

– 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

## Shardul Thakur Five-Wicket for Flattens Delhi

**Mumbai pace spearhead Shardul Thakur bagged a five-wicket haul to skittle out Delhi for 166 on Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy quarter-final at the Driems grounds here on Tuesday.**

**The bowlers, led by Thakur (5/54), kept plugging away wickets to allow Delhi only a slender 10-run lead in response to Mumbai's 156 in the first innings of the five-day encounter.**

The Aditya Tare-led side then came back strongly in the second innings to end the day on 87/1 and manage a crucial lead of 77 runs in what seems to be a low-scoring game.

Tare was caught behind off Pradeep Sangwan in the 15th over of the innings, but opener Akhil Herwadkar (52) and Shreyas Iyer (12) were battling on with a 46-run unbeaten stand.

Thakur's new-ball partner Balwinder Sandhu (2/43) drew first blood after after getting Unmukt Chand caught behind for 15 and soon medium-pacer Wilkin Mota (2/47) trapped captain Gautam Gambhir (5) lbw to put Delhi in trouble.

Shivam Sharma and (30) Virender Sehwag (49) then stitched together a 78-run third wicket partnership only to be broken by Thakur's excellence on the field.

**On a day that belonged to him, Thakur ran out Sehwag to deny the veteran batsman his 54th first-class half-century.**

**The run out gave him confidence and Thakur, who bagged his sixth first-class five-wicket haul, started his demolition act by getting Mithun Manh-as caught behind.**