



"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: "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)

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 Birsa Munda 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 scoresheet, closing out the first half with a 7-0 lead for Argentina.

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-ffer 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 21 runs. 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 Trumplmann 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.

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

overs. India top-scored with a blistering 61 off 39 balls (six fours, two sixes). Jaspa remained not out on 57 off 29 balls (10 boundaries), Shambhavi crafted a classy 57 off 87 balls (eight fours), and Bawandep smashed 53 off 73 balls (nine fours).

AIIMS Launches Inter-Staff Sports Program; Multiple Games Inaugurated

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 ad-



ministrative teams actively

during the programme.

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.

Semis line up drawn in Martyrs Memorial Hockey

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 Hakk 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.

personnel) via penalty

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

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS

JAMMU, FEB 12

Jammu and Kashmir batters played magnificent innings demolishing table-toppers Himachal Pradesh by six wickets in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy at the Mangaldai Sports Association Stadium today.

As per the reports reaching here, J&K batters hit four half-centuries to make it an easy chase of a big target of 268 runs. After Bismah Hassan, Rudrakshi Chib, and Sandhya Sayal's stellar bowling restricted HP to 267 on a batting-friendly strip, J&K chased the total comfortably in 45.5 overs, losing four wickets.

Openers Bawandep Kaur and Shambhavi Rajorput forged a punishing 100-plus stand, while skipper Jasnia Akhtar and Rubia Syed added another explosive 100 plus partnership to seal an emphatic win.

Rubia Syed top-scored with a blistering 61 off 39 balls (six fours, two sixes). Jasnia remained not out on 57 off 29 balls (10 boundaries), Shambhavi crafted a classy 57 off 87 balls (eight fours), and Bawandep smashed 53 off 73 balls (nine fours).



Chitra Singh Jamwal contributed 28.

For HP, Sushmita Kumar, 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.

Those eligible young wrestlers have been advised to report to the selection panel 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 Dagar and Krishan Singh.

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 panel 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 Dagar and Krishan Singh.