



## India beat Uruguay 4-0 in FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers

**HYDERABAD, MARCH 8 (ANI):** The Indian Women's Hockey team opened their FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026 Hyderabad, Telangana campaign with a dominant 4-0 win over Uruguay at the GMC. Ballyogi Hockey Ground (Gachibowli Hockey Complex) on Sunday.

Sunelita Toppo (21), Ishika (40'), Lalremsiami (49') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (58') scored the goals for the home side, according to a release.

It was a bright start to the match in the first quarter as India made multiple circle entries and several goal-scoring chances. In the 4th minute, the home side won the first penalty corner of the night as Udit found the net after a beautifully orchestrated variation, but her shot went a bit high and hence the goal wasn't given. Uruguay, too, had their moments as it banked on counterattacking hockey but India's resilient backline held its ground.

In the 21st minute, India broke the deadlock through a penalty corner as Sunelita Toppo (21) showed great reflexes to pounce on the rebound and tap the ball into the net to open the scoring. Five minutes later, India re-



ceived another penalty corner but this time, Annu's dragflick was stopped by the Uruguayan defence. India held most of the possession in the second quarter. In the 29th minute, Uruguay won their first penalty corner of the night but the opportunity was squandered as India managed to swiftly defend their goal and hold the slim lead.

In the 36th minute, India were through on goal as Navneet Kaur found herself unmarked in front of the

post but Uruguay's goalkeeper Maria Bate stepped out and delivered a decisive save. In the 40th minute, India launched a quick attack as Sakshi Rana played a brilliant pass into the circle to Ishika (40') who did well to slot the ball into the bottom left corner. Uruguay were awarded a penalty corner as well in the 40th minute but they couldn't reduce the deficit.

In the 49th minute, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal did well to dribble down the left flank

and pass the ball to Lalremsiami (49') in the midfield, who carried the ball into the circle and delivered a powerful finish past the goalkeeper to score an incredible field goal for her side. With just over two minutes left on the clock, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (58') dribbled down the middle and struck a powerful shot to find the net and seal the big victory for India.

India will next face Scotland on March 9 at 7:30 PM IST. (ANI)

## India give Black Caps the blues, lift T20 World Cup in style

**AHMEDABAD, MAR 08:** Suryakumar Yadav's team, easily India's greatest T20 outfit ever, created history on Sunday with an unprecedented third World Cup win, clinically demolishing a lacklustre New Zealand by 96 runs with an awe-inspiring batting performance and laser-precise bowling.

Sanju Samson (89 off 46 balls) and Abhishek Sharma (52 off 21 balls) added 92 in Powerplay and 98 for the opening stand after a tactical blunder by Black Caps skipper Mitchell Santner led to a record score of 255 for 5.

Having misread the pitch, Santner brought medium pacer Jacob Duffy dropping the useful off-spinner Cole McConechie, which proved to be decisive in the final outcome.

In front of 86,000 fans, the chase was out of question as New Zealand huffed and puffed its way to 159 all out as Suryakumar, the man from Mumbai's Chembur, etched his name alongside Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma in the record books.

"Champions! This remarkable triumph reflects exceptional skills, determination and teamwork. They have shown outstanding grit through the tournament. This victory has filled every Indian heart with pride and joy. Well done, Team India!" posted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X within minutes of the triumph.

Gautam Gambhir became the first coach to guide the team to two T20 World titles.

Following the demolition act with the bat, Jasprit Bumrah's artistry was good enough to dash any little hopes that New Zealand players might just have harboured at the back of their minds.

Bumrah was unreal as ever with figures of 4-0-15-4, adding to the mythical story of his career which will become folklore in years to



come.

As far-fetched as it might sound, the current Indian T20 team under Gambhir's coaching has had the aura of USA's 'Dream Team' filled with the biggest of NBA stars like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird that won the 1992 Barcelona Olympics gold medal.

Just like that team, this Indian T20 outfit, filled with IPL's richest stars, has an air of invincibility around it. The side never seemed like losing the tournament in which it was the runaway favourite even before a ball had been bowled.

If the 2007 T20 World Cup victory was a watershed moment for Indian cricket, which gave birth to a beehive like the IPL, the 2024 T20 World Cup win was a soothing balm to the heartbreak of the 2023 ODI World Cup final loss.

The 2026 title triumph is an assertion that in talent, India are light years ahead of other teams.

This edition was never about a perfect campaign but always about finding an individual who would win it for the team.

Abhishek had a very poor tournament but redeemed himself in the final. Samson's career was on the line before he played the most defining innings of his career. The 'crazy diamond'

called Bumrah bowled those block-hole deliveries whenever the team asked and Axar Patel took those crazy catches which became a game-changer.

Ishan Kishan was the sheet anchor in every game and the skipper was the binding glue with Gambhir being the back-room brain that the team needed.

The team bond was evident and the players had each other's backs when one of the mates was sinking.

Both Suryakumar and Gambhir can claim credit for taking Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's champion team to the next level.

When India batted, Samson scarred an awestruck New Zealand in the company of an equally destructive Abhishek, who saved his best for the last in India's record-breaking total.

And if that wasn't enough Ishan Kishan (54 off 25 balls) proved that even three can tango together as India's top three, in a superlative display, stunned New Zealand.

Abhishek took full advantage of Mitchell Santner's tactical harakiri with a 21-ball-52 but Samson's muscular effort—a dazzling 89 off 46 balls, which was a union of beastly power and silken grace, will be remembered for the times to come.

There were eight sixes—a few over long-on, a couple over square leg, down the

ground, and over long-off. Samson made Rachin Ravindra's left-arm spin, Lockie Ferguson (0/48 in 2 overs) and Matt Henry's (0/49 in 4 overs) medium pace bowling look pedestrian. It was a massacre of a good bowling attack.

After match-winning efforts against the West Indies and England, Kerala's favourite son finally silenced the Doubting Thomases, who questioned his credentials over the past decade.

After a series of flop shows and his place in the side being debated from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Abhishek finally came good with liberal help from New Zealand pacers, who handed the advantage to the southpaw on a platter.

An 18-ball-50 with his signature straight sixes, and familiar bat swing, the Punjab man enjoyed the rub of the green under the floodlit Ahmedabad skyline.

Jacob Duffy's (0/42 in 3 overs) friendly medium pace became cannon fodder for Abhishek as he smashed five of his half a dozen boundaries off him.

In case of Matt Henry (1/49 in four overs), once Samson smacked him for a six slightly wide off long-on, there was no looking back. With as many as 92 runs in the powerplay, India had seized the decisive advantage.

## Dy CM, YS&S Minister felicitate J&K Cricket Team for Historic Ranji Trophy Triumph

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 08**

Celebrating the historic victory of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Team in the Ranji Trophy 2025-26, the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma today felicitated the players during a function held at M.A Stadium in Jammu.

Congratulating the team for bringing immense pride to J&K, the Deputy Chief Minister described the maiden triumph as a historic milestone in the sporting journey of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the achievement reflects the immense talent, dedication and fighting spirit of the youth of the region.

"This historic victory will serve as a major inspiration for aspiring sports persons across Jammu and Kashmir. The success of our cricket team proves that with determination and hard work, the youth of the region can achieve excellence at the national level," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

He also conveyed greetings from the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who extended his warm wishes to the victorious team and described the achievement as a proud moment for the entire region. The Deputy Chief Minister added that the Chief Minister, himself a keen sports enthusiast, has appreciated the players for their out-



standing performance and commitment in bringing national glory to Jammu and Kashmir.

The felicitation ceremony was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to honour the team for scripting history by winning the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

The function witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of sports lovers, officials and prominent personalities who came together to celebrate the remarkable achievement and congratulate the players for writing a new chapter in the sporting history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Welcoming the victorious team, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma congratulated the players and coaching staff for their outstanding performance and determination throughout the tournament. He said the historic victory has filled the entire Union

Territory with pride and inspiration.

"This victory is not just a cricketing achievement but a moment of pride for the entire Jammu and Kashmir. Our players have demonstrated that with dedication, discipline and the right support, athletes from J&K can excel at the highest level. The government remains committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and creating more opportunities for our youth to showcase their talent," the Minister said.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Vikram Randhawa, MLA Arvind Gupta, MLA Surinder Kumar, former MLC Rattan Lal Gupta, Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, Brigadier Anil Gupta (Retd.), Member Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, along with other prominent sports personalities.

Jammu and Kashmir's maiden triumph in the Ranji Trophy, India's premier domestic first-class cricket championship, marks a historic milestone in the region's sporting journey.

The tournament, one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in Indian cricket, lies at the heart of the sport in the country. Winning it signifies Jammu and Kashmir's emergence into the mainstream of Indian cricket after decades of perseverance.

The team's journey to the title was marked by remarkable performances. After defeating seven-time champions Delhi to enter the knockout stage, Jammu and Kashmir gained strong momentum in the tournament. They went on to defeat former champions Madhya Pradesh in the quarter-finals, followed by an impressive victory over Bengal in the semi-finals.

## Hari Singh Nalwa Club lifts SCPL Trophy

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 08**

Beating equally good Khalsa Cricket Club by four wickets in the final, Hari Singh Nalwa Club today lifted the 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League Trophy at University of Jammu grounds, here.

Batting first, Khalsa Club bowled out for 171 runs in 18.4 overs. In reply, Hari Singh Nalwa Club chased the total making 173 runs in 19.4 overs.

For his four wickets haul, Anchal Singh of the winning team was declared player of the match and also named best bowler, while best batter trophy bagged by Puneet Kumar, who made 35-ball 65 runs hitting five sixes and as many boundaries.

In the final and valedictory function, Mahant Manjeet Singh, Dera Mukhi Nangali Sahib Poonch was the chief guest, who presented the title trophies and other individual prizes.

Among the guests of honour were Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Director ACB, Shakti Kumar Pathak;



Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr Rakesh Minhas; president VHP J&K and Ladakh, Rajesh Gupta; Education Incharge Dharam Parchar Committee SGPC Amritsar, Rajpal Singh; SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh and Advisor and coordinator SGPC Amritsar, Jagtaar Singh.

Earlier, SDPO South, Kuljeet Singh was introduced with the finalist teams and officials.

This tournament was jointly organised by All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club with the sole aim to promote sports and fitness among the youth.

## DYSS Doda celebrates Int'l Women's Day

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 08**

To commemorate International Women's Day 2026, the District Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Doda organized a series of high-energy sports competitions along with a prestigious facilitation ceremony to honor the achievements and contributions of women in society.

The event was organized on the directions of Director General Youth Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The day-long programme featured exciting Cricket and Kabaddi tournaments for girls, drawing enthusias-



tic participation from young athletes across the district. The competitions showcased exceptional talent, teamwork, and the growing sporting spirit among female athletes in both traditional and modern sports.

Following the thrilling sports competitions, a special felicitation ceremony was organized to recognize and honor women who have made notable contributions in various fields, including sports and community ser-

vice. These "Women of Excellence" were presented with mementos and certificates of appreciation for their dedication, perseverance, and for serving as inspiring role models for the younger generation.