

Goa crushes Nagaland by 362 runs to claim Ranji Trophy Plate Division title

Both teams earn promotion to Elite Division for next season; Snehal declared man-of-the-series



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NAGALAND: Skipper Darshan Misal led from the front with a stellar bowling display, claiming 5 for 48, as Goa thrashed Nagaland by a massive margin of 362 runs in the Plate Group Final of the Ranji Trophy 2024-25, at the

Nagaland Cricket Stadium, Sovima, on Monday.

Both teams earned promotion to the Elite Division for the next season.

Chasing a daunting target of 578, Nagaland was bundled out for 215 on the final day. Goa's bowlers delivered a clinical performance, with Mohit Redkar chipping in with 3 wickets

and Amulya Pandrekar adding 1.

Goa had set the tone after winning the toss and opting to bat first, scoring 276 in their opening innings. Key contributions came from Suyash Prabhudessai (56), Snehal Kauthankar (63), and Kashyap Bakhale (79 not

RANJI TROPHY

out). In response, Nagaland managed 216 in their first innings, led by Rongsen Jonathan's gritty 86 and Hem Chetri's 55.

Goa's Heramb Parab was the standout bowler, claiming 5 wickets, while Redkar (2) and Misal (1) supported effectively.

Nagaland showed some resilience early in Goa's second innings, reducing the visitors to 42 for 3. However, an exceptional 278-run fourth-wicket stand between Kauthankar (202 not out) and Bakhale (161) dashed Nagaland's hopes. Misal later joined Kauthankar to add a further 145 runs for the fifth

wicket, taking Goa to a commanding 517 for 7 before declaring. The fifth day saw little resistance from Nagaland as Goa's bowlers wrapped up the innings shortly after lunch, sealing a dominant win and lifting the Plate Division title. Snehal Kauthankar was declared man-of-the-match and tournament.

Bumrah is Test Cricketer of the Year

PTI, DUBAI: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was chosen for the men's Test Cricketer of the Year, while big-hitting batter Smriti Mandhana bagged the women's honour in the ODI format as Indian cricketers dominated the ICC individual awards that were rolled out on Monday.

ICC announced three more awardees from its annual list this afternoon, continuing a process that started on Friday. The final two honours -- the men's and women's Cricketer of the Year -- will be revealed on Tuesday and

Mandhana best ODI player among women

Omarzai named ODI Cricketer of the Year

DUBAI: Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai, known for his dynamic pace bowling and powerful batting, was on Monday named the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024. The 24-year-old built on an impressive 2023 to become one of the world's leading One-Day International performers last year. Omarzai also enjoyed a strong year in T20Is and



franchise cricket, but it was in ODIs where he proved most influential. He finished the year as his national team's second-highest run scorer behind Rahmanullah Gurbaz and second-highest wicket-taker behind AM Ghazanfar, with Afghanistan winning four of their five ODI series in 2024. He scored 417 runs while taking 17 wickets in 14 matches last year.

Indian fans as she was named as the women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. She earlier featured in the women's T20 International and ODI Team of the Year. The India vice-captain, who was the ICC women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2022, racked up 747 runs in 13 innings in 2024 to bag the prestigious award.

"I thank ICC for giving me the honour of ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. I was happy to contribute to the team. I would like to thank my coaches and family for all the support and most importantly the teammates who have been with me through all the ups and downs," Mandhana told ICC.

U-19 Women's WC: England in semi-final

PTI, KUCHING (Malaysia): England joined defending champions India in the semifinals of the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup with a six-wicket victory over New Zealand, here, on Monday.

Tilly Corteen-Coleman and Prisha Thanawala starred with the ball, taking seven wickets between them as New Zealand went from 49 for no loss to 89 all out, leaving England with a modest target of 90.

Corteen-Coleman took 4/8 and Thanawala had 3/19 as the spin twins, in conjunction with impressive glove work from wicket-keeper Katie Jones, proved destructive in sparking a New Zealand collapse with 10 wickets falling for 40 runs.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 89 all out in 20 overs (Kate Irwin 35, Emma McLeod 18; Tilly Corteen-Coleman 4/8, Prisha Thanawala 3/19). England 90/4 in 11.4 overs (Jemima Spence 29, Davina Perrin 21; Rishika Jaiswal 2/22, Francis 1/6). Result: England win by six wickets.

sportspopup

Nagal drops out of top-100, Bopanna loses place in top-20 for first time since Oct 2022

NEW DELHI: After spending 10 straight months in the top-100 in the ATP singles rankings, India's Sumit Nagal on Monday dropped out of the much-desired bracket following a string of poor show while veteran Rohan Bopanna lost his place in top-20 due to an early exit from the Australian Open, where he was defending a lot of points. Nagal maintained his top-100 rank since March 2024 after first breaking into top-100 in February same year on the back of a good show at the first Major of the season. However, he has lost 16 places to be at number 106 with 565 points in the latest chart. Following Nagal was Sasikumar Mukund at number 365 (+2), Ramkumar Ramanathan (406, -1), Karan Singh (496, -20) and Aryan Shah (593, -9). In doubles, Bopanna, who is still playing solid tennis at the age of 44, lost five places to be at number 21. Yuki Bhambhani was unchanged at number 47 and following him was N Sriram Balaji (64, +1), Ritvik Choudary Bollipalli (79, -7) and Arjun Kadhe (83, +1). Mukund, Ramkumar, Balaji Karan Singh and Bollipalli are part of the Indian Davis Cup squad that will take on Togo in the World Group I play-off tie on February 1-2. Nagal and Bhambhani did not make themselves available for the match.

Kohli in Ranji Trophy: Beefed up security, 3 stands opened for fans, no live telecast

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli is expected to train with the Delhi Ranji Trophy squad from Tuesday ahead of his first domestic red-ball match since 2012, as the Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) prepares to ensure that all arrangements are in place for the maestro's highly-anticipated homecoming. Kohli was on Monday officially named in the Delhi squad, led by Ayush Badoni, for their final group match against Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium starting January 30. This will be Kohli's first Ranji match since he played against Uttar Pradesh at Ghaziabad's Mohan Nagar in 2012. At that time, Kohli was a rising star in Indian cricket, and now, he is a legend in his own right, a former India captain, and the owner of 80 international centuries. "Obviously, it is a great experience for our junior players as they will get to share the dressing room with Virat. If you look at our team, only Navdeep Saini has played alongside Virat in the IPL and for India. In fact, none of the players in the team have played with Virat in the Ranji Trophy. They can learn a lot by watching him," DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma told PTI.

Postecoglou under fire as Leicester stun Spurs, Man Utd win at Fulham

LONDON: Leicester pushed Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou closer to the exit door with a 2-1 win that extended Spurs' dismal run, while Manchester United's 1-0 victory at Fulham eased the pressure on Ruben Amorim. Tottenham blew the lead on home turf as they crumbled to a sixth defeat in their last seven league games. With only one win in their last 11 top-flight matches, Postecoglou's side are languishing in 15th place, just eight points above the bottom three. Leicester are now one place and one point above the relegation zone. Aston Villa's hopes of Champions League qualification for a second consecutive season were dented as an under-strength West Ham battled back to earn a 1-1 draw in Birmingham. Villa remain in eighth, four points off the top four, while West Ham sit 14th. Brentford benefitted from penalty controversy to beat Crystal Palace 2-1 at Selhurst Park. Results: Aston Villa 1 (Ramsey 8) West Ham 1 (Emerson 70), Crystal Palace 1 (Esse 85) Brentford 2 (Mbeumo 66-pen, Schade 80), Fulham 0 Manchester United 1 (Martinez 78), Tottenham 1 (Richarlison 33) Leicester 2 (Vardy 46, El Khannouss 50).

Barcelona hit seven past Valencia to restore La Liga push

BARCELONA: Barcelona blew away a miserable Valencia 7-1 on Sunday to get back on track in La Liga with a ruthless victory. Fermin Lopez struck twice for the Catalans in the first half, along with goals from Frankie de Jong, Ferran Torres and Raphinha which gave Barcelona a commanding five-goal lead at the break. Hugo Duro pulled one back early in the second half before Robert Lewandowski pounced for Barca, followed by a Cesar Llerena own goal, with the third-placed hosts earning just their second win in their last nine league matches. Hansi Flick's side trail La Liga leaders Real Madrid by seven points and second-placed Atletico Madrid by three. Seven goals did not flatter Barcelona by any means and the thrashing is a setback for Carlos Corberan's Valencia, 19th and four points from safety. Earlier Athletic Bilbao, fourth, could only produce a 0-0 draw at home against Leganes, and now trail Barcelona by two points. Relegation-battling Getafe earned an impressive 3-0 win at Real Sociedad to climb to 14th, while Rayo Vallecano came from behind to beat Girona 2-1. Results: Rayo Vallecano 2 (Nteka 80, 83) Girona 1 (Gil 58), Real Sociedad 0 Getafe 3 (Uche 72, Perez 74, 85), Athletic Bilbao 0 Leganes 0, Barcelona 7 (De Jong 5, Torres 8, Raphinha 14, Lopez 24, 45+4, Lewandowski 66, Terrega 75-og) Valencia 1 (Duro 59).

ICC to open CT ticket sales despite Pakistan's struggle to meet stadium renovation deadline

DUBAI: The ICC said on Monday that the ticket sales for the Pakistan leg of next month's Champions Trophy will begin from Tuesday despite the stadium renovation work in the host nation is yet to be completed. The venues at Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi are still getting readied as a January 30 deadline looms for the handover of the stadiums to the ICC. This edition of the Champions Trophy is scheduled to be held across Pakistan and Dubai from February 19. India will be playing their games in Dubai and the ticket information regarding those matches will be made available in the coming days. The Pakistan Cricket Board had rubbished speculations that the showpiece will be moved out of the country due to delayed construction work at the three venues -- Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and Karachi's National Bank Stadium.

Russian expert Aleksandrovich to oversee India's elite javelin programme

NEW DELHI: India's top javelin throwers, including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and national record holder Annu Rani, will train with Russian legend Sergey Makarov Aleksandrovich, who in his new role as India's javelin coach will oversee the preparations for this year's World Athletics Championships. The 51-year-old Makarov, a decorated former athlete with bronze medals at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, was appointed recently with an eye on the next Olympic cycle, chief national coach Radhakrishnan Nair confirmed. "The Russian javelin throw expert arrived earlier this week and will be based at Patiala's National Institute of Sports in Punjab," Nair was quoted as saying in a press release. "Aleksandrovich's vast experience as an athlete and coach will surely give fillip to development of javelin throw in the country."



ICC AWARDS

Bumrah is in contention to bag a double after having been named in the Test Team of the Year.

Bumrah was a standout performer in the last 12 months in which he dominated all opposition teams, grabbing 71 wickets from a mere 13 matches at a brilliant average of 14.92. Bumrah, who was instrumental in India's home series victories over England and Bangladesh, was the fourth Indian bowler to take 70 or more wickets in a calendar year after Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and R Ashwin. "I am really happy to win the ICC Men's Test Cricketer

of the Year award. This format is always close to my heart. The last year was really special, to be having a lot of learning and wins.

"I am happy to play a lot of cricket this year, and a lot of wickets have been special. But the wicket of Ollie Pope (England) at Visakhapatnam was really special because that shifted the momentum in our favour," Bumrah was quoted as saying in an ICC release.

Charismatic opener Smriti Mandhana brought further joy for



Windies level series with a 120-run win against Pak

AP, MULTAN: West Indies spun out Pakistan for 133 on a rank turning pitch to record a series-leveling 120-run win inside three days of the second and final Test on Monday.

Pakistan, which needed a further 178 runs for an improbable win on its own engineered spinning wicket, fell quickly to Jomel Warrican's left-arm spin on Day 3 as the West Indies gained its first Test win in Pakistan in over 34 years.

"We haven't won here in a while so to come here and do it as a young group is incredible," West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said, referring to the tourists' last win in Pakistan by seven wickets at Faisalabad in November 1990.

"On this pitch, there's a ball with your name on it around the corner... it was a good experience. When you get on better pitches, you can have a similar mindset and it will help you in the long run."

Warrican claimed 5-27 to finish the series with a series-leading 19 wickets and also pushed Pakistan to the bottom of the World Test Championship table.

PTI, RAJKOT: India captain Suryakumar Yadav will be expected to get back to his belligerent best after a prolonged lean run when his uber-aggressive unit takes on a struggling England in the third T20 International, aiming for a series-sealing win, here, on Tuesday.

Since Suryakumar took over as captain last year, India have hardly put a wrong but his own form has dipped. The year gone by was the least productive for arguably the world's best T20 batter as he totalled 429 runs in 17 innings at an average of 26.81.

Suryakumar averaged close to 35 in 2021, his first year in international cricket, before raising it to 45 plus in the following two years.

3RD T20I PREVIEW

The 34-year-old from Mumbai is yet to fire in the five-match series against England and has a point to prove following his exclusion from the ODI Champions Trophy squad.

Though he is India's very own 'Mr 360', Suryakumar is at his finest when he is toying with the opposition attack with runs behind the wicket.

He perished while attempting his signature pick up shot of a slower ball in



Indian players during a training session on the eve of the third T20 match of the series against England, at Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot, on Monday

the series-opener before playing one on to his stump in the last game.

Tilak Varma's individual brilliance got India over the line in Chennai but besides Suryakumar's lack of runs, Sanju Samson's short ball shortcomings were highlighted.

Samson, who had a memorable series in South Africa, has been dismissed to the short ball from Jofra Archer twice in the series.

It is something he would look to correct on a Rajkot pitch which is usually full of runs and is expected to be another happy hunting

SQUADS

India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Randeep Singh, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Varun Chakravarty, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel.

England: Jos Buttler (c), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Saqib Mahmood, Philip Salt, Mark Wood.

Match starts 7 pm

ground for the Indians after wins in the first two games of the five-match rubber.

Though Archer and Mark Wood have posed a few challenges to the home batters, one man who has

totally looked comfortable against extra pace is Tilak.

The southpaw's pick up shot off Archer at Chhapuk spoke a lot about his class. With Rinku Singh and Nitish Reddy unavailable