

## **UPWARD SWING IN PUNJAB CRICKET**

Mr. M.P. Pandove Honorary Secretary General Punjab Cricket Association announced that systematic approach to organized coaching and Inter District Matches in all age groups has culminated into all-round development of game at grass root level in nook and corner of the state and has paid its dividends as can be seen from the performance of the PCA Teams in the ongoing tournaments. He stated with all humility that it is a rare feat for one state Cricket Association to achieve positive results in every age group of the National Tournaments. The Punjab Under-16 team competing in the Vijay Merchant Trophy has reached the knock out stage, The Under-19 team in the Cooch Behar Trophy, The Under-23 team in the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy, the Senior Team in the Ranji Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He asserted that the organized camps, the coaching at various district Head Quarters and fierce competitions during Inter District matches has gelled the various teams into winning combinations.

As a result of good performance the share of Punjab players in the National squad has gone up with selection of Anmolpreet Singh in the Under-19 World Cup squad and Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh in the T-20 squad for Australia and Gurkeerat Singh Mann and Barinder Saran in the One Day squad tour to Australia.

Besides this he showed entire satisfaction over the performance of Under-16 team in which youngster southpaw Abhishek Sharma was a phenomenal success by accumulating 766 runs in four matches including one double century, three centuries and two fifties and capturing 32 wickets. Mr. Pandove was hopeful that the efforts of the association would see many more youngsters making it to the higher grade and the upward swing in Punjab Cricket will continue. The upcoming stadium at Mullanpur and the intended cricketing facilities would further give boost to the cricketing activities of the state with three more playing fields being made available to the players in the first phase of the construction of the stadia.