



Thailand Open 2026:

Srikanth upsets 8th seed Loh Kean; Sindhu, Devika lead women's lineup



PATUMWAN [THAILAND], MAY 13: Former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth upset eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in straight games, 21-14, 21-15, in the Round of 32 of the Thailand Open currently underway at the Nimibutr Stadium in Thailand.

Meanwhile, PV Sindhu defeated Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong 21-9, 21-12, while Devika Sihag emerged victorious with a 21-19, 13-

21, 21-15 win against Japan's Natsuki Nidaira. Srikanth, entering the tournament fresh from India's Thomas Cup bronze medal finish, left no room for the former world champion to dominate, wrapping up the match in just 30 minutes. He will next face Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the other men's singles draw, Lakshya Sen, returning from his injury at the

Thomas Cup, defeated Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-16, 21-17 in 43 minutes to advance. Sindhu, seeded sixth in the tournament, began her opening game trailing 3-0 against her Chinese Taipei opponent before registering a dominant win and advancing to the next round. Thailand Masters 2026 champion Devika Sihag, although starting the match on a winning note, was

pushed into a decider after the Japanese shuttler took control from 15-13 in the second game, scoring six consecutive points to secure the second.

The youngster initially struggled to maintain her lead in the decider, with Natsuki levelling the scores until 5-5. However, Devika went on a seven-point streak to open up an 11-5 advantage before sealing the victory.

Sindhu will next face Amalie Schulz of Denmark, while Devika will take on Pitchamon Opatniphuth of Thailand. Malvika Bansod advanced too, defeating her Canadian opponent 13-21, 26-24, 21-13 in 53 minutes.

In another notable draw, Anmol Kharb put up a strong fight against World No. 4 and second seed Chen Yu Fei of China.

Anmol claimed the opening game 21-19 and forced the match into a decider. Despite maintaining an 11-2 lead in the final game, she could not convert it into a victory, eventually going down 21-19, 13-21, 18-21 in a hard-fought battle lasting one hour and ten minutes. (ANI)

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji 7-A-Side Night Hockey Tournament 2026 inaugurated



**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13**

The Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji 7-A-Side Night Hockey Tournament 2026 commenced with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit at Gole Gujral, Jammu.

The grand opening ceremony was inaugurated by MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Arvind Gupta congratulated the organisers, play-

ers and hockey enthusiasts on the successful inauguration of the tournament. He praised Khalsa Club Gole Gujral Jammu for taking the initiative to promote sports and encourage young talent.

Arvind Gupta said, "Sports not only build physical fitness but also teach discipline, dedication and teamwork. Hockey is deeply connected with the spirit of our nation and such tournaments provide an excellent platform for young players to showcase their talent. I

congratulate Khalsa Club Gole Gujral for organizing this remarkable event and extending opportunities to budding sports persons."

He further stated that sports activities help keep youth away from social evils and strengthen the spirit of unity and brotherhood in society.

Former Sarpanch Pritpal Singh, Mandal President Anil Angral and Harvinder Singh Vicky were also present on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the

organisers in successfully conducting the tournament.

The tournament is being organised by Khalsa Club Gole Gujral Jammu under the guidance of Organising Committee members Iqbal Singh, Chief Patron Satvir Singh, President Ms. Reen and General Secretary Harkirat Singh along with all club members.

The organisers and dignitaries extended best wishes to all participating teams for excellent performances in the tournament.

Sarah Taylor first-ever woman fielding coach for England men's cricket team

LONDON, MAY 13: Former England wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor, one of the greatest to have graced the women's game, has been appointed fielding coach of the senior men's Test team for the upcoming series against New Zealand, ECB's Director of Cricket Rob Key announced on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old Taylor, who played 226 matches across formats, has also worked with the England Lions (England A) team under Andrew Flintoff, and her impressive performance there has earned her a promotion to the senior team's support staff.

Taylor has also worked with the Sussex men's team



as well as Manchester Originals and has been offered a short-term contract as fielding coach with Carl

Hopkinson, who is on IPL duty with Mumbai Indians. "I just think she's one of the best in the business at

what she does. She's been outstanding, and she's worked a lot with Andrew Flintoff and Ed Barney (performance director). They can't speak highly enough of her. So from what we can see, she's one of the best in the business," Key told mediapersons on Wednesday. "We've been thoroughly, unbelievably impressed with (Taylor) and the way that she goes about her business," Key said. "Carl Hopkinson, as is the nature of the cricket world that we have at the moment, he's working with Mumbai Indians. He has a lot of stuff that he does for them, so we'll still use him at some point, just not for this series."

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13**

WHS Sports Hub will host the WHS Sports Hub Golf Cup 2026 on 23rd & 24th May 2026 at the prestigious Royal Springs Golf Course, a championship golf course designed by legendary architect Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Rapidly emerging as one of Jammu & Kashmir's leading amateur golf events, the tournament is expected to witness participation from around 100 golfers from across the country, bringing together corporates, business leaders, and sports enthusiasts for a premium golfing and hospitality experience in Kashmir.

Organised by Farid Singh and Viraj Singh, co-founders of WHS Sports Hub, the event reflects their



vision of promoting professionally managed sporting events and positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a destination for sports tourism and elite sporting experiences.

The two-day event will feature league-based com-

petition formats including Better Ball Pairs and Greensome Pairs, along with morning shotgun starts, on-course contests, premium hospitality, gala lunches, curated goodie bags, and multiple prize categories.

Open to men and women

amateur golfers, the tournament aims to further strengthen Jammu & Kashmir's growing presence on India's sporting map while establishing the WHS Sports Hub Golf Cup as one of the region's premier annual amateur golf leagues.

DYS&S Shopian organizes Sports Activities under 100 Day Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyan

SHOPIAN, MAY 13: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYS&S), Shopian today organized a series of sports activities across different zones of the district under the banner of Nasha Mukta Abhiyan to promote sports culture, discipline, physical fitness and awareness against drug abuse among youth.

At Sports Stadium Wathoo in Zone Keegam, Kabaddi matches were organized with enthusiastic participation from students. The event aimed at spreading awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse through sports activities. Around 130 boys participated in the Kabaddi competitions, while 120 participants also took an anti-drug pledge during the programme.

Meanwhile, Inter-School/Zonal-Level Volleyball and Kabaddi competitions for U/17 boys were successfully conducted at HSS Kaprin, witnessing active participation from student players representing various institutions of the



zone. The competitions were organized to encourage sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy sporting spirit among students.

Similarly, the ISZL Finals were held at HSS Imamshahib under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan initiative, highlighting the department's commitment towards channelizing youth energy into constructive and sports-

based activities while spreading the message of a drug-free society.

In another event, the Zonal Physical Education Office Shopian organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Chess Competition-cum-Selection for Girls in U/14 and U/17 categories at Gunj Bakash Hanfiya Public School, Arhama Shopian. Students from various institutions participated with

great zeal and enthusiasm.

The programme was inaugurated by Mushtaq Ahmad Thoker (PEM), who administered an anti-drug pledge to participants before the commencement of the competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of officials and participants and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

IPL: Raghuvanshi-Rinku show powers KKR to 192/4 against RCB in Raipur

RAIPUR, MAY 13 : A sublime half-century from Angkrish Raghuvanshi, followed by a late onslaught from Rinku Singh, powered Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to a formidable 192/4 in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Raipur on Wednesday.

Raghuvanshi led the charge with a fluent 71 off 46 deliveries, studded with seven fours and three sixes, while Rinku Singh provided the finishing flourish with a blistering 49 off 29 balls, featuring three boundaries and two maximums.

After being put in to bat first, Ajinkya Rahane and Finn Allen opened the innings for KKR. Allen launched an early assault on Jacob Duffy in the second over, hammering 14 runs. However, Bhuvneshwar Kumar struck back in the



very next over, dismissing Allen for 18 and bringing young Angkrish Raghuvanshi to the crease.

After the early setbacks, Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Ajinkya Rahane counterattacked, putting the RCB bowlers under pressure with a flurry of boundaries. However, Hazlewood broke the stand by dismissing KKR skipper Rahane for 19, paving the way for Cameron Green to join Raghuvanshi at the crease.

KKR ended the powerplay

at 56/2. Despite the early loss of both openers, Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Cameron Green steadied the innings with a crucial rebuilding stand. The duo helped KKR recover strongly to reach 86/2 at the halfway mark.

Green accelerated in the 12th over, smashing a six off Krunal Pandya to bring up the 50-run partnership for the third wicket. However, Rasikh Salam Dar struck in the very next over, dismissing Green for 32 and bring-

ing Rinku Singh to the crease.

In the 14th over, Raghuvanshi brought up a well-crafted half-century, marking his fourth fifty of the season. With four 50-plus scores in IPL 2026, Raghuvanshi now holds the record for the most such scores by a KKR batter at the age of 21 in a single edition of the tournament.

The duo kept the pressure firmly on the RCB bowlers with an aggressive counter-attack, powering KKR to 172/3 at the end of 18 overs. Josh Hazlewood then delivered a tidy 19th over, conceding just 10 runs to keep the scoring in check.

Rinku Singh launched a six in the final over off Bhuvneshwar Kumar, but the experienced pacer responded brilliantly by restricting the damage and giving away only 10 runs in the over.