

# Gujarat pacers bounce out frightened DC batters to script six-wicket win

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

The inept technique of young Indian batters against top quality fast bowling compounded Delhi Capitals' worries as they succumbed to an embarrassing six-wicket defeat at the hands of defending champions Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Mohammed Shami (3/41 in 4 overs) and Alzarri Joseph (2/29 in 4 overs) intimidated the Delhi top-order in the first 10 overs while Rashid Khan (3/31 in 4 overs) hardly faced any trouble keeping the batters under check to restrict the home team to a below-par 162 for 8.

Despite Anrich Nortje (2/39 in 4 overs)'s best efforts, young Sai Sudharsan (62 not out off 48 balls) anchored the chase calmly with Titans winning their second successive game in 18.1 overs.

David Miller's (31 not out off 16 balls) two sixes and four off Mukesh Kumar in the 16th over towards the end sealed DC's fate decisively. Axar Patel (36 off 22) was DC's saving grace with bat but since left-handers were batting, David Warner couldn't give him a single over as the match-up wasn't compatible.

DC have now lost two matches on the trot and while it is early days in the tournament, it will be surprising if this team, with the kind of Indian talent it has, finishes in top five let alone be a title contender.

The cupboard in terms both Indian batting and bowling talent looks bare and inadequate while competing with the best in the business.

Had Axar not used his long handle to good effect, even 150 would have looked a distant reality for DC.

Just a month after Kotla produced a turner for the Test against Australia, the change in nature of the track was palpable as the balls literally flew off the surface.

At times, it felt that it wasn't David Warner (37 off 32 balls) or a Sarfaraz Khan's (30 off 33 balls) but that hit the ball but the other way round.

Shami literally beat Warner's bat for fun in his first two overs, often cutting him into half while Alzarri twice forced umpires to call for concussion checks as Sarfaraz and Abhishek Porel (20 off 11

balls) were hit on the head by well-directed bouncers. To be fair, both looked dazed.

Even an international like Rilee Rossouw (0) got a Test



Gujarat Titans batters Sai Sudharsan and Vijay Shankar running between the wickets during a IPL match against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday. (UNI)

## TODAY'S FIXTURE Rajasthan Royals V/s Punjab Kings at Guwahati (7.30 pm)

SCOREBOARD	
<b>Delhi Capitals:</b>	
David Warner b Joseph	37
Prithvi Shaw c Joseph b Shami	7
Mitchell Marsh b Shami	4
Sarfaraz Khan c Little b Rashid	30
Hardik Rossouw c Tewatia b Joseph	0
Abhishek Porel b Rashid	20
Axar Patel c Miller b Shami	36
Aman Hakim Khan c Pandya b Rashid	8
Kuldeep Yadav not out	1
Anrich Nortje not out	4
Extras: (LB-4, W-11)	15
Total: (For Eight Wickets in 20 Overs)	162
Fall of Wickets: 1-29, 2-37, 3-67, 4-67, 5-101, 6-130, 7-148, 8-158.	
Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-41-3, Josh Little 4-0-27-0, Hardik Pandya 3-0-18-0, Alzarri Joseph 4-0-29-2, Yash Dayal 1-0-12-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-3.	

<b>Gujarat Titans</b>	
Wriddhiman Saha b Nortje	14
Shubman Gill b Nortje	14
Sai Sudharsan not out	62
Hardik Pandya c Abhishek Porel b Khaleel	5
Vijay Shankar lbw b Mitchell Marsh	29
David Miller not out	31
Extras: (B 1, Lb 1, W 4, Nb 2)	8
Total: (4 wks, 18.1 Ov)	163
Fall of Wickets: 22-1, 36-2, 54-3, 107-4	
Bowling: Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-38-1, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-42-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-39-2, Mitchell Marsh 3.1-0-24-1, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.	

match like bouncer first up and was snapped brilliantly at back-ward point by a diving Rahul Tewatia.

Not being able to avoid the short ball was more due to lack of technique and not regularly facing bowlers of Shami or Alzarri's quality became their undoing.

Sarfaraz, a heavy-duty scorer in domestic cricket, couldn't improvise as he found the pace

too quick to manoeuvre or improvise his shot selection.

The first two games in IPL against international bowlers is a proof that why former chair-

was once again exposed by the seasoned Shami, who pitched one back of length at a fair pace. The delivery kept climbing on Shaw as he top-edged a pull-shot that was gleefully accepted by Alzarri at mid-on.

Mitchell Marsh was bowled for the second time, this time played on off Shami's bowling as skipper Hardik Pandya very wisely gave him a third over within the Powerplay and the job was done.

Skipper Warner, who literally played and missed during the first few overs, still used experience to ride on the pace ad bounce before Alzarri got rid of him.

While Gujarat chased,

## Dasun named Kane Williamson's replacement

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

Gujarat Titans on Tuesday named Sri Lanka's white ball captain Dasun Shanaka as a replacement for injured Kane Williamson for the remainder of the IPL.

Shanaka, an explosive middle-order who also bowls right-arm seam, was signed for his base price of Rs 50 lakh. He had gone unsold in the auction.

Williamson was ruled out of the ongoing IPL after sustaining an injury to his right leg while attempting a catch in the season-opener against Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad on March 31.

"I just want to wish the Gujarat Titans team all the best the remainder of the season," the New Zealander said in an Instagram post.

"Wish I could have been there with you all, but not to be. I also want to thank the fans for their love and support. I look forward to a speedy recovery," Williamson added. (PTI)

# India pump in five past Kyrgyz Republic

BISHKEK (KYRGYZ REPUBLIC), Apr 4:

India ended their winless streak this year when they outplayed Kyrgyz Republic 5-0 in the first of the two-legged tie in the Group G AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Round 1 here on Tuesday.

After failing to win any of their five international engagements in the first three months of the calendar year, Thomas Dennerby's wards broke the hoodoo in style at the Dolon Omurzakov Stadium as the hosts found their rampaging visitors too hot to handle.

The victory also strengthened India's chances of moving on to the next round. They will hold a considerable advantage when the two teams meet again on Friday in the second leg.

A double strike by Anju Tamang, a clinical volley from Soumya Guguloth in the first half and two more goals from Shikly Devi and Renu in the second half were enough for the girls to secure an emphatic win.

The Blue Tigresses started the game brightly and did not waste any time as they took control of the match through Anju's opener in the 6th minute.

The opposition goalkeeper Abibulla saved the freekick by Dalima Chhibber, but Anju made no mistake to head home the rebound from close range.

Before the hosts could settle into the game, Anju scored again to hand India a two-goal advantage over their opponents. She netted an easy finish from Soumya's cross from the right wing.

Four minutes later, Soumya lashed home a stunning volley into the top corner of the net as India found themselves with a comfortable 3-0 lead at the break.

In the 61st minute, Shikly scored the fourth as she smashed the ball into the bottom corner from Indumathi's well-planned pass inside the box.

Sandhiya was replaced by Renu in the 62nd minute and within a minute, she Renu fired in the fifth goal of the night off a Dalima free-kick. (PTI)

# Sanjita Chanu slapped with 4-year ban by NADA panel for failing dope test

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Indian weightlifter Sanjita Chanu has been handed a four-year ban by the National Anti Doping



Agency's (NADA) Disciplinary Panel for failing a dope test last year.

The 29-year-old had tested positive for an anabolic steroid -- Drostanolone Metabolite -- that features in the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list. Her dope sample was collected in-competition on September 30, 2022 during the National Games in Gujarat last year.

".... It is held that the Athlete has violated Article 2.1 & 2.2 of

the NADA ADR, 2021, she is hereby sanctioned with an ineligibility of four (04) years as per Article 10.2.1 of the NADA ADR, 2021," the three-member NADA Anti-Doping Disciplinary panel headed by Chaitanya Mahajan said in the order.

Sanjita's ban will commence from November 12, 2022, the date of her provisional suspension.

"The period of ineligibility shall commence from the date of provisional suspension i.e.12.11.2022. It shall be noted that the athlete has failed to satisfy the panel that the ADRV was non-intentional as per Article 10.2.1.1 of the NADA ADR, 2023."

This is a huge setback for Sanjita, who will be stripped of the National Games silver medal as a result of the positive test.

"As per Article 10.10 of the NADA ADR, 2021, the athlete is hereby disqualified of all of the individual results obtained in the said Event with all Consequences, including forfeiture of all medals, points and prizes since 30-09-2022," the order, dated March 31, read. (PTI)

# Nadal, Alcaraz pull out of clay-court Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO, Apr 4:

Rafael Nadal pulled out of the clay-court Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday, saying he is not yet able to compete at the highest level.

The 22-time Grand Slam



champion has been sidelined with a left hip flexor injury since the Australian Open. The Monte Carlo Masters begins on April 8.

"I will not be able to play in one of the most important tournaments of my career, Monte Carlo," Nadal wrote on Twitter. "I am not yet in conditions to play with the maximum guarantees and I continue my preparation process, hoping to be back soon."

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz also withdrew from the event because of "physical discomfort" after his semifinal

loss in Florida last week. Alcaraz had been so dominant recently, he hadn't lost a set since February before that defeat.

"I have post-traumatic arthritis in my left hand and muscular discomfort in the spine that needs rest to prepare for everything that is to come," the 19-year-old from Spain said.

Nadal has won 14 of his major titles on clay at Roland Garros, including last year while dealing with chronic pain in his left foot.

In January, Nadal hurt his hip flexor during a second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open. (AP)



Players displaying medals while posing for a group photograph.

# J&K remains 2nd Runner up in Ju-Jitsu National C'ship

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 4: Jammu and Kashmir Ju-Jitsu team excelled in the National Ju-Jitsu Championship by securing spree medals in Sub-Junior, Cadets, Junior, Senior and Adults category, recently held at Tukoji Rao Pawar Indoor Stadium, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.

The championship was organized by Ju-Jitsu Association of India and hosted by Ju-Jitsu Association of Madhya Pradesh.

Around 1350 players drawn from 26 States/UTs of the country participated in the event. J&K created history by securing 2nd runner up trophy in the event. The players bagged 115 medals including 44 Gold, 29 Silver and 42 Bronze medals.

The players won medals in

different events including fighting system, neo-waza, contact Ju-Jitsu, duo classic system and duo show system.

J&K Ju-Jitsu team participated in the championship under the supervision of Tarsem Sharma-general secretary JJAJK. The general secretary appreciated the J&K Sports Council for full cooperation and support that helped the players to exhibit their best in the championship.

The Team was guided by Danish Sharma (A-grade Referee- Fighting System) and Harsh Vardhan Raina (Qualified Referee-Newaza ), while Farooq Ahmad Malik, Muzaffar Ahmad, Arshad Aziz, Brijesh Bhau, Charan Singh, Suhail Bhat and Rohini Chib accompanied the team as coaches.

# Buoyed by huge win against SRH, Rajasthan Royals ready for Punjab Kings challenge

GUWAHATI, Apr 4:

Rajasthan Royals would be banking on their near-perfect combinations in almost all departments of the game to put up another commanding performance when they take on a strong Punjab Kings side in an IPL match here tomorrow.

The Royals would be buoyed by the massive 72-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad, who were outsmarted by last year's runners-up in every aspect of the game on Sunday.

With Yashasvi Jaiswal, red-hot England white-ball skipper Jos Buttler and captain Sanju Samson smashing half-centuries against SRH, the Royals' dominance with the bat was there for all to see, while their bowlers, led by Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17) and New Zealand quick Trent Boult (2/21), were more than a handful for SRH.

But with Punjab Kings also giving an indication of their immense firepower with both the bat and the ball in their seven-run DLS win against Kolkata Knight Riders at Mohali, the match on Wednesday promises to give the spectators in Guwahati good value for money.

With RR playing two of their 'home' matches in the Northeastern city, a winning performance from Samson's side will not only build their brand value in Guwahati, it will also expand their fan base in the region, which has seen precious little IPL action over the years.

The depth in Royals' batting is such that it can withstand any bowling attack. If young Yashasvi's 37-ball 54 at the top showed how quickly he has matured as an opener, Buttler seemed to be carrying on from where he had left off in the previous season, smashing a 22-ball 54.

The only weak link, if any, seemed to be their middle where Devdutt Padikkal and Riyan Parag were both dismissed cheaply, before West Indian Shimron Hetmyer took the team beyond the 200-run

mark. With a bowling lineup boasting of one of the premier pacers in the world in Boult along with two Indian stalwarts in Chahal and R Ashwin, the Royals can soften up the most resolute batting sides. And PBKS know they have an uphill task when the two teams clash at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium.

While the experience of top-order India batter Shikhar Dhawan will come in handy along with the bowling prowess of young left-arm India pacer Arshdeep Singh, the team would be eagerly awaiting the return of England power-hitter Liam Livingstone, who missed the opener against KKR after not getting the fitness clearance from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The batter had suffered a knee injury in December last.

The English pair of Livingstone and pace bowler all-rounder Sam Curran -- the most expensive buy ever in IPL history at Rs 18.50 crore -- could be PBKS' trump card this season along with the lanky left-arm quick Arshdeep.

The Teams (From): Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Abdul Basith, Murugan Ashwin, Ravichandran Ashwin, KM Asif, Trent Boult, Jos Buttler, KC Cariappa, Yuzvendra Chahal, Donovan Ferreira, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Obed McCoy, Devdutt Padikkal, Riyan Parag, Kunal Singh Rathore, Joe Root, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Kuldeep Sen, Akash Vasisht, Kuldip Yadav, Adam Zampa.

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Arshdeep Singh, Baltej Singh, Raj Bawa, Rahul Chahar, Sam Curran, Rishi Dhawan, Nathan Ellis, Harpreet Brar, Harpreet Singh, Vidwath Kaverappa, Liam Livingstone, Mohit Rathee, Prabhsimran Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, M Shahruxh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Shivam Singh, Matthew Short, Sikandar Raza, Atharva Taide. (PTI)



Winners displaying medals at Kota.

# Shield athletes win medals in Taekwondo

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, Apr 4: Shield Taekwondo Academy fighters excelled in the 5th Cadet Official National Taekwondo Championship held recently in Kota in Rajasthan from March 28 to 31.

Taekwondo athlete's from the district represented J&K and won two Bronze medals by Soha and Misbah.

The championship was organized by the Rajasthan Taekwondo Association under the aegis of the Taekwondo Federation of India and support-

ed by Rajasthan Olympic Association.

Burhan Ud Din Khan was the coach of the team. Soha won Bronze medal in under 59 kg cadet girls category, while Misbah secured bronze medal in under 51 kg cadet girls category.

President District Doda Taekwondo Association congratulated the team for this achievement.

# Dr Sanjogita Soodan appointed Medical Member of ADDP

Excelsior Sports Correspondent



JAMMU, Apr 4: Dr Sanjogita Soodan, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Super Speciality Hospital Jammu has been appointed as Medical Member of the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) under the Anti-Doping Rules of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) with effect from March 31, 2023 for a period of two years.

An order in this regard has been issued by National Anti-Doping Agency.

The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel has the power to hear and determine all issues arising from any matter which is referred to it pursuant to NADA's Anti-Doping Rules. In particular, the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel has the power to determine the consequences of the Anti-Doping Rule violation to be imposed pursuant to Anti-Doping Rules.

This is for the second time that Dr Soodan has been re-appointed as Medical Member of ADDP. She is a renewed sport medicine specialist.

# Switzerland to host Women's Euro 2025

LISBON, Apr 4:

Switzerland was chosen Tuesday to host soccer's Women's European Championship in 2025.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said the executive committee chose the Swiss bid over three other candidates after the maximum three rounds of voting. The other candidates were France, Poland and the expected favorite, a four-nation Nordic project with Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The 2025 tournament will have 16 teams playing 31 games over about three weeks.

Switzerland plans to use stadiums in eight different cities all connected by train. They include Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zurich, which also hosted games when the men's Euro 2008 was held in Switzerland and Austria.

Two of the eight stadiums, in Bern and Thun, have artificial turf surfaces that should be converted to grass for the tournament. (PTI)

# Plan to introduce home and away format in WPL from season 2: IPL chairman

NEW DELHI, Apr 4:

Buoyed by the success of the inaugural Women's Premier League, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Tuesday said that they plan to introduce the home and away format from season two but the number of teams will remain five for the next three years.

The first ever WPL turned out to be a hit among fans and players but as the tournament was staged within tough timelines and right after the Women's T20 World Cup, the BCCI decided to organise all the games across two venues in Mumbai.

Terminating hosting of WPL the biggest challenge of his tenure, Dhumal said having home and away games immensely help teams in building a fan base and the board wants to take that route as early as next season.

"Well begun is half done. It has been a great beginning for WPL and going forward it is going to be much better than what we have seen so far. We are

started with five teams but going forward there is scope for additional team given the pool of the players that is going to come in the years to follow.

"We are hoping increase in the number of teams but for the coming three seasons will remain five. We are surely looking at home and away format, we will see which time slot is available considering India's international commitment and take a call.

"From a fan engagement point of view it is very important that we go for home and away format," Dhumal said.

Fans turned up in sizeable numbers to watch the games at Brabourne and DY Patil Stadium. The event had garnered massive attention even before the first ball was bowled with the teams rights fetching BCCI close to Rs 4700 crore and media rights Rs 951 crore.

"It has been a phenomenal ride so far and quite a challenging one given the time slot we had to start the WPL. We are satisfied

with the way things have progressed, we did not have much of window as the World Cup was there and the girls had just about a week to comeback and start.

"Everything (media rights, team rights, player auction) happened one after the other but the way tournament was received, it was phenomenal," Dhumal said.

One reason for not introducing a sixth team right away could be the lack of quality local talent. The world's best displayed their exemplary skills in the competition but leaving aside Saika Ishaque, Kanika Ahuja and Shreyanka Patil, not many uncapped Indian players were able to turn heads on.

"Our national team has done very well over the last couple of years. U-19 girls won the World Cup. Given how the WPL was received, we are very hopeful that we will have a bigger pool of players and their fitness and fielding standard will improve immensely going forward." (PTI)