



## Malik Wrecks, Dogra Finishes in Style

### Rajouri Titans and Tantray Club Register Big Wins

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 19

The ongoing 1st Jambu Lochan T20 Cricket Tournament, being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association at the iconic Maulana Azad Stadium, witnessed two high-energy encounters today, with Rajouri Titans and Tantray Sports Club registering emphatic victories in their respective matches.

In the first match, Hunter Cricket Club, after winning the toss, opted to bat first but were bundled out for 135 runs in 19.5 overs. Bandish emerged as the top scorer with a steady 37 off 39 balls. However, the innings was dominated by a sensational bowling performance from Rajouri Titans skipper Shahid Malik, who claimed an impressive six wickets for 35 runs in just 3.5 overs, turning the tide decisively in his team's favour.

Chasing a target of 136, Rajouri Titans displayed confident batting and achieved the target comfortably in 13.3 overs, losing only four wickets. Rafiq led the charge with a fluent 68 off 43 balls, studded with 10



boundaries and two sixes. For Hunter Cricket Club, Arvind Chouhan, Sandeep, Arif, and Vikas chipped in with a wicket each. Shahid Malik was deservedly adjudged Man of the Match for his match-winning spell and was presented the award by Anil Abrol, an international chess player and Executive Engineer in the Power Department.

The second match of the day saw Gentle Giants post a competitive total of 160/8 in their allotted 20 overs after electing to bat first. Vishavjeet Singh anchored the innings with a composed 56 off 43 balls, while Robin Singh added a quickfire 21 off 13 deliveries. Vi-

jay Dogra was the standout bowler for Tantray Sports Club, picking up three crucial wickets for 31 runs in his four overs.

In reply, Tantray Sports Club chased down the target of 162 runs in a thrilling finish, reaching the total in 19.4 overs with three wickets in hand. Vijay Dogra delivered a stellar all-round performance, smashing a match-winning 76 off 59 balls, laced with eight fours and a six. He was well supported by Mujtaba Mir, who contributed 39 off 21 balls, and Pranav Gupta, who scored a steady 36 off 30 deliveries. The winning moment came in the 19.4th over when Pranav Gupta

struck a boundary to seal the victory. For Gentle Giants, Abhay Tandon claimed two wickets for 22 runs.

Vijay Dogra was named Man of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance. The award was presented by Rameshwar Singh Manhas, Managing Director of Pragmatic Higher Secondary School, Director of RS Sports Academy, a national badminton player, and Executive Member of JKMG.

The tournament continues to deliver thrilling cricketing action, highlighting emerging talent and promoting the spirit of the game in the region.

## Team Dhinday Kalan wins Box Cricket Tournament at RS Pura

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The grand closing ceremony and final match of the Box Cricket Tournament organized at Inder Village, R.S. Pura, in the loving memory of Lt. Sh. Lala Sain Dass Gupta (Ex-MLC) and Lt. Smt. Vidya Devi, concluded on a high note today after 17 days of thrilling cricket action and enthusiastic community participation.

The tournament emerged as one of the most talked-about sporting events in the area, drawing players and spectators from different villages and localities of the R.S. Pura sub-division. A total of 64 matches were played during the event, with every match reflecting the passion, energy, and sportsmanship of the participating teams. The tournament provided a strong platform for local youth to showcase their cricketing talent and build a spirit of healthy competition.

After several exciting league and knockout matches, Team Dhinday Kalan and Team Bhour Camp secured their place in



the grand finale. The final match witnessed intense competition, with both teams displaying excellent teamwork, determination, and skill. In the end, Team Dhinday Kalan outperformed their opponents and lifted the championship trophy amid loud cheers from the crowd.

The winning team was awarded a cash prize of ₹51,000, while the runner-up team, Team Bhour Camp, received ₹21,000 for their commendable performance throughout the tournament. The Man of the

Match title was awarded to Navdeep Singh, who played a remarkable role in the final and received a cash prize of ₹5,000 for his outstanding contribution.

The closing ceremony was graced by MLA Dr. Narinder Singh Ji as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the organizers for successfully conducting such a well-managed sporting event and praised the discipline and commitment shown by all participating teams. He stressed that sports play a vital role in shaping the

character of youth and keeping them engaged in positive and productive activities.

The tournament was organized by Jai Durga Traders, R.S. Pura, popularly known as Cinema Wale, under the leadership of Mr. Raman Gupta. A large number of residents, supporters, and cricket lovers gathered at the venue to witness the final match and celebrate the successful conclusion of the tournament, making it a memorable occasion for the entire region.

## 2nd Women's T20I

# Wolvaardt, Luus fifties help SA script 8-wicket win over India

**DURBAN, APR 19:** Laura Wolvaardt made a free-flowing 54 and Sune Luus complemented her skipper with a well-composed 57 as South Africa crushed India by eight wickets in the second Women's T20I here on Sunday.

The match's script was written in clear letters once SA bowlers bundled out India for a below-par 147, and it was taken into its logical culmination by Wolvaardt and Luus who added 106 runs for the opening alliance in just 12 overs.

The hosts made 148 for two in 17.1 overs. SA now lead the five-match series 2-0.

Wolvaardt was quite impressive, making runs more through finding gaps rather than going for big hits.

However, the SA skipper freed her hands whenever the opportunity presented, like an inside out six over covers off left-arm spinner Sree Charani.

Wolvaardt soon reached her fifty, 15th in a stellar T20I career so far, off just 30 balls.

At the other end, Luus was more patient, working spinners around for singles and twos with occasional boundaries, such as a maximum off off-spinner Shreyanka Patil.

The Bengaluru cricketer,



however, had the last laugh, getting rid of both Wolvaardt and Luus, but the two wickets came too late to alter the course of the match.

Earlier, opener Shafali Verma struck a typically aggressive 57 but rest of the Indian batters struggled against largely accurate South Africa bowlers, settling for a below par 147 all out. Shafali was involved in a fine stand of 53 with debutant Anushka Sharma (28) but it was not a smooth stay by any stretch of imagination.

After losing Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues in successive overs of left-arm spinner Chloe

Tryon (3/22), India did mount a comeback through Shafali and Anushka.

But taking a cue from their spinners, SA pacers Ayabonga Khaka, Tumi Sekhukhune (3/31) and Nadine de Klerk too mixed cutters and slow balls to keep Indian batters guessing.

The third wicket alliance between Shafali and Anushka, who were given lives respectively on 24 and 11, was a prime example of that.

Shafali, who hammered Sekhukhune for two fours and a six in an over in the Power Play, slowed down, whereas Anushka, who began her international career with a four, too found the

going tough.

Shafali reached her 15th T20I fifty in 31 balls but fell soon, skying Noku Mlaba to De Klerk in the deep.

A little bit earlier, Tryon had ousted Anushka as India slipped to 109 for 4 in the 14th over from a healthier 99 for two in the 12th over. Thereafter, India kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma all fell attempting acceleration. Had SA held on to their catches, India would have been bowled out for a much lower total. In fact, India lost eight wickets for a mere 48 runs in that period of disarray.

## IPL: Priyansh Arya, Cooper Connolly script history with 182-run stand for PBKS

**NEW CHANDIGARH, APRIL 19:** As Punjab Kings (PBKS) batters Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly gave a hammering to Lucknow Super Giants bowlers on Sunday in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in New Chandigarh. The duo also etched their names in record books as they added the third 150-plus stands for PBKS in IPL history.

The highest stand for PBKS is 206 runs by Adam Gilchrist and Shaun Marsh against RCB in 2011, followed by KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal's 183 against RR in 2020. Arya and Connolly added

their names to the list with a superb 182-run partnership against LSG in 2026.

This also marked the fourth-highest run-rate for a 100-plus stand for PBKS. The standout remains David Miller and R Sathish's blistering 130\* stand at a run-rate of 15.91 in 2013, followed by aggressive efforts from Liam Livingstone-Jitesh Sharma and Deepak Hooda-KL Rahul.

The recent 182-run partnership between Arya and Connolly against LSG in 2026 stands out not just for its size but also for its intensity, coming at a run-rate of 13.65.

PBKS produced a record-breaking bat-

ting display to post 254/7 against LSG in their IPL 2026 clash at Mullanpur on Saturday, powered by half-centuries from Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly. Priyansh smashed 93 off 37 with the help of four fours and nine sixes, while Connolly hit 87 off 46.

Coming to the match, LSG won the toss and opted to bowl first. After PBKS lost Prabhsimran Singh early, a 182-run stand between Priyansh (93, in 37 balls, with four boundaries and nine sixes) and Cooper Connolly (87 in 46 balls, with eight fours and seven sixes) ripped apart the LSG bowling attack.

## Rinku, Anukul script turnaround as KKR end winless run with 4-wicket victory over RR

**KOLKATA, APR 19:** Vice-captain Rinku Singh lived up to expectations with a composed unbeaten 53 as Kolkata Knight Riders survived anxious moments to script their first win of IPL 2026 with a four-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals, here on Sunday.

Courtesy Rinku and Anukul Roy, the target was achieved with two balls to spare and the win took them to the ninth spot in the 10-team table.

Wily Varun Chakravarthy (3/14) returned to his best, showing perfect chemistry with veteran Sunil Narine (2/26) as KKR rediscovered their spin magic at Eden Gardens to restrict RR to an under-par 155/9. Rookie pacer Kartik Tyagi (3/22) also shone at the death with important wickets.

The bowlers had done half the job for KKR in pursuit of their maiden victory after six matches, and it was up to the batters to finish the task. But what followed was another familiar batting horror from a line-up that has struggled for consistency this season.

Reeling at 85/6 in 13.3 overs, KKR needed 69 runs from the last six overs, with RR's bowlers tightening the screws and Rinku alongside Anukul Roy appearing to be the last recognised pair.

Then came a moment of fortune as Rinku was dropped on eight by Nandre Burger — a sitter that proved to be the turning point.

The KKR vice-captain made full use of the reprieve to change gears, while Roy played the perfect supporting role as the duo stitched a match-winning 76-run seventh-wicket stand off just 37 balls to seal KKR's first win of the season.

The much-awaited victory came after a six-match winless run, taking KKR to three points at the halfway stage. For RR, it was a second successive defeat, with their middle-order concerns persisting, especially



with skipper Riyan Parag enduring a lean run.

The win will bring much-needed relief for KKR, who had lost from winning positions in recent games. It took them 22 days to finally break the jinx.

On a day when skipper Ajinkya Rahane failed again, registering a second successive duck, it was Rinku who led from the front with 53 not out off 34 balls (5x4, 2x6). Roy complemented him well with 29 not out off 16 balls (1x4, 2x6).

Rinku shifted momentum with a slog-sweep six off Ravi Bishnoi in the 16th over, while Roy matched him with a six in an over that yielded 19 runs.

Rinku then took on RR's best bowler Jofra Archer with two boundaries, and Roy showed great composure by striking a six off him in the penultimate over as KKR were left needing just 11 runs in the final over.

RR will rue falling short by at least 30 runs, undone by the brilliance of Chakravarthy, Narine and Tyagi. However, they had a perfect start while defending 155. The fiery pace duo of Archer and Burger reduced KKR to 5/2 in 1.2 overs.

Archer struck with the

very first ball, rattling Tim Seifert's stumps with a sharp incoming delivery. Rahane followed soon after, edging behind to depart for a duck.

Cameron Green, who had impressed with a 79 in the previous match, counter-attacked with three consecutive boundaries and a six to revive KKR, taking them to 31/2 in four overs.

But a smart spell from Bishnoi, combined with a moment of brilliance from wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, cut short Green's innings at 27 (13).

Thereafter, experienced campaigner Ravindra Jadeja applied further pressure with his tight lines and turn, dismissing Angkrish Raghuvanshi (10) and Rovman Powell (23) to leave KKR struggling at 70/5 in 10.1 overs.

But just when the chase seemed to be slipping away, Rinku and Roy turned the game on its head with a partnership full of composure and belief.

Earlier RR raced to 63 for no loss in the power play after electing to bat.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane appeared overly defensive with his approach, delaying the introduction of spin as the Rajasthan openers—Yashasvi Jaiswal and young Vaibhav Sooryavan-

shi—clocking at over 10 an over against the innocuous KKR pace attack.

But when they were inserted, the much-anticipated match-up between Sooryavanshi and the experienced spin duo lived up to the expectations.

The 15-year-old struck Narine for a second ball six, but the veteran responded with five dot balls in his first over.

Chakravarthy then dismissed him with his fourth delivery, reaching his landmark 200th T20 wicket.

Sooryavanshi's slog sweep lacked power and was taken by a well-judged Ramandeep Singh at deep midwicket.

That dismissal triggered a collapse as RR, cruising at nearly 10 runs per over at the halfway stage, slipped to 118/4 in 15 overs, with the run rate dropping below eight.

They lost Sooryavanshi (46 off 28), Dhruv Jurel (5), Jaiswal (39 off 29) and skipper Riyan Parag (12) in quick succession against the run of play. Parag, the controversial choice as RR skipper, has been the worst performer for Royals so far.

The middle phase belonged entirely to KKR's spin duo, who bowled in tandem and choked the scoring.