



"A tournament I've always enjoyed": Koneru Humpy confirms return to Norway Chess Women

STAVANGER, FEB 12: Indian chess grandmaster Koneru Humpy confirmed her return to the Norway Chess this year, saying that she has always enjoyed the high-level competition and excellent organisation that comes with the tournament.

A former challenger for the Women's World Championship title, Koneru is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished female players of her generation. She made history in 2002 when, at just 15 years old, she became the first Indian woman to earn the Grandmaster title and, at the time, the youngest female grandmaster in history, as per a press release from Norway Chess.

"I am really happy to be part of Norway Chess Women. It is a tournament I have always enjoyed, not only because of the high level of competition but also the warm atmosphere and excellent organisation. I am looking forward to playing in Oslo and competing against some of the world's



strongest players," she said, as per the release.

Her rise continued in 2007 when she became only the second woman ever to cross the 2600 Elo rating mark, a milestone that underlined her place among the world's elite.

In recent years, Koneru has remained firmly in the global spotlight. She is a two-time Women's World Rapid Champion (2019,

2024), and in 2025 she finished runner-up at the FIDE Women's World Cup, securing qualification for the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament and keeping her ambitions for the world title very much alive.

Benedicte Westre Skog, COO of Norway Chess, looks forward to welcoming the Indian star back to Oslo:

As per the release, "Humpy has been at the

very top for a long time, and that says a lot. Very few players manage to stay at that level while still pushing for the biggest titles year after year. She adds real strength to the field, and we're very happy to welcome her back to Norway Chess Women."

Launched in 2024, Norway Chess Women is the world's first fully equal super tournament for women in chess, staged in parallel with the main Norway Chess event. The tournament features the same format, number of players, playing conditions and prize fund as the open event, setting a new benchmark for gender equality in professional chess.

Now entering its third edition, Norway Chess Women has quickly established itself as one of the most prestigious platforms for elite women's chess, bringing together the world's strongest female players in a highly competitive and internationally visible setting. (ANI)

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 12

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu on Wednesday launched a series of sports activities with the inauguration of multiple games, including a ceremonial Tug of War, Badminton and Cricket, marking the beginning of an extensive sports engagement programme at the institute.

The sports activities were formally inaugurated by the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, in the presence of faculty members, officers and staff. The initiative aims to promote physical fitness, teamwork and a spirit of healthy competition among the AIIMS Jammu fraternity.

A wide range of sports and recreational activities are being organised for faculty and staff members to foster inclusivity, camaraderie and overall well-being across the campus. Faculty and administrative teams actively participated in the inaugural matches, adding enthusiasm and excitement to the occasion.



The events are being coordinated by the Sports Committee, AIIMS Jammu, ensuring the smooth conduct of all activities. The security personnel of the institute also played a commendable role in maintaining discipline, safety and decorum during the programme.

To ensure wider reach and engagement, the matches are being live streamed on YouTube. Viewers can access the live coverage by searching for "AIIMS Jammu Sports Live Match" or "AIIMS Jammu Inter-Staff Championship 2026".

Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Sports Committee and encouraged members of the AIIMS Jammu fraternity to actively participate in the ongoing sports activities, highlighting the importance of fitness, teamwork and institutional bonding.

The initiative reflects AIIMS Jammu's commitment to holistic development and reinforces the spirit of teamwork, fitness and healthy competition among its workforce.

FIH Men's Pro League: Argentina hammer India 8-0 at Rourkela

ROURKELA, FEB 12: India succumbed to an 8-0 defeat against Argentina in the Rourkela leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 on Thursday at the Birsamunda Hockey Stadium, a release said.

Tomas Domene (15', 20', 26', 60'), Tomas Ruiz (14'), Lucio Mendez (22'), Ignacio Ibarra (25'), and Nicolas della Torre (30') scored goals for the visitors, as per a press release from Hockey India.

It was an engaging start to the game with India beginning the game on the front foot, looking to make inroads in the early exchanges. After a spell of possession, the hosts had the opportunity to draw first blood towards the end of the first quarter, having been awarded a penalty stroke. However, Harmanpreet Singh was denied from the spot by the Argentine goalkeeper. Argentina scored almost instantly with Tomas Ruiz (14') powering his tomahawk into the back of the net to give his side the lead. The visitors quickly doubled their advantage as Tomas Domene (15') managed to guide his effort past Suraj Karkera to give his side a 2-0 lead in the opening quarter,



it added.

Looking for a way back into the game, India began the second quarter by putting pressure back on Argentina. Shilanand Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh did well to earn a couple of penalty corners but the hosts couldn't quite find their opening goal. With momentum on their side, Argentina continued to pile on the pressure. Tomas Domene (20') tripled their lead with a composed finish, and Lucio Mendez (22')

soon added a fourth. Ignacio Ibarra (25') rifled his shot from a tight angle to score a fifth, while Tomas Domene (26') completed his hat-trick soon after. Nicolas della Torre (30') also got on the net to earn a couple of penalty corners but the hosts couldn't quite find their opening goal. With momentum on their side, Argentina continued to pile on the pressure. Tomas Domene (20') tripled their lead with a composed finish, and Lucio Mendez (22')

India showed enough character in the second half, creating some notable opportunities with Shilanand Lakra and Aditya Lalage coming close to finding the back of the net. However,

Tomas Santiago stood tall in goal for Argentina. Despite creating scoring opportunities, an evenly contested third quarter ended in a goalless manner.

The hosts pushed forward in the final quarter, earning their third penalty corner of the match. However, Argentina managed to find the back of the net against the run of play with Tomas Domene (60') adding a fourth goal to his tally, and giving his side an 8-0 win, as per release.

T20 WC: Dominant India inflict 93 run defeat on Namibia

NEW DELHI, FEB 12: Brisk fifties by Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and a game-changing spell by Varun Chakravarthy helped India defeat Namibia by 93 runs in their ICC T20 World Cup clash at New Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday.

After a blazing 24-ball 61 by Ishan and a 28-ball 52 by Hardik took India to 209/9 despite a four-fer from skipper Gerald Erasmus, India were challenged by Namibia well in the powerplay, as the visitors ended that phase at 57/1. From there, Varun Chakravarthy (3/7 in two overs), Axar Patel (2/20 in three overs) and Hardik Pandya (2/21 in four overs) turned the tide in India's favour, skittling Namibia

out for 116 runs in 18.2 overs. India is at the top of the Group A, with two wins in two matches, followed by Pakistan, with same win-loss ratio.

In the run-chase of 210 runs, openers Jan Frylinck and Louren Steenkamp got Namibia off to a solid start, with Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya getting some hammering during the power play. But a mistimed pull by Frylinck landed into Shivam Dube's hands at deep mid-wicket, sending back Frylinck for 15-ball 22, with three fours and a six. Namibia were 33/1 in 3.4 overs.

Steenkamp ended a highly productive power-play period for Namibia in style, starting off Arshdeep's

sixth over with two fours and ending it with a six over short third man. Namibia was cruising at 57/1 in six overs, with Steenkamp (29*) and Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton (5*) unbeaten.

It was Varun Chakravarthy, who ended this 34-run stand, cleaning up the middle and leg stump of Steenkamp for a 20-ball 29, with three fours and a six. Namibia was 67/2 in 7.1 overs.

Skipper Gerald Erasmus tried to infuse some life into the match with two sixes against Axar Patel in the ninth over, but the next over saw Varun push Namibia back two steps further, literally, with dismissals of Eaton (13) and JJ Smit (0). Namibia were 86/4 in 9.4

overs. India started the second half well, getting the Namibian skipper caught by Tilak Varma at long-off for an 11-ball 18, and suddenly, half the side was back in the hut for 88 runs in 10.1 overs.

The batting stocks of visitors continued to plummet, with Axar getting Malan Kruger (5), leaving Namibia at 94/6 in 12.3 overs.

Ruben Trumpelmann was next to go courtesy a scorching yorker from Jasprit Bumrah for just six. Namibia were 111/7 in 16.4 overs. Bernard Scholtz (4) also fell to Hardik, as Namibia sank to 116/8 in 17.3 overs. The all-rounder got a shot at a hat-trick as he got Ben Shikongo on the next ball.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 12

Semifinals line up has been drawn with three more teams winning in the quarterfinals of the ongoing Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament, organised by the J&K Police at K K Hakhu Stadium, here today.

While Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPC) already in the last four stages, hosts J&K Police, Punjab Police and Shahbad Hockey Academy qualified for the last four stages today.

Now, in the semifinals, slated for tomorrow, J&K Police shall meet PSPC at 1 pm while Punjab Police shall be playing against equally good Shahbad Hockey Academy at 3 pm. Earlier, in quarterfinals,



decided today, Punjab Police blanked Poonch XI 7-0. Pawandeep Singh was adjudged Man of the Match.

In other last eight stages match, J&K Police had a close shave against Jammu South (mixed team of locals and Army

personnel) via penalty shootouts. Earlier, in the stipulated time, the match ended in a 4-4 draw with both sides playing brilliant game to the enjoyment of the selected crowd. Goalkeeper Probjot Singh was adjudged man of the

match for his crucial savings in the penalties.

Shahbad Hockey Academy won their quarterfinal defeating Baba Shri Chand Ji Hockey Club Sujanpur in a one-sided contest 10-0. Navraj Singh named man of the match.

J&K women's 6-wkt win against table toppers HP



Chitra Singh Jamwal contributed 28.

For HP, Sushmita Kumari, Neena Chaudhary, and Sonal Thakur took one wicket each. Rubia Syed declared player of the match.

Earlier, sent in to bat, HP posted 267, powered by Sushma Verma's unbeaten 106 off 112 balls (11 fours, three sixes) and SM Singh's 87 off 96 balls (12 boundaries). Devanshi Verma added 25.

Bismah Hassan took three wickets and Rudrakshi Chib claimed.

"Two century stands cemented the victory. Well done Rubia, Jasia, Shamb-

havi, Bawandeep, Bismah, Chitra, and the entire team. You've made us proud. Keep

focused," tweeted Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration, JKCA.

Wrestling trials on February 16

**Sports & Allied News
JAMMU, February 12:**

Wrestling Association of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold day-long selection trials in under-15 boys and girls at Police Wrestling Hall, Gulshan Ground, here.

Those eligible young wrestlers have been advised to report to the selection penal on February 16 at the given venue.

The selected wrestlers shall represent J&K in the Under-15 National Wrestling Championship at Salem in Tamil Nadu from February 27 to March one, a handout issued by the Association here today informed.

For further queries, wrestlers have been asked to contact Jai Bharat (8899790423), Dheeraj Sharma (9419685822), Ravinder Sharma, Sahil Dagoria and Krishan Singh.