

Jaiswal's form a concern as RR look to keep winning juggernaut rolling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR: Yashasvi Jaiswal would be desperate to let his bat do the talking when an unbeaten Rajasthan Royals take on an under pressure Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

RR could not have asked for a better start to the season, registering four consecutive wins from as many games.

But Jaiswal, who has been terrific for the national team of late, has tallied just 39 runs in four games.

If he is back amongst the runs, it will be icing on the cake for RR as his opening partner Jos Buttler returned to form with an unbeaten century against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Sanju Samson has been leading RR from the front, scoring 178 runs from four games including two fifties.

But it is Riyan Parag's performance with the bat



that has been a revelation for RR. The all-rounder from Guwahati is the third highest run-getter in the tournament so far with 185 runs, including two unbeaten half-centuries.

The likes of Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel also needs to contribute more in the middle-order.

Rajasthan also boast of potent bowling attack in the form of pacers Trent Boult and Nandre Burger, and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been their stand-out performer with eight wickets, the second highest so far.

But Ravichandran Ashwin's patchy form is a surprise. He has taken just one wicket from four matches while giving away eight runs per over.

GT, on the other hand, witnessed a mixed bag campaign so far with two wins and and three loses out of five games.

The Shubman Gill-led side would look to avoid a hat-trick of losses on Wednesday but it would be easier said than done against an opponent on rampage. They would be looking to bounce from back after a 'poor' effort with the bat against

Lucknow Super Giants.

Gill, personally, have had a decent outing with the bat so far, scoring 183 runs from five games with a strike rate close to 147.

His opening partner B Sai Sudharsan too has been among runs but is yet to register a fifty in the tournament.

He replaced Wriddhiman Saha at the top in the previous and is expected to bat alongside Gill also on Wednesday.

Veterans Mohit Sharma and Umesh Yadav have been the stand-out performers with the ball for GT but they fell flat in front of little-known Punjab Kings cricketers Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma in a thrilling tie.

The Afghan trio of Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad also need to raise their game.

Teams (from): Rajasthan Royals: Sanju

Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Keshav Maharaj, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan, Rovman Powell, Shubham Dubey, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Abid Mushtaq, Nandre Burger.

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Robin Minz, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Mandhara, B Sai Sudarshan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Azmatullah Omarzai, Shahrukh Khan, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Kartik Tyagi, Shshant Mishra, Spencer Johnson, Noor Ahmad, Sai Kishore, Umesh Yadav, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little, Mohit Sharma and Manav Suthar. Match starts at 7:00 PM.

SC upholds election of Independent Arunachal Pradesh MLA Karikho Kri in 2019

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the election of Independent MLA Karikho Kri from Tezu assembly constituency in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019. A bench comprising justices Anirudhha Bose and Sanjay Kumar set aside the July 17, 2023 judgment of the Itanagar bench of the Gauhati High Court. The high court had declared the election of Kri from Tezu in Lohit district as "null and void".

The top court allowed the appeal of Kri against the high court verdict and held that the candidates contesting elections are not required to disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their affidavits unless they are of substantial value or reflect a luxurious lifestyle. The detailed

judgment is awaited. Earlier the high court judgment had come on an election petition filed by the then Congress candidate, Nuney Tayang, challenging the declaration of the 2019 assembly election result. "Consequently, having answered the issues framed for determination in the instant case in the manner indicated above, the election of the respondent/returned candidate from Tezu assembly constituency is hereby declared void..."

The high court had further observed that Kri had not submitted his nomination paper in accordance with Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and, therefore, his nomination paper is liable to be rejected under Section 36 (2)(b) of the same Act.

Tayang had filed the peti-

tion under the Act, seeking a declaration that the election to the member of legislative assembly from the Tezu assembly constituency be declared void.

Tayang had alleged that Kri made false declarations in his election nomination paper by not disclosing that he was in occupation of a government accommodation, namely MLA Cottage No 1 located in 'E' Sector, Itanagar.

It was alleged that Kri did not submit "No Dues Certificates" from the concerned department for the rent, electricity charges, water charges and telephone charges of the government accommodation.

The election was held on April 11, 2019 and the result was declared on May 27, with Kri being declared the winner as an Independent candidate.

China couldn't encroach 'single inch' of land under Modi govt: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LAKHIMPUR: Asserting that China couldn't encroach a "single inch" of land under the Narendra Modi government, Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday claimed that people will never forget how former PM Jawaharlal Nehru said "bye-bye" to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh during the 1962 Chinese aggression. Addressing an election rally in Lakhimpur, he said the BJP-led government at the Centre secured the country's border with Bangladesh and stopped infiltration.

"During the Chinese aggression of 1962, Nehru had said 'bye-bye' to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. People of these states can never forget that," Shah said. "But now, China could not encroach even a single inch of

our land. Even in Doklam, we pushed them back," he added. He said that Assam's border with Bangladesh was earlier "open for infiltration".

"Then the Modi government came at the Centre, and the Himanta Biswa Sarma's government here. Now, we can say that infiltration has stopped," Shah said.

He alleged that the previous Congress government in Assam did injustice to the state, and scores of youths were killed in different violent movements and insurgency-related incidents.

"Under the Modi government in the last 10 years, peace accords were signed and 9,000 youths surrendered," he said. Shah noted that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been withdrawn from 80 per cent of areas of the state.

"They signed the (Assam) Accord but did not fulfil the clauses. We signed the Bodo Accord and within two years, all clauses were fulfilled," he said. Hitting out at the Congress manifesto, Shah claimed that it favoured the Muslim personal law.

"Himanta Biswa Sarma has stopped child marriages. In Uttarakhand, there is the UCC," he said, drawing a comparison. Shah said the development of the Northeast is centre to the overall growth of the nation, and urged the people to vote for the NDA candidates in all the seats of the region.

"There are two alternatives before you -- to vote for Rahul Gandhi and INDI Alliance, or vote for the Modi-led BJP," he said, urging people to ensure a third term for the BJP-led government at the Centre.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PILIBHIT (UP): With the Navratri festival beginning on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country should remember how the INDIA bloc "has taken a vow to destroy Shakti" and those who worship the Goddess will never forgive the Congress and its allies.

Nine forms of Goddess Durga or Shakti are worshipped during the nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival.

"Today, on the first day of Navratri, I am also reminding the country how the INDI alliance has vowed to destroy 'Shakti'. The 'Shakti' before which we bow our heads, the leaders of the Congress are speaking about uprooting that 'Shakti'," Modi said at

an election rally, again targeting the opposition over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'fight against Shakti' remarks.

During the election campaign, Modi and the BJP have been accusing the Congress and the opposition alliance of being 'anti-Hindu', repeatedly attacking them over Rahul Gandhi's remarks, the comments of DMK leaders against Sanatan Dharma and for staying away from the consecration ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The opposition has, in turn, alleged that the ruling party was resorting to communal polarisation as it has nothing to show in its report card.

"Pilibhit's land is blessed by Mother Yashwantri

Devi. This is the origin place of Adi Ganga Maa Gomti.

"Today, the 'Shakti', who is being worshipped in the country, that 'Shakti' has been insulted by the Congress... No worshipper of 'Shakti' will forgive the INDI alliance for this insult," Modi said.

At an INDIA bloc rally in Mumbai last month, Rahul Gandhi had said, "In the Hindu religion, there is a word called 'Shakti' We are fighting against a 'Shakti'."

Later, Gandhi accused the prime minister of twisting his words.

"The 'Shakti' that I mentioned, Modi ji is the mask of that power and we are fighting against it. It is such a power that today it has captured India's voice,

India's institutions, the CBI, I-T, ED, Election Commission, the media, Indian industry and the entire constitutional structure of India in its clutches," he had said on X.

"I recognise that power and so does Narendra Modi ji. It is not any kind of religious power, it is the power of unrighteousness, corruption and falsehood. That's why whenever I raise my voice against it, Modi ji and his machine of lies gets upset and enraged," the Congress leader had added.

Addressing an election rally in Saharanpur on April 6, Modi had said that it is the country's misfortune that leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc are openly talking about "fighting against Shakti".

"In every corner of Hindustan, worshipping Shakti is a part of our natural spiritual journey.

"But it is the misfortune of the country that the leaders of INDI Alliance openly throw a challenge that their fight is against Shakti. Can anyone finish Shakti, and challenge the power of Shakti? And, those who made an effort to destroy Shakti, what happened to them? It is mentioned in history and the Puranas," Modi had said.

Eight parliamentary constituencies in Uttar Pradesh -- Saharanpur, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Nagina (SC), Moradabad, Rampur, and Pilibhit -- will vote in the first phase of general elections on April 19.

Dir Agri Kashmir visits Vegetable SMF Gangbugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Tuesday visited vegetable Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Gangbugh.

He also inspected oilseeds (mustard) fields in different areas of Budgam district and took stock of the current agriculture scenario.

While interacting with the staff and technical experts of

and asked them to work with close coordination, so that the Farm could achieve new heights in the years to come.

During his visit to the oilseed fields of Budgam district director agriculture expressed satisfaction over the crop conditions and said that we are expecting bumper yield of mustard in the region this year. Department is endeavouring to bring more and more lands under the cultivation of oilseeds, he added.



Director Agriculture was accompanied by some of the senior officers of the department during the visit.

DC Srinagar visits Sharika Devi Temple on Navreh occasion



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Tuesday visited Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to inspect the arrangements made on the occasion of Navreh festival-a festival celebrated on New Year as per Hindu calendar and beginning of Navratra celebrations.

During his visit, the DC was

accompanied by the members of Kashmir Pandit community and Officers.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal extended his greetings and best wishes to the devotees at the Temple, besides other members of the community present there. They performed several ceremonies in the presence of DC. The DC expressed hope that the festival would become the harbinger of har-

mony, brotherhood and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

All the devotees prayed for peace, positivity and prosperity in the society.

While interacting with the management Committee of the Sharika Devi Temple, the DC took first hand assessment of the arrangements made at the venue and expressed satisfaction with the efforts put in by various Departments.

AM Group inaugurates AM Bajaj at Rehari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU : AM Group, a pioneering name in the automotive industry, proudly announces the grand inauguration of AM Bajaj, a state-of-the-art dealership offering the latest range of Bajaj two-wheelers. Situated in the heart of Rehari, Jammu, this new venture aims to provide customers with unparalleled service and access to the most sought-after Bajaj vehicles.

The inauguration ceremony, held on Tuesday, was a momentous occasion attended by guests and dignitaries. Renowned Celebrity Singer, Sidharth Mohan, graced the event with his presence and joined hands with Chairman AM Group, Jatinder Gupta, to symbolize the auspicious beginning of this new endeavor.

The presence of MD AM Group, Sanjay Mahajan, and Directors Sanjeev Mahajan, Ankur Mahajan, Akshay Mahajan, Aryan Mahajan and Adhyan Mahajan added to the grandeur of the occasion. Additionally, the event was



Celebrity Singer, Sidharth Mohan with Chairman AM Group, Jatinder Gupta and others after inaugurating AM Bajaj at Rehari, Jammu on Tuesday.

enriched by the presence of Raj Mahajan, Padma Gunda, Sharmila Gupta, Vandana Mahajan, Meenakshi Mahajan, Sakshi Mahajan along with Ramit Choudhary who shared the joy of this significant milestone.

AM Bajaj aims to redefine the retail experience for motorcycle enthusiasts in Rehari and its surrounding areas. With a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, the dealership promises to offer a wide range of Bajaj two-wheelers, coupled with superior after-sales support

and services.

"We are thrilled to introduce AM Bajaj to the vibrant community of Rehari," said Jatinder Gupta, Chairman of AM Group.

"Our dealership is not just about selling motorcycles; it's about creating memorable experiences for our customers. With our dedicated team and unwavering focus on quality, we are confident that AM Bajaj will become the preferred destination for all Bajaj enthusiasts."

AM Bajaj boasts a modern showroom equipped

with the latest amenities, allowing customers to explore the entire Bajaj product lineup in a comfortable and inviting environment. From stylish commuter bikes to powerful performance machines, the dealership offers something for every rider's preference and budget.

As a testament to its commitment to the community, AM Bajaj plans to engage in various initiatives aimed at promoting road safety and awareness, fostering a culture of responsible riding among customers and enthusiasts.

DEO Bandipora reviews preparedness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Election Nodal Officers to review the preparations for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various aspects, including the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, expenditure monitoring, transport plan, postal ballot for absentee voters, Home voters, EPIC distribution, functioning of VST, flying squads, and MCMC etc.

The DEO on the occasion emphasized the concerned Nodal officers and AROs to work diligently and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a smooth and successful electoral process.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Mohammad Ashraf; ADC, Umar Shafi; Deputy District Election Officer, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ARO 14-Sonawari, ARO 15- Bandipora, Election Nodal Officers and other concerned.

BJP poll candidates seek probe into advance Sukhu govt paid to private firm

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HAMIRPUR/SHIMLA: Two Congress rebels who are now with the BJP claimed on Tuesday that the state government released an advance payment of Rs 100 crore to a private firm just a day before the poll code came into effect, and sought an investigation into it.

Seeking a "clarification" from Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, BJP leaders Rajinder Rana and Sudhir Sharma alleged that a minister and the mayor of the Shimla Municipal Corporation had reservations on the allotment of the water scheme project. Ignoring the comment of a minister, the matter was brought to the cabinet and passed, Rana alleged in a statement.

The duo claimed that tenders were invited thrice for the water scheme but every time only one firm filled the tender.

The minister of the department wrote in clear words on the file that the

the Uttar Pradesh government on Abbas Ansari's plea seeking permission to attend the 'Fatiha'.

He had initially moved the top court seeking permission to attend the last rites of his father but his petition could not be listed in time and the funeral was over.

Mukhtar Ansari, a five-time MLA from Mau Sadar constituency, was laid to rest in Ghazipur on March 30 amid a security blanket.

The 63-year-old had been behind bars in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab since 2005 and had over 60 criminal cases against him.

He died on March 28 night at Rani Durgawati Medical College after being taken there from Banda jail when his condition deteriorated.

When a minister and mayor of the Shimla Municipal Corporation had certain reservations on the allotment of the project, why was the matter taken to the cabinet in haste, just two days before the implementation of the model code of conduct, Sudhir questioned.

"This matter calls for an investigation by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED)," Rana said. Rana and Sudhir were among the six rebels who had voted in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate in Rajya Sabha polls. They were disqualified for defying a party whip to be present in the house and vote in favour of the government during the cut motions and budget.

Later, the Congress rebels joined the BJP and were given tickets from their respective assembly constituencies to contest the assembly bypolls.