b Ali Khan	00
Tilak Varma c Patel b van Schalkwyk	25
Suryakumar Yadav (c) not out	84
Shivam Dube c Netravalkar b van Schalkwyk	00
Rinku Singh c Milind Kumar b Mohammad Mohsin	06
Hardik Pandya c Mukkamalla b Harmeet Singh	05
Axar Patel c Mohammad Mohsin b Harmeet Singh	14
Arshdeep Singh c Milind Kumar b van Schalkwyk	04
Varun Chakravarty run out (Mohd Mohsin/†Gous)	00
Extras	03
Total	161/9
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Andries Gous † c Tilak Varma b Mohammed Siraj	06
Saiteja Mukkamalla c Varun b Mohammed Siraj	02
Monank Patel (c) c Dube b Arshdeep Singh	00
Milind Kumar st †Ishan Kishan b Varun	34
Sanjay Krishnamurthi c Singh b Patel	37
Shubham Ranjane lbw b Mohammed Siraj	37
Harmeet Singh c Mohammed Siraj b Patel	00
Mohammad Mohsin c Tilak Varma b Arshdeep Singh	08
Shadley van Schalkwyk not out	02
Extras	06
Total	132/8

Aquib Nabi's devastating 7-wicket haul powers J&K to 1st-innings lead; Ranji QF teeters on knife's edge

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INDORE: Pace spearhead Aquib Nabi unleashed a lethal spell to dismantle Madhya Pradesh, propelling Jammu & Kashmir to a crucial 42-run first-innings lead and keeping the Ranji Trophy quarter-final alive at Holkar Stadium here today. Resuming Day-2 at 28/0, MP crumbled to 152 all out as Nabi wreaked havoc, claiming 7-40 in 18.4 overs to orchestrate a batting collapse. Yash Dubey fought valiantly with 58 off 123 balls (8x4), while Venkatesh Iyer (22) and Saransh Jain (13) offered scant resistance. Sunil Kumar backed Nabi with 3-47 from 19 overs. J&K's second innings stuttered to 84/5-a lead of 126-with Abdul Samad top-scoring with 32. Paras Dogra (17) and Shubham Khajuria (13) provided support, but Kanhaiya Wadhawan (7) and Abid Mushtaq (3) held firm at the crease. MP's Kuldeep Sen and Venkatesh Iyer snared 2



wickets apiece, with Ramveer Singh claiming one. Earlier on Day 1, inserted to bat by hosts MP, J&K folded to 194 all out in a gritty but steady collapse. Shubham Khajuria anchored with 60 off 140 balls (6x4), Yudhvir Singh blazed 41 off 35 (3x4, 3x6), skipper Paras Dogra ground out 33 off 91 (4x4), and Abdul Samad along with Vanshaj Sharma added 16 each. Kuldeep Sen dominated with 5-66 from 15 overs, supported by Kumar Kartikeya Singh's 3 wickets and Aryan Pandey's 2. With the match poised on a razor's edge, J&K eye a semifinal spot-can Nabi's fire spark a famous win?

J&K Police team wins in Volleyball



Swami Krishna Nand Ji Maharaj with other dignitaries and participating teams.

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KATHUA: A Volleyball Tournament was organized by Bhiya Volleyball Club under the aegis of the District Kathua Volleyball Association, marking an enthusiastic start to the sporting season in the region. The tournament aims to promote volleyball at the grassroots level and provide a competitive platform for local talent. The opening match of the tournament was played between Bhiya Volleyball Club and Grah Volleyball Club, setting the tone for exciting contests ahead. Both teams displayed com-

mendable skills and sportsmanship, drawing applause from the spectators present at the venue. On the first day of the tournament, Swami Krishna Nand Ji Maharaj and Surinder Mehta, President of Bhraman Sabha Kathua, along with SHO Hiranagar, Amit Sangra, graced the occasion as chief guests. Their presence boosted the morale of the players and added significance to the event. Office bearers of the District Kathua Volleyball Association, including Kamal Sharma, President, Mohinder Sharma, General Secretary, and Keshav

Sharma, Treasurer, were also present and appreciated the efforts of the organizers for hosting the tournament. A total of 16 teams from different areas are participating in the tournament, reflecting the growing popularity of volleyball in the district. The matches are being played in a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. The first quarter-final match was contested between Mala Volleyball Club and the J&K Police (JKP) team. After a closely fought encounter, the JKP team emerged victorious by 2-1, securing their place in the next round of the tournament.

Alumni Meet hosted at Government Sri Ranbir Model HSS Jammu

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JAMMU: Government Sri Ranbir Model Higher Secondary School, Jammu, hosted an alumni meet under the stewardship of Principal Dr. Kishor Sharma, aimed at strengthening the bond between former students and the institution. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 200 alumni from different batches. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. The event was further enriched with vibrant cultural activities, including an impressive dance performance by kindergarten students, which was highly appreciated by the audience.

The alumni meet was attended by senior officials from the School Education Department, including Umesh Sharma, Deputy Secretary; Deepika Sharma, Under Secretary; PDD; Captain Lalit Sharma, IPS (Forest); Dr. Kailash Thakur, GMC Jammu; Session Judge C. L. Bhavoria; and Prof. Lalit Magotra, Padma Shri awardee. The proceedings of the programme were smoothly anchored by Renuka Manhas, Senior Lecturer, and Anjali Charak, Lecturer, who kept the audience engaged throughout the event. On the occasion, the



Govt Sri Ranbir Model HSS Jammu faculty and alumni at the alumni meet.

and Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Jammu. The dignitaries interacted with the alumni and appreciated the initiative taken by the school administration to strengthen alumni engagement. Prominent among the alumni who attended the event were Amit Sharma, IAS; Dr. Madan Gopal Gupta, Eye Specialist; Anil Verma, Superintending Engineer,

Ranbir Alumni Association facilitated Principal Dr. Kishor Sharma and meritorious students of the school by presenting cash prizes in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements and dedicated services. The dignitaries highlighted the importance of alumni participation in the holistic development of educational institutions and encouraged former students to contribute

through mentorship, guidance, and support for present students. The alumni shared their experiences and expressed gratitude towards the institution for shaping their academic and professional journeys. The event concluded on a positive note with a collective resolve to maintain regular interaction and cooperation between the alumni and the school administration.

ASN School bids farewell to its outgoing 12th Class batch Embrace future challenges, stay curious and keep shining: P.B. Kapoor Values inculcated will make students win the world: Ritesh



ASN HSS faculty and students at farewell party.

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JAMMU: ASN Higher Secondary School, Channi Himmat, on Saturday bid farewell to its outgoing 12th Class students in a farewell party organized by the students of 11th class. P.B. Kapoor, Principal of the School was the Chief Guest while Ritesh Kapoor, Director of the School, Rashim Anand and Neha Kapoor graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The function started with Tilak ceremony of 12th Class Students, welcome

note by students of 11th Class, followed by presentation of floral bouquets to the guests and lighting of ceremonial lamp. The students of Class 12th put the stage on fire during ramp walk. The crown of Mr. ASN was given to Ranvijay Singh Charak and Ms. ASN Pratibha Charak & Wani Jan Adhar Fayaz while Mr. Popular was given to Aakarshit Sahi and Ms. Popular to Surbhi. Various cultural items were presented by the stu-

dents of 9th & 11th Class for their seniors. Titles were given to all the outgoing students of 12th Class. P.B.Kapoor said this is the bittersweet moment where one batch will leave the school but the school is proud of their achievements and yet will miss them. She added that today the school celebrated their journey, friendship and the memories they have created. They have made us proud and the school is excited to see them chase their dreams. She said embrace

future challenges, stay curious and keep shining. Ritesh said few students were admitted in Nursery and continued their 15 years of schooling which is making the entire school difficult to bid farewell to them. He added that there journey has been one of growth, learning and laughter so cherish those memories and carry the values and friendship forever. He said the students are the ambassadors of ASN School now and they have inspired the juniors to grow and perform. He said the values inculcated amongst the students for their bright future will definitely make them win the world and to reach to their goals. Teachers on the occasion were Pankaj Jasrotia, Suresh Sharma, Bhupinder Kour, Anshuk Chib. The function closed with tears and vote of thanks presented by students of 11th Class.

Heritage School students explore innovation at IIT Jammu during PRAGYAAN 2026



Heritage School faculty and students posing for a photograph.

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JAMMU: Heritage School organized an enriching educational visit to Indian Institute of Technology Jammu on Saturday as part of PRAGYAAN 2026, the institute's flagship outreach and innovation event. A group of 55 students from Classes IX and XI, accompanied by members of the science faculty, participated in this insightful educational excursion. The visit was aimed at familiarizing students with the world of higher education, cutting-edge technology, creativity and research-oriented learning. A major highlight of the

visit was the painting competition 'The Open Palette', where students enthusiastically showcased their creativity and imagination. The competition provided a vibrant platform for young minds to express their ideas through art within an inspiring academic environment. Students also participated in an engaging interactive session with IITians, during which they gained valuable insights into academic life at IIT, career pathways in science and technology and the significance of innovation, dedication and perseverance. The interaction proved to be both motivating

and informative. Adding to the excitement was a robotics demonstration titled 'The Boxing Bot', which captivated the students and offered a fascinating glimpse into the practical applications of robotics and engineering concepts, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm among the learners. The visit further included a tour of various stalls and exhibits set up by IIT Jammu students, showcasing innova-

tive projects, models and research across diverse domains. These exhibits effectively bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications. Overall, the visit to IIT Jammu under PRAGYAAN 2026 was an inspiring and memorable experience, reinforcing Heritage School's commitment to experiential learning and holistic education.

Batters make merry as Dhruv slams double ton, Praful takes fifer

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JAMMU: Batters dominated proceedings on a batter-friendly surface at JKCA Hostel Ground here, as Baroda's Dhruv N. Patel unleashed a magnificent double century in their commanding 606/6 declared, while J&K off-spinner Praful Dhar stole the show with a sensational five-wicket haul in the U-23 Men's CK Nayudu Trophy match on Day 2. Resuming from an overnight 402/2, Baroda skipper Priyanshu Molija anchored with a classy 120 off 144 balls (16 fours, 1 six) before declaring. Star of the show Dhruv N. Patel scored masterful 216 off 348 balls (16 fours, 1 six), propelling Baroda to a mammoth total. J&K's bowlers toiled valiantly, but spin sensation Praful Dhar emerged the wrecker-in-chief, claiming 5 crucial wickets for 180 runs in 50 overs. Left-arm spinner Sarvashish Singh chipped in with 1/156 in 39 overs. In reply, J&K openers Basit Nazir (62 off 129 balls, 10 fours) and Aakash Ayoub Bhat (48* off 110 balls, 6 fours, 1 six) added a solid 114/1 at stumps. Nightwatchman Sarvashish Singh (0* off 5 balls) held firm, with Vaibhav HIB the lone Baroda wicket-taker (1/31 in 15 overs).



District Police Rajouri organizes T-20 Cricket Tournament under CAP

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RAJOURI: District Police Rajouri organized a T-20 Cricket Tournament under the Civic Action Programme at the District Police Lines (DPL) Ground, Rajouri. The tournament has been organized with the objective of promoting sportsmanship, encouraging youth engagement, and strengthening police-public relations. The tournament was inaugu-



gurated by Gaurav Sikarwar along with officers from the civil and police administration.

The opening match was played between Tahir Ali Cricket Club and Eleven

Star Rajouri showcasing a thrilling contest and drawing strong support from local cricket enthusiasts. A total of 20 teams from various parts of Rajouri are participating in the tournament with special emphasis on grooming young talent in the Under-19 and Under-23 categories. The tournament will be played in a knock-out format, ensuring competitive and engaging matches throughout the schedule.