



Galle Test: Suthar's 10-wicket match haul powers India to 165-run win over Sri Lanka

GALLE, AUG 19: The exceptionally gifted Manav Suthar gave India temporary deliverance from their red-ball turmoil, leading the 165-run dismantling of Sri Lanka in the first Test with a match haul of 10 wickets on the fifth and final day here on Wednesday. The visitors now lead the two-match series 1-0 and it became all the more special as it was India's 600th Test match.

Once Suthar got his 10th scalp of Test, Shubman Gill must have heaved a sigh of relief as there was a heavy downpour within five minutes after the end of the game.

This victory at a traditionally spin-ruled venue like Galle will give India oodles of confidence after their struggles against New Zealand and South Africa at home on rather similar pitches. SouthAsians & Diaspora

Starting the final day from 84 for four needing a further 288 to cross an improbable line, Sri Lanka delayed the inevitable for a session and a bit but eventually folded for 206, succumbing to the guiles of the young Indian left-arm spinner.

Suthar (6/55) ran through the Lankan late order in a destructive spell, and it was his second successive fifer after achieving the feat in his maiden Test against Afghanistan recently. This was after a fourth wicket haul in the first innings.

The home side started the post-lunch session at 175 for



six, and managed to reach 199 without further loss.

But Suthar's reintroduction changed the course of the game as the left-arm spinner jettisoned Sonal Dinusha (84), Prabhath Jayasuriya and Lahiru Kumara in the space of six balls in the 76th over, reducing SL to 199 for nine.

Suthar, who generated ample turn and bounce, fittingly applied the coup de grace on the proceedings, casting Keshara Nuwantha.

However, India had to wait a tad longer than expected to reach the destination victory. It was primarily because of a stonewalling alliance between Dinusha and skipper Dhananjaya de Silva.

Dinusha and De Silva (59 off 151 balls), the two overnight batters, added 95 runs off 202 balls to deny the Indians success for well

over an hour into the opening session of the day.

Just like the Indian batters, sweep too was the Lankan pair's preferred way to tackle the spinners.

Jadeja looked easily the best Indian spinner on the day, putting his body behind the ball and getting a good amount of purchase from the surface.

Manav Suthar did not bowl too many overs but looked sharp but left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav was quite flat, failing to get much out of an abrasive deck and he will surely want to improve upon this effort. It was quite astounding to watch him go through the motions rather than trying to buy some assistance from the track. Operating from around the wicket also snuffed out the leg before option for him.

But amid the mighty push from other Indian bowlers,

De Silva reached his fifty in 125 balls and a little later Dinusha, who made a 100 in the first innings, too joined his captain. SouthAsians & Diaspora

However, he brought up the landmark with more flourish, a slog-swept six off Kuldeep.

But Jadeja found a way past the defence of De Silva. The veteran left-arm spinner managed to eke out a bit more bounce and De Silva's top-edged sweep ended in the hands of Suthar at short fine leg.

Niroshan Dickwella, who played a sensible innings in Sri Lanka's first dig, appeared to be in a hurry to knock off the remaining runs.

There were a couple of desperate slog sweeps against Kuldeep and Jadeja before eventually succumbing to pacer Prasidh Krishna.

India beat arch-rivals Pakistan 5-3 in high-stakes FIH Men's Hockey World Cup clash

AMSTELVEEN, AUG 19: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and striker Abhishek scored a brace each as India extended their decade-long unbeaten run over arch-rivals Pakistan with a 5-3 win in a high-voltage FIH World Cup Pool D match here on Thursday to advance to the second round.

The defeat ended Pakistan's campaign in the tournament.

Playing their first World Cup in eight years, Pakistan fought back after conceding three goals but India held their nerve to seal a memorable win in front of a packed 10,000-capacity Wagener Stadium.

Captain Harmanpreet (5th, 21st) scored twice from penalty corners, while Abhishek (11th, 24th) struck two fine field goals and Hardik Singh (34th) converted a penalty stroke for India.

Hannan Shahid (22nd, 46th) scored twice for Pakistan, with Sufyan Khan (24th) adding the other from a penalty corner.

The result saw India and England qualify for the second round from Pool D. India, however, will carry no points into the next stage after losing to England in the opening round. BookingHistorical Guided Tours

The fiercely contested match also marked the first World Cup meeting between the two sides in 16 years. India had beaten Pakistan 4-1 in the 2010 edition in New Delhi.

The last time the two



teams met at Wagener Stadium was in the 1973 World Cup, when India edged past Pakistan 1-0 in the semifinal before losing the final to hosts the Netherlands in penalty shootout.

With Pakistan needing a win to stay alive after losing to England and drawing against Wales, India started aggressively and dominated the opening quarter.

India earned four penalty corners in the first 15 minutes and Harmanpreet converted the second in the fifth minute with a powerful grounded flick to put his side ahead.

Abhishek doubled the advantage in the 11th minute, showing superb control to collect Harmanpreet's aerial pass before his shot took a deflection off a Pakistani stick and found the net.

Harmanpreet had another opportunity from a penalty corner but Pakistan

goalkeeper Ali Raza read his flick well to deny the Indian.

India continued to threaten, with debutant Aditya Lalage producing a fine run into the circle, although he could not finish the move.

Pakistan finally began to find some rhythm early in the second quarter but India struck again in the 21st minute.

India tried variation from a set piece this time as Harmanpreet gave a back pass to Rajinder Singh, whose shot was saved, but the rebound fell to the India captain, who made no mistake with the second attempt.

Pakistan responded through Shahid in the 22nd minute. His first attempt was saved by Indian goalkeeper Suraj Karkera, but he found the net in the second attempt.

Abhishek restored India's three-goal cushion in the

24th minute after receiving a long pass from Jugraj Singh, dribbling into the circle and seeing his effort deflect off a Pakistani defender into the goal.

Pakistan earned their first penalty corner soon after and Sufyan converted it to reduce the scoreline to 2-4.

India were reduced to 10 players after Sukhjeet Singh received a green card shortly before the interval, but they went into the half-time break with a two-goal advantage. BookingHistorical Guided Tours

Hardik then restored India's three-goal lead in the 34th minute after Aditya Lalage was obstructed inside the circle, resulting in a penalty stroke.

Pakistan continued to threaten and Shahid pulled one back in the 46th minute after India lost possession in the midfield, making it 3-5.

From Mary Kom to Jaismine, Chhote Lal Yadav's quiet craft earns him the Dronacharya

NEW DELHI, AUG 19: From extending the career of legendary champion MC Mary Kom to transforming Jaismine Lamboria into a world champion, Chhote Lal Yadav has built his coaching career on understanding what each boxer needs, an approach that has earned him the prestigious Dronacharya Award.

The 38-year-old Army man has largely been away from the spotlight, even as his boxers stepped into it.

Mary Kom's resurgence, Jaismine's world title and Commonwealth Games golds for Sakshi Chaudhary and Arundhati Choudhary are the defining milestones of a journey that began when injury forced Yadav from the ring to the coaching corner.

"I am very happy but I don't have to stop here. I need to work harder. My aim is that my boxers win 2-3 gold medals at the LA Olympics," Yadav told PTI. As a boxer, Yadav was part

of the national setup from 2001 to 2012, progressing through the sub-junior, junior and senior levels.

He competed in several international tournaments, won an Asian Championships gold and was the national champion for three successive years from 2008 to 2010 in the featherweight category.

He joined the Army in 2005 after being brought to its Boys Sports Company in Pune from Varanasi in

2000.

But a back and spinal injury in 2012 ended his hopes of making the Olympics as a boxer. What followed was not an exit from boxing, but a change of role. His first serious brush with coaching came that year when he was asked to help Mary Kom for 15-20 days.

The temporary assignment eventually became one of the most important coaching relationships of his career.

J&K sets district-wise roadmap for sports infrastructure, wider access to facilities: Comm Secy YS&S

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today chaired a review of the department's sports infrastructure, ongoing capital works, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) projects and programmes for strengthening sports and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The review took stock of the work undertaken by the department over the past several months. It set out a district-level roadmap for expansion, upgradation and better utilisation of sports facilities, with particular emphasis on equitable access, athlete development and time-bound completion of projects.

The meeting was attended by Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta, senior officers of the department, Planning, Financial Advisor and Sports Council representatives, Chief Planning Officers, District Statistical and Evaluation Officers and District Youth Services & Sports Officers from across the Union Territory. A detailed presentation was

made on the portfolio of sports infrastructure projects taken up under Capex, SASCI and CSS, along with the status of ongoing works, funding, execution and future requirements. The department has taken up 210 new sports projects under Capex and 17 projects under SASCI, with a cumulative investment of over ₹500 crore. Against these projects, around ₹160 crore have already been released to the concerned Heads of Departments and executing agencies.

Dr Shahid Iqbal directed the concerned agencies to expedite tendering and execution while maintaining quality standards and ensuring that projects are completed within the approved timelines. He stressed that the focus should not only be on creation of new assets but also on making existing infrastructure functional, accessible and suitable for regular sporting activity.

The Commissioner Secretary directed the Chief Planning Officers, District Statistical and Evaluation Officers and District Youth Services & Sports Officers to undertake a comprehensive district-wise assessment of sports infrastructure, including



playfields, stadiums, indoor facilities and other sporting assets.

The assessment will identify infrastructure gaps, underserved areas and facilities requiring augmentation. Existing assets will be mapped and geotagged and district plans will form the basis for prioritising new infrastructure as well as upgradation of existing facilities.

Dr Shahid Iqbal called for greater involvement of local youth and sporting communities at the planning stage so that facilities are designed around

actual local requirements and receive sustained community utilisation. He asked for accordant particular attention to border and remote areas, hilly and difficult terrain, tribal areas and other underserved regions besides ensuring adequate sporting opportunities in schools, colleges and other educational institutions. The approach will seek to create a more balanced sports ecosystem in which access to facilities is not determined by geographical location, he added.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasised that infrastructure planning must be linked with a clear pathway for identification, nurturing and development of sporting talent. Facilities are to be assessed not merely as physical assets but for their ability to support regular coaching, competitions, access to equipment, fitness and conditioning, talent identification and progression of promising athletes. The department will accordingly work towards strengthening the sporting ecosystem from the

grassroots, with appropriate linkages between schools, colleges, district-level facilities, coaching programmes and higher-level training opportunities, he added.

He also directed that the existing playfields and indoor facilities be assessed for essential equipment, amenities and support systems so that the substantial public investment already made translates into greater utilisation and sporting outcomes.

The meeting also reviewed the status of regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel (ReKs) engaged by the department.

The Commissioner Secretary was informed that formalities related to the proposed regularisation of around 1,800 ReKs are at an advanced stage while a proposal covering another 500 ReKs has been submitted to the Finance Department.

Dr Shahid Iqbal directed that the process be pursued on priority and with the objective of completing the regularisation process for all eligible ReKs during the current year, subject to completion of requisite statutory and financial formalities.

The meeting also reviewed the

status of Physical Education Masters, Zonal Physical Education Officers and Physical Education Lecturers, with particular focus on career progression, regularisation and convening of Departmental Promotion Committees at different levels. Directions were issued for completing the pending processes in a time-bound manner.

The Commissioner Secretary said that a strong sports system requires investment not only in infrastructure but also in coaches, physical education professionals, athletes and institutional capacity. He directed the officers to maintain close coordination across the Youth Services & Sports, Planning and Statistical Evaluation wings so that planning, funding, execution and monitoring remain aligned.

He directed for preparation of district-level action plans, close monitoring of project timelines and continued assessment of infrastructure and human-resource requirements to ensure that sports facilities across Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly accessible, functional and responsive to the needs of young people and athletes.