



FIFA World Cup 2026: France celebrate Mbappe's 100th cap, Deschamps' historic WC milestone

PHILADELPHIA [US], JULY 3: France captain Kylian Mbappe was honoured for reaching 100 international appearances after receiving a special commemorative jersey from France head coach Didier Deschamps, marking a milestone moment for the forward during national team celebrations, according to posts shared by Equipe de France on X.

"Welcome to the Centenarians Club, @KMBappe received from the hands of Didier Deschamps a very special jersey to honour his 100 caps in Bleu," Equipe de France wrote while sharing a video of the presentation.

The ceremony came as France also celebrated a major coaching milestone for Deschamps, who has become the most successful manager in FIFA World Cup history in terms of victories.

With 17 wins in the World Cup, Didier Deschamps has become the coach with the most victories in the history of the competition," the



French national team posted on X, adding that the achievement was acknowledged by French Football Federation president Philippe Diallo, who also presented a commemorative jersey.

France may have emerged as one of the standout teams

of the 2026 FIFA World Cup group stage, but captain Kylian Mbappe and head coach Didier Deschamps have insisted their impressive form will count for little if they underestimate Paraguay in Saturday's Round of 16 encounter in Philadelphia.

Les Bleus have won all four of their matches so far, scoring 13 goals while conceding just twice. Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Bradley Barcola have combined for 12 of those goals, underlining France's attacking firepower heading into the knockout rounds.

Despite their dominant run, Mbappe stressed that the knockout phase represents a completely different challenge. "I'm fully aware of what's at stake, where I am and what I have to do," Mbappe said after scoring twice in France's 3-0 victory over Sweden, according to Reuters. "The team know what they have to do here as well. A new competition IS starting."

Deschamps also dismissed any suggestion that Paraguay's place in the last 16 was a surprise, warning his players against complacency after the South Americans knocked out Germany. "I've watched Paraguay: what they have achieved is no accident," he said.

South Africa's Shabnim Ismail becomes 1st woman to claim 50 T20 WC wickets

LONDON [UK], JULY 3: South Africa speedster Shabnim Ismail etched her name into the record books by becoming the first bowler to claim 50 wickets in Women's T20 World Cup history during the semifinal against England at The Oval on Thursday.<

The milestone came in Ismail's 38th Women's T20 World Cup appearance when she struck with the very first delivery of her opening spell, dismissing England opener Amy Jones, handing the veteran fast bowler her landmark 50th wicket in the tournament.

The 37-year-old from Cape Town entered the semifinal needing just one wicket to reach the historic milestone and wasted no time in achieving the feat.

Ismail further strength-



ened her position at the top of the all-time Women's T20 World Cup wicket-takers' list by adding another wicket later in the innings, taking her tally to 51. She now sits comfortably ahead of Australia's Megan Schutt, who is second on the list with 48 wickets.

Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry sits third on the all-time Women's T20 World Cup wicket-takers' list with 44 scalps, followed by England's Anya Shrubsole with 41 and South Africa's Marizanne Kapp in fifth place with 39 wickets. Coming to the match,

England booked their place in the final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 with a commanding 40-run victory over South Africa in the second semi-final at The Oval here on Thursday.

Led by an inspired all-round performance from captain Nat Sciver-Brunt, the hosts overcame an early batting collapse before producing another clinical display with the ball to set up a blockbuster title clash against Australia at Lord's on Sunday.

England remain unbeaten in the tournament and are now just one victory away from extending their remarkable record of never losing a Women's World Cup, T20 or ODI, when hosting the competition. (ANI)

Commonwealth Games 2026: Praveen, Preeti, Rohit among India's medal hopes for Glasgow

NEW DELHI [INDIA], JULY 3: Every Commonwealth Games has a way of introducing new stars. While established names often dominate the build-up, it is often the athletes who have quietly built momentum over the previous season that leave the biggest impression. As India gears up for another Commonwealth Games campaign from July 23 to August 2, two athletes have assembled the form, confidence and pedigree to make a significant impact in Glasgow.

With impressive performances across major international competitions over the past year, Praveen Chithravel, Preeti Pawar and Rohit Yadav head into the Games carrying genuine medal aspirations. They have shown they can rise to the occasion against quality opposition, making them athletes well worth keeping an eye on, as per a press release from the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).

Indian athletics has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, with field events becoming an increasingly important source of international medals. Among the country's brightest prospects in this space is triple jumper Praveen Chithravel.

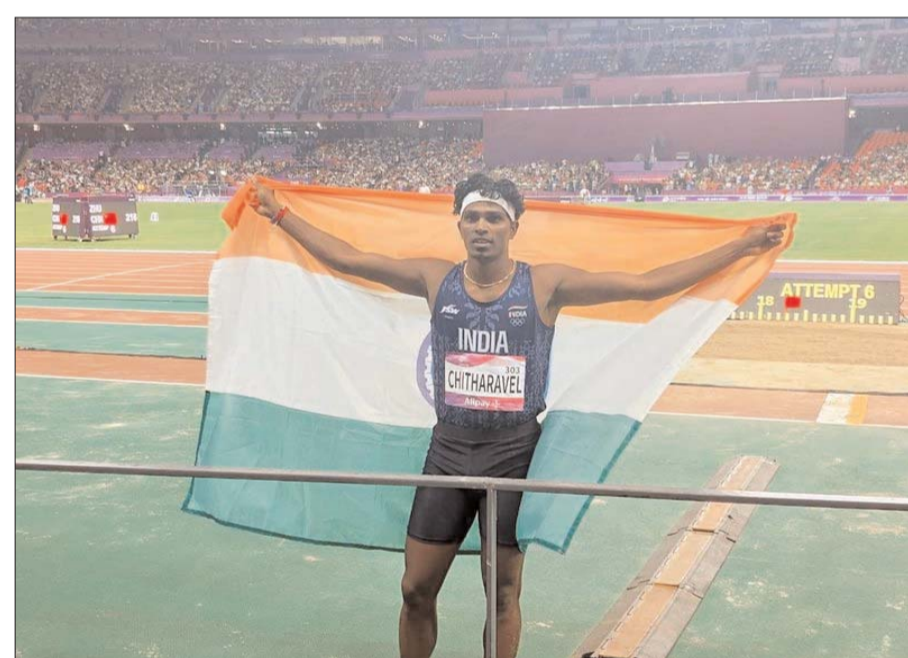
The national record holder has steadily established himself as one of Asia's leading triple jumpers through a combination of technical consistency and competitive temperament. Comfortable performing under pressure, Praveen has developed into an athlete capable of producing his best on the biggest stages.

As he heads into the Commonwealth Games, he will be looking to build on his recent success and convert his consistency into a podium finish.

- Won the gold medal at the Inter-State Athletics Championships 2026 with a leap of 16.92m, reaffirming his status as one of India's leading triple jumpers.

- Claimed the silver medal at the Asian Athletics Championships 2025, producing one of the finest performances of his international career.

- Secured the silver medal at the FISU World Univer-



sity Games 2025, demonstrating his ability to consistently compete among the world's best young athletes.

Preeti Pawar (Boxing) Indian boxing continues to produce world-class talent, and Preeti Pawar has emerged as one of the sport's most exciting young competitors.

The 22-year-old has shown remarkable composure in high-pressure contests, combining sharp technique with fearless intent against experienced opponents. Her rapid rise on the international circuit reflects not only her talent but also her ability to adapt and deliver against elite competition. Arriving at the Commonwealth Games in excellent form, Preeti has all the ingredients to mount a serious challenge in her weight category.

- Won the gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026, delivering a string of commanding performances against continental rivals.

- Captured the gold medal at the World Boxing Cup 2025, underlining her consistency on the international stage.

- Won the bronze medal at the Asian Games 2023, marking one of the biggest milestones of her senior career.

- Registered a victory over three-time world champion Huang Hsiao-wen during the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 and later defeated both Huang and Paris Olympic bronze medallist

Aeji Im on her way to gold at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026, showcasing her ability to consistently beat elite international opponents.

Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw)

Indian javelin has enjoyed unprecedented success in recent years courtesy Neeraj Chopra, inspiring a new generation of throwers to push the boundaries. Among them is Rohit Yadav, who has steadily emerged as one of India's most promising talents in the discipline.

Known for his strong technique and ability to produce big throws under pressure, Rohit has consistently improved on the domestic and international circuit. While competition within Indian javelin is fierce, his recent performances underline his potential to make an impact at the Commonwealth Games. Carrying a valuable international experience and growing confidence, Rohit will be aiming to translate his progress into a podium finish.

- Won the gold medal at the Inter-State Athletics Championships 2026 with a monumental throw of 87.05m, shattering the previous meet record and solidifying his position as India's leading javelin thrower this season.

- Struck the gold medal at the Taiwan Athletics Open 2025 with a commanding effort of 74.42m, marking a successful return to international gold-winning status

following his long-term elbow injury rehabilitation.

- Claimed the gold medal at the Senior Federation Cup Athletics Championships 2023 with a dominant throw of 83.40m, hitting the 83-metre mark three separate times in a single tournament to assert his domestic dominance.

As they prepare for Glasgow, Praveen Chithravel, Preeti Pawar and Rohit Yadav have spent crucial phases of their training at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS), benefiting from an ecosystem that combines elite coaching, sports science, strength and conditioning, nutrition and recovery. Backed by a high-performance environment and strong recent form, all three athletes head into the Commonwealth Games well equipped to compete at the highest level.

The Commonwealth Games has often served as a launching pad for athletes ready to take the next step in their careers. Based on their recent performances and steady progression, they have every reason to believe this could be their moment.

Armed with confidence, consistency and the backing of one of India's leading high-performance institutes, both athletes possess the qualities needed to challenge for the podium. If they continue the trajectory they have established over the past year, they could well return from Glasgow as two of India's standout performers.

LONDON [UK], JULY 3: Jannik Sinner may not have reached his peak form yet at Wimbledon, but the world No. 1 continues to progress with impressive efficiency. The Italian eased into the fourth round of the grass-court Grand Slam for the fifth consecutive year after defeating American Jensen Brooksby 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in a composed performance that lasted two hours and 13 minutes.

The world No. 1 in the ATP Rankings dug deep to secure his third consecutive victory of the week, displaying composure and resilience to book a place in the fourth round. Sinner will next face Japanese qualifier Shintaro Mochizuki, who staged an impressive comeback to defeat Spain's prospect Rafael Jodar 1-6, 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-4.

"I am very happy about the win. I am trying to improve every day. A small step forward today, and I am trying to get better if I want to get further in this tournament," Sinner said in his on-court interview as per the ATP Tour website.

The Italian suffered a shock second-round exit to Juan Manuel Cerundolo at



Roland Garros last month and is aiming to bounce back from that disappointment on the lawns in southwest London. History

Four-time Grand Slam champion Jannik Sinner is chasing another piece of history at Wimbledon, aiming to become just the 10th man in the Open Era to successfully defend the men's singles title. If he achieves the

feat, he will follow in the footsteps of Carlos Alcaraz, who joined that exclusive list just two years ago.

Meanwhile, Serbian tennis icon Novak Djokovic may not have been at his clinical best on Friday at Wimbledon, but the seven-time champion showcased his trademark resilience to overcome a stern challenge from Arthur Rinderknech

and equal Roger Federer's record for the most men's singles match wins at the grass-court Grand Slam.

After being pushed hard on Centre Court, Djokovic raised his level in the decisive moments to neutralise the Frenchman's powerful serve and seal a hard-fought 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(4) third-round victory in the ongoing Wimbledon.

Khalida Jabeen expresses pride after winning silver at PTF India Open International Taekwondo C'ship

POONCH, JULY 3: Khalida Jabeen said winning a silver medal at the 1st PTF India Open International Taekwondo Championship 2026 is a proud moment, adding that she hopes to bring more glory to her district Poonch, state, and the country. She reflected on her journey from winning district and state titles in 2019 to competing against international athletes, saying her success proves that talent from border regions can excel on the global stage.

Speaking to ANI, she said, "I feel incredibly proud to be progressing from such a region; I remain motivated to move forward and bring glory to my district, Jammu & Kashmir, and India. To share a bit about my journey: I had been training for six months in 2019 when I went on to win the District and State Champion titles. Recently, I competed in an International Taekwondo Championship held in Srinagar, organised by the Professional Taekwondo Federation. Athletes from many countries participated, and it was a great source of motivation for all the young competitors; I managed to win a silver medal there. It gives me great pride to rise from a border area and achieve success by winning medals."

The historic 1st PTF India Open International Taekwondo Championships 2026 ran from May 30 to



June 2 at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium in Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in the development of Professional Taekwondo in India and South Asia, as per the Professional Taekwondo Federation website. SouthAsians & Diaspora Held over four days, the championship brought together athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and dignitaries from across India and abroad in a celebration of sporting excellence, cultural exchange, and international friendship.

The event was organized by the Professional Taekwondo Federation India (PTFI) under the auspices of the Professional Taekwondo Federation (PTF) in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, My Youth My Pride Initiative, and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. More than 500 athletes representing various States and Union Territories of India, along with participants from six countries, competed in the inaugural edition of the championship.