



## Centurion Dinusha's dogged effort helps Sri Lanka draw second Test; India win series 1-0

**COLOMBO, AUG 27:** Centurion Sonal Dinusha's unbending will en route an epic unbeaten 133 helped Sri Lanka enact a great jail break, battling persistent Indian bowlers, a fifth-day track and the weariness of following-on to eke out a memorable draw in the second and final Test here on Thursday.

India won the two-match series 1-0, riding on their 165-run victory in the first Test at Galle, but Lanka can be proud of the way they fought back at the SSC ground.

Dinusha, who faced 264 balls across 420 minutes, was Lanka's Superman with an invisible cape around him, registering his third hundred of the series which was also his fourth 50-plus score in as many innings this series.

Dinusha faced as many as 722 balls and batted 1,139 minutes over the course of the two-match series.

The 25-year-old also became only the third batter to score twin hundreds in a Test match where his team followed-on, joining India's Vijay Hazare and Zimbabwe's Andy Flower in an elite club.

This statistical marvel enabled Lanka to end their second innings at 429 for nine declared for an overall lead of 216 runs, and at that point the players shook hands, signalling the stalemate.



But the situation was way different when Sri Lanka resumed the day at 229 for six, a mere 16 runs ahead.

It seemed just a matter of time before the home side caved in.

But the opposite happened as the Indians bowed to the spirit of the Lankan batters - Dinusha, who reached hundred in 196 balls, and Keshara Nuwantha (46, 150b).

The two milked 112 runs for the seventh wicket in 246 balls, which saw Lanka safely treading the first session without even losing a wicket.

But India enjoyed a rare moment of delight in the initial part of the post-lunch passage, as Manav Suthar dislodged Nuwantha, whose edge was taken safely

by Dhruv Jurel in the slip. DownloadingInteractive Geographic Maps

Sri Lanka then mounted a mini fightback through Dinusha and Prabath Jayasuriya (2, 28b). The eighth wicket pair added only 25 runs but took 74 balls for it, pushing the clock further.

Ravindra Jadeja fetched another breakthrough as he jettisoned Jayasuriya, inducing an edge from the batter for Jurel in the second slip.

But they ran into another obdurate Lankan - Lahiru Kumara (12, 122m, 90b), with whom Dinusha added 47 runs but consumed 170 balls to wipe out the hopes of a victory from Indians' hearts.

Kumara fell to Jadeja, but Asitha Fernando (0 not out,

24 balls) stayed with Dinusha till the end, ensuring that draw was the only possible result.

Dinusha was the chief catalyst of that eventuality. How this young cricketer, who is playing only his fifth Test, managed to rise above the situational pressure and cramping on his legs to bat the whole day will be a study material for several coaches and players in the years to come.

There is this innate elegance to Dinusha's batting especially while driving and pulling.

But today he was ready to play ugly, trusting his defensive game. He smothered spinners' turn from the back foot and moved well behind the ball against the quicker bowlers.

## Jammu Sports Journalists Association formed

### Scribes greet athletes on National Sports Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 27

Aiming to work for the betterment and welfare of sports in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a group of sports journalists with rich experience in the field has formed the Jammu Sports Journalists Association (JSJA).

Headed by senior journalist Sanjeev Sharma, who has nearly three decades of experience in journalism, the association looks forward to working collectively for the promotion of sports across Jammu and Kashmir.

The members of the newly formed body included Vikas Abrol (Vice President), Vishal Bharti (General Secretary) and Monika Jamwal (Treasurer) as office-bearers, while the Executive Committee comprised Arun Roshan, Ranjit Thakur, Arun Singh Chib and K



Koushal. In its maiden meeting held here, the members resolved to work towards taking the sports sector to new heights with the active participation of the government and admin-

istration.

It was resolved that the Association shall remain a non-political and non-profit in nature and look forward to take up sports-related matters with the

concerned nodal agencies dealing with sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Association will also hold deliberations and meetings from time to time with stakeholders in the sports sector, including government agencies and non-governmental bodies, to suggest and share advice for bringing about the required improvements in sports.

The newly formed body can be reached at jammusportsjournalistsassn@gmail.com with ideas, suggestions, matters of public importance and grievances that need to be highlighted.

To begin with, the Association has created a Facebook page which can be reached at JAMMU Sports Journalists Association.

Meanwhile, on the eve of National Sports Day, the Association extended greetings and best wishes to athletes and the entire sports fraternity of UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

## Surinder, Amrita win 5th Open Khelo Raksha-Bandhan Chess titles

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 27

Surinder Gupta and Amrita Gupta lifted the title trophies of the 5th Open Khelo Jammu Raksha-Bandhan Cup Chess Tournament, which was organized by the Vivek Chess Academy (VCA), here today.

While Surinder bagged open boys title securing absolute six points, Amrita bagged the open girls trophy earning four points.

Anuradha Gupta, scientist at Pollution Control Board (PCB), Jammu was the chief guest, who presented the titles trophies, medals and certificates to the winners of different age groups. She also handed over Cash prizes worth Rs. 3400.

"Holding events on regular basis certainly help the youngsters grow and develop the spirit of competition. It is the endeavour of the VCA to expose the talented boys and girls to competitive chess following the guidelines of the FIDE and All J&K Chess Association," said director of VCA, Vivek Bharti.

Stuti Gupta, National Senior Arbiter was the chief Arbiter in the tournament and she used latest Swiss software for pairing.

Other Winners: Under-13 boys: Keshav Mahajan (



4) gold; Triyansh Verma (4) silver and Gaurav Kumar (3.5) bronze. Under-13 girls: Ruby Kumari (2.5), gold; Bhagavi Kapoor (2), silver and Pearl Thothla (2) bronze. Under-10 boys: Divyansh Khanna (3), gold; Agastya Bhat (3), silver and Triyam (2), bronze. Under-10 girls: Raeha Thothla (3), Naisha Handoo (3), silver and Manushree Nishal (3), bronze.

Detailed Results: Round-1: Surinder bt Keshav; Ishaan bt Krishna

Amrita bt Manushree; Aarav bt Naisha; Aaryansh bt Namya; Adhisht bt Pavika; Pearl bt Agastya; Raesha bt Anahita; Arjun bt Ruby; Aryaveer bt Rudraksh; Divyansh bt Triyam; Triyansh bt Gaurav; Bhargavi got bye.

Round-2: Surinder bt Aryaveer; Ishaan bt Arjun; Amrita bt Bhargavi; Aarav bt Divyansh; Aaryansh bt Pearl; Namya drew Agastya; Gaurav bt Naisha; Keshav bt Pavika; Krishna bt Ruby; Manushree bt Rudraksh

Triyam got bye.

Round-3: Surinder bt Aarav; Ishaan bt Aaryansh; Amrita bt Triyansh; Raesha bt Aryaveer; Keshav bt Adhisht; Arjun bt Manushree; Krishna bt Bhargavi; Divyansh bt Pearl; Gaurav bt Triyam; Agastya bt Ruby; Naisha bt Namya; Pavika bt Anahita; Rudraksh got bye.

Round-4: Surinder bt Amrita; Ishaan bt Raesha; Aarav bt Keshav; Gaurav drew Aaryansh; Arjun bt Krishna; Triyansh bt Divyansh; Agastya bt Adhisht;

Aryaveer bt Pavika; Bhargavi bt Pearl; Manushree bt Triyam; Naisha bt Rudraksh; Namya bt Anahita; Ruby got bye.

Round-5: Surinder bt Ishaan; Arjun bt Amrita; Aarav bt Raesha; Triyansh bt Aaryansh; Gaurav bt Agastya; Naisha bt Aryaveer; Manushree bt Bhargavi; Krishna bt Divyansh; Keshav bt Namya; Ruby drew Adhisht; Pavika bt Rudraksh; Pearl bt Triyam; Anahita got bye.

Round-6: Surinder bt Triyansh; Aarav bt Arjun; Ishaan bt Gaurav; Amrita bt Naisha; Keshav bt Manushree; Krishna bt Raesha; Agastya drew Bhargavi; Pavika bt Pearl; Divyansh bt Adhisht; Ruby bt Rudraksh; Triyam bt Anahita; Namya got bye.

## Purani Dilli 6 eye final berth; set to face Central Delhi Kings in Qualifier 2

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27:** Purani Dilli 6 have their sights firmly set on a place in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 final after storming into Qualifier 2 with a convincing seven-wicket victory over Outer Delhi Warriors in the Eliminator at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

The franchise, which has shown remarkable improvement this season, will now face Central Delhi Kings in Qualifier 2 on Friday. A win will take Purani Dilli 6 into the final, where South Delhi Superstarz are already waiting, according to a press release.

The Eliminator showcased the team's all-round strength. After restricting Outer Delhi Warriors to 179, Purani Dilli 6 chased down the target with seven wickets in hand, led by a sensational 82 off 32 balls from Dev Lakra and a composed unbeaten 52 off 25 balls from captain Anuj Rawat.

The victory has further strengthened the belief within the Purani Dilli 6 camp as the team looks to complete a remarkable turnaround this season.

Purani Dilli 6 owner Akash Nangia said, "This team has shown tremendous character throughout the season. What makes me particularly proud is the way the players have stood up for each other and continued to believe in themselves. The win against Outer Delhi Warriors was a complete team effort, and performances like Dev Lakra's and Anuj Rawat's showed the confidence and intent we have been looking for."

He added, "We are now just one game away from the final, but we know Central Delhi Kings will be a strong challenge. Our focus is to stay composed, trust the process and give our best on Friday. The players



have worked extremely hard for this opportunity, and we want to make the most of it. The support from our fans has also been incredible, and we hope to give them another memorable performance."

Purani Dilli 6's bowling unit set the platform in the Eliminator, with Udhav Mohan returning impressive figures of 2/25, while Dev Lakra contributed with the ball as well, picking up 2/14 in two overs. Rajneesh Dadar claimed three wickets to help restrict the Warriors to 179.

In the run chase, the early dismissal of Samarth Seth did little to unsettle Purani Dilli 6. Aryan Gaur and Lakra added 67 runs for the second wicket before Lakra launched a breathtaking counter-attack. His 32-ball 82 ensured that the required run rate remained firmly under control. ShoppingFor Authentic South Asian Apparel

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27 :** The Indian men's national team will welcome another heavyweight of world football to Kolkata, with two-time FIFA World Cup champions Uruguay set to face India in an international friendly match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on October 6. The fixture will be India's third high-profile international friendly of the window, following the match against Panama on September 26 in Bengaluru and the much-anticipated encounter against five-time world champions Brazil on October 3 in Kolkata, according to the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

One of the most decorated teams in international football, Uruguay are currently ranked 20th in the FIFA World Ranking. The current head coach of Uruguay, Diego Forlan, played for Mumbai City FC in 2016.

La Celeste's arrival in Kolkata adds another major fixture to an unprecedented run of international football for Indian fans, with three World Cup-playing nations -- Panama, Brazil and Uruguay -- set to visit the country within the same FIFA win-



dow. Meanwhile, the Sree Kanteerava Sta-



dium in Bengaluru has been confirmed as the venue for the Indian senior men's na-

## India to welcome two-time world champions Uruguay in Kolkata on Oct 6

tional team's international friendly against Panama on September 26, during the FIFA Men's International Match Window. Indi-

news updates The fixture will mark the Blue Tigers' first appearance in Bengaluru since their memorable SAFF Championship 2023 campaign, when India lifted the title on home soil after defeating Kuwait in the final at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. The tournament saw the Indian team enjoy tremendous support from the Bengaluru crowd, with the stadium witnessing strong attendance throughout the campaign.

Panama, currently ranked 44th in the world, will provide India with a high-quality test. The Central American nation featured at the FIFA World Cup 2026, adding further significance to the September encounter. It will be India's first friendly against a World Cup-playing nation in a busy international period, coming exactly one week before they take on five-time world champions Brazil in Kolkata on October 3 and then Uruguay on October 6. (ANI)