



## Bumrah becomes 8th Indian to complete 500 international wickets

**MUMBAI, MAR 05:** Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah completed 500 international wickets, becoming the eighth bowler and overall eighth pacer to do so for Team India.

Bumrah reached this milestone during his side's T20 World Cup semifinal against England at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. It was a slower ball which deceived England skipper Harry Brook into committing to his shot earlier than he should have and Axar took a fine catch at covers to give Bumrah his 500th international wicket.

Bumrah ended the spell with a wicket and 33 runs in his four overs. In seven matches so far in the tournament, he has taken 10 wickets, with best figures of 3/15 against South Africa. With 36 wickets each, he and Arshdeep Singh are India's top wicket-takers in T20WC history.

Spinner Anil Kumble is



India's top wicket-taker with 953 wickets in 401 matches at an average of 30.06, with 39 four-fers, 37 five-fors and eight ten-fers to his name, with best figures of 10/74.

The leading pacer for In-

dia is legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev, who is fourth in the list with 687 scalps in 356 matches at an average of 28.83, with 20 four-fers, 24 five-fors and two ten-fers, with best figures of 9/83.

Put to bat first, a fiery knock from Sanju Samson (89\* in 42 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes) and cameos from Shivam Dube (43 in 25 balls, with a four and four sixes), Ishan Kishan (39 in 18 balls, with four boundaries),

Hardik Pandya (27 in 12 balls, with three fours and two sixes) and Tilak Varma (21 in seven balls, with three sixes) took India to 253/7 in 20 overs. Despite having England down at 95/4, India could not dominate them as Jacob Bethell (105 in 48 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes) and Will Jacks (35 in 20 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) put a counter-attacking 77-run stand for the fifth wicket. Bethell continued to march on even after Jacks' dismissal and a fiery four-ball cameo of 19 from Jofra Archer took England really close, but not to the finishing line, ending at 246/7. (ANI)

## T20WC: Samson levels with Virat Kohli, races past Rohit with stroke-filled knock in semifinal

**MUMBAI, MAR 05:** Indian batter Sanju Samson played a statement knock against England in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, equalling batting icon Virat Kohli's record for most runs by an Indian in a T20 World Cup knockout.

Brimming with confidence and authority after a masterclass 97\* against West Indies in the final Super Eight clash, a virtual knockout clash, Sanju continued his fine form, shrugging off the mental demons due to past failures this year, scoring 89 in 42 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes at a strike rate of 211.90.

Virat had also smashed 89\* in 47 balls against the West Indies in the semifinal of the 2016 T20 World Cup at the same venue. The highest score by a batter in T20WC knockouts was made yesterday by New Zealand batter Finn Allen, who scored a record-breaking 100\* in just 33 balls while chasing 170 against South Africa at Kolkata's Eden Gardens. This stands as the fastest century across



T20 and 50-over World Cups.

Samson has been exceptional against slow deliveries in the T20 World Cup, scoring 71 runs in 28 balls at an average of 35.30 and at a strike rate of 253.57, with five fours and seven sixes. Notably, slower/pace-off deliveries have been India's

weakness in this T20 World Cup overall.

Samson, with his 16 maximums this edition, went past Rohit Sharma's 15 sixes in the 2024 edition to have the most sixes by an Indian during a single T20 WC edition.

In this tournament, Sanju has made 232 runs in four

matches at an average of 77.33, with a strike rate of 201.73, with two fifties, and a best score of 97\* coming against West Indies at Kolkata in a virtual quarter-final.

Coming to the match, England won the match and elected to field first. Abhishek Sharma (9) once again fell to off-spin, but a 97-run stand between Samson (89 in 42 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes) and Ishan Kishan (39 in 18 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes) brought India back in the game big time as the duo went hammer and tongs. Samson stitched another useful 43-run stand with Shivam Dube, who was hitting the ball his signature fluency and brutality, scoring 43 in 25 balls, with a four fours and four sixes. Cameos from Hardik Pandya (27\* in 12 balls, with three fours and two sixes) and Tilak Varma (21 in seven balls, with three sixes) took India to 253/7.

Will Jacks (2/40) and Adil Rashid (2/41) were the top bowlers for England. (ANI)

## MLA North felicitates Ranji Trophy Winners at Jammu

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 05**

Former Minister and MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma felicitated two promising cricketers, Sahil Lotra (S/O Sh. Vijay Kumar), and Yudhvir Singh Charak (S/O Sh. Dharam Singh Charak), both resident of Jammu North Constituency, for being part of the victorious Jammu & Kashmir team that created history by winning the prestigious Ranji Trophy title.

While congratulating the players, Sham Lal Sharma said that their remarkable achievement has brought immense pride and recognition to Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that their dedication, discipline and outstanding performances have highlighted the immense cricketing talent emerging from the region.

Sharma said that the historic victory of the Jammu & Kashmir team in the Ranji



Trophy is a proud moment for the entire Union Territory and a milestone for the development of cricket in the region. He added that such achievements motivate young sportspersons to work hard and pursue sports with commitment and determination.

The MLA also congratulated the management and the selection committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association for their continuous efforts in identifying and nurturing talented players and building a

strong team capable of competing at the highest level of domestic cricket.

Sham Lal Sharma further extended his appreciation to Mithun Manhas, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, for his special focus and support towards strengthening cricketing infrastructure and promoting cricket in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the encouragement and guidance from the BCCI leadership have played an important role in providing opportunities and

exposure to young cricketers from the region.

He expressed confidence that this historic triumph will further boost the morale of budding cricketers and open new avenues for sporting excellence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sham Lal Sharma wished both Sahil Lotra and Yudhvir Singh Charak continued success in their cricketing careers and expressed hope that they will keep bringing laurels to Jammu & Kashmir and the nation in the years to come.

## League of Classics

# Exciting Cricket matches held at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 05**

The Inter-Block District Level Tournament under "League of Classics" being coordinated by the Department of Youth Services & Sports witnessed power-packed performances and thrilling cricket matches on the historic Chowgan Ground on Day 2.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from young players representing different blocks of the district. The matches were marked by impressive batting displays, disciplined bowling spells and outstanding fielding efforts that kept spectators and officials engaged throughout the day.

Players from different blocks demonstrated team-



work, determination and sportsmanship, reflecting the core objective of the Youth Engagement Programme.

The event was conducted with excellent coordination and efficient management

by the officials of the Youth Services & Sports Department.

The "League of Classics" initiative is aimed at providing a vibrant platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and gain expo-

sure at the district level.

The matches will continue in the coming days with more high-energy contests expected among the participating teams, further strengthening the sporting culture in the district.

## Khalsa Club wins by 8 wkts to enter semis of SCPL

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 05**

Khalsa Club today registered an impressive eight wickets win against Shaheed Jasjit Tral XI to enter the semifinals stages of the ongoing 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League (SCPL), organised by J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club Jammu at University of Jammu grounds, here.

Batting first, Shaheed Jasjit XI bowled out for 102 runs in 18.2 overs. In reply, Khalsa Club overhauled the opponent total making 103 runs for two wickets in 14.4 overs.

Jeetu was named player of the match for his unbeaten 58 (off 33 balls, 4x4, 6x4) and one wicket. Jeetu was also declared best batter for his unbeaten half century in a low scoring game. The best bowler title went to Deep for his spell of three for 14 in four overs.

Earlier, eight teams qualified for the quarterfinals in-



cluding Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club, Khalsa XI, Shaheed Jasjit Singh Tral XI, Preet Nagar Cricket Club, Chardikala Strikers, Nalwa XI, Jaguar Cricket Club and Kaira Cricket Club.

In today's first quarterfinal, Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma was chief guest, who along with other dignitaries witnessed the match and interacted with the teams and the members of the organising committee. He appreciated the ef-

forts of chairman of the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee, Ajit Singh.

Earlier, Ajit Singh thanked LG Manoj Sinha for being the chief guest in the inaugural of the event. He was all praised for the Sports Minister, Satish Sharma encouraging the organising team and the participants as also other officials. He also thanked senior police officers and officers of the civil administration for the support.

Among other prominent present were Sandeep Singh Rissam, chairman J&K Congress Panchayati Raj Sangatan; Tejinder Singh Aman, provincial president Youth National Conference; Raghi Jagtar Singh, coordinator SGPC J&K; Raghi Harpreet Singh, Hazoori Ragi DGPC Jammu.

Meanwhile, the next quarterfinal of the Tournament shall be held on a later date in view of the unavailability of the grounds.

## Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina storm into quarterfinals at ITF W35 Kalaburagi

**KALABURAGI (KARNATAKA) [INDIA] MARCH 5 (ANI):** Indian players Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina produced commanding performances to move into the quarterfinals of the women's singles at the ITF W35 Kalaburagi at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium on Thursday.

Third seed Vaishnavi Adkar cruised past Anna Stedysheva with a dominant 6-2, 6-0 win. The match began with comfortable service holds from both players before Adkar began to apply pressure with sharp returns in the sixth game to create three break points.

Adkar eventually broke after a deuce battle and backed it up with a confident service hold to move 5-2 ahead, according to a release.

She secured the first set 6-2 with a decisive overhead smash after another tight game. Carrying that momentum into the second set, Adkar broke early as Sedyasheva began committing more errors, while the Indian maintained consistent pressure on serve.

Despite a few powerful hits from Sedyasheva, Adkar remained clinical to wrap up the second set without conceding a game.

Eighth seed Ankita Raina also advanced comfortably, defeating Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1. Raina made an early statement by breaking in the second game and held that advantage through the remainder of the set.

In the eighth game, sustained pressure forced a long shot from



Maslenkova, handing Raina the first set 6-2.

The Indian raised her level further in the second set, securing three break points in the fourth game with a series of crisp winners before an error from Maslenkova gave her a 3-1 lead.

A prolonged fifth game followed, with both players battling hard, but Raina's powerful forehand forced crucial mistakes to stretch the lead to 4-1. She eventually sealed the match with a sharp backhand winner.

Elsewhere, Elina Nepliy edged past fifth seed Zeel Desai in a closely fought encounter, prevailing 7-6(3), 6-3 to move into the quarterfinals. Top seed Jasmijn Gimbrere was pushed but held firm to defeat Eva Marie Desvignes 7-5, 7-5, while second seed Anchisa Chanta also progressed comfortably with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Polina

Kuharenko.

Sixth seed Thasaporn Naklo advanced with authority, defeating Sofia Martianova 6-3, 6-0. Maayan Laron produced a strong performance to defeat seventh seed Michika Ozeki 6-3, 6-1, while Evgeniya Burdina overcame Sofia Suslova in a tense opening set before closing out the match 7-6(1), 6-2.

In the women's doubles quarterfinals, the Indian pair of Sonal Patil and Bela Tamhankar secured their place in the semifinals with a solid 7-5, 6-2 victory over Karnataka's Snigdha Kanta and Harshini N Nagaraj.

Second seeds Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina also advanced with a convincing 6-2, 6-2 win against Evgeniya Burdina and Sofia Martianova. In another quarterfinal, Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi and Michika Ozeki edged past third seeds Zeel Desai and Elina Nepliy in a closely fought match, winning 7-5, 2-6, [10-6].

Results:  
Singles Second Round:  
3-Vaishnavi Adkar (IND) bt Anna Stedysheva 6-2, 6-0; 8-Ankita Raina (IND) bt Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1; Elina Nepliy bt 5-Zeel Desai (IND) 7-6(3), 6-3; 1-Jasmijn Gimbrere (NED) bt Eva Marie Desvignes (SGP) 7-5, 7-5; 2-Anchisa Chanta (THA) bt Polina Kuharenko 6-3, 6-3; 6-Thasaporn Naklo (THA) bt Sofia Martianova 6-3, 6-0; Maayan Laron (ISR) bt 7-Michika Ozeki (JPN) 6-3, 6-1; Evgeniya Burdina bt Sofia Suslova 7-6(1), 6-2.