



J&K seals berth in historic Ranji Trophy semis

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Jammu and Kashmir scripted history with a convincing 56-run victory over formidable Madhya Pradesh in the quarterfinals to seal berth in the first-ever semifinals of the prestigious Ranji Trophy at Holkar Stadium in Indore today.

Earlier, resuming from 87 for five, Madhya Pradesh batters despite making valiant efforts went down-fighting to lose the match by a margin of 56 runs, scoring 234 runs.

Saransh Jain top scored with 64 runs off 81 balls, studded with seven fours and one six, while Shubham Sharma (32), Himanshu Mantri (31), Aryan Pandey (22) and Yash Dubey (20) were the other contributors.

Aqib Nabi, who was wrecker-in-chief in the first innings, taking seven wickets, emerged pick of the bowlers to take five wickets by conceding 70 runs in his 24 overs, while Abid Mushaq bagged three and Sunil Kumar claimed one.

Earlier, on day-3, Vanshaj



Sharma and Abid Mushaq's lower-order fireworks, capped by a defiant 65-run last-wicket stand with Sunil Kumar, propelled J&K to a challenging 291-run target.

J&K battled to 248 in their second innings, extending their 42-run first-innings lead into a formidable victory equation. Vanshaj Sharma starred unbeaten on 54 off 92 balls (3x4, 1x6), with Abid Mushaq (41), Abdul Samad (32), Sunil Kumar (26), and Yudhvir Singh (18) providing crucial support.

Madhya Pradesh's Kuldeep Sen claimed 4 wickets, while Venkatesh Iyer and Ramveer Singh Gurgar shared three wickets apiece.

Earlier, J&K's first-innings 194 was anchored by Shubham Khajuria's 60 and Yudhvir Singh's 41. MP crumbled to 152, undone by Aqib Nabi's (7/40 in the first innings) and Sunil Kumar's three wickets.

Kuldeep Sen ripped through with five for 66, backed by Kumar Kartikeya Singh (3) and Aryan Pandey

(2).

The JKCA Administrators, Brig Anil Gupta and Vidhya Bhaskar, Ajay Sharma, Head Coach; CAC Members--Abdul Qayoom, Vijay Sharma and Meenu Singh Slathia, and Selectors--Sarabjeet Singh (Chairperson), Dhruv Mahajan and Arshad Bhat deserve salutations for this remarkable achievement.

While describing the win as historic, Member Administration JKCA has congratulated the team members for this great achievement.

Junior Cricket Championship concludes; Chadwal lifts title

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The Junior Cricket Championship organised by Excise Department in collaboration with the District Administration Kathua concluded today at the Sports Stadium, Kathua, with Chadwal clinching the championship trophy.

Held to foster sportsmanship among the youth and reinforce the message of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, the tournament generated enthusiasm among players and attracted spectators.

In the final, Chadwal won the toss and opted to bat first, scoring 182 runs. Rahat Raina scored 61, while Vansh scored 59 runs and claimed five wickets. While chasing the target, Billawar were bowled out for 56 runs in the 12th over, sealing victory for Chadwal.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma fe-



licitated the winning and runner-up teams and presented a cricket kit to the champions.

Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the role of sports in chan-

CPO Ranjeet Thakur, ETO Kashish Sharma, DYSSO Sunil Singh Sambyal, CEO MC Kathua Amit Sharma and other officers were present on the occasion.

Manjit Club wins Volleyball Winter Cup

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Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch clinched the title trophy of the Winter Cup Volleyball Tournament which was organised by Indian Army in Surankote.

In this event, 27 teams in men and eight others in women section contested for the top honours.

In the final, Shaheed Manjit Club Poonch defeated Habib Volleyball Club Surankote in straight 25-20, 26-24, 25-15 sets. Harshit Raina, Abid Bhatti, Bilal Ahmed and Mohd Kafeel played well for the winners. The girls title trophy bagged by Wandman-hasa beating Khelo India



Centre Poonch 25-20, 25-18.

The locals, who enjoyed

the contests, appreciated

Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club

players and chairman Mohd Tariq for the entertaining final.

Silver for Manu Bhaker as Vietnam shooter Trang clinches 25m pistol gold in thrilling final

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: Olympic double bronze-medallist Manu Bhaker came agonisingly close to winning a gold, missing out by a whisker as she clinched a silver in 25m pistol event, while fellow Indian Esha Singh claimed a bronze at the Asian Championship here on Monday.

In one of the most closely-contested events of this edition of the continental championship, both gold medallist Nguyen Thuy Trang and Manu shot an identical 35 in the final, forcing a shoot-off, where the Vietnamese held sway.

In fact, the final turned out to be a battle of nerves, with former Asian air pistol champion Trang, Manu, Esha, and Olympian Rhythm Sangwan all tightly packed and in contention for the top spot.

Esha started with a perfect five in the first series while Manu and Trang hit four. All three Indian shooters were trading the medal positions after each series but a perfect five in the sixth series saw the Vietnamese take a two-point lead.



Manu and Esha capitalised on Trang's poor seventh series, where she managed to hit only one target, closing the gap.

Esha, who had been leading with a score of 30 at the end of the eighth series, missed all her shots in the ninth and had to settle for the bronze medal.

In the final series, Manu hit three targets while Trang managed two, bringing their totals to 35 each and forcing a nail-biting

shoot-off. Earlier, Esha topped the qualification round, which comprised the 'precision' and 'duelling' stages, scoring 589, followed by Manu (584), as three Indian shooters advanced to the eight-shooter final.

The trio of Esha, Manu, and Sangwan claimed the team gold with a combined total of 1,751, followed by Chinese Taipei with 1,735 and Vietnam with 1,729.

In the 25m pistol junior

finals, Naamya Kapoor survived a tense shoot-off to clinch the gold.

The youngest Indian to win a World Championship medal, she matched Indonesia's Rihadatul Asyifa with 29 shots in regulation and then held her nerve in the shoot-off, hitting three targets while Asyifa missed all. Anjali Bhagwat claimed the bronze with 24.

The junior Indian team also secured the team gold in the event.

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Aakash Ayoub Bhat, Mousub Mohd Bhat, and Rydham Sharma hit brilliant centuries, while Praful Dhar claimed five wickets to ensure the Under-23 Men's CK Nayudu Trophy match against Baroda end in a draw at JKCA Hostel ground, here today.

Resuming from overnight score to 443 for seven, J&K

overnight unbeaten pair of Rydham Sharma and Praful Dhar showcased rock-solid defense laced with sublime strokeplay. Their gritty 62-run stand over 30 overs averted the follow-on and propelled the score to a respectable 498 all out.

Sharma made 114, while Dhar anchored with a vital 21 off 104 balls (4 fours). Earlier centurions Aakash Ayoub (134) and Mousub Mohd (114) laid the foundation, with Basit Nazir

adding a composed 62.

Baroda's Vaibhav HB starred with a five-wicket haul, Priyanshu Moliya chipping in with two wickets.

In reply, Baroda reached 192 for four in their second innings when situation forced an early draw before the scheduled time. Skipper Priyanshu Moliya smashed 120 and Nitya N Pandya's gritty 94. Off-spinner Praful Dhar emerged as J&K's bowling hero with five wickets, Saravash Singh grabbing one.

snared two wickets, with Manit and Atif Bin Mushtaq claiming one apiece.

Earlier, Baroda had declared their first innings at a colossal 606 for six. Dhruv N Patel's masterful double-century (214) powered the total, backed by Priyanshu Moliya's 120 and Nitya N Pandya's gritty 94. Off-spinner Praful Dhar emerged as J&K's bowling hero with five wickets, Saravash Singh grabbing one.

Karate belt grading test held

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Eight students of Wazir Janki Nath Higher Secondary School appeared in the Yellow belt test which was conducted by Renmei Gojuryu Karate Do Federation of India, here.

The test successful conducted by the Federation under the supervision Sanjeev Dewan RGKFI 6th degree Black belt.

Those qualified the test were Hartegeevi Singh, Chatna Kumar.

Marif Ansari, Kushal Kumar, Bawnoor Kour, Himanshu Sanil, Rizwa and Suryansh Verma.



Avni wins VCA Open Smart Girl Chess Tournay

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Avni Sharma won the 3rd Smart Girl Open Khelo Jammu Chess Tournament which held at Vivek Chess Academy (VCA) under the aegis of all J&K Chess Association (AJKCA), here today.

Avni secured 5.5 points out of the six round to emerge new champion of the event. The second place went to Amrita Gupta with five points while Nitika Nishad (4.5 pts) finished third. Gunjan Nishad (3 pts) and Peral Thothla (3 pts) remained fourth and fifth respectively.

Manushree Nischal bagged the under-10 category prize, securing two points. The competition held with 10 minutes plus 10 seconds time control under Chess Rapid Game Rule whereas the FIDE Swiss software was used for pairing.

President AJKCA, Meenal



Gupta, former J&K Chess champion and a trainee of the VCA for seven years was the chief guest. She presented the cash prizes worth Rs 3200 and title trophies to the winners in the presence of owner of the VCA, Vivek Bharti.

The Detailed Results: Round-1: Amrita (1) bt Manushree (0); Nitika (1) bt Amina (0); Pearl (1) bt Anjali (0); Avni (1) bt Raesha (0).

Round-2: Amrita (2) bt Pearl (1); Avni (2) bt Gunjan (1); Nitika (2) bt Manushree (0); Amina (1) bt Raesha (0); Anjali (1) bt Ruby (0). Round-3: Avni (2.5) drew Nitika (2.5); Amrita (3) bt Amina (1); Gunjan (2) bt Pearl (1); Anjali (2) bt Manushree (0); Ruby (1) bt Raesha (0).

Round-4: Avni (3.5) bt Amrita (3); Nitika (3.5) bt Gunjan (3); Nitika (4.5) bt Ruby (1); Amina (3) bt Manushree (2); Raesha (1) bt Anjali (2).