

Sensational Rinku seals famous win for KKR over GT



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
AHMEDABAD: Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh slammed five consecutive sixes to pull off a sensational three-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Needing 29 runs off the CAB J&K invites players for registration for 2023-24 session

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Association for Blind Jammu and Kashmir (CAB J&K), affiliated to Cricket Association for Blind India and World Blind Cricket Ltd, has invited the players for registration for the session 2023-24.

The players desirous to register themselves can fill up the Google form. "If you have interest in playing cricket, then this is the great opportunity for you to fill up the form and showcase your talent not only at state level but at national and international level as well. This form can be filled by both boys and girls, who are blind/low vision," informed Ajay Kumar, General Secretary of CAB J&K.

He said the registrations are open till April 30, 2023. If facing any difficulty in filling up the form, the players can contact Ajay Kumar, General Secretary on mob: 9888522512; Akash Dhar, Senior Vice President on mob: 9682533622 and Rohit Sharma, President on mob: 9796800089. Or email at jkblindericket@gmail.com.

Madhu is Head Coach of Indian Rollball team

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Madhu Sharma including two current India women, Khushi Gupta and Ruhini Rajput trained by him are also participating in 6th Rollball World Cup.

He has got the unique distinction of participating in all the editions of the Rollball World Cup held so far in various capacities. Previously he led the Indian team as Head Coach in the Asian Rollball Championship, 2019.

Meanwhile, Rollball Association of J&K complimented Madhu Sharma for the achievement.

KKR's Rinku Singh adds glorious chapter to IPL story

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
AHMEDABAD: For Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh, the road to success has been a long and arduous one but never did he flinch or give up, and added a glorious chapter to the IPL story by doing the unthinkable here on Sunday.

Not even the world's best batters would have backed themselves to hit five consecutive sixes with their team requiring 28 from the last five balls, but KKR's left-handed Rinku did exactly that, producing a terrific knock that will be remembered and talked about for years.

Rinku's 48 not out from 21 balls included six sixes and one four, with KKR nailing down a 200 plus chase in dying moments in the game.

While Rinku's story will also feature among the 'rags to riches' story with the cricketer now having a

last over, Rinku slammed left-arm pacer Yash Dayal for five sixes on the trot to register a last-ball victory.

Rashid Khan led from the front and returned with impressive figures of 3 for 37, while Alzarri Joseph (2/27) picked up two wickets, but all their efforts went in

vain. Venkatesh Iyer made 83 off 40 balls for KKR while skipper Nitish Rana played a fine 29-ball 45-run knock.

Rinku played the knock of his life and struck one four and as many as six hits over the fence to seal a famous win for KKR.

Earlier, electing to bat, GT rode on Sai Sudharsan and Vijay Shankar's fifties to post a mammoth 204 for four.

Hardik Pandya missed the game as he is unwell and in his place Rashid led GT.

Sudharsan made a 38-ball 53 while Shankar scored an unbeaten 63 off just 24 balls.

Besides Sudharsan and Shankar, opener Shubman Gill made 39.

For KKR, Sunil Narine picked up three wickets by giving away 33 runs.

RCB focus on spin play and death-overs bowling ahead of LSG clash

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bangalore will be expecting more runs from its batters and discipline in death overs bowling when they take on the high-flying Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here on Monday.

RCB came into the match after a demoralising 81-run defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders and would be eager to return to winning ways at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium.

It's early days in the tournament but RCB's death bowling has been a major concern for the team.

RCB looked on course to register their second win of the season but the script went awry after the 12th over. They had the game in the palm of their hands, reducing the opposition to 89 for 5 before KKR went on to post 204/7.

Against Mumbai also they went for over 13 runs in the last five overs. Death overs specialist Harshal Patel and Mohammed Siraj, who had done well with the new ball, have struggled at the back end.

The absence of Wanindu Hasaranga, who is on national duty, and Josh



Hazlewood, who is recovering from an Achilles heel injury, has only amplified RCB's death bowling woes.

Both bowlers are expected to link up with team this week. But until then, South African medium pacer Wayne Parnell who has come in a replacement for Reece Topley can help with the ball at the back end of the innings.

RCB bat deep. Openers Virat Kohli and du Plessis did the job in the win against Mumbai but against KKR, the entire line up was done in by spin.

They would be wary against the Lucknow spinners, who come into the game on the back of their stellar display in the five-wicket win over Sunrisers

SCOREBOARD	
GUJARAT TITANS	
Wriddhiman Saha † c Jagadeesan b Narine	17
Shubman Gill c Yadav b Narine	39
Sai Sudharsan c sub (AS Roy) b Narine	53
Abhinav Manohar b Suyash Sharma	14
Vijay Shankar not out	63
David Miller not out	02
Extras	16
Total	204/4
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	
Rahmanullah Gurbaz † c Yash Dayal b Mohd Shami	15
Narayan Jagadeesan c Manohar b Little	06
Venkatesh Iyer c Shubman Gill b Joseph	83
Nitish Rana (c) c Mohammed Shami b Joseph	45
Rinku Singh not out	48
Andre Russell c sub (KS Bharat) b Rashid Khan	01
Sunil Narine c sub (J Yadav) b Rashid Khan	00
Shardul Thakur lbw b Rashid Khan	00
Umesh Yadav not out	05
Extras	04
Total	207/7

Rahul and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis' form is a concern.

Squad (From)

Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c and wk), Kyle Mayers, Deepak Hooda, Krunal Pandya, Amit Mishra, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Naveen ul Haq, Ayush Badoni, Avesh Khan, Karan Sharma, Yudhvir Charak, Yash Thakur, Romario Shepherd, Mark Wood, Swapnil Singh, Manan Vohra, Daniel Sams, Prerak Mankad, Krishnappa Gowtham, Jaydev Unadkat, Marcus Stoinis, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Faf du Plessis (c), Virat Kohli, Mohammad Siraj, Harshal Patel, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Shahbaz Ahmed, Anuj Rawat, Akash Deep, Mahipal Lomror, Finn Allen, Suyash Prabhudesai, Karn Sharma, Siddharth Kaul, David Willey, Wayne Parnell, Himanshu Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Rajan Kumar, Avinash Singh, Sonu Yadav, Michael Bracewell.

Match starts at 7:30 PM IST.

PM Modi extends best wishes to 35th Australian Sikh Games

■ **AGENCY**
CANBERRA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described India and Australia as "strong partners" in progress and prosperity as he extended his best wishes to everyone associated with the 35th Australian Sikh Games being held in Brisbane.

The games organised by Australian National Sikh Sports and Cultural Council are being held in Brisbane from April 7- 9. The games are across the Gold Coast Performance Centre and surrounding ovals.

In his message, which was posted by the High Commission of India in Canberra on its Twitter handle on Sunday, Prime Minister Modi said the games will help the Sikh community demonstrate its sporting skills, competitive spirit and teamwork on a bigger platform.

"The holy Gurus guided India and the world with many eternal and timeless values. If one looks closely at the lives and teachings of the holy Gurus, they emphasised the importance of physical health along with spiritual growth," the prime minister wrote in his message.

Noting that the holy Gurus also gave the message of bringing people of different sections of society together as a team to achieve progress, Prime Minister Modi said these concepts are also relevant in the world of sport, where



people come together to participate on an equal platform irrespective of their social background.

"Following in these footsteps, the Sikh community has always been actively involved in sports, teamwork and fitness," he said.

Noting that the 35th Australian Sikh Games acquires a special importance, Prime Minister Modi said the participation of players from different nations is noteworthy.

"My best wishes for the 35th Australian Sikh Games. May the Games serve as an inspiration to motivate younger generations of Sikhs to excel in every sphere of life," he wrote.

Modi also recalled witnessing the recent India-Australia cricket match with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and said, "Sport is adding a new dimension to our vibrant relationship. These Games will also serve to bring the two countries closer." "India and Australia have several commonalities - a connected history, shared values, love for democracy and respect for a rule-based international

order. We are also strong partners in progress and prosperity," he said.

He said that the Indian diaspora has carved out a niche for itself in the global landscape and these games are yet another example of it. "I am sure that this initiative will enhance the love and affection for our diaspora not just in Australia, but across the world," he added.

The Australian Sikh Games is a national event held during Easter each year. The event attracts over three thousand athletes and over 100,000 spectators over three days, according to the official website of the games.

"We encourage all ages to get involved in a range of sports and cultural activities to showcase our inherent Sikh values of inclusion, fair competition and victory," said Daljit Singh Dhami, President, Organising Committee of the Games. Singh said the event provides the perfect opportunity to celebrate the unique cultural identity of the Sikh Community and enjoy the gracious hospitality and attractions Queensland has to offer.

Athletes and spectators from all over the country and overseas, including New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada and the UK come to participate in a wide array of traditional Indian and Australian sports and cultural events, it said.

Rajawat lifts maiden world tour title at Orleans Masters

■ **AGENCY**
ORLEANS: India's Priyanshu Rajawat capped off an impressive week with a thrilling win in the final against Denmark's Magnus Johannesen to claim the men's singles title at the Orleans Masters here on Sunday.

The Madhya Pradesh shuttler, who was part of the Indian team that registered an epic win at the 2022 Thomas Cup, saw off world number 49 Johannesen 21-15 19-21 21-16 in a 68-minute summit clash to grab the biggest title of his career.

"I am very happy with my performance this week. It is my first big title and I'm extreme-



ly happy to win this," world no. 58 Rajawat, who is likely to get into top 40 after this win, told PTI from Orleans.

The two shuttlers, making it to the final after coming through the qualifiers, dished out some superb badminton, but the Indian rode on his ability to produce winners to secure the world tour super 300 crown.

It was the first meeting between the two 21-year-olds, both looking for a breakthrough win but Rajawat, who didn't drop a game in the USD 240,000 tournament, showed his maturity as he dished out a controlled aggressive game to come up trumps.

Tripathi, Markande shine as SRH opens account in IPL

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

HYDERABAD: Sunrisers Hyderabad produced a clinical performance to register a convincing eight-wicket victory over Punjab Kings and open their account in the ongoing Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

With SRH chasing 144 after spinner Mayank Markande's (4/15) exploits with ball, Rahul Tripathi sizzled with an unbeaten 48-ball 74 to help his side complete the task in 17.1 overs.

Skipper Aiden Markram remained not out on 37 off 21 balls, and their efforts ensured that Shikhar Dhawan's 66-ball 99 not out, which lifted Punjab Kings to 143 for nine, went in vain.

Markande did the star turn with figures of 4 for 15 to leave Punjab Kings reeling at 88 for nine in the 15th over. Dhawan hit 35 balls and five sixes.

When their turn to bat came, SRH were slow to start with and reached 34 for one at the end of the six power-play overs.

Having being hit for six by Tripathi, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar came back to grab the big wicket of Mayank Agarwal for a 20-ball 21, in the ninth over.

Tripathi then struck two successive fours off Chahar to help SRH cross 50, before hitting left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar for three boundaries on the trot to keep his team in the contest.

On a pitch where almost all the batters struggled, with the exception of Shikhar Dhawan, Tripathi managed to shine and brought up his half-century in 35 balls with a six off Mohit Rathee.

That was followed by the duo of Tripathi and skipper



Aiden Markram bringing up the fifty partnership at the start of the 14th over, with SRH requiring 49 runs in 42 balls.

Tripathi and Markram then almost sealed the issue in their team's favour by striking Rathee for 21 runs, bringing the equation down to 26 runs in the last five overs.

Earlier, even as Punjab Kings lost wickets at regular intervals, Dhawan showed his teammates how to do it with his incredible knock.

Asked to bat first, Punjab Kings endured a disastrous start as they lost Prabhsimran Singh in the very first ball of the match, trapped in front of the wicket by veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

The ball hit him above the knee roll but Prabhsimran decided to walk back without asking for a review, leaving Punjab at none for one.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan played Bhuvneshwar towards the third man region for the innings first boundary.

However, Dhawan again watched from the non-striker's end as Matthew Short (1) was dismissed lbw by South African left-arm pacer Marco Jansen on the second delivery of the match's second over at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.



The ball landed on a good length and swung in before hitting Short's pads. Unlike Prabhsimran, Short consulted his skipper before deciding to come back into the dugout, leaving Punjab Kings in a spot of bother at 10 for two in the second over.

Next ball, and another swinging delivery struck wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma (4) on the pads, and a Jansen's loud shout for an lbw was upheld by the umpire. DRS was promptly taken and

Sam Curran struck a six and a four off successive Jansen deliveries but, after having made 22 off 15 balls, the English all-rounder was done in by leg-spinner Markande, who finished with fine figures after the SRH's seamers brilliant display at the start. But Dhawan had other ideas as he smashed the SRH bowlers to take his team to a respectable total. Helping Dhawan along the way was Bhuvneshwar, who spilled three chances by the batter, including two off his own bowling.

SCOREBOARD	
PUNJAB KINGS	
Prabhsimran Singh lbw b Kumar	00
Shikhar Dhawan (c) not out	99
Matthew Short lbw b Jansen	01
Jitesh Sharma † c Markram b Jansen	04
Sam Curran c Kumar b Markande	22
Sikandar Raza c Agarwal b Unran Malik	05
M Shahrul Khan lbw b Markande	04
Harpreet Brar b Unran Malik	01
Rahul Chahar lbw b Markande	00
Nathan Ellis b Markande	00
Mohit Rathee not out	01
Extras	06
Total	143/9
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	
Harry Brook b Arshdeep Singh	13
Mayank Agarwal c Curran b Chahar	21
Rahul Tripathi not out	74
Aiden Markram (c) not out	37
Extras	00
Total	145/2