



Day 1 sees thrilling action at Junior Women Academy Championship in Gwalior



GWALIOR, JULY 24: The 4th Hockey India Junior Women Academy Championship 2026 (Zone A & B) got underway in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, with Raja Karan Hockey Academy, Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy, Ritu Rani Hockey Academy and Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, registering con-

vincing victories in their respective Pool A and Pool B encounters on the opening day of the tournament. In Pool A, Raja Karan Hockey Academy began their campaign with a 2-0 win against Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar) in the opening match. Captain Rakhi (25', 58') scored a brace for the winners, ac-

cording to a release. Tamil Nadu Hockey Academy registered an 8-0 win over Hockey Family Badkhalsa NCR Hockey Society. S Pooja (30', 47', 59') scored a hat-trick, while Captain Jancy A (12', 44') and Keerthiga (32', 34') both scored braces. V Raghavi (37') also found the back of the net for the win-

ners. In Pool B, Ritu Rani Hockey Academy delivered a commanding performance, defeating Vadipatti Raja Hockey Academy 13-0. Khushdeep Kaur starred with four goals (4', 39', 40', 42'), while Heena (32', 50', 55') scored a hat-trick. Chahat (28', 52') and Hashmeet Kaur (44', 45') struck twice each, while Harshdeep Kaur (3') and Sapna (47') also got on the scoresheet to complete a comprehensive victory for Ritu Rani Hockey Academy. History

In the final game of Pool B, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy produced a clinical performance to defeat Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagta 12-0. Sudipta Kindo (9', 23'), Kanak Pal (11', 30'), Sanjana Mourya (17', 26') and Sujata Jayant (18', 43') each scored braces, while Priyanshi Bhawnar (12'), Sneha Davde (25'), Tanvi (40') and Hirva Purohit (60') added a goal apiece to complete a dominant victory for Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy. (ANI)

'One of my all time favourite players': Jos Buttler cherishes signed ODI jersey received from Rohit

LONDON [UK], JULY 24 (ANI): England wicket-keeper-batter Jos Buttler expressed happiness at having received a signed Team India shirt from superstar opener Rohit Sharma following the conclusion of the ODI series against India at home, calling him "one of his all-time favourite players". Despite struggles in the first two matches of the series, which put a doubt over Rohit's future in the ODIs leading up to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027, the 'Hitman' served the world a reminder of his effortless timing, elegance and class with a sensational century during a massive chase of 388 in the final ODI at Lord's, which marked his first-ever international tonne at the iconic venue known as the 'Home of Cricket'.



Taking to Instagram, Buttler posted a picture of a signed jersey received from Rohit, saying, "One opposition player's shirt I've always wanted. One of my all-time favourite players. Will treasure this; thank you, @rohitsharma45." Rohit ended the England ODIs with 175 runs in three matches at an average of

58.33 and a strike rate of 98.31, with a century, a blistering 138 in 110 balls with 17 fours and five sixes during a 388-run chase in the series decider, which India lost by 27 runs. Despite India's series loss by 2-1, a masterclass from 'the Hitman' and his century stand with long-time batting partner Virat Kohli (74 in 60

balls, with four boundaries and three sixes) enthralled the fans in attendance. With 11,895 runs in 288 matches and 280 innings at an average of 48.95 and a strike rate of 93.04, including 34 centuries, 62 fifties and a best score of 264, Rohit is one of the world's greatest ODI batters ever, ranked seventh in all-time run-scoring lists and India's third-highest run-getter in the format behind Virat Kohli (14,941) and Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs). In nine ODIs this year, Rohit has scored 379 runs in nine innings at an average of 42.11, with a century and a fifty each, and a best score of 138. Rohit and Virat will be seen in action during ODIs against West Indies at home from September 27 to October 3. (ANI) GeographicReference

Commonwealth Games: Indian athletes advance in swimming, shine in lawn bowls

GLASGOW [SCOTLAND], JULY 24: Indian athletes continued their campaign at the 2026 Commonwealth Games with a series of encouraging performances across swimming, lawn bowls, powerlifting and gymnastics, with several competitors advancing to the next stages. In swimming, RVVBK Budigina and Ali Imam competed in the men's 100m freestyle S13 heats. Budigina finished third in his heat, while Imam secured eighth place. Both swimmers progressed to the final, keeping India's medal hopes alive in the event, according to ESPN. Srihari Nataraj also advanced to the next stage of his event after finishing fifth in the men's 50m backstroke heat. His overall ranking of 14th was enough to secure a place in the semifinals. Nataraj's progression adds to India's representation in the swimming, with the Indian swimmer looking to make his mark as the



competition progresses. IndiaNews Updates In lawn bowls, India's women's pairs combination of Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinki Singh registered a convincing 2-0 victory over South Africa's Thabelo Muvhango and Jacqui van Rensburg in their sectional round two match. The Indian pair, who have been part of India's successful lawn bowls campaign in recent major competitions, displayed composure to secure the win and strengthen their position in the sectional stage. The victory is a positive

result for the Indian duo as they continue their campaign in the women's pairs event. Rupa Rani and Pinki will be aiming to maintain their momentum in the remaining sectional matches and move closer to the knockout stages, according to ESPN. In powerlifting, Ashok Kumar Malik and Parmjeet Kumar finished fourth and seventh, respectively, in the men's lightweight category. Malik narrowly missed out on a podium finish after ending the competition in fourth position, while Parmjeet completed his campaign in

seventh place. History The Indian contingent also featured in the women's lightweight category, where Jaspreet Kaur and Suman Devi finished sixth and seventh, respectively. Although the Indian powerlifters could not secure podium finishes in the lightweight categories, their performances added to the country's participation across a wide range of disciplines at the Games. Gymnastics also saw Indian athletes in action, with Tapeshwarnath Das, Swathish KP, Tapan Mohanty and Yogeshwar Singh competing in the men's team and individual rounds in subdivision two. India's prospects in the team event, as well as qualification for the individual finals, will depend on the combined results after the completion of subdivision three. The next subdivision is set to determine the final standings and the athletes who advance to the medal rounds.

Aneesha of MOSA leads in ISSF Rifle event



Sports & Allied News JAMMU, July 24: International shooter from J&K, Aneesha maintained lead over her opponents in ISSF 10 meters Rifle event on day-two of the ongoing 15th J&K-UT Shooting Championship, organized by J&K Rifle Association (JKRA) at different venues, here today.

Representing Mission Olympic Shooting Academy (MOSA), Aneesha scored 631.3 points. She was followed by young Katrina Kaif, again of MOSA with 621 points. The competition is being held under the supervision of organizing secretary, Sharat Chander Singh at three venues of DYSS Gandhi Nagar Jammu, Mission Olympics Shooting

Academy Jammu and NCC Shooting Range Nagrota. The matches are being conducted by the technical panel comprising Rajesh virdhy, Vishal Mehra, Pranav Sambyal, Sahil Sharma, Tarun Dev Singh, Vijay Kumar, Surjeet Singh, Aman Singh, Renu Devi and Vishal Sharma. The Results: ISSF Rifle Score (10m Rifle):- Aneesha Sharma from

MOSAJ scored 631.3, Katrina Kaif from MOSAJ 621, Monika Meenia JKP Club scored 611.5, Anirudh Sharma from MOSAJ scored 616.1; Oshien Dutta from MOSAJ scored 618.7. NR Rifle Score (10 M):- Hanush Sharma, APS Samba 347; Ashwika Mahila APS Sunjwan 353; Reetika Gill of APS Samba 382 and Devang Sharma from APS Samba 365.

Challengers' Cup creates new pathway for Ice Hockey talent from Ladakh and Spiti

LADAKH, JULY 24 : Scheduled from 1-6 August, 2026, at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh, the Challengers' Cup is set to bring together emerging players from across Ladakh and Spiti's Ice Hockey ecosystem. The Challengers' Cup features established institutional teams- the Indian Army Ice Hockey Team and the Central Ice Hockey Team ITBP -- competing against three newly formed regional teams - Leh Kings, Kargil Warriors and Spiti Titans. These teams will have emerging players scouted from the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League and the Spiti Cup, according to a press release. History

The inaugural Challengers' Cup will feature talents from Ladakh and Spiti on one platform for the first time. Notable players featured in the lineup include: * Leh Kings: Led by Karma Rigyal Stein (Captain of Season 3 champions, Kangs Sing) and former Tournament MVP Mush-taque Ahmad Giri * Kargil Warriors: Featuring Waseem Bilal (Top scorer and Assistant Captain of last season's champions) alongside Sajjad Hussain (Captain of runner-up Purig Warriors). * Spiti Titans: Anchored by Tanzin Dorje from the Pin Zone, the second-highest scorer of the recent Spiti Cup To support their journey, the round-robin tournament will include dedicated



training sessions for the civilian teams alongside the league fixtures, culminating in the championship final on August 6, 2026. Vigyat Singh, Director, Eicher Group Foundation, said, "The Challengers' Cup is another step in our long-term commitment to strengthening the Ice Hockey ecosystem in the Himalayas. Over the years, we've seen the sport grow through the passion and dedication of local players, coaches and communities. This new initiative is an opportunity to build on that momentum by creating more avenues for competitive play and year-round developmental programs. Hosting the tournament in August also demonstrates how the sport is gradually evolving beyond

the winter season, and we remain committed to supporting that journey and the local community." By playing against established institutional teams such as the Indian Army and ITBP, these players gain valuable competitive exposure while continuing their development within a structured environment. As part of Royal Enfield's broader year-round programme for Ice Hockey, the Challengers' Cup also demonstrates how the newly inaugurated all-season artificial ice rink in Leh can support regular training, competition and community engagement beyond the traditional winter months. History This initiative builds on the steady evolution of Royal Enfield's Ice Hockey programme in Ladakh. Last

season, Royal Enfield-supported Ice Hockey events drew over 34,000 community members, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for the sport across the region. Over three seasons, the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League has established itself as one of India's most vibrant community-led sporting platforms--fostering grassroots talent across Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Sham, Shakar Chiktan, Zanskar, Changthang, and Lahaul & Spiti. Working closely with the Ice Hockey Associations of Ladakh and Lahaul & Spiti along with local communities, Royal Enfield Social Mission continues to build a sustainable, bottom-up sports ecosystem that empowers Himalayan athletes on national and global stages.

Cricket Australia open to hosting Ashes Test in India

MELBOURNE, JULY 24: After deciding to take the Big Bash League opener to Chennai later this year, Cricket Australia is now considering the idea of having an Ashes Test in India at some point in future. CA chief executive Todd Greenberg, however, ruled out any immediate plan. Australia is preparing to host the Big Bash Opener in Chennai in December. "Our relationship with the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) but



also the BCCI is very strong, and clearly there are opportunities in India to put more content into certain areas,"

Greenberg told BBC's Stumped podcast. "It's not something we're currently planning, but it

would be certainly open to consideration. I think Test cricket between us, England and India is still very strong, probably bucking the trend as to other parts of the world. So we want to make sure we continue to grow it and strengthen it," he added. History Greenberg also noted that a packed cricket calendar might come in the way of a proposal that would require immense logistical coordination between the three bodies.