



CM Omar chairs 9th Governing Body meeting of Royal Springs Golf Course

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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 9th Governing Body Meeting of the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) at SKICC, where a comprehensive review of the functioning, infrastructure, finances and future development plans of the premier golfing destination was undertaken.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and members of the Governing Body which include Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chander Verma, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Alice Vaz, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad.

Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmad Handoo gave a detailed presentation to the Governing Body, outlining the action taken on decisions made during previous meetings. The presentation also highlighted the Golf Course's financial and operational performance, membership profile, infrastructure requirements, and proposed strategies for its future development and growth.

The Governing Body reviewed the progress achieved and deliberated on various measures aimed at strengthening the facilities and enhancing the overall functioning of the prestigious Golf Course. The Governing Body discussed several proposals focussing on restoration and renovation of the golf course through engagement of expert con-



sultants, enrolment of new golf playing members, construction of an aesthetically pleasing boundary wall to secure the remaining area of the Golf Course from intrusion of wild animals which is designed in harmony with the natural surroundings, renovation of huts, solarization to promote clean energy and reduce electricity expenditure, renovation and improvement in Club facilities particularly gymnasium, swimming pool, restaurant and revision in rates to boost revenue collection for maintenance of golf course.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of improving the overall service, other facilities and overall visitor experience at the Golf course. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to adhere to the accepted engineering standards in turf management and ensuring high quality greens, fairways to match global standards.

CM Omar Abdullah emphasized on development and upgradation of Golf Course infrastructure and amenities to enhance its attractiveness for weekend golfers, corporate groups, tourists, and golfing enthusiasts, thereby promoting the facility as a premier golfing and recreational destina-

tion. The meeting also deliberated on proposals relating to employee welfare, service matters, recruitment rules, financial management and institutional strengthening. Various initiatives for improving operational efficiency, enhancing service delivery standards and promoting golf tourism in Jammu and Kashmir were also reviewed.

Emphasizing the importance of preserving the Royal Springs Golf Course as one of the country's finest golfing destinations, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism department and the RSGC management to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the restoration and modernization of the golf course while maintaining its internationally recognized standards and ecological character. He stressed the need to adopt best practices in golf course management, turf maintenance and hospitality services to further enhance the facility's appeal among domestic and international golfers. He also called for exploring sustainable revenue-generation avenues to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Golf Course while maintaining the exclusivity and quality of its services.

The Chief Minister under-

scored the immense potential of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and directed RSGC management to formulate a strategy for attracting more national and international tournaments, strengthening promotional efforts and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a premier golfing destination on the global tourism map.

He further directed that all future development initiatives at the golf course be guided by the principles of environmental sustainability, financial prudence and long-term institutional benefit. He also emphasized the importance of employee welfare, skill upgradation and capacity building for ensuring professional management and efficient service delivery.

The Governing Body reviewed the budget estimates and action plan for the financial year 2026-27 and discussed strategies for enhancing infrastructure, improving visitor facilities and creating additional opportunities for growth of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on the agenda items and directions for taking forward various proposals in accordance with established procedures.

From Wolvaardt to Shafali, a look at batters to watch out for in T20WC 2026

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2: The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 promises a larger stage than ever before, with 12 teams competing for the trophy in England and Wales from June 1 onwards. In a format where games can shift in a matter of overs, batters capable of changing momentum instantly become priceless assets.

Past editions have consistently produced iconic batting performances - whether it was the landmark century by Deandra Dottin in 2010, the first ever in Women's T20Is, or Meg Lanning's masterclass of 126 in the 2014 edition that still stands as the highest individual score in Women's T20 World Cup history.

Here are 12 batters, one from each participating team, who could leave a major mark at the marquee event.

Laura Wolvaardt arrives at the tournament in sensational form. The Proteas captain recently claimed the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for April, her third such honour in seven months.

During the T20I series against India, Wolvaardt amassed 330 runs in just five innings, registering one century and three fifties at a strike rate of 168.36. She also scored a century and three fifties in the series. Big occasions seem to bring the best out of her too. Last year's Cricket World Cup saw Wolvaardt score centuries in both the Semi-Final and the Final, underlining her reputation as one of the game's premier big-match players.

In 98 matches and 92 innings, she has scored 2,764 runs at an average of 38.92 and a strike rate of 121.97, including three centuries and 16 fifties, with a best score of 115*.

-Georgia Voll (Australia)
At just 22, Georgia Voll already looks every bit Australia's next superstar batter. The opener boasts centuries in the white-ball formats and arrives at the tournament fresh off a stunning 101 from 53 balls against the West Indies in March. That knock is the highest score by an Australian woman since the previous edition of the T20 World Cup. In 12 T20Is, she has scored 474 runs at an average of 39.50 and a strike rate of 156.43, with a century and three fifties.

Voll combines classical technique with modern aggression and currently boasts a T20I strike rate of 156.43, while also sitting atop the women's T20I batting rankings, as per ICC. Her explosive starts could prove vital in Australia's push for a record seventh title.

-Shafali Verma (India)
At only 22 years, Shafali Verma already feels like one of the game's most experienced entertainers. Having debuted internationally at the age of 15, Verma quickly became a permanent fixture in India's setup before enduring a difficult period that saw her dropped from the ODI side. However, her resurgence has been emphatic.

Brought back into India's squad for the knockout stages of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup on home soil, Verma delivered on the biggest stage possible. Her blazing 87 in the Final earned her Player of the Match honours and helped India secure their maiden Women's Cricket World Cup title.

When Verma is in



rhythm, few players in the world can match her ability to dominate attacks. In 105 T20Is and 104 innings, she had made 2,711 runs at an average of 27.66 and a strike rate of 135.34, including 16 fifties.

-Sobhana Mostary (Bangladesh)
Sobhana Mostary has emerged as the heartbeat of Bangladesh's batting unit in recent years.

At the 2024 T20 World Cup, she finished as Bangladesh's highest run scorer with 134 runs at an average of 33.50. Since then, she has elevated her game further, piling up 413 runs across 15 innings while smashing 15 sixes, eight more than any other Bangladeshi batter in that period. Overall, she has 915 runs in 59 matches and innings at an average of 19.06 and a strike rate of 96.72, including a fifty.

Her consistency was rewarded at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier earlier this year, where she was named Player of the Tournament after scoring 262 runs at an average of 52.40.

-Heather Knight (England)
The upcoming tournament marks a different phase in the career of Heather Knight.

The 2024 T20 World Cup was her final ICC event as England captain, but the experienced batter remains one of the side's most dependable players. Injuries may have interrupted her momentum over the past year, yet Knight reminded everyone of her class with a century against India during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

Now 35, Knight enters the competition as one of only three members of England's squad who were part of the nation's famous 2017 World Cup triumph on home soil.

She also owns one of the most iconic T20 World Cup innings - the unbeaten 108 from 66 balls against Thailand, a knock that made her the first woman to score centuries across all three international formats. She has scored 2,432 runs in 137 matches and 122 innings at an average of 26.72 and a strike rate of 120.45, with a century and eight fifties.

-Gaby Lewis (Ireland)
No player arriving at the tournament has scored more T20I runs since the previous edition than Gaby

Lewis. Across 21 innings, Ireland's captain has accumulated 800-plus runs at an impressive average of 43.42. Lewis continues to rewrite Irish cricket history, becoming the first woman from her country to cross both 2,000 and 3,000 T20I runs. She was also Ireland's standout performer at the 2026 Qualifier, finishing as the leading run scorer with 276 runs in seven innings, including a top score of 73.

In 114 matches and 112 innings, she has made 3,048 runs at an average of 31.42 and a strike rate of over 117, with two centuries and 18 fifties and a best score of 119.

-Sterre Kalis (Netherlands)
Sterre Kalis gets the chance to showcase her talent on the global stage after helping the Netherlands qualify for their first-ever Women's T20 World Cup. Kalis finished as her side's leading scorer during the 2026 Qualifier and already sits atop the Netherlands' all-time T20I run charts with 1,921 runs. Her familiarity with English conditions could prove hugely valuable, having represented county and regional teams in England since 2016.

Currently playing for Yorkshire, Kalis will likely feel at home when the Dutch take on India at Headingley on June 17. In 63 T20Is and innings, she has made 1,921 runs at an average of 36.24 and a strike rate of 104.23, with two centuries and 11 fifties and best score of 126*.

-Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
The cricket world will savour every innings from Suzie Bates during this tournament. The legendary White Ferns batter, alongside long-time teammate Sophie Devine, is set to retire after the 2026 World Cup. Bates leaves behind one of the greatest careers in women's cricket history, currently standing as the leading run scorer in women's T20I cricket with 4,720 runs accumulated across a remarkable 19-year international journey.

Already a World Cup winner in 2024, Bates will hope to script one final memorable chapter in England and Wales.

-Aysha Zafar (Pakistan)
Aysha Zafar is proving that patience and perseverance can pay off. The 31-year-old made her T20I debut in 2015 before spending

three years away from the national side. Since returning in 2024, however, she has transformed into one of Pakistan's most important batters. Last month, Zafar smashed an unbeaten 102 against Zimbabwe, which is the joint-highest individual score by a Pakistan women's cricketer in T20I history. Scoring it off just 47 balls, her innings is also the joint third-fastest in Women's T20I history. In 34 T20Is and 33 innings, she has scored 480 runs at an average of 16.00 and a strike rate of 100.00, with a century.

-Darcey Carter (Scotland)
Darcey Carter continues to emerge as one of Scotland's brightest young stars. Her composed 52 against the USA proved decisive in securing Scotland's qualification for a second consecutive Women's T20 World Cup. With qualification on the line, Carter delivered her best innings of the campaign under immense pressure. Still only 20 years old and within three years of her international debut, Carter already ranks third on Scotland's all-time women's T20I run-scoring list. She has made 869 runs in 40 matches and 39 innings at an average of 27.15 and a strike rate of 101.99, with eight fifties and a best score of 76*.

-Hasini Perera (Sri Lanka)
Hasini Perera has become an increasingly vital figure in Sri Lanka's batting setup. After featuring only twice at the previous T20 World Cup, Perera's promotion to the top of the order in December last year transformed her role within the side. She quickly discovered consistency and produced a career-best 65 against India. Her ability to provide stability alongside skipper Chamari Athapaththu has made Sri Lanka's batting lineup significantly stronger heading into the tournament. She has made 1,036 runs in 87 innings, with two half-centuries.

-Hayley Matthews (West Indies)
Few cricketers' impact matches quite like Hayley Matthews'. The West Indies captain remains one of the sport's elite all-rounders and already owns a legendary T20 World Cup legacy after starring in the 2016 Final with a match-winning 66 that earned her Player of the Match honours.

Sayali Satghare shines as SOBO Mumbai Falcons clinch historic first win in inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League

MUMBAI, JUNE 2: A new chapter in Mumbai cricket history was written on Tuesday as the inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League got underway at the Wankhede Stadium. India star Sayali Satghare led SOBO Mumbai Falcons from the front with a decisive three-wicket spell as her side began their campaign with a convincing 16-run victory over Thane Sky Risers in the tournament's opening match.

Chasing a challenging 174, opener Mansi Patil (46) kept the chase alive for Thane Sky Risers despite losing partners at regular intervals. Mahek Pokar (23 retired hurt) and Saima Thakor (29) made promising starts but failed to build on them as the Falcons' attack, marshalled brilliantly by Satghare, kept the pressure firmly on the opposition.

In the closing stages, wicketkeeper Khushi Bhatia produced a spirited 28 off just 16 balls, striking the ball cleanly to keep Thane's hopes alive. However, her dismissal in the penultimate over all but extinguished the Sky Risers' chances and tilted the match decisively in the Falcons' favour.

Earlier, Thane Sky Risers failed to capitalise on a dream start from skipper



Saima Thakor, who created history by striking off the very first ball of the tournament and then claimed another wicket in the same over.

Coupled with nine dropped catches, the lapses allowed SOBO Mumbai Falcons to recover through a late onslaught from Hurley Gala (45 not out), supported by important knocks from Riya Chaudhari (43), Simran Shaikh (30) and Sarika Koli (26), as they posted a competitive 173/6 in 20 overs.

The opening day of the

men's tournament, on Monday, witnessed a nail-biting thriller between Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburb and Mumbai South Central Maratha Royals, with the Siddhesh Lad-led Royals having the last laugh after the contest was decided in a Super Over. After both teams finished on an identical 165 at the end of their respective 20 overs, the match went into a Super Over, where the defending champions Royals posted 16/1 before restricting the Sarfaraz Khan-led Tigers to 11/1 to seal a hard-fought

victory. The tournament will feature 30 blockbuster matches as the city's best talent battles for T20 supremacy at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, with the final scheduled to be held on June 13.

Brief Scores: SOBO Mumbai Falcons 173/6 (Hurley Gala 45 not out, Riya Chaudhari 43, Simran Shaikh 30; Soumya Singh 3/17) vs Thane Sky Risers 157/8 (Mansi Patil 46, Saima Thakor 29, Khushi Bhatia 28; Sayali Satghare 3/35). (ANI)