



Bali inaugurates 3-Day Ski, Snowboard Championship at Narkanda

SHIMLA, FEB 10: Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) and Vice-Chairman of the Tourism Development Board, RS Bali, on Tuesday inaugurated the three-day Ski and Snowboard Championship at Narkanda.

The championship will be held from February 10 to February 12.

In his address, Bali stressed the importance of organising such sporting events to provide a new direction to the youth. He said the Narkanda Snowboard Championship has become a major event, attracting players from across the country and abroad. "Through this championship, athletes get a platform to showcase their speed and skills, and winners are honoured with prizes and recognition," he said.

Highlighting Narkanda's potential as an adventure tourism destination, Bali said the region's snow-covered slopes, deep valleys and serene environment offer a unique experience for adventure enthusiasts. "Apart from snowboarding,



activities such as skiing, trekking and camping also make Narkanda an ideal hub for adventure tourism," he added.

Responding to public demand, Bali announced the installation of a portable ski lift at the Dhumri ski slope in Narkanda at a cost of ₹50 lakh. He also announced the construction of a gate to the Dhumri ski slope near the PWD Rest House in Narkanda at a cost of ₹10

lakh.

On the occasion, Bali also planted a sapling and gave a message on environmental conservation, urging people to keep the surroundings clean and green.

Among those present at the event were Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kumar-sain Mukesh Kumar; former President, Narkanda Municipal Council, Om Prakash Sharma; former HPTDC official Rupesh

Kanwar; Devinder Rajta; former Sihla Panchayat Pradhan Chet Ram Verma; District Shimla Ski, Snowboard and Cross Federation President Amit Verma; General Secretary of the HP Winter Games Association, Rajesh Sharma; District Shimla Ski, Snowboard and Cross Country Federation General Secretary Kamal Sharma; Treasurer Naresh Kanthala; and other dignitaries.

Sachin Tendulkar invites Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi for son Arjun's wedding ceremony

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar invited the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for the wedding of his son Arjun Tendulkar and Saaniya Chandok on Tuesday.

The duo got engaged in August last year.

He met Rahul Gandhi with his family in New Delhi. Sharing the news on X, Tendulkar wrote, "Our family had the opportunity to meet Shri @Rahul-Gandhi ji and invite him to Arjun-Saaniya's wedding."

Tendulkar also invited President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for Arjun's wedding earlier in the.

The 26-year-old all-rounder has played five IPL matches for MI and has taken three wickets while conceding 114 runs. He also scored 13 runs in his IPL career so far. Arjun now plays for Goa in domestic cricket after making his Mumbai debut in 2021.

Arjun Tendulkar was traded to Lucknow Super



Giants (LSG) from Mumbai Indians (MI) ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction last year and will play for LSG this season. While the five-time IPL champions were required to part ways with Arjun, they have secured the services of leg-spinner Mayank Markande in a trade with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

The Mumbai Indians selected Arjun in the IPL 2021 mini-auction for Rs 20 lakh,

but he did not feature in any matches that season. MI bought him again for Rs 30 lakh in the IPL 2022 mega-auction, and he made his long-awaited IPL debut in 2023, taking three wickets in four games. Ahead of IPL 2024, Hardik Pandya replaced Rohit Sharma as MI captain, and Arjun appeared in only one match that season.

In the IPL 2025 mega-auction, Arjun went unsold in the initial round but was

later acquired by MI at his base price of Rs 30 lakh in the accelerated round. He did not get a game that season and remained on the bench. Saaniya Chandok comes from a prominent background.

She is the granddaughter of Ravi Ghai, Chairman of the Graviss Group. She has been a close friend of the Tendulkar family, particularly Arjun's sister, Sara Tendulkar, for several years.

Poonch XI, Jammu South win in Martyrs Hockey

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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A mix of experienced and young players, Poonch XI today made it a 6-2 win against North Kashmir to move into the next round of the ongoing Martyrs' Memorial Hockey Tournament, organised by the J&K Police at K K Hakhu Stadium, here.

Poonch XI dominated right from the beginning with first goal scored in the very first minute by Krish Raina. It was followed by two back to back goals in the third and fifth minute through Vishu Sharma and Zahid Shabbir respectively.

Down by three goals, Poonch reduced the margin when Pravir sounded the board in the 12th minute. However, by then Poonch had already taken match winning lead with Yogeshwar Rudar bringing in



fourth goal in the 30th minute. This time, Gursehaj scored second goal for North Kashmir in the 35th to make it 5-2 on the board. Vishu netted his second goal in the 49th minute to make it a 6-2 for the Poonch XI at the end of the fourth quarter. For his two goals,

Vishu was named man of the match.

During the match, the teams were introduced with the Additional Director General of Armed Police, Anand Jain and other senior police officers.

In another scheduled match of the day, Baba Shri

Chand Ji Hockey Club, Sujapur in Punjab trounced fighting Kathua XI 4-3 via penalty strokes. Earlier, in the stipulated time, the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

Earlier, in the first match of the day, Jammu South inflicting a humiliating 14-1 defeat on South Kashmir.

Our only aim was to get Bangladesh respect: Mohsin Naqvi after agreeing to play against India

PESHAWAR, FEB 10: PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said Pakistan's decision to boycott their T20 World Cup match against India was aimed solely at securing "respect" for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh were ousted from the tournament for refusing to play in India citing security concerns.

Earlier this month, the Pakistan government said its national team would not take the field against India for their group game in the T20 World Cup on February 15 in Colombo.

However, after negotiations between the PCB, Bangladesh Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council, the Pakistan government withdrew the boycott order on Monday night.

"We did not discuss anything apart from



Bangladesh, our only purpose was to get Bangladesh respect, to highlight the injustice done to them. And you saw that whatever demands Bangladesh made, they were accepted. That's it," Naqvi said.

"We had no personal interest in the meeting ... our task was purely related to Bangladesh.

The government made

the decision on that (basis). "As their demands have been accepted, and it has been acknowledged that injustice was done to them, we are now playing," he added.

Naqvi had on Sunday met his Bangladesh counterpart Aminul Islam and ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja in Lahore, to resolve the standoff over Pakistan's proposed boycott.

"In view of the outcomes achieved in multilateral discussions, as well as the request of friendly countries, the Government of Pakistan hereby directs the Pakistan National Cricket Team to take the field on February 15, 2026, for its scheduled fixture in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," the Pakistan government stated in a press release on Monday.

"...this decision has been taken with the aim of protecting the spirit of cricket, and to support the continuity of this global sport in all participating nations," the statement from the Pakistan government added.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also had received a call from Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who, too, urged him to allow the team to play the match.

Sachin Tendulkar invites PM Modi for his son Arjun's wedding ceremony



NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Former India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Tuesday and invited him for the wedding of his son Arjun Tendulkar and Saaniya Chandok. The duo got engaged in August last year.

Sharing the news on X, Tendulkar wrote, "We were honoured to invite Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji to Arjun and Saaniya's wedding. Thank you, Modi ji, for your blessings and thoughtful advice for the young couple."

Arjun Tendulkar was traded to Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) from Mumbai Indians (MI) ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction last year and will play for LSG this season. While the five-time IPL champions were required to part ways with Arjun, they have secured the services of leg-spinner Mayank Markande in a trade with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

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son. MI bought him again for Rs 30 lakh in the IPL 2022 mega-auction, and he made his long-awaited IPL debut in 2023, taking three wickets in four games. Ahead of IPL 2024, Hardik Pandya replaced Rohit Sharma as MI captain, and Arjun appeared in only one match that season.

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Saaniya Chandok comes from a prominent background. She is the granddaughter of Ravi Ghai, Chairman of the Graviss Group. She has been a close friend of the Tendulkar family, particularly Arjun's sister, Sara Tendulkar, for several years. (ANI)

Russian skater grooves to 'Dhurandhar' track, wins hearts

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: Russian-Georgian figure skater Anastasiia Gubanova is not just impressing people with her suave moves, but also her choice of music. Her performance on the title track of Bollywood runway hit 'Dhurandhar' has earned her praise from India and the world.

A video of her unique performance, that blended elite skating with popular Bollywood music at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy, has gone viral on social media.

Gubanova's routine have been receiving enthusiastic reactions, especially from Indian audiences online.

Gubanova, 23, is a decorated Russian-Georgian figure skater who represents Georgia in international com-



petition. She is the 2023 European champion, a two-time European silver medallist, and has earned multiple medals on the ISU Challenger Series and Grand Prix circuits. During her Winter Olympics routine, Gubanova

skated to a carefully selected mashup of Bollywood tracks. The routine began with the song 'San Sanana' from the film Ashoka before transitioning into the energetic title song from Dhurandhar, a Bollywood hit that has en-

joyed widespread popularity since its release.

Gubanova also wore a red-and-gold costume and a red bindi, elements that several viewers interpreted as an appreciative nod to Indian culture.

During parts of her routine, she even incorporated movements of Punjabi folk steps, blending cultural expression with athletic skill.

Many Indian users praised her choice of music and attire. Released on December 5 last year, Dhurandhar continues to be a fan favourite, both in India and abroad. As Dhurandhar:

The Revenge is slated to release on March 19, this moment suggests that the Dhurandhar fever continues to soar.