

Mumbai beat J&K by 35 runs; Delhi secure 3 points vs Hyderabad

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani spun a web around Jammu and Kashmir to grab a seven-wicket haul as Mumbai beat the hosts by 35 runs in an exciting opening round group D encounter in the Ranji Trophy, here on Saturday.

Jammu and Kashmir needed 222 runs to reach the winning target of 243 on the final day but courtesy Mulani, who also scored 91 in Mumbai's first essay, the home team were all out for 207 in 64.4 overs.

With the pitch assisting slow bowlers, Mulani returned with 7/46, his 17th five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, as the portly left-arm orthodox spinner once again became his team's 'go-to' man with his all-round skills.

For the hosts, opener Qamran Iqbal (56) and his 53-run stand with skipper



Paras Dogra (29) did raise hopes at one point with the scoreboard reading 84/2.

But once Mulani breached Dogra's defence and off-spinner Tanush Kotion induced a return catch from IPL specialist Abdul Samad (15), things went

downhill for Jammu and Kashmir.

Once Iqbal became Mulani's third victim and J&K were reduced to 131/6, there was no turning back for Mumbai as he got wickets at regular intervals to get six points for his team.

Skipper Ayush Badoni claimed 6/73, while fellow spinner Arpit Rana (3/23) took a couple wickets as Delhi ensured three points against hosts Hyderabad. Resuming on 400/7, Hyderabad innings folded at 411 within half an hour as

Badoni and Rana polished off the tail in a jiffy.

Delhi, already 118 runs ahead and assured of three points, were 138/3 in their second innings when play was called off after Hyderabad bowled 42 overs. Sanat Sangwan was unbeaten on 56.

Brief Scores:
In Srinagar: Mumbai 386 and 181. J&K 325 and 207 (Qamran Iqbal 56, Shams Mulani 7/46). Points: Mumbai 6. J&K 0.
In Hyderabad: Delhi 529/4 declared and 138/3; 42 overs (Sanat Sangwan 56 not out). Hyderabad 411 (Tanmay Agarwal 132, Ayush Badoni 6/73). Points: Delhi 3. Hyderabad 1.

In Puducherry: HP 305 and 91/4. Puducherry 183. Points: HP 3. Puducherry 1.

In Rajsamand: Chhattisgarh 332 and 109 (Manav Suthar 8/42). Rajasthan 386 and 56/1. Points: Rajasthan 6. Chhattisgarh 0.

Sporting Club Delhi unveiled, rebranding Hyderabad FC as capital's top-flight team

NEW DELHI: The national capital will have a new top-flight club of the country as Sporting Club Delhi was launched on Saturday after the rebranding of Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC. Last year, Jindal Football Private Limited, a part of BC Jindal Group, acquired Hyderabad FC from the earlier owners, and decided to shift base to Delhi from 2025-26 season.

This marks the return of an ISL club in the national capital after the Delhi Dynamos, which featured in the inaugural edition of the top-tier league in 2014, shifted base to Bhubaneswar in 2019 and rechristened Odisha FC.

Sporting Club Delhi will take the place of Hyderabad FC in the Super Cup in Goa beginning October 25. The fixtures have already been



announced and the All India Football Federation is expected to replace Hyderabad FC by the new name of Sporting Club Delhi.

"The unveiling of Sporting Club Delhi marks the beginning of a new chapter for football in the Delhi NCR region and India. The club will represent inclusivity, ambition, and the city's spirit and enthusiasm for the sport," said BC Jindal

Group Promoter Bhavesh Jindal at the launch.

"With unity, determination, and revival as its philosophy, the club's long-term vision will be to focus on youth development, community engagement, and grassroots football. Through this initiative, we also aim to facilitate long-term infrastructure development, academies, and local partnerships."

BCCI mourns Afghanistan cricketers killed in airstrike, expresses solidarity with ACB

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of three young Afghan cricketers — Kabeer Agha, Sibghatullah, and Haroon — who were among eight civilians killed in a reported aerial strike by Pakistan on Saturday in Paktika province. In a media advisory, the BCCI said it stands in solidarity with the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), the cricket fraternity, and the families of the departed players.

"The loss of innocent lives, particularly those of promising sportspersons, is deeply distressing and a matter of great concern," the board stated.

"The BCCI stands in solidarity with the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), the cricket fraternity, and the families of the departed players during this moment of profound grief and condemns this ghastly and unwarranted attack," the board further added. The Afghanistan Cricket Board has responded to the incident



by withdrawing from an upcoming tri-nation series scheduled to take place in Pakistan from November 17 to 29, which was to include Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Kabeer Agha was an aggressive top-order batter close to selection for the Under-23 provincial camp, having played in domestic competitions and youth tourna-

ments organised by the ACB's southern committee.

Sibghatullah, a medium-pace bowler from the Paktika region, played for Urgun Warriors and was identified for leadership potential during the previous year's Paktika Premier League.

Haroon, an emerging all-rounder, combined off-spin bowling with right-handed batting and had performed consistently in local T20 and tape-ball tournaments while continuing his college studies. The incident has drawn strong reactions from Afghan cricket stars. Team captain Rashid Khan labelled the attack as barbaric. Former captain Mohammed Nabi said, "This incident is not only a tragedy for Paktika but for the entire Afghan cricket family and the nation as a whole."

The BCCI conveyed its heartfelt sympathies to the people of Afghanistan, stating, "We share in their pain and loss during this moment of profound grief."

Paleontologists Discover T. Rex's Closest Known Ancestor

The discovery comes from an international research collaboration led by Jared Voris and Dr. Darla Zelenitsky from the Faculty of Science at the University of Calgary. Their findings are detailed in the journal Nature.

According to Voris, the study's first author and a PhD candidate in the Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment, Khankhuuluu lived around 86 million years ago. It was a medium-sized, fast-moving predator that emerged after the decline of earlier large carnivorous dinosaurs.

Scientists describe Khankhuuluu as the nearest known ancestor to the massive Tyrannosaurs made famous in popular culture, including Jurassic Park.

"This new species provides us the window into the ascent stage of Tyrannosaur evolution; right when they're transitioning from small predators to their apex predator form," says Voris.

Khankhuuluu translates from Mongolian to mean "prince of dragons" or "the dragon prince." The name denotes its place in the lineage of Tyrannosaurs, as Khankhuuluu was the prince before species like Tyrannosaurus rex, the Tyrant Lizard King. As the closest-known ancestor, Khankhuuluu shares many characteristics with its Tyrannosaur descendants — though it lacked some of the more defining features that Tyrannosaurs had. The new species weighed 750 kilograms (about the size of a horse), making it two to three times smaller than its massive descendants. Khankhuuluu had tiny



rudimentary horns that would evolve to be more noticeable in species like Albertosaurus or Gorgosaurus used for mating display or intimidation. It had a long, shallow skull that shows Khankhuuluu didn't have the ability to crunch through bone like the T. rex. The new species can be defined as a mesopredator, similar to coyotes, meaning it used speed and agility to take down its prey.

The fossils, found in the Bayanshiree Formation in southeastern Mongolia, had been studied in the 1970's by paleontologist Altangerel Perle. Perle likened the fossils to another medium-sized Tyrannosaur called Allectrosaurus from China. Voris went to Mongolia in 2023 to study fossils at the Institute of Paleontology and soon realized there were features that differentiated them from the Allectrosaurus.

The discovery also provides more details on Tyrannosaur evolution.

"Khankhuuluu, or a closely related species, would have immigrated to North America from Asia around 85 million years ago," explains Zelenitsky, a paleontologist and associate professor in the Department of Earth, Energy and

Environment. "Our study provides solid evidence that large Tyrannosaurs first evolved in North America as a result of this immigration event."

The results of the study show that the movement of Tyrannosaurs back and forth between Asia and North America was less frequent and less sporadic than previously known. Khankhuuluu is the last known ancestor of Tyrannosaurs found in the Asian fossil record.

The research reveals that the new species, or one of its kin, traveled across a land bridge into North America, where it evolved into the famous apex predator Tyrannosaurs. The fossil record indicates Tyrannosaurs were exclusive to North America for a few million years before immigrating to Asia, where the lineage split into two groups. One group branched off to become even bigger apex predators, ultimately evolving into T. rex, and the other group evolved into a medium-sized long-snouted species (dubbed 'Pinocchio rexes'). Looking ahead, the next step for researchers is to investigate the earlier ancestors of these apex predators, which are still poorly known.

Earth's Crust Is Breaking Apart off the Pacific Northwest

With unprecedented clarity, researchers have captured a rare geological event: a subduction zone—the point where one tectonic plate sinks beneath another, actively fracturing. The finding, published in Science Advances, offers new insight into the dynamic processes shaping Earth's crust and raises important questions about long-term earthquake risks in the Pacific Northwest.

Subduction zones are among Earth's most powerful and influential geological systems. They propel continents across the globe, generate catastrophic earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and recycle the planet's crust back into the mantle.

However, these colossal systems don't last forever. If subduction zones never ended, continents would continually collide and merge, eliminating oceans and erasing the planet's geologic history. For decades, scientists have asked one key question: what exactly causes these immense systems to come to an end?

"Getting a subduction zone started is like trying to push a train uphill—it takes a huge effort," said Brandon Shuck, a geologist at Louisiana State University and lead author of the study. "But once it's moving, it's like the train is racing downhill, impossible to stop. Ending it requires something dramatic—basically, a train wreck."

Just off Vancouver Island, in the Cascadia region where the Juan de Fuca and Explorer plates slowly descend beneath the North American plate, scientists believe they have found the answer.

South Korea scraps AI textbook programme

The South Korean government spent 1.2 trillion won (\$850m) on developing AI textbooks for schools, but the national programme has been rolled back after just four months, amid allegations of inaccurate texts, concerns about privacy, and increased workloads on staff and pupils.

Writing in Rest Of World, journalist Junhyup Kwon quotes a student as saying, "All our classes were delayed because of technical problems with the textbooks. [...] I found it hard to stay focused and keep on track. The textbooks didn't provide lessons tailored to my level."

Kim Jong-hee, chief digital officer of Dong-A Publishing, one of the textbook developers, spoke of the advantages of AI books: "Using digital devices [students] are familiar with keeps them more focused, awake, and more willing to participate. The textbooks provide more personalised support for students struggling with lessons."

The Korean government originally commissioned publishers to produce the AI textbooks, who in turn spent around \$567m to develop the online, digital texts. The use of AI textbooks was made mandatory from the beginning of the school year in March, but has since been classed as 'optional' after just one semester. The number of schools using the AI textbooks has halved in that time.

Speaking in the Nation-



al Assembly in January this year, legislator Kang Kyung-sook asked the Minister for Education, "Traditional print textbooks take 18 months to develop, nine months for review, and six months for preparation. But the AI textbooks took only 12 [months to develop], three [months for review], and three months [for preparation] [...]. Why was it rushed? Since they target children, they require careful verification and careful procedures."

The failure of the AI textbook scheme has also been blamed on the politicisation of the issue, and a change of government as the programme was being rolled out.

Technology programmes in schools since the widespread adoption of the internet are relatively common, have cost taxpayers considerably less, and last-

ed much longer — despite eventual failure or wholesale realignment. In South Africa's Gauteng Province in the early 2000s, the Online Schools Project was designed to equip schools with computer labs and internet connections, but was scrapped in 2013 at a cost of R1-billion rand (\$57m), according to some reports.

In 2019, Malaysia's 1Be-

stariNet — a cloud-based VLE (virtual learning environment) — was terminated after eight years amid investigations into alleged inconsistencies between internet speed claims and the reality experienced by many schools. The overall cost of that project was put in the billions of ringgit (one billion ringgit is around \$235m).

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