



Special Olympics Bharat holds Dental Camp for Athletes in Jammu



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Marking World Oral Health Day, Special Olympics Bharat organised a dental health camp for special athletes at the Sahyog India Complex here today, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Government Dental

College Jammu and SAHYOG INDIA.

As many as 43 special athletes, along with their parents and guardians, benefited from the initiative. The programme commenced with a traditional welcome, including a tilak ceremony for the visiting doctors and staff, followed by high tea before the formal inaugura-

tion. A team of dental specialists carried out detailed oral health examinations of all the athletes and their accompanying family members.

The camp aimed at promoting oral hygiene awareness while ensuring access to basic dental care for specially-abled individuals.

The medical team included Dr. Aseem Sharma, Clinical Director SOB JKUT, Dr. Tanushree Sharma, Dr. Varun Kumar, Dr. Anjali, Dr. Priyanshu, Dr. Shriya, Dr. Gurjot, Sandeep Sharma and Jankar Singh, who conducted screenings and provided guidance on maintaining oral health.

The event was graced by Dr. Ashwani Jotra, Founding President and Area Director SOB JKUT, who delivered the welcome address.

Advocate Jia Singh, CEO of SAHYOG INDIA, presented the vote of thanks, while Sahil Badyal, Programme Manager, and sports coaches Hari Vishwas and Rashpal Singh ensured smooth coordination of the camp.

Lunch and refreshments were served to all participants, and dental kits were distributed among the athletes at the conclusion of the programme.

The initiative concluded successfully, underscoring the importance of oral healthcare awareness and inclusive medical outreach for special athletes.

Grand Wrestling Tournament Marks Chaitra Chaturthi Fair in Akhnoor's Sumah

Iran's Mirza Clinches 'Sumah Kesari'

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The vibrant spirit of tradition and sport came alive in Sumah as a grand wrestling tournament (dangal) was organised on the second day of the Chaitra Chaturthi fair. Held on the occasion of the Hindu New Year, the event once again showcased the rich sporting heritage of the region, drawing renowned wrestlers from across India and abroad and captivating thousands of spectators.

The event was graced by chief guest, Mohan Lal Bhatgat who was accompanied by prominent dignitaries including former president of Yuva Rajput Sabha Rajan Singh Happy, Vikram Singh, former sarpanch Ashwani Sharma, former councillor Rakesh Malhotra, Suman Singh, Madan Lal, BJP Mandal President Sohal-Sungal Shamshar Das, I Mandal President Jourian Neeraj Sharma, among others.

The tournament was organized by the Peer Baba Dangal Committee, with notable contributions from President Harish Sharma, Sanjay



Sharma, Tilak Raj, Vinod, Rakesh, Keval, Shubham, Abhay, Rinku, Yograj, Ravi, Bittu, former sarpanch Rampal, Ganesh Sharma, and other dedicated members.

The highlight of the dangal was the grand bout worth ₹2,51,000 between Iran's Ahmad Mirza and Bina Mandothi of Haryana, where Mirza emerged victorious, earning the prestigious "Sumah Kesari" title. The second major bout, carrying a prize of ₹2,00,000, saw Russia's Ibrahim face Major from Dera Baba, Punjab, with Major claiming victory. Another key contest featured

Iran's Hadi against Rajat from Himachal Pradesh, where Rajat triumphed with impressive skill.

In an additional exciting match, Uttar Pradesh's Kalwa Gurjar defeated Mohit from Punjab.

Addressing the gathering, emphasized that wrestling is a highly popular sport in the Akhnoor constituency and announced plans to establish a modern, well-equipped wrestling arena (akhara). He stated that such infrastructure would provide athletes with a high-quality platform to nurture and showcase their talent.

He further expressed confidence that with the right guidance and opportunities, the youth of the region can bring laurels not only to Jammu & Kashmir but to India on the global stage. Reaffirming his commitment, he assured continued support for sports development and athletes at the grassroots level.

The event witnessed a massive turnout, with thousands of enthusiastic spectators cheering for the wrestlers, turning the occasion into a grand celebration of culture, tradition, and sporting excellence.

South Africa to host India, Australia Women's teams in ICC Women's Championship 2025-29



CAPE TOWN MARCH 20: South Africa is set to host India and Australia Women's cricket teams as part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29 cycle. Both the tours will also include a one-off Test, as per the ICC website.

India Women will tour South Africa for a three-match ODI series in December, part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29 cycle that will decide qualification for the

2029 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. On the other hand, Australia will travel to South Africa in March 2027 for three T20Is, as many ODIs and a Test match.

The India series will also include a one-off Test, marking the fourth red-ball encounter between the two teams and only the second Women's Test to be held in Gqeberha. The four-day Test between Australia and South Africa will be just the

second time both teams will face each other in red-ball cricket, following their previous meeting in Perth in February 2024, where Australia secured a commanding innings-and-284-run win.

Speaking on the announcement, CSA Chief Executive Officer Pholetsi Moseki said, "We are delighted to host two of the world's leading teams in India and Australia for what promises to be a block-

buster home summer for the Proteas Women."

"These tours will showcase the very best of international women's cricket and build on the encouraging rise in fan attendance, as we continue to welcome growing crowds across the country to watch world-class players competing at some of our iconic venues," he added.

South Africa's home schedule vs India

1st ODI - 9 December 2026, Potchefstroom
2nd ODI - 12 December 2026, Bloemfontein
3rd ODI - 15 December 2026, Cape Town

One-off Test - 20 to 23 December 2026, Gqeberha vs Australia

1st T20I - 18 March 2027, Kimberley

2nd T20I - 21 March 2027, Benoni

3rd T20I - 23 March 2027, KuGompo City

1st ODI - 27 March 2027, Gqeberha

2nd ODI - 31 March 2027, Paarl

3rd ODI - 3 April 2027, Durban

One-off Test - 8 to 11 April 2027, Potchefstroom. (ANI)

Italy unveils squad for FIFA World Cup play-offs

ROME [ITALY], MARCH 20 (ANI): The Italian squad for the FIFA World Cup play-offs was unveiled on Friday.

The squad features a total of 28 players, including midfielder Sandro Tonali from Newcastle United, who had been in doubt due to a muscle strain. Liverpool's Federico Chiesa returns, while Marco Palestra of Cagliari has earned his first-ever call-up, as per Goal.com.

Zaccagni, Orsolini and Bernardeschi are not a part of the squad, so are Vicario and Zaniolo.

Italy will lock horns with Northern Ireland in the semifinal of the play-offs on March 26 and will play their



first leg at home in Bergamo. If they beat Northern Ireland, the Gianluigi Donnarumma captained side will be playing in an away final against Wales or Bosnia on March 31, with a World Cup squad at stake.

The four-time champions have not qualified for the

past two WC editions in 2018 and 2022, and their final appearance saw them finish 22nd and face a group stage exit. The tournament is being held from 11 June to 19 July in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The Italy squad: Goalkeepers: Elia Caprile (Cagliari), Marco Carnesecchi (Atalanta), Gianluigi Donnarumma (Manchester City), Alex Meret (Napoli);

Defenders: Alessandro Bastoni (Inter), Alessandro Buongiorno (Napoli), Riccardo Calafiori (Arsenal), Andrea Cambiaso (Juventus), Diego Coppola (Paris

FC), Federico Dimarco (Inter), Federico Gatti (Juventus), Gianluca Mancini (Roma), Marco Palestra (Cagliari), Giorgio Scalvini (Atalanta), Leonardo Spinazzola (Napoli);

Midfielders: Nicolò Barella (Inter), Bryan Cristante (Roma), Davide Frattesi (Inter), Manuel Locatelli (Juventus), Nicolò Pisilli (Roma), Sandro Tonali (Newcastle);

Forwards: Federico Chiesa (Liverpool), Francesco Pio Esposito (Inter), Moise Kean (Fiorentina), Matteo Politano (Napoli), Giacomo Raspadori (Atalanta), Matteo Retegui (Al-Qadisiyah), Gianluca Scamacca (Atalanta). (ANI)

India U20 women's team arrive in Thailand with 24 probables for Asian Cup



BANGKOK, MAR 20:

The Indian U20 women's team, with 24 players, arrived in Thailand on Friday morning for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, according to the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

India will then take on Australia on April 5 at 14:30 IST and Chinese Taipei on April 8 at 14:30 IST. The AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 will be streamed live on FanCode.

The top two teams in the group and the two best third-placed teams among all three groups will make it to the quarter-finals.

Further, the four quarter-final winners will qualify for the FIFA U20 Women's

World Cup Poland 2026.

India, under Swedish head coach Joakim Alexandersson, had begun their current training camp in Bengaluru in January after the conclusion of the first phase of the IWL.

Later, they had a one-month camp in Sweden, where they played five friendly matches against the senior teams of Swedish club sides. After their return from Scandinavia, the Young Tigresses continued training in Kolkata, from where they departed for the Thailand capital in the wee hours of Friday.

Alexandersson will announce the final 23-member squad closer to the tour-

namment.

India's 24-member travelling squad to Thailand for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2026:

Goalkeepers: Monalisha Devi Moirangthem, Nandini, Ribansi Jamu.

Defenders: Alka Indwar, Cindy Remruatpui Colney, Nishima Kumari, Remi Thokchom, Ruchi Yadav, Sahana TH, Shubhangi Singh, Thoibisana Chanu Toijam.

Midfielders: Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam, Arina Devi Nameirakpam, Bhumika Devi Khumukcham, Monisha Singha, Neha, Pooja, Shruti Kumari.

Forwards: Babita Kumari, Deepika Pal, Lhingdeikim,

Shilpi Shaji, Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Sulanjana Raul.

Head coach: Joakim Alexandersson

Assistant coach: Paromita Sit

Goalkeeping coach: Hameed KK

India's schedule at the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026:

April 2: Japan vs India (Thammasat Stadium, Pathum Thani)

April 5: India vs Australia (Pathum Thani Stadium, Pathum Thani)

April 8: Chinese Taipei vs India (Pathum Thani Stadium, Pathum Thani). (ANI)

Harley-Davidson prize adds thrill as Bholath Hockey Cup kicks off at Surjit Hockey Stadium

NEW DELHI, MAR 20:

The Bholath Hockey Cup began today at the iconic Surjit Hockey Stadium, promising an exciting showcase of top-tier hockey talent. Four matches are scheduled on the opening day, drawing strong participation and enthusiasm from players and spectators alike.

Adding a unique highlight to the tournament, organisers announced that the Best Player of the Final will be awarded a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, alongside substantial cash prizes for top performers and teams.

Chief organiser Mohanbir Singh Bal, an NRI based in Australia originally from Bholath, Punjab, shared the

emotional legacy behind the event. He revealed that his father, Avtar Singh Bal, had initiated a kabaddi cup in Bholath over five decades ago. "It has been 57 years since the kabaddi cup began. My father passed away in 2018, and we did not want his legacy to end. In his memory, we continued the tradition. He was a passion-

ate sports lover who played both kabaddi and hockey, which inspired us to introduce the hockey cup this year," Bal said.

He further credited the success of the event to the support of friends and well-wishers, which enabled the organisers to offer significant prize money and prestigious awards.