

# Siraj swings a ‘Six’: Pacer’s dream spell sets up India’s comprehensive Asia Cup triumph



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
COLOMBO: Mohammed Siraj conjured a magical spell of seam and swing bowling with magnificent figures of 6 for 21 as India crushed Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to lift the Asia Cup title after a gap of five years.

This was India's eighth Asia Cup title and also their biggest victory (263 balls) in ODIs in terms of balls remaining. Siraj's astonishing effort saw defending champions Sri Lanka getting bundled out for 50. India did not bat an eyelid in the chase, as Shubman Gill (27) and Ishan Kishan (23) did the job in just 6.1 overs.

This was India's first title in a multi-nation event after their triumph in the Asia Cup 2018, and in a way, it also exorcised the ghost of India's 54 all out against Lanka in the Coca Cola Champions Trophy at Sharjah in 2000.

The match at Premadasa, forever, will be remembered for the way Siraj reduced the Lankan top-order to mere puppets of his sorcery.

Perhaps, he was destined to have a day like this, said the Hyderabad. "Jitna naseeb mein hota hai wahi milta, aaj mera naseeb tha (You get what's in our destiny, today it was my destiny)," Siraj summed up the mood while talking to broadcasters in the mid-innings break.

It all started with Lanka electing to bat first after winning the toss, despite heavily overcast conditions. The match started 40 minutes after the scheduled 3 PM beginning, but a storm of a different kind was awaiting Sri Lanka a peak Siraj.

His spell ensured that Lanka batted just 15.2 overs, and this was also their lowest ODI total against India. The pacer became only the fourth bowler in ODI history to take four wickets in an over, and he matched former Lankan pacer Chaminda Vaas as the fastest to a five-wicket haul in one-dayers in just 16 deliveries.

Siraj also obliterated the best ODI figures against Sri Lanka, previously held by Pakistan pace legend Waqar Younis 6 for 26 at Sharjah in 1990. However, the beauty of Siraj's bowling was beyond mere numbers. He got into action after Jasprit Bumrah jettisoned Kusal Perera in the third ball of the first over a regulation caught behind.

In conditions that resembled more London than Colombo, Siraj just had to pitch the ball in the right areas. Siraj made his dance of destruction in the 4th over 3.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 balls. The victims were Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera

Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya De Silva. De Silva managed to avert the hat-trick, but he lasted only for another ball, a push away from body resulted in an easy collection for Rahul behind the stumps. But Siraj was not done yet. He castled Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka and Kusal Mendis with peaches to complete their destruction. Shanaka could not even cover a beautiful outswinger, a delivery that he used to optimum effect on this day, that uprooted his off-stump. At 33 for 6, someone needed to try and break the shackles and Mendis tried to do it. But this time, Siraj nipped one back in to beat the Lankan batter's booming drive, and rearranged his timber.

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# Poonch emerges victorious in U-17 Girls Volleyball tournament finals

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Department of Youth Services and Sports in Doda organized a well-executed U-17 Girls Volleyball Divisional Level Inter-District Tournament at the Doda Sports Stadium.

The exciting event featured around 100 talented student players who showcased their skills and endurance on the volleyball court. Throughout the tournament, these participants displayed incredible determination and a strong competitive spirit.

This tournament served as a valuable platform for young players to demonstrate their abilities, encouraging a sense of healthy competition among them and promoting physical fitness. In the battle for the third-place title, Udhampur triumphed over Reasi, securing the third spot in the competition.

However, the most thrilling moment came during the



Chief Guest presenting trophy to a winner team.

finals when Poonch faced off against Kathua. Poonch displayed remarkable skills and determination, ultimately emerging as the winners and lifting the coveted trophy. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) of Doda proudly presented trophies and certificates to the deserving winners, extending his heartfelt con-

gratulations to the triumphant teams.

In his closing remarks, the DYSSO Doda expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Youth Services department staff, coaches, and team managers, highlighting the crucial role they played in making the tournament a success.

# Rollball trials for National Games from Sept 20

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Rollball Association of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold selection trials to pick up competitive UT (men and women) teams for the upcoming National Games in Goa.

"The six-day trials cum camp shall take place at Skating Rink, MA Stadium, here and the final selections

shall take place on September 29 and September 30," informed General Secretary of the Association, Mahima Khajuria.

The final selection shall be held under the supervision of J&K Sports Council (JKSC).

In the meantime, a hand-out issued by the

Association informed that those interested eligible players have been advised to report to Ashraf Dijo (9419179740) for Kashmir Division and Madhu Sharma (9419148556) for Jammu.

Players can also approach the Association via email jkrollballassociation@gmail.com.

# Kalra expresses gratitude to LG Sinha for creation of J&K Sports Cadre

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ace sports administrator, former cricketer and member of the J&K Sports Council, Ranjeet Kalra, has expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the President of the J&K UT Sports Council, for the creation of J&K Sports Cadre under YSSD for appointment of outstanding sportspersons into government service.

Kalra, while terming the decision as historic, in a statement issued to the media said, "It's

# Pawan of Poonch is ‘Young Achiever’ in Sports



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presenting award to Pawan Kumar.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Young and energetic physical educationist, a qualified coach and prominent event organiser in the remote border district of the Union Territory, Pawan Kumar has been presented 'Young Achiever's Award' in the field of Sports during the Youth Conclave, organised by CSIR-IIIM, here. The award was presented to Pawan by Union Minister, Dr Jatinder Singh. Physical Education Lecturer with Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Pawan has distinctive achievements in the field of sports. Belongs to a family of sportspersons, Pawan has done Diploma in Hockey from NIS besides being a Fitness Trainer of the BCCI. Son of one of the prominent sports promoters of the UT and former SAI Hockey coach, Sham Lal Sharma, Pawan has been contributing to the development of sports and sportspersons in district Poonch, especially in Hockey and Cricket. A qualified Cricket specific Strength and Conditioning coach from BCCI NCA, ASCA and SAI, Pawan has 13 years of experience as Strength and Conditioning Coach (Cricket) with BCCI National Cricket Academy (NCA) and J&K Cricket Association (JKCA) teams. Many players under his guidance have played at National level tournament in Hockey and Cricket as well.

# Swachchata Hi Sewa Abhiyan held at Sainik School Nagrota



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NAGROTA: Showing solidarity with the Jan Andolan 'Swachchata Hi Sewa' Sainik School Nagrota community came together to initiate the fortnight long cleanliness campaign commemorating the birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. Officers, Academic, Administrative, NCC, PTIs, Ground duty staff and families along with the cadets assembled in front of Cadets' Mess and carried out cleaning up of drainage and adjoining areas. It may be noted that Sainik School Nagrota has adopted an effective Garbage segregation and disposal mechanism in collaboration with the local civic body also. Under this arrangement, an electric vehicle comes around to pick up domestic waste for safe disposal and recycling process on a nominal payment from the resident community.



also very thankful to Advisor to LG Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Principal Secretary to LG, Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary GAD Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner- Secretary YSSD Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary Sports Council Nuzzat Gull for their very sincere efforts and contributions to this historic decision," he said.

"This visionary decision shall not only inspire the sportspersons to strive towards excellence but shall also serve as an assurance to them with regard to their future careers and job security," Kalra added.

# Sana, Kanishka wins gold medals in Judo Championship

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Sana Sharma of C a r m e l Convent Higher Secondary School Kunjwani Jammu and Kanishka Puri of DPS Nagbani won respective gold medals in Inter District Judo Championship organized by Department Youth Services and Sports Jammu from September 14 to 16, 2023 at Indoor Sports Complex MA Stadium, here. They won gold medals under the guidance of Coach Rameshwar Singh Jamwal.

Sana, Kanishka wins gold medals in Judo Championship

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Dr Vishal Sharma, son of Kanta Devi and Late Shruti Paul Sharma, hailing from Basohli, Disrict Kathua and currently working as Head of the Department of Electronics, Maulana Azad Memorial College Jammu has been honored with the 'Young Achiever Award in Science & Technology' by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister.

He has received this prestigious award for his outstanding achievements in the field of Science & Technology at national and international levels and his meritorious contribution in instilling a scientific mindset among the students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, he has shared



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

BARAMULLA: In an exhilarating display of talent and sportsmanship, the ongoing week-long Inter-District Provincial Level Handball Competition for Under-14 girls reached its climax today with Baramulla emerging victorious against Bandipora at the indoor stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla. The under-14 girls' competition took center stage, captivating the audience with thrilling matchups and the first semifinal witnessed an intense battle between Baramulla and Budgam, ultimately leading to Bandipora's victory and qualification for the final showdown.

# Khelo India women’s Athletics League in Jammu on Sept 20

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Athletics Association has been entrusted with the task to hold Khelo India Women's League at MA Stadium, here on September 20. "The Khelo India Women's League 2023 is a part of the Khelo India Scheme, which aims to promote sports among women and girls across the country," informed General Secretary of the Association, Sharat Chander Singh.

The competition shall be conducted in three kilometres (Under-16 Girls) and five kilometres (Open Women) at MA Stadium, here on September 20.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presenting award to Dr Vishal Sharma.

his expertise and experience by penning articles in newspapers and magazines, orchestrating various scientific events and motivating students to kick-start their startups.

Dr. Sharma's endeavours aim to foster an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship within the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.



Winner team posing with dignitaries after receiving trophy.

Meanwhile, the second semifinal featured an exciting clash between Bandipora and Budgam, ultimately leading to Bandipora's victory and qualification for the final showdown.

After a gripping display of athleticism and skill in

# Khelo India women’s Athletics League in Jammu on Sept 20

The competition shall be conducted in three kilometres (Under-16 Girls) and five kilometres (Open Women) at MA Stadium, here on September 20.

"Women athletes desirous of taking part in the event have been advised to report at MA Stadium here at 6 am on September 20 bringing along Aadhar Card and Date of Birth Certificate.

For more queries, athletes can contact athletics coach at the venue, Pawandeep Kour (9858006080).

The competition shall be conducted in three kilometres (Under-16 Girls) and five kilometres (Open Women) at MA Stadium, here on September 20.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presenting award to Dr Vishal Sharma.

This recognition was bestowed upon him during the Youth Conclave held in Jammu on September 16 to 17, 2023.

The event was organized by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.



# Army organises Inter Village Volleyball Tournament

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PALLWANWALA: The Army, in line with the Khelo India campaign, organized an inter-village volleyball tournament in the border village of Pallanwala with the goal of promoting sports and community engagement.

The event not only promoted healthy competition but also served as a platform for cultural exchange and strengthened the bond between the military personnel and the local communities. It provided an opportunity for the residents of Pallanwala and neighboring villages to interact with soldiers, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie.



A volleyball match in progress at Pallanwala.

The tournament was a resounding success, drawing crowds of spectators and generating excitement throughout the region. It showcased the potential of local athletes and left a lasting impression on the

participants and the audience alike.

The Indian Army expresses its gratitude to the residents of Pallanwala and neighboring villages for their wholehearted participation and support.

# Divisional Hockey, Volleyball meet of DYSS concludes



Chief Guest presenting trophy to a winner team.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: Girls all age group and boys under-14 Hockey and Volleyball inter-district divisional level competition, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), concluded at twin venues of Sports Stadium and Hockey Astroturf, here on Sunday. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, Dr Anees Altaf Nabi was the Chief Guest while Narjeet Singh (Retd ZPEO) and veteran Hockey player was the Special Guest in the closing ceremony. The whole event took place under the overall supervision of district (DYSS) Officer Poonch, Mohd Qasim. The district officer thanked those individuals and agencies who extending a helping hand in making the event a success.

Pawan Kumar (PEL NSNIS Hockey) and Neeraj Sharma (PET NSNIS Volleyball) were convenor Technical Committees. The Results (Finals): HOCKEY: Under-19 girls: Poonch defeated Jammu 3-0. Under-17: Jammu defeated Poonch 2-0. Under-14 boys: Poonch defeated Jammu 5-3. VOLLEYBALL: Under-14 Boys: Poonch defeated Jammu 3-2.

