Akash Deep's 10-wicket match-haul sets up famous win for India

Deep changed the perception

with match turning spells in

The Edgbaston authorities

had slashed the ticket prices

for the final from a minimum

of GBP 90 to 25. For the first

time in the game, the Indians

outnumbered the England

supporters and eventually got

The third Test begins at

Lord's in four days' time and

India seem to have most bases

covered with bowlers comple-

Bumrah will be back and

Akash Deep, who attacks the

stumps from good length,

would be looking forward to

run in down the hill from the

Pavillion End at the iconic

India were on course for a

series-levelling win after

Akash Deep struck twice to

leave England on 153 for six

Washington Sundar had

Ben Stokes leg before wicket

at the stroke of lunch to mat-

ters worse for the opposition.

On a typical English weath-

er day when heavy cloud cover

and subsequent rain made

way for bright sunshine, the

start was delayed by one hour

and 40 minutes.

Lord's.

at lunch.

menting the batters here.

their money's worth

either innings.

BIRMINGHAM: An unheralded Akash Deep, hailing from Bihar's Sasaram, owned the big stage like never before in the absence of an iconic Jasprit Bumrah as Shubman Gill's young India's broke 58year-old 'Edgbaston Jinx' thrashing England by 336 runs to level the five-Test series 1-1.

The 28-year-old Akash Deep took a match-haul of 10 wickets, including his maiden five-for -- 6/99 in England second innings with the hosts getting all-out for 271 in pursuit of an improbable 608.

If Gill, with his magnificent batting (269 and 161) set it up, Akash deserves equal credit for his lion-hearted effort on a track which was primarily a bowler's grave-

The rain delayed the start of the day by an hour and 40 minutes, reducing the day's quota of overs to 80 with England resuming their second innings at 72 for three chasing a near impossible

If Mohammed Siraj (7 wickets and catches) bowled like the leader of the attack in the first innings, Akash Deep built on his first innings gains to strike twice with new ball early on day five.

Once not having enough



opportunities in a nondescript town in Bihar, the journey hasn't been a bed of roses for the son of a government school teacher, who would survive on pocket money earned by playing tennis ball cricket before scouts in Bengal saw his potential and fast tracked him into the age-group system seven years back

He played his debut firstclass game for Bengal during Christmas in 2019. In less than six years, his sharp incutters from length that fooled Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook didn't let his skipper miss the peerless Bumrah.

For England, Jamie Smith (88) fought a lonely battle before being dismissed by a slow bouncer from Akash, giving the medium pacer his first five-wicket haul in Test crick-

Fittingly, Akash got the final wicket of the game to complete a match haul of 10/187. The other star performer, Gill, pouched the catch at cover, leading to an animated celebration of his

first success as Test captain. England also felt the pressure from Indian spinners duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, who got the ball to drift and straight-

After losing the series opener at Leeds from an 'unlosable' position, Gill-led India made an admirable comeback at the back of the captain's record breaking 430 runs in the match and the showing of Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj, who both got the new ball to talk on a flat surface.

In Jasprit Bumrah's Prasidh Krishna opened the bowling alongside Akash absence, not much was expected from the Indian pace Deep, who was the stand out attack but Siraj and Akash bowler of the session. For the first time in the high-scoring game, the wicket appeared to have deteriorated a bit with Akash getting a prodigious amount of seam movement.

It was a tad surprising that Mohammed Siraj did not start alongside Akash.

Having said that, Akash Deep needed seven balls to

provide the breakthrough in the opening hour as Ollie Pope played one on to his stumps. In the following over from Akash, the dangerous Harry Brook was trapped in front with a delivery that hit the crack and seamed back in sharply. Brook could not do much about that.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA 1ST INNINGS 5	87/10
ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS 4	07/10
INDIA 2ND INNINGS	
Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw b Tongue	28
KL Rahul b Tongue	55
Karun Nair c†Smith b Carse	26
Shubman Gill (c) c & b Shoaib Bashir	161
Rishabh Pant†c Duckett b Shoaib Bashir	65
Ravindra Jadeja not out	69
Nitish Kumar Reddy c Crawley b Root	01
Washington Sundar not out	12
Extras	10
	27/6d
ENGLAND 2ND INNINGS (T: 608 R)	
Ben Duckett b Akash Deep	25
Zak Crawley c sub (B Sai Sudharsan) b Mohd Siraj	00
Ollie Pope b Akash Deep	24
Joe Root b Akash Deep	06
Harry Brook lbw b Akash Deep	23
Ben Stokes (c) lbw b Washington Sundar	33
Jamie Smith † c Washington Sundar b Akash Deep	88
Chris Woakes c Mohammed Siraj b Prasidh Krishna	
Brydon Carse c Shubman Gill b Akash Deep	38
Josh Tongue c Mohammed Siraj b Jadeja	02
Shoaib Bashir not out	12
Extras	13
Total 2	71/10

Jammu filmmaker shoots **Manchester United stars**



Rohan Gupta of Jammu with Manchester United stars on club's official visit to Mumbai.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A die-hard fan of the Manchester United for over 25 years, Rohan Gupta of Jammu has filmed the Manchester United stars on club's official visit to Mumbai. The campaign, produced for Apollo Tyres, was shot at the iconic Mukesh Mills, blending cinematic action with football's thrilling inten-

It was a groundbreaking moment for Indian advertising with a filmmaker from Jammu directed a high-energy promotional video featuring Manchester United goalkeeper André

The director Rohan Gupta is no stranger to football's legacy. His father, Vipan Gupta, a legendary footballer from Jammu, who was a founding member of the professional side of J&K Bank. He later retired s Assistant General Manager (AGM). "This was a personal milestone. "After more than a decade in the Mumbai advertisement industry, working with Manchester United felt like coming full circle. Moments like these remind you why you chase the craft," Rohan shared.

With a track record of successful campaigns across major brands, this collaboration with Manchester

United signals not only professional excellence but also a testament to the rising creative voices from India's smaller cities. This unique campaign stands as a proud example of Indian

talent meeting global opportunity, and a reminder that dreams rooted in passion can find their way to the world's biggest stages.

Goal Shot Ball Udhampur unit formed

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To introduce and newly introduced game of Goal Shot Ball in Jammu and Kashmir, the Association has constituted district Udhamur unit during the general body meeting held on Sunday.

"A meeting of the play-

ers other prominent individuals of the district took place wherein it was decided to form the Udhampur district unit with the sole aim to promote the game of Goal Shot Ball in the Union J&K," Territory ofGeneral informed Secretary of the Goal Shot Ball Association of J&K, Ashutosh Sharma.

The members present unanimously elected Manmeet Singh as president and Vishwa Mitar as general secretary of the



Goal Shot Ball Udhampur office bearers at a meeting.

Udhampur unit. Both these newly elected office bearers resolved to nurture talent, organise events, and provide a platform to the youngsters to excel in sport.

Other office bearers elected are Rishi Kumar Sharma (treasurer), Vinod Kumar (senior vice

Kumar Khajuria and Sourab Pandit (vice presidents), Sanjeev Kumar and Ravi Kumar (joint secretaries), Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Pawan Jamwal, Vipin, Nitika Pallvi Sharma Choudhary (all executive

Yudhvir flags off sacred Rudra Ganga Yatra from Ram Mandir Says Yatras strengthen centuries-old traditions of devotion, faith, communal harmony

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency,

Yudhvir Sethi on Sunday flagged off the revered Rudra Ganga Yatra from the historic Ram Mandir in Purani Mandi, Jammu.

The Yatra was flagged off in the august presence of prominent saints and community leaders, marking the commencement of the spiritual pilgrimage to the sacred Chandi Mata shrine in Dessa, Doda

The flag-off ceremony was graced by the presence of Mahant Rameshwar Dass. Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Dr Dara Singh ,Satish Wazir (President of the Organizing Committee), Sunit Singh Thakur (Chairman Advisory Board), Hari Singh Thakur (Chief Organiser), Mahant



off Rudra Ganga Yatra from historic Ram Mandir.

Balkrishan Nath, Yatra Pradhan Hari Dutt Singh. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi lauded the spiritual and cultural importance of the Rudra Ganga Yatra and said such Yatras strengthen the centuries-old traditions of devotion, faith, and communal harmony in

the region. He appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee and volunteers for keeping this rich heritage alive and ensuring seamless arrangements for thousands of pilgrims.

The senior BJP leader added that under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the Government of India has revitalized the spirit of Sanatan culture across Jammu and Kashmir, and the Rudra Ganga Yatra stands as a testament to this revival.

"The unflinching faith of devotees in Chandi Mata and the pious Rudra Ganga is what keeps this spiritual movement thriving year after year," he said. Giving details about the

yatra, Satish Wazir informed that the vatra commenced from Panch Narayan Mandir, Kathua and will travel through multiple holy sites including Geeta Bhawan, Udhampur, Batote, Doda, and Brahma Ghat.

The sacred journey culminates on Guru Purnima after Havan, Snan, and Yagya at Rudra Ganga Bhawan. Devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir and outside join this yatra to pay homage and seek blessings of Maa Chandi, revered as the eternal form of Mata Parvati.

Wazir added that as per scriptures and tradition, Rudra Ganga is considered as the origin of purity and salvation, where pilgrims perform Pind Daan and rituals for their ancestors, similar to Gaya. "It is believed that a holy dip in Rudra Ganga washes away all sins and fulfills devotees' wishes.

the chanting of mantras and slogans in praise of Maa Chandi and Lord Shiva, filling the atmosphere with divine energy and devotion.

The event concluded with

45 students from various districts attend JYBT's 'Vedic Pathshala'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major step to preserve and promote the Dharma among the vounger generation, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, Jammu. inaugurated new initiative-a 'Vedic Pathshala' at its Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan, located at B.C. Road, here.

Pathshala Thewas launched under the visionary guidance of Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, the Pathshala aims to impart knowledge of Hindu 'Dharma-Karam'. culture and traditions.

The 4th session of this initiative was held on Sunday with active participation of 45 students hailing from various districts across the

The curriculum included recitations and teaching rich heritage of Sanatan from sacred Hindu texts he said. such as "Shree Bhagayad Gita", "Sundarkand Path", Shree Hanuman Chalisa", and lessons on Dharma-Karam, and Karam Gvan. helping students gain a holistic understanding of Sanatan culture and philosophy.

Speaking on the occasions. Pawan Kumar Shastri emphasized the importance of reconnecting the youth with their culture roots. He announced that the Trust will now conduct weekly Vedic classes every Sunday, offering sessions on Vedic Gyan, "Shree Bhagavad Gita Paath, and Sunderkand

The goal is to make the new generation aware of their

spiritual cultural identity and instill in them the foundational values of Dharma"

Shastri that the initiative aims to foster spiritual growth, cultural awareness, and a strong sense of community among the participants.

"In this times when traditions are fading, it is imperative that we reintroduce the timeless teachings of Sanatan Dharma to the youth. These teachings have shaped generations and continue to inspire people around the world," he said.

The Pathshala initiative received widespread appreciation from attendees and was lauded as a meaningful steps towards preserving ancient Indian wisdom and reviving the spiritual heritage of the

Participants praised the Trust for its dedication to cultural education and hone that such efforts with continue to grow in scale and impact.

Sanatan Dharam's wisdom and practices have been passed down through generations, shaping the lives of

It is timeless teachings continue to inspire and guide people worldwide.

Sharma, Education Officer, Jammu graced the occasions as Chief Guest. During the interactions with the students, he shed light on the significance of the thousands year old Hindu Sanatan Dharma.

He further said that initiative taken by Pawan Kumar Shastri to establish the Vedic

Pathshala is truly commendable by promoting Sanatan Dharam, he not only preserving the rich culture heritage generation with wisdom of our ancient traditions.

He further said that the efforts of Shastri will undoubtedly inspire our vouth to embrace their roots and appreciate the profound philosophy of Hinduism.

This event also witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including Dr. Arun Shastri, who officially inaugurated the programme, Dr. Ajay Shastri, Pt. Prabhakar Shastri and other Sanskrit Scholars besides working committee member Sukhdev Sharma, Rashpal Sharma, (Engg/Incharge), B.C Road Mandir along with staff of Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After creating history of winning gold medals in the World Police and Fire Games held in Birmingham, wrestlers, Benia Min and Ishaq Ahmed (Lallu) of the J&K Police were accorded a grand welcome on back home, here on Sunday.

They were warmly welcomed on their arrival at Jammu Airport here by members of sports teams, officers, family members and other sports enthusi-

A felicitation event was later organised at Gulshan Ground, here to honour for their exceptional achieve-General of

Director Police, Nalin Prabhat and



Wrestlers, Benia Min and Ishaq Ahmed (Lallu) being honoured with officials.

Armed J&K, Anand Jain, congratulated wrestlers and praised their dedication. The DGP Nalin Prabhat remarked, "Their perseverance and commitment are a proud moment for us all.

Dronacharya Awardee and Sports Officer of J&K Police, Kuldeep Handoo lauded their success, calling them an inspiration for the youth.

"This achievement reflects the J&K Police's continued focus on sports excellence and its role in nurturing top athletes on national and international platforms," said Kuldeep Handoo.

23rd Chhari Mubarak Yatra of Shri Mata Chamunda Devi ji flagged off with religious fervour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 23rd annual Chhari Mubarak Yatra of Shri Mata Chamunda Devi Sarvadhar, Pogal Paristan commenced on Sunday from Prachin Rameshwar Mandir, Pacca Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu with great enthusiasm and traditional rituals.

The Yatra was ceremoniously flagged off by Former Minister and J&K BJP President Sat Sharma in the presence of Rajeev Charak. Patron-in-Chief of the Chamunda Committee. A large number of devotees and vatris joined the spiritual journey with full devotion

While addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma emphasized the spiritual legacy of Jammu and Kashmir, calling it "a land of saints and spīritual traditions." He



urged the administration to ensure adequate arrangements for the yatris to avoid any inconvenience during the pilgrimage.

He also stressed the need for developing the holy abode of Maa Chamunda at Senabathi, Pogal-Paristan as a prominent tourist and pilgrimage destination.

Rajeev Charak expressed his delight at the increasing participation in the Yatra, of pilgrims had joined from Jammu, thousands more Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, and surrounding areas would be part of the celebrations in Ramban. He urged the J&K Government to declare a public holiday on this auspicious day and called for the development of the site as a major spiritual

and tourist center. The Yatra commenced with traditional rituals and

vibrant celebrations, with locals turning out in large numbers to witness the auspicious send-off. Prominent BJP leaders

and dignitaries present on included occasion Anuradha Charak, J&K BJP Vice President, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, BJP District Jammu President, Hardesh Khokhar, Ashok Kumar Manhas, Ajay Sharma, Mukhtiyar Singh, among others.

Served by 4 domestic giants J&K carves space on Indian cricketing map Quartet of Mithun, Ajay, Paras, Latika changes shape of J&K cricket

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy team's stunning victory over defending and 42-time champion mighty Mumbai, followed by a brilliant performance against formidable Baroda and historic quarter-final qualification last season, coupled with splendid performance by JKCA senior women's team, took the world by surprise. J&K teams now look altogether different and seems that the JKCA teams can beat best in the country on their day. The reason behind this thick and fast change of things in JKCA has been the utterly professional approach by the Administrators and more importantly the execution of strategies and processes by the trio of Ajay Sharma, Head Coach Senior Men's team; Latika Kumari, Head Coach Senior Womens team and Paras Dogra, Skipper Senior Men's team, under the guidance of young, dynamic and energetic Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations and Development JKCA.

The hugely experienced quartet of Mithun, Ajay, Paras and Latika left no stone unturned in infusing discipline and professionalism, besides building character and temperament among the players.



kinds of requisite facilities, gave them plans and ideas and the trio, in turn, executed the same in a most befitting manner yielding better results. It is obvious when you have four cricketing giants of the country running the show, the improvement in the system ought to be a buzzword. All of them have been domestic icons, with Ajay Sharma apart from representing India has played 129 First Class games, scoing 10120 runs with 38 centuries, averaging 67.46; Mithun Manhas apart from leading the formidable Delhi team having the like of Sehwag, Nehra, Shikhar, Kohli and Ishant in the side, has scored 9714 runs in 157 First Class matches with an average of 48.45, scoring 27 centuries; Paras Dogra having played 143 matches, scoring 9966

runs with 32 centuries, averaging 48.37 and Latika Kumari apart from having healthy domestic record has represented the country as an all-rounder.

All of them have taught the players and the officials the real meaning of perseverance, resilience, self-esteem and what and what not. Courtesy, this quartet, coupled with brilliance of Administrators and the officials of JKCA, the teams of J&K across all formats are posing a real threat to even the formidable teams of the country. In other words, J&K has simply carved a space on the country's cricketing map.

Courtesy Administrators and dynamism of Mithun Manhas, JKCA can presently boast of having around 40 BCCI trained Coaches and almost equal number of Umpires and not to talk of the Scorers.