



## China Open: Unnati's campaign ends in quarterfinal loss to Yamahuchi

**NEW DELHI, JULY 24:** Young Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda's campaign in the ongoing China Open came to an end with a defeat to world number four and former world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the quarterfinals on Friday, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) Media said in a release.

During the final eight clash, Unnati went down to Akane by 16-21, 12-21. Playing in her very first BWF Super 1000 event, the young 17-year-old made headlines with her fearless performances.

According to the release, she became only the fourth Indian women's singles shuttler to ever reach the quarterfinals of a BWF Super



1000 event.

Unnati delivered a sensational performance to overcome two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and book her place in the women's singles quarterfinals on Thursday.

The match was a showcase of India's present and future in badminton, with the rising star Hooda taking on the seasoned champion Sindhu.

Hooda started strong, claiming the opening game 21-16, but Sindhu struck back in the second, edging it 21-19 in a tense finish. In the decider, Hooda displayed remarkable play, sealing the contest 21-13 to advance to the quarterfinals.

Earlier on Wednesday, Unnati delivered a commanding performance to outplay experienced Scottish shuttler Kirsty

Gilmour 21-11, 21-16 in just 36 minutes.

India's top men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, continued their winning momentum at the China Open 2025, a BWF Super 1000 tournament, to book a place in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The World No. 12 duo delivered another composed performance, edging past Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas Maulana 21-19, 21-19 in straight games, underlining their strong title aspirations. In men's singles, HS Prannoy played against World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei but concluded his campaign after a hard-fought encounter.

## Arun Trust felicitates senior Handball player

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 25**

Arun Sharma Sports and Social Welfare Trust today felicitated senior Handball player, Vineet Nanda on his promotion to the higher rank of Executive Engineer in the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.

Vineet, who has represented J&K at the National level many times and has medals to his



credit, was congratulated by other senior and current handball players in a

special gathering at Arun Sharma Handball Academy, here.

Earlier, member trustee and a national medalist in Handball, Ashutosh Sharma briefed those present with Vineet's achievements in sports and success story as an Engineer.

Later, speaking to the gathering, Vineet expressed his gratitude for the honour and promised all possible help for the promotion and growth of the once higher performing game of Handball in J&K.

## DYSS holds selection for March Past I-Day contingent



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 25**

Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) organised selection process for the March Past contingent for the Independence Day parade.

The selection in both boys and girls sections, which took place at MA Stadium, here, supervised by Joint Director of DYSS,

Vinakshi Koul besides other senior officers, including the district (DYSS) officer Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

In total, 21 contingents (boys and girls) from different educational institutions of the district took part in the activity.

In the meantime, the district level selection trials in the discipline of Taekwondo in all age groups of boys continued MA Sta-

dium, here to raise the teams for the upcoming inter-district divisional event.

The Taekwondo selection process is being held under the technical supervision of Atul Pangotra, Mukta Gupta, Sunil Abrol and Rajeev Kumar.

Taekwondo Selection: U-17 boys: Ansh (Shishu Mandir, 35 Kg); Shiv Sharma (Shiksha Niketan,

38 kg); Mohd Arhan (Sprawling Buds ICSE Bantalab, 41 kg); Lakshay (DPS, 45 kg); Ashutosh (Doon School, 51 kg); Dhruv Mehta (Jammu Sanskriti, 55 kg); Sivadath (BSF School Paloura, 59 kg); Dhruv Sharma (DPS, 63 kg); Abhay Rana (Air Force School (68 kg); Shivam Jamwal (Jammu Sanskriti, 73 kg); Arun Sharma (Durga HSS, 78 kg).

## Cricketer Yash Dayal accused of raping minor; FIR registered in Jaipur

**NEW DELHI, JULY 25:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru's under-fire pacer Yash Dayal has been accused of raping a minor in an FIR registered against him by Jaipur Police.

The 27-year-old cricketer from Uttar Pradesh is already facing charges of sexual exploitation from a woman in Ghaziabad who has alleged that Dayal abused her after promising to marry her during a five-year relationship.

SHO of Jaipur's Sanganer Sadar police station Anil Jaiman said the latest FIR was registered on Wednesday. "FIR was registered against Yash Dayal for rape under relevant



Sections of the POCSO Act and the BNS," he said here on Friday.

According to Jaiman, the victim has alleged that the player raped her first in 2023, when she was 17 and a similar assault took place in April this year at a hotel in Sitapura area.

"She alleged that the

cricketer had promised help and support in her career. He contacted her in April this year when he was in Jaipur for IPL and called her to the hotel where he allegedly raped her again," the SHO said, adding that the matter was under investigation.

The player has not is-

sued any statement on either of the two cases so far.

Dayal, a medium pacer, is a reasonably well-known bowler in the Indian domestic circuit. He made his debut for Uttar Pradesh in 2018 and has since played 27 first-class games, claiming 84 wickets.

He has appeared in 71 T20 matches that have yielded 66 scalps. He started his IPL career with the Gujarat Titans in 2022 before moving to RCB. He was retained by the Bengaluru team for this year's season too and was a key member of the trophy-winning outfit under Rajat Patidar.

## Joe Root overtakes Ponting, becomes second-highest run-getter in Test cricket

**NEW DELHI, JULY 25:** England batter Joe Root continued his history-making ways, going past Australian legend Ricky Ponting to become the second-highest run-getter of all time in Test cricket history.

Root accomplished this feat during the third day of the fourth Manchester Test against India. At the end of the second session, the veteran batter was unbeaten at 121\* in 201 balls, with 13 fours. Before this Test, he needed 120 runs to overtake Ponting.

Now, he stands just below legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar, who played 200 Tests, scoring 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78, with 51 centuries and 68 fifties.

In 168 Tests, Ponting scored 13,378 runs at an



average of 51.85, with 41 centuries and 62 fifties. His best score was 257. Now, he has been pushed down to number three in all time charts.

Now in 157 Tests, Root has scored 13,380 runs in 286 innings at an average of 51.26, with 38 centuries and 66 fifties. His best score is 262.

Root also tied Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara (38 tons) for joint fourth-most centuries in

the longer format, now standing only behind Ponting (41), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (45) and Tendulkar (51).

This is 23rd Test ton for Root in home conditions, the joint-most for anyone in home Tests alongside Ponting, Kallis and Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene.

Following Root's accomplishment, Ponting, who was overtaken by Root, hailed the English

superstar, saying that there is no reason why he cannot go past Tendulkar.

"Magnificent from Root. This is a great moment in history," said Ponting as quoted by Sky Sports, a part of the expert/commentary panel for the series.

"The way his career has gone, there is absolutely no reason why he will not go past Tendulkar," he added.

England finished the second session at 433/4, with Root (121\*) and skipper Ben Stokes (36\*) unbeaten. While Washington Sundar (2/30) attempted to pull things back in favour of India by removing Ollie Pope (7) and Harry Brook (31), Stokes and Root helped England to a healthy 75-run lead.

number one men's pair of Bhargava Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gibburu, are leading the team.

The competition consists of two parts: India will be competing in both categories.

The continental badminton championships serve as a significant stepping stone towards the BWF Junior World Championships, which will be held at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati later this year.

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 25**

Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) organised two-day plantation drive by involving school students of district Reasi.

The drive was personally supervised by Tarsem Singh, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Reasi. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "The opening day witnessed students and staff together planning around 550 saplings of various species at different locations in the district."

The initiative was aimed at foster-



ing environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices among the youth and the local community, he added.

The DYSS Reasi has decided to plan over 1000 saplings this raining season to contribute to the protection and preservation of Nature.

## UP Warriorz appoints Abhishek Nayar as head coach ahead of WPL season

**NEW DELHI, JULY 25:** Ahead of season four of the Women's Premier League (WPL), the UP Warriorz have made a strong statement of intent by appointing the decorated and experienced Abhishek Nayar as their head coach.

Nayar played a key role as an assistant coach in helping Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) clinch the Indian Premier League (IPL) title in 2024 and was also part of the coaching setup for Team India when they won the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

The Announcement was made in collaboration with renowned stand-up comedian Zakir Khan, who has been onboarded as the face of UP Warriorz fans on social media. The intriguing announcement video was shot at Abhishek Nayar's alma mater, Bombay Scottish School.

A respected figure in Indian cricket circles, Nayar brings a deep understanding of the game, a proven track record in player development, and years of experience across various coaching roles at both domestic and international levels.

A former Indian international all-rounder and a key figure in Mumbai's domestic cricket setup, Na-



yar has seamlessly transitioned into one of the most influential coaches in the Indian cricketing ecosystem. His journey as a coach has been defined by his ability to mentor and nurture young talent, helping top athletes push past their limits.

This is not Nayar's first time being associated with the UP Warriorz since he also spent a brief stint with the team during their off-season training camps post-Season 1. The franchise is confident that his stepping into the head coach role will bring consistency and strength to the team's preparations.

Nayar's expertise and ability as a coach are well documented and were seen in the IPL when he was the Assistant Coach of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Hailing from Mumbai, Nayar had been part of KKR since 2018 and has worked closely with players like Shubman

Gill, Venkatesh Iyer, and Rinku Singh since their early years.

In 2024, Nayar also served as the assistant coach of the Indian men's national team, where he worked under Head Coach Gautam Gambhir. During his time with the Indian team, he worked closely with the top batters in the team, and KL Rahul personally credited Nayar for helping him regain his form in the T20 format. Among the other players he has worked with behind the scenes are also the likes of former India captain Rohit Sharma and former India wicket-keeper batter Dinesh Karthik.

Speaking on his appointment, Abhishek Nayar expressed his excitement and said, "I really enjoyed my time working with the UP Warriorz before, and I'm thrilled to take on this new role. WPL is a fantastic platform for women's cricket,

and I'm looking forward to working closely with the management to build a strong team for Season 4. UP Warriorz already have a strong foundation in place, and I believe we can build something truly special. There is incredible potential, and I will give it my all to help win their first-ever title this season"

Jinisha Sharma, Director, Capri Sports, echoed the enthusiasm and stated, "We believe that this appointment shows our strong intent to elevate the team's performance and push for greater success in the upcoming WPL season. With Abhishek Nayar's leadership, experience in coaching at the highest level and ability to bring out the best in players, the franchise is confident of a strong showing this season."

Kshemal Waingankar, COO, UP Warriorz, said, "Abhishek Nayar is one of the best brains in the business in Global cricket, and we are delighted to have on our side as the Head Coach. We are excited about his vision for UP Warriorz, and we are confident that under his leadership, the team can provide its fans with many more memorable moments in the future."

## Tanvi Sharma, Vennala Kalagotla advance to Badminton Asia Juniors Individual Championships semi-finals

**NEW DELHI, JULY 25:** India's young shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla continued their impressive run at the Badminton Asia Juniors Individual Championships 2025, advancing to the semifinals in Solo, Indonesia, as per a Badminton Association of India (BAI) press release.

Second seed Tanvi maintained her dominant form in the women's singles, defeating fifth seed Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan of Indonesia

21-19, 21-14 in a swift 35-minute encounter. Tanvi has been in sublime touch throughout the tournament, securing all her wins in straight games so far.

Joining her in the last four is Vennala Kalagotla, who braved a strong challenge from Thailand's Janyaporn Meepanthong in a gripping 58-minute contest.

Vennala took the opening game 21-18 with some sharp rallies, but Janyaporn fought back to edge

the second 21-17, forcing the match into a decider. In the final game, Vennala pulled ahead in the closing stages, eventually sealing a 21-18, 17-21, 21-17 victory to earn her semifinal berth.

Both Indians now face Chinese opponents in the semifinals, with Tanvi set to take on eighth seed Yin Yi Qing and Vennala going up against Liu Si Ya.

The competition is being held from July 18 to 27, and Tanvi Sharma, along with junior world