



SA adds three T20Is to home series against India, to ramp up Champions Trophy prep

JOHANNESBURG, AUG 7: South Africa has added a trio of T20Is to their home multi-format series with India at the end of the year in order to ramp up preparations for the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy event next year. <

The three 20-over contests will take place just after Christmas this year, just weeks prior to the start of the Champions Trophy event that is slated to be played in February 2027.

It means India will play a total of seven fixtures in South Africa in December, consisting of a one-off Test in Gqeberha from December 9, a three-match ODI series from December 16 and the trio of T20Is contests from December 26, as per the ICC.

The matches will continue the recent rivalry between the two sides, with India having beaten South Africa last year in the final of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup as they claimed their first 50-over title.

Cricket South Africa CEO Pholelani Moseki welcomed the new schedule and believes the



visit of India across December will help his side prepare well for the Champions Trophy event in February.

"We are delighted to confirm the revised schedule for India's tour of South Africa, with the addition of the T20 International series over the festive period, ensuring our Proteas Women have the best possible preparation ahead of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka early next

year," Moseki said in a statement as quoted by ICC.

"India remain one of the strongest teams in world cricket, and the opportunity to compete against them across all three formats will provide invaluable competition as we continue building towards another major ICC event," the CEO added.

Series schedule:
Only Test: December 9-12, St. George's Park, Gqeberha

First ODI: December 16, Boland Park, Paarl

Second ODI: December 19, Newlands Cricket Ground, Cape Town

Third ODI: December 22, Mangaung Oval, Bloemfontein

First T20I: December 26, Willowmoore Park, Benoni
Second T20I: December 29, NWC Oval, Potchefstroom

Third T20I: December 30, NWC Oval, Potchefstroom. (ANI)

R Praggnanandhaa seals Grand Chess Tour St Louis Rapid and Blitz title

NEW YORK [US], AUGUST 7: Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa secured the Grand Chess Tour St Louis Rapid and Blitz title on Friday.

The 20-year-old drew against Javokhir Sindarov during the penultimate round to seal the tournament with a score of 23/35 points, finishing 1.5 points ahead of everyone else.

Posting on X, the official handle of ChessBase India wrote, "Its 2:16 AM in India right now, and we have huge news coming in from the USA. R. Praggnanandhaa is the Champion of Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid and Blitz with a round to spare! Praggnanandhaa drew against Javokhir Sindarov in the penultimate round to seal the tournament win with a score of 23/35 points - 1.5 points ahead of the field! Big congratulations to Praggnanandhaa and his team on this amazing victory - this is the first Rapid and Blitz tournament which Pragg has won!"

Its 2:16 AM in India right now, and we have huge news coming in from the



USA. R. Praggnanandhaa is the Champion of Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid and Blitz with a round to spare!

Praggnanandhaa drew against Javokhir Sindarov in the penultimate round to seal the tournament win... pic.twitter.com/R3JOY5UvZG

— ChessBase India (@ChessbaseIndia) August 6, 2026 TrendingVideos

Earlier in June, Praggnanandhaa scripted history by claiming the Norway Chess 2026 crown in Oslo after defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the tenth and final round. The victory completed a remarkable late surge by the Indian star, who registered four consecutive classical wins to secure one of the biggest titles of his career.

Following this, Tamil

Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday felicitated the Indian Grandmaster and presented him with a cash reward of Rs 50 lakh on behalf of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. The felicitation ceremony was held at the Chief Secretariat in Chennai, where the Chief Minister also played a game of chess with the 20-year-old Grandmaster.

IND vs SL Tests: A look at Ravindra Jadeja's fine record against Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, AUGUST 7: During the Test series against Sri Lanka, Team India and its fans will witness one of the all-time great all-rounders, Ravindra Jadeja in action against the Lankan Lions, a team he enjoys playing against.

After missing the one-off Test against Afghanistan, Jadeja, who last featured in whites during India's white-wash loss to South Africa at home last year, will be marking his return in Sri Lanka's spin-friendly conditions.

In seven Tests against Sri Lanka, Jadeja has scored 326 runs in nine innings at an average of 65.20, with a century and a fifty and a best score of 175*. He has also taken 33 wickets at an average of 23.72, with two five-wicket hauls and best figures of 5/41.

Overall in 48 international games against Sri



Lanka, Jadeja has made 791 runs in 34 innings at an average of 46.52, with a century and two fifties and also taken 66 wickets at an average of 31.87, with two five-wicket hauls.

In 89 Tests with the ball, Jadeja has taken 348 wickets at an average of 25.11, with 17 four-fers, 15 five-wicket hauls and three ten-fers to his name, with best figures of 7/42. He has also

scored 4,095 runs in 133 innings at an average of 38.27, with six centuries and eight fifties. With each passing year, Jadeja's reliability with bat and ball has raised up a notch, making him one of the finest all-rounders of the modern era.

With Test assignments against New Zealand (two Tests away) and Australia (five Tests at home) coming up after it, Jadeja will start his chase for 400 Test wickets. If he reaches that mark, he would be the fifth Indian to reach the landmark.

His last year was not really good by his high standards with the ball, having taken just 25 scalps in 10 matches at an average of 38.20, with best figures of 4/50. However, he was sensational with the bat, scoring 764 runs in 17 innings at an average of 63.66, with two centuries and six fifties and a best score of 107*.

Para Elan launches in New Delhi: 300 students step into world of para sports

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 7 : The Thyagaraj Sports Complex hosted the flagship launch of Para Elan, where 300 students from Delhi's government and private schools participated in an initiative aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of disability through firsthand experiences.

Para Elan was launched in April 2026 following the signing a Memorandum of Understanding by Gregor Trumel, Country Director, French Institute in India (IFI), and Satya Parkash Sangwan, Vice-President, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), in the presence of H.E. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, according to a press release.

Building on the legacy of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, this initiative aims to reach over 10,000 students across India over the next three years by combining French language learning through IFI's flagship French for All, French for a Better Future programme with para sports and global citizenship education.

The 300 students who took part were from Grades 7 to 9, evenly divided between those enrolled in IFI's French for All, French for a Better Future programme across six CM Shri (Chief Minister Schools of High Relevance and Innovation) government schools--CM Shri School, INA; CM Shri School, Shalimar Bagh; CM Shri School, Lajpat Nagar; CM Shri School, Surajmal Vihar; CM Shri School, Dwarka Sector 5; and CM Shri School, Dwarka Sector 10--and students from four private schools with established French language programmes: Modern School, Barakhamba Road; Modern School, Vasant Vihar; Tagore International School; and The Mother's International School.

The initiative was designed to foster meaningful exchanges between students from diverse educational backgrounds, bringing together two school communities that would otherwise rarely share a playing field.



Students took part in hands-on para-sports activities, including one-legged badminton, blind goalpost, wheelchair table tennis, and wheelchair cricket, each designed to let them feel, even briefly, what para-athletes experience every day. Running alongside was a creative and journalistic workshop organised with The Junior Age, India's leading newspaper for children, where students reflected on their experience and interviewed para-athletes directly, with a selection of their work to be published in The Junior Age. IndiaNews Portal

The event was made even more inspiring through the presence of some of India's accomplished para athletes, who interacted directly with students, shared their personal journeys, and demonstrated the power of resilience through sport. The participating athletes included Paralympic medalist and one of India's leading high jumpers Sharad Kumar, International para open water swimmer and world record holder Shams Alam, Keshav, Uday Pratap Singh, Manihas, Piyush Gupta, Chirag, Raj Kumari, Manoj, Yogesh Soni, Wasim, Gayatri and Kumari Poonam. Their interactions gave students a unique opportunity to hear first-hand stories of determination, perseverance, and excellence, reinforcing the core message of Para Elan--that sport has the power to break barriers, change perceptions, and build a more inclusive society.

Senior representatives from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, the Paralympic Com-

mittee of India, and the Embassy of France in India attended the event alongside a motivational video message from their French counterparts.

Beginning with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the Embassy of France in India in April, Para Elan has now translated from paper to playground, where 300 students experienced what that partnership means in practice. Reflecting on this shift, H.E. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, remarked: "Para Elan reflects the shared commitment of France and India to building a more inclusive future through education and sport. By bringing young people together to experience adaptive sports firsthand, this initiative reminds us that inclusion is not simply a value to uphold, but one to practise. It also illustrates the potential of the French language to foster genuine human connection and promoting opportunities for innovation. We hope these students leave today not only with new experiences, but with a renewed understanding of the strength that diversity brings to our societies." IndiaNews Portal

Payal Bansal Kanodia, Chairperson, Paralympic Committee of India expressed "Education and sport have across the course of human civilisation, remained two of the most transformative forces for shaping not only capable individuals but compassionate societies. It is this shared conviction that makes our collaboration with the French Institute in India and the Embassy of France particularly meaningful. Through Para Elan, we are

not merely introducing students to para sport; we are inviting them to reimagine the very meaning of ability, resilience and human potential. By combining the universal language of sport with the richness of cultural exchange and the opportunity to learn French, we are opening doors to global perspectives while nurturing values that transcend geographical boundaries."

"For me, Para Elan is ultimately about changing mind-sets before it changes statistics. It is about ensuring that the next generation grows up recognising inclusion not as an act of accommodation, but as an instinctive way of thinking. Over the next three years, as this initiative reaches thousands of students across India, I hope it inspires every young participant to embrace diversity with respect, celebrate courage in all its forms, and recognise that true excellence is never defined by physical ability alone, but by the strength of one's character, the resilience of one's spirit, and the willingness to uplift others along the way.

Because the most enduring victories are not always won on the field they are won when society learns to see ability where it once saw limitation. We would also like to thank M3M Foundation for their support," she said.

By bringing adaptive sport and elite athletes directly to the students, Para Elan did more than raising awareness for a single day. The initiative sought to shift how young people think of para sports by integrating its core values of inclusion, resilience, equality and excellence in educational ecosystems. (ANI)

Glasgow Games bronze-medallist Unnati Sharma on country's CWG 2026 medal haul

DEHRADUN, AUGUST 7: Commonwealth Games 2026 bronze medallist judoka Unnati Sharma lauded India's four-medal haul in judo at the Glasgow Games, saying the achievement will help boost the sport's popularity across the country.

Besides Unnati Sharma's bronze in the Women's -63kg category, India's judo medal tally at the Commonwealth Games 2026 included gold medals from Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh, along with a silver from Yamini Mourya, taking the country's total to four medals. Notably, Asmita's gold medal came as India's first judo gold medal of the Games.

Unnati claimed the bronze medal after producing a superb Ippon victory over South Africa's Skye Knoester in the bronze-medal contest. Unnati required just 1 minute and 7 seconds to finish the contest, executing a perfectly timed leg hook that sent her opponent onto her back for a clean Ippon--the highest possible score in judo.

Speaking to ANI, Unnati said she was delighted with India's judo success at the Commonwealth Games, especially the two gold medals, calling it a major boost for the sport in the country.



TrendingVideos "It has been a very good feeling and it feels very good that medals have finally come in Judo and two golds have come and it's a very good thing, it's a boost for Judo in India so it's a very good thing for us," she said. Unnati began her campaign with an Ippon win over Eswatini's Lamulela Magagula in the round of 16 before defeating New Zealand's Qona Christie by waza-ari in the quarter-finals. She then suffered an Ippon defeat against eventual silver medallist Saya Middleton of Australia in the semi-final, sending her into the bronze medal bout.

Unnati said she studied her oppo-

nent's previous bouts after the semi-final loss and devised a strategy to counter her left-handed style. She then used a Dane-Toshi technique during the bronze medal bout, capitalising on her opponent's body position to secure an Ippon victory. "When I lost the semi-final, I saw who my fight was with, so we saw her fights online which were available on IJF (International Judo Federation), according to that we made a strategy that she is a lefty, so our plan was to stop her from the left and then as soon as the fight started, I realized that her body weight is back and I know Dane-Toshi, so I applied Dane-Toshi and she her body balance was back so it became Ippon," she said.

Unnati said she was disappointed after losing the semi-final, as her target was gold, but she stayed positive and shifted her focus towards winning the bronze medal. "When I came after the semi-final, I was very disappointed because my target was gold and because I lost due to my own mistake, I was very disappointed, it was a very sad feeling in a way, but because I knew that I have to go for bronze now, my thinking was to keep myself a bit positive and focus on bronze and at least win bronze.