



Shreya represents India in Athens World Cup Apex CC Clinch Convincing 40-Run Victory

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 16

Close on the heels of playing World Cup at Tashkent, talented Shreya Gupta of Jammu and Kashmir is set to play for India at the prestigious Senior World Cup at Athens in Greece.

The three-day world event is scheduled to take place from tomorrow April 17 involving top fencers from different nations. Shreya will be among the elite Indian contingent participating in the championship.

A senior gold medalist of this year, Shreya has consistently showcased exceptional skill and determination on the national circuit. Her selection for the Senior World Cup is a testament to her hard

work and outstanding



performance in fencing.

Notably, four top-ranked fencers from India have been selected to represent the country in this prestigious event. The participation of India's best athletes reflect the growing strength of fencing in the nation.

She has been practicing at Vijay Bharat Academy, Ahmedabad for last four years thereby seeking competitive and methodical training from best coaches.

Meanwhile, as per Shriya's father and treasurer of the J&K Amateur Fencing Association, Sanjay Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull have commended the exceptional achievements of young fencer from the Union Territory.

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In the ongoing 1st Jammu Lochan T20 Cricket Tournament organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) at Maulana Azad Stadium, Apex Cricket Club registered a commanding 40-run victory over Gentle Giants in an exciting encounter played today.

Winning the toss, Apex Cricket Club skipper Arun Sharma elected to bat first. Putting up a competitive total, Apex CC posted 174 runs on the board, losing all wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

The innings was powered by some explosive batting performances, with Ajay Singh smashing 40 runs off just 16 balls, while Eshan contributed a quickfire 30 off 13 deliveries. Shobnam added a steady 32 runs, and Arun Sharma chipped in with a crucial 25 runs.

For Gentle Giants, Sahil



and Bobby Thakur were the pick of the bowlers, claiming three wickets each. Anmol supported well with two wickets, while Ashish Kohli bagged one.

In response, Gentle Giants failed to build momentum and were bowled out for 134 runs in 19 overs. Vishavjeet Singh stood out with a fighting knock of 50 runs off 34 balls, but lacked

support from the other end.

Apex Cricket Club bowlers dominated the proceedings, with Arun Sharma and Parav Tak leading from the front by taking three wickets each. Rahul claimed two wickets, while SK and Shubham Chib picked up one wicket apiece.

For his outstanding all-round performance, Arun

Sharma was deservedly declared Player of the Match for his valuable 25 runs and three crucial wickets. The award was presented by Neete Kour Kalsa, General Secretary of JKMGGA.

With this impressive win, Apex Cricket Club showcased strong teamwork and intent, emerging as a formidable side in the tournament.

Satish inaugurates Synthetic Volleyball Court at Govt HS Datyal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 16

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated a state-of-the-art synthetic volleyball court at Government Higher Secondary School Datyal, Khour, marking a significant step towards strengthening the sports infrastructure in the region.

The modern facility has been developed by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at a cost of ₹20 lakh and is expected to greatly benefit the students and local youth by providing them with quality training infrastructure.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the government's firm commitment to promote sports at the grassroots level, ensuring equitable access to the modern facilities across the rural and far-flung areas. He emphasized that sports play a crucial role in overall development of youth by instilling discipline, teamwork and a spirit of healthy com-



petition.

"Development of sports infrastructure in rural areas remains a key priority. Facilities like these will help in identifying and nurturing the local talent and providing them opportunities to compete at district, UT and national level," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma also inter-

acted with the students, sportspersons and the local residents, encouraging them to make optimum use of the newly created facility.

The Minister directed the concerned to ensure proper maintenance of the court and facilitate regular coaching and sports activities so that the facility is fully utilized.

The local representatives, officers of the Youth Services & Sports Department, school staff and a large number of students and sports enthusiasts were present on the occasion. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, reflecting the growing interest in sports in the area.

Uchhad teams win grassroots volleyball league

Sports & Allied News
POONCH, April 16:

An initiative of the prominent sports identity of Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club Poonch, the first ever grassroots volleyball league of Jammu and Kashmir concluded successfully at border district of Poonch.

Held at four venues, the league won by Uchhad teams in both boys and girls sections. Other participating teams were from Poonch, Jaian and Salva. In the boys final, Uchhad beat Salva 2-1 (25-23, 22-25 15-13) while girls title clash, Uchhad outplayed Mankote in straight sets.

Major Karamveer was the chief guest in the finals, who



appreciated the efforts of Shaheed Manjit Club chairman, Mohd Tariq in promoting the game of volleyball at the grassroots level

thus encouraging the talent in remote border villages. Amanaalhuq Choudhary, VDC chairman was the guest of honour, who also

encouraged the participants. Among other prominent present were Shabir Ahmad, Intazar Ali, Ikhlaq Ahmed and Sarpanch.

South Africa series is great chance to prepare for T20 World Cup: Harmanpreet

DURBAN, APR 16: Emphasising the need to give all players adequate opportunities ahead of the T20 World Cup, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Thursday said her side is confident and keen to make the most of the five-match T20I series against South Africa, starting here on Friday.

Harmanpreet also said that her side is brimming with confidence following their ODI World Cup triumph. India recently registered T20I series wins over Australia and Sri Lanka.

The skipper stressed that the matches against South Africa would offer a valuable opportunity to fine-tune combinations and build momentum ahead of the global event to be held in England and Wales from June 12 to July 5.

"We want to take this opportunity very seriously and play our best cricket here. It's a great chance for us to come together and prepare well before the World Cup," Harmanpreet said at the pre-series press conference.

India feature in Group A



alongside Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Africa and The Netherlands.

Harmanpreet underlined that giving opportunities to all players in the five-match series would be a priority.

"These matches are important to ensure all players get equal opportunities so that we are fully ready as a unit going into the World Cup.

At the same time, we are here to win," she noted.

"After the ODI World Cup, the team is quite confident. Wherever we are going, we are going with full confidence. The team is in

good shape and this series is very important for us before the World Cup."

On the opposition, Harmanpreet described South Africa as a "balanced side" with strong all-round options, noting their consistency in reaching the latter stages of ICC events.

"They have very good players and quality all-rounders, which is very important in T20 cricket. They have been playing competitive cricket over the last few years and reaching finals regularly," she said.

"Playing against a strong team like South Africa always gives you confidence if

you do well. That's why we wanted to face them before the World Cup."

Speaking about conditions in Durban, Harmanpreet said the team had a productive training session and found the weather comparable to Indian conditions, though pitches would pose a different challenge.

"The weather is quite similar to India. The only difference is the pitch, but we are getting used to it and hopefully will give our best," she said.

Harmanpreet also expressed excitement about young all-rounder Anushka Sharma, who has impressed in domestic cricket and the Women's Premier League. The 22-year-old is an off-spin bowling all-rounder.

"She is a great talent and has done well whenever she has got the opportunity. Bringing her here is about giving her exposure and experience before the World Cup," she said.

Reflecting on recent mixed results across formats, Harmanpreet said the team remains focused on the bigger picture.

PWL stars continue to shine on global stage after Season 5 return

NEW DELHI, APRIL 16:

The successful return of the Professional Wrestling League (PWL) earlier this year continues to reflect strongly on the international stage, as several Indian and international wrestlers who featured in the blockbuster Season 5 have gone on to deliver impressive performances across major global competitions.

Held at the Noida Indoor Stadium in January, PWL Season 5 brought together world-class wrestlers alongside established and emerging Indian talent, reaffirming its role as a premier competitive platform in home conditions, according to a release from PWL.

The impact of the league has since been evident in the performances of multiple performers who have excelled at international tournaments, underlining the importance of a world-class domestic competition structure.

Leading the charge has been Sujeet Kalkal, who has emerged as one of the world's top wrestlers in the men's 65kg category.

Currently ranked World No. 2 behind Iran's reigning world champion and Olympic silver medalist Rahman Amouzad, Sujeet represented Delhi Dangal Warriors in PWL Season 5,



finishing runner-up after winning six of his seven bouts.

Since the conclusion of the league, Sujeet has won three consecutive international gold medals, claiming titles at the Ranking Series events in Zagreb and Muhamet Malo before clinching the Asian Championship crown in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, earlier this month.

Among the other stand-out performers, Olympic silver medalist Aman Sehrawat (men's 61kg) of Tigers of Mumbai Dangals won silver medals in Zagreb and Bishkek, while Dinesh Dhankhad (men's 125kg) of Punjab Royals claimed

that momentum into the national trials, where she defeated Antim Panghal to secure her place in the Indian team.

She has since gone on to win silver medals at both the Muhamet Malo tournament and the Asian Championships in Bishkek, significantly strengthening her credentials on the international stage.

In the women's 53kg division, Meenakshi Goyat has emerged as another major success story from PWL Season 5. Representing Punjab Royals, Meenakshi won all three of her bouts in the league before carrying

bronze medals in both events.

Neha Sangwan of Haryana Thunders also impressed with a silver medal at Muhamet Malo and a bronze in Bishkek.

One of the most encouraging performances came from rising Indian star Abhimanyu in the men's 70kg category.

The 24-year-old CISF constable, who represented UP Dominators in the league, struck gold in Bishkek after defeating Mongolian legend Tomor-Ochiryn Tulga in the final -- a former Asian Games champion and two-time world medallist.