



## WPL 2026: Beth Mooney's unbeaten 61 helps Gujarat Giants set 169-run target for Delhi Capitals in Eliminator

**VADODARA (GUJARAT), FEB 03:** Beth Mooney's composed unbeaten half-century helped Gujarat Giants post a target of 169 runs against Delhi Capitals in the Eliminator of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara, on Tuesday.

Asked to bat first, the hosts lost their opener, Sophie Devine, in the second over when Lizelle Lee took a fine catch behind the wickets off Chinelle Henry's delivery.

Anushka Sharma came to bat at number three and added 29 runs for the second wicket before Nandani Sharma departed her on the first delivery of her spell. Henry took a diving catch inside the 30-yard circle to complete the dismissal.

On the very next delivery, she dismissed Gujarat skipper Ashleigh Gardner when Sneha Rana managed to grab a decent catch in the first slip. Gardner went back with the golden duck.

Mannu Mani tried to set up a partnership with the opener batter Beth Mooney, but couldn't stay for long. Minnu Mani got her



stumped in the ninth over. She made just six runs off nine deliveries.

Georgia Wareham and Mooney kept hitting boundaries and added 61 runs for the fifth wicket. Henry broke the partnership in the 17th over when Wareham departed after making 35 runs off 25 balls. Bharti Fulmali also departed without opening his account.

Mooney completed her second fifty of the season

with a boundary in the 19th over. She remained unbeaten on 62 off 51 balls with the help of six fours.

Kashvee Gautam also made 18 runs off just 10 balls, including three fours.

Henry was the standout bowler for the Capitals with three wickets. Nandani Sharma took a couple of wickets.

Delhi Capitals now require 169 runs to win the Eliminator and advance to

their fourth consecutive WPL final.

For Gujarat Giants, this is their second successive Eliminator appearance, and this time, they will be hoping to break the jinx and qualify for the final this time around.

The winner of this match will face defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final, scheduled for Thursday at the same venue. (ANI)

## Balbir wins gold in Masters Badminton

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 03**

Balbir Singh Jamwal brought laurels to J&K winning gold in the Yonex-Sunrise Masters All India Ranking Badminton Tournament which held at Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

Balbir clinched gold in men singles 70 plus category, a handout issued by the Badminton Association of J&K (BAJK), here today informed.

The event was organised by Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association under the aegis of Badminton Association of India.

Balbir has a glorious record of winning a number of medals in the past at the national level tournaments including Masters National



Championships and All India Masters Ranking events.

He has participated in the Senior (Masters) World Badminton Championships held at Chinese Taipei, Spain, Canada, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. He has also won Bronze medal in the Sri Lanka International Badminton Tournament at Colombo last year.

Another senior shuttler, Anil Gurkha won Silver medal in 65 plus category in men doubles. Another top veteran player, Romesh Sharma won silver in 60 plus mixed doubles and bronze in men's doubles events.

Meanwhile, BAJK complimented all the medal winners for their performance and wished them success in their future endeavours.

## Shivkhori Kesari Dangal on Feb 16

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 03**

Part of the three-day Shivkhori Mela at Ransu in Reasi, the 28th Shivkhori Kesari Dangal shall be held on February 16.

Dangal is being organised by J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association in Department of Tourism and Ransu Dangal Committee, reports reaching here said.

"Part of the three-day mela at Ransu, the Dangal

has become integral part of the mega event with locals and visitors admire the prominent wrestlers performing at the base camp of the Shivkhori Shrine," said president of the Association, Shiv Kumar Sharma.

This year, around 70 top wrestlers of the country shall compete in this dangal. "Those winners of the top bouts shall be rewarded with handsome cash prizes and the title trophies," informed Shiv Kumar Sharma.

## SAFF U19 Women's Championship 2026: India U17 to clash with Bhutan in last round-robin match

**NEW DELHI, FEB 03:** The Indian U17 women's football team will take on Bhutan in their third and final round-robin encounter of the SAFF U19 Women's Championship 2026 on Wednesday, February 4, at 11:45 IST, with hopes of securing a spot in the final.

As part of preparations for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup, scheduled in China from April 30, India is fielding its U17 team in the tournament, according to the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

With three points from their opening-day victory over Nepal, the Young Tigresses were still in second place after losing 0-2 to Bangladesh on Monday. India must make a variety of combinations and permutations to secure their spot in the final.

If Nepal loses against Bangladesh later in the day, a win or a draw against Bhutan will be sufficient. For India to qualify if Nepal wins, the hosts must defeat Bangladesh by at least 4 goals.

Pamela Conti was not dissatisfied with the girls' performance despite their first defeat as India U17 head coach, stating that it was superior to the match against Nepal in many ways.

"Actually, we are happy with the performance be-



cause we saw many things we have been working on, and the players applying them in the match. Of course, we are sad about the result, and I think we deserved more," Conti told the AIFF.

Although matches between India and Bangladesh are often fierce, the opening 30 minutes were nearly one-sided, with the Young Tigresses creating multiple easy opportunities and the opposition mustering none. But in the latter part of the first half, Bangladesh scored twice, leaving Conti's team to lament missed opportunities.

"I especially liked the first 30 minutes," said the 43-year-old. The team was very compact, close between the lines, and we tried to recover the ball high up the pitch. The opponents hardly

crossed the halfway line. However, this intensity cannot last for only half an hour. It has to last 90 minutes. If it drops, the other team gains confidence, and things change. When we return to India, we need very specific work on the physical, technical and tactical aspects."

10 days have passed since Conti took over as team coach, and India will have about 12 weeks to prepare for the Asian Cup after the SAFF U19 Women's Championship. When the group stage draw is held in Malaysia on February 12, the Young Tigresses will learn their opponents.

Prior to the continental event, Conti highlighted the importance of increased physical training.

"At this age, development and growth are more important than the result itself.

Everyone wants to win. I never want to lose. But we must be realistic. We played against a team that is two years older and physically stronger.

"When we arrived about 10 days ago, the players had done very little physical work. Now we are training twice a day, and if we need to train three times a day when we're back in India, we will do it. They are young and capable. What matters most is that they understand the sacrifice required to become professionals," she said.

Now, India's attention is on overcoming Bhutan on Wednesday in order to secure a spot in the final. Bhutan has yet to open their account in the competition after losing to Bangladesh 0-12 and Nepal 1-2, respectively.

"If we only look at their result against Bangladesh, we might think it will be easy, but that is not the case at all. We have to keep working, and we have to win, because we want to reach the final.

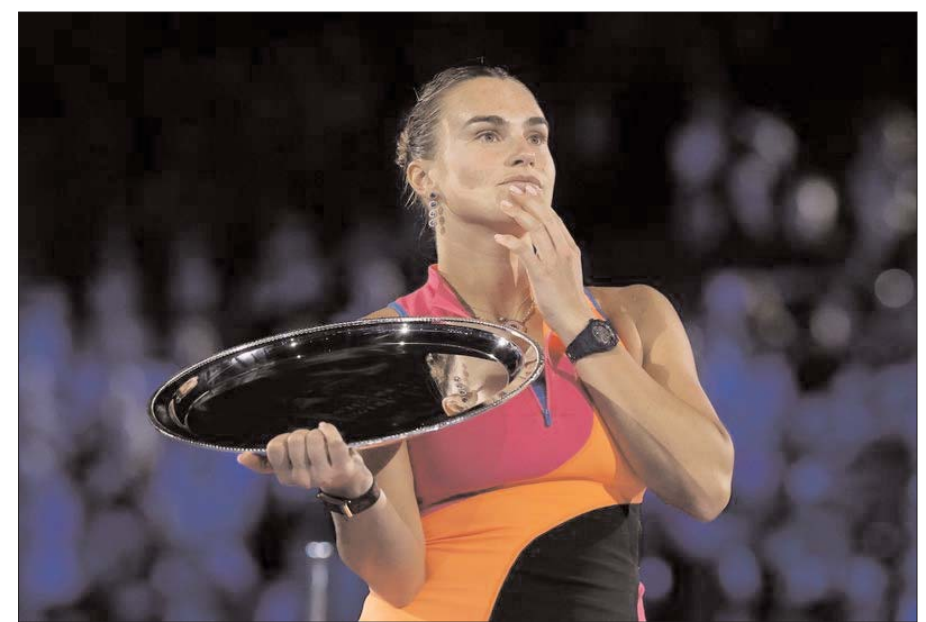
"In Europe, we always say that football gives you another chance for redemption, and I am already waiting for that. I don't like losing. Never. But now, it's time to train and prepare properly for the match against Bhutan," Conti concluded.

**MELBOURNE, FEB 03:** Carlos Alcaraz completed a career Grand Slam of singles victories with his Australian Open title, but there was some solace for the man he defeated, 24-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic.

While Alcaraz maintained his No. 1 ranking on the ATP tour ahead of Jannik Sinner, Djokovic, who beat Sinner in the semifinals at Melbourne Park, moved up one place to No. 3. It is the first time the 38-year-old Djokovic has been inside the top three since August 2024.

On the WTA Tour, Aryna Sabalenka maintained her top ranking despite her loss in the final to Elena Rybakina, Rybakina moved up two places to third in the rankings, with Iga Swiatek in between at No. 2.

Three Americans fol-



lowed in the WTA rankings - No. 4 Amanda Anisimova, Coco Gauff and Australian Open semifinalist Jessica Pegula. Elina Svitolina moved up two places to No. 10 after her semifinal loss to

Sabalenka at Melbourne Park.

American Learner Tien was one of the biggest improvers on either tour by moving up five places on the ATP Tour to No. 24, a career

high. The 20-year-old Tien, who lost to now No. 4-ranked Alexander Zverev in the quarterfinals, became the youngest American man to reach the final eight of a major since 2002.

## Dominant Chennai Singams enter their first-ever ISPL final

**SURAT, FEB 03:** In a thrilling encounter of ISPL Season 3, Chennai Singams secured their maiden final berth after defeating Ahmedabad Lions in the first Qualifier at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat, according to a release.

Bowling first, the pace attack of Chennai Singams dismantled the batting lineup of Ahmedabad Lions for just 57 runs, with Ashish Pal taking 3 scalps. Chennai Singams chased down the target of 58 in 8 overs with 5 wickets in hand and became the first team to qualify for the final of ISPL Season 3.

After being asked to bowl first, Chennai Singams roared in the first over itself of Qualifier 1. Ashish Pal dismissed both the openers, Sikkandarbhay Bhakare, and Prathamesh Thakare, for golden ducks. Ahmedabad Lions' batter Birendra Ram counter-attacked with 2 sixes, but Chennai Singams'



Golden Arm Jagannath Sarkar got rid of Birendra Ram & Sanjay Kanojiya in his ISPL Swing Ball Overs Spell. Ashish Pal dismissed Pradeep Patil for just 3 runs. The bowling department took wickets at regular interval restricting Ahmedabad Lions to 24/5 at the halfway mark.

Captain Ankur Singh joined the party as Ketan Mhatre took a fantastic one-handed catch to dismiss Ashiq Ali Shamsu on the

very first ball of his spell. Ahmedabad Lions chose Sunil Kumar to bowl the 50-50 Challenge Over, but the raw pace of Sunil Kumar got the better of Jignesh Patel, the Captain of Ahmedabad Lions, and he conceded just 3 runs in the 50-50 Challenge Over.

Ahmedabad Lions were all out for 57 in 9.4 overs, with Anurag Sarshar dismissing their last batter Amit Naik for 20(15). Ashish Pal was the best

bowler in the display, picking up 3 wickets. Jagannath Sarkar and Anurag Sarshar picked 2 wickets each. Captain Ankur Singh and Sunil Kumar picked 1 wicket each.

Chasing the target of 58, Vice-Captain Ketan Mhatre led the charge by hitting 2 boundaries and 2 sixes in the first over of the 2nd innings. Ahmedabad Lions bounced back by picking 5 wickets. Aman Yadav finished the match with an unbeaten knock of 22 runs from 11 balls. Chennai Singams chased down 58 runs in 8 overs and defeated Ahmedabad Lions by 5 wickets.

With this win, Chennai Singams became the first team to qualify for the ISPL Season 3 final, marking their first-ever ISPL final appearance.

Chennai Singams will play the Final of ISPL Season 3 on 6th February 2026, Friday, at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat. (ANI)

## Athletics Federation of India reveals qualification criteria for 2026 Commonwealth Games

**NEW DELHI, FEB 03:** The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has announced stringent qualification standards for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Glasgow, with athletes in as many as 17 events needing to either break or match existing national records to be considered for selection.

The CWG 2026, scheduled from July 23 to August 2 in Scotland, will feature a scaled-down athletics programme, restricting each

country to a maximum of 32 athletes, including no more than 16 women. In response, AFI has raised the performance bar significantly to ensure a highly competitive Indian contingent, according to olympics.com.

Among the men's events, athletes will be required to surpass national records in the 100m, 400m, 1500m, 110m hurdles and hammer throw. Notably, Animesh Kujur's national mark of 10.18 seconds in the 100m

falls just short of the AFI's qualification standard of 10.16 seconds. Similarly, 110m hurdles record holder Tejas Shirshe, with a time of 13.41 seconds, is also narrowly below the required cut.

Asian Games silver medalist Jyothi Yarraji, who is returning from an ACL injury, will need to improve her national record of 12.78 seconds in the 100m hurdles to 12.67 seconds to qualify. Meanwhile, Vithya Ramraj,

who had equalled PT Usha's long-standing national record of 55.42 seconds in the women's 400m hurdles, must now clock 54.67 seconds to meet the AFI standard.

The men's javelin throw appears to offer more room for multiple qualifiers, with the entry mark set at 82.61 metres. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, along with Sachin Yadav and Rohit Yadav, have already crossed this distance in their careers.