



Indian Women hold China to 2-2 draw in their FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 opener



AMSTELVEEN [NETHERLANDS], AUGUST 16: The Indian Women's Hockey Team began their FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026 campaign with a hard-fought 2-2 draw against 2024 Olympic silver medallists China at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen on Sunday.

Playing their opening match of the tournament, India made an impressive start and took the initiative early, putting China under pressure with their attacking intent and sustained possession. Lalremsiami was at the heart of India's early attacking moves, earning the first penalty corner of the match after drawing a foul inside the circle. Navneet stepped up to take the set piece, but her powerful hit was well dealt with by the Chinese defence, according to a press release.

India continued to press and were rewarded in the eighth minute. Neha sent the ball into the circle from outside the D, and Navneet got the final touch to give India the lead in the 8th minute. The goal was a reward for India's sustained

pressure, as they continued to look the more threatening side in the opening quarter.

China gradually grew into the contest and began creating opportunities of their own. A dangerous ball from Li Hong into the circle took a deflection off an Indian stick, before China were awarded a penalty stroke in the 14th minute after a foul inside the circle. India referred the decision, but the original call was upheld. Ying Zhang made no mistake from the spot, wrong-footing Savita to level the scores.

India remained composed despite conceding and started the second quarter strongly. Shilpi produced a brave defensive intervention early in the quarter to block a Chinese attempt inside the circle. At the other end, India continued to find spaces in China's defence, with Navneet winning another penalty corner after getting behind the first line of defence.

India came close to restoring their lead as they continued to move the ball around the Chinese circle. In the 24th minute, Deepika produced a fine individual effort, dribbling

her way into the circle and all the way to the baseline before drawing a foul and earning another penalty corner.

Deepika stepped up to take the resulting set piece and fired a powerful drag-flick into the net in the 25th minute.

India carried their 2-1 lead into half-time after an energetic first half in which they created several opportunities and kept China under sustained pressure.

China came out with renewed intensity after the interval and immediately put India under pressure. The Chinese side began pressing higher and created a series of opportunities inside the Indian circle. Savita was called into action early in the third quarter, making an important save to deny China after a deflection had created danger in front of goal.

The pressure eventually told in the 39th minute when China earned a penalty corner. Ma Ning produced a superb drag-flick to beat the Indian defence and bring the scores level at 2-2.

China continued to dominate possession and territory in the remainder of the

third quarter, earning another penalty corner soon after. Savita once again stood tall, making a sharp low save to deny China's attempt. India were forced to defend deep as China maintained their high press, but the Indian defence held firm to ensure the teams entered the final quarter level.

The fourth quarter continued to see China press for the winning goal, while India worked hard to regain control and find a way through the Chinese defensive lines. India finally created a promising opening in the 52nd minute when Navneet's cutback found Lalremsiami inside the circle, but her attempt was crowded out by the Chinese defence.

China continued to threaten from penalty corners in the closing stages and earned another opportunity in the 57th minute. The initial drag-flick took a deflection and bounced around inside the circle before China were awarded another penalty corner, but India successfully defended the situation.

Neither side could find the decisive goal in the final minutes as the two teams settled for a 2-2 draw. India will now turn their attention to their next Pool D encounter as they look to build on a spirited opening performance at the World Cup.

Following the opening round of matches, England sit at the top of the Pool D standings after their 4-0 victory over South Africa, while India and China are level on points in second place, with South Africa occupying fourth position.

India will next take on South Africa on 18 August, as they look to secure their first win of the tournament. Before that, the Indian Men's Hockey Team will face England in their second World Cup match on 17 August. (ANI)

Thousands participate in 'Jammu Runs for Unity' Marathon

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 16

The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organised the "Jammu Runs for Unity" Marathon at Bahu Plaza today, promoting the message of unity, cleanliness, responsible citizenship and devotion, besides imbibing the spirit of a clean and environmentally responsible Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The marathon was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar in the presence of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav along with senior officers of the Corporation including the Joint Commissioner (H&S), Joint Commissioner (Admin) and Health Officer. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of residents of Jammu including children, youth and citizens from different sections of society. The overwhelming response reflected the strong spirit of unity, community participation and collective responsibility among the people of Jammu.



The marathon aimed to bring citizens together while spreading awareness about cleanliness, environmental protection and responsible civic behaviour. It also highlighted the importance of keeping the city, public spaces and pilgrimage routes clean, hygienic and sustainable, especially during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. At the conclusion of the event, certificates and prizes were distributed among the winners in the respective categories. The participants were felicitated

for their outstanding performance and enthusiastic participation.

In the 5 KM Men's category, Vivek Sharma bagged first position, followed by Raghav Sharma, clinching the second place and Mohd Kaif securing third place. In the 5 KM Women's category, Kriti Devi secured first position, Neelam Dutta second and Sheetal Devi third.

In the 10 KM Men's category, Balvinder Singh secured first position, Suraj Kumar second and Rohit Sharma third. In the 10 KM

Women's category, Dishu Thakur secured first position, Deepanshi second and Aditi Kohli third place.

The successful conduct of the marathon reaffirmed the Jammu Municipal Corporation's commitment to engaging citizens in initiatives that promote a cleaner, greener, healthier and more united Jammu.

The event also underscored the importance of collective action and responsible citizenship in making Jammu a cleaner and more sustainable city.

1st Test: Padikkal 167, Jurel's fifty carry India to 460/9 on Day 2 despite Sri Lankan bowlers' improved show

GALLE, AUG 16: Devdutt Padikkal's sophisticated 167 was the centrepiece in India's strong 460 for nine at stumps despite the Sri Lankan spinners growing fangs on a truncated second day of the first Test here on Sunday.

Kuldeep Yadav (12) and Prasidh Krishna (1) were batting at close.

Rains of varying intensity and the resultant wet outfield delayed the start of the day's play until 2.35 pm,

and the long break seemed to have rejuvenated the Lankans more.

The home bowlers produced better lines and lengths than day one, cutting down the scoring areas of Indian batters, who resumed from a far stronger 288 for two.

It was the perfect launching pad to be in a far healthier position, but the tourists lost seven wickets -- some to the Lankan spinners' guile and some to their own

indiscretions -- for 172 runs.

Padikkal, who started from 131, brought up his maiden 150 in 215 balls when he pulled pacer Asitha Fernando for a boundary.

However, before the left-hander reached his landmark, India had lost the other overnight batter Rishabh Pant for 39.

Pant seemed impatient to stamp his authority over the bowlers, but the

overzealousness ended his stint, as a feeble loft off off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha was snaffled by a running-in Sonal Dinusha.

KL Rahul, who had to retire on 77 because of cramps the previous day, walked in next but could only add four more runs to his overnight score. Rahul failed to negotiate the turn and bounce from Nuwantha, giving a simple catch to Nishan Madhushka at short leg.

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He advocated their transparent and supervised use in classrooms so that students learn both their capabilities and limitations.

The CJI said that institutions that resist inevitable technological change risk losing their opportunity to shape it. He said that legal education should not stop at adaptation because adaptation merely responds to change after it has occurred.

"Instead, law universities should anticipate technological developments, shape their direction and ensure that technology evolves in service of law and its underlying values," the CJI said.

For this, he stressed collaboration among National Law Universities and called for serious research on algorithmic accountability, data protection, digital access to justice and the changing relationship between technology and dispute resolution.

"Let technology make legal institutions and services more capable, but let our values determine the direction in which that capability is used," he said, adding that innovation should make justice faster but never make it less fair.

5 hydel project employees among 7 killed in road accidents

"Pained by the loss of five lives in a tragic road accident in Dachhan, Kishtwar. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he said.

The LG said he had directed the district administration and senior officials to ensure that immediate assistance was provided to the affected families and all those impacted by the tragedy.

He also directed the concerned authorities to extend all possible support to the victims' families and ensure necessary assistance at the earliest.

Meanwhile, two persons lost their lives and six others were injured after an EECO car in which they were travelling met with an accident at Kandi Morha in Kotranka sub division of Rajouri.

According to officials, the incident took place when the car was on its way from Kandi to Mohra. Six persons were injured in the mishap and were shifted to Government Medical College, Rajouri, for treatment.

Two of the injured later succumbed to their injuries, while two others were said to be critical. The condition of the remaining two was stated to be stable.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

Cong hits out at PM over women's quota appeal

Modi's appeal and said instead of "sermonising" from the Red Fort, he must implement the quota on the current strength of the Lok Sabha for 2029 polls.

Asked about the PM's appeal to opposition parties in his

Independence Day speech, Ramesh said it is important to understand the chronology, as in 1993, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Bills were passed, providing one-third reservation for women in panchayats, zilla parishads, block panchayats and municipalities.

It was Rajiv Gandhi who had done the ground work for that and he was instrumental in bringing this provision into the Constitution, Ramesh told PTI.

"In September 2023, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 was passed unanimously. It was Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge ji who had asserted that the women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies should be implemented immediately," he said.

Ramesh said the Congress and other opposition parties have repeatedly called for women's reservation implementation on the 543-member strength of the Lok Sabha which means 182 seats for women be reserved.

Suddenly, at 11 pm on April 16, 2026, while the delimitation issue was being deliberated in Parliament, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 was notified.

He said the government was only interested in linking women's reservation with delimitation.

The government has been attempting to get a "tainted two-thirds majority" but has not succeeded and the Constitution Amendment Bill involving delimitation could not be brought even in the Monsoon Session, he said.

"They don't have a two-thirds majority and will never get it," Ramesh said.

Instead of repeatedly "sermonising" from the Red Fort and doing this "drama", the PM must implement women's reservation on the current strength of the Lok Sabha from the 2029 general election, he said.

"The PM's single-point agenda is 'Modi preservation, not women's reservation'," Ramesh said.

His remarks come a day after Modi appealed to the opposition parties to support the delimitation-linked women reservation bill, saying the issue has been stuck in political 'akhada' (wrangling) for the last 40 years.

The Constitution amendment bill, brought during the extended Budget Session, sought to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816.

A two-thirds majority was required to pass the proposed legislation in the Lower House. However, it was defeated by the opposition parties.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, Modi also said the political parties can take credit for the adoption of the proposed legislation.

"Under the shadow of the national flag, I appeal to all political parties: let's come together in honour of those women and provide 33 per cent reservation to our mothers and daughters in assemblies and Lok Sabha and ensure their

representation, so that they contribute in evolving India's policies," he said, adding that it was the need of the hour.

"I urge all political parties to come forward in implementing the women reservation Bill and honour them. They should also take credit for its passage and contribute, but give that right to our women," he said, calling on the need to venerate women power.

On April 17, during the Budget Session, the Modi government faced a setback as the Constitution Amendment Bill was defeated in Lok Sabha.

Of the 528 MPs who voted in Lok Sabha, 298 voted in support, while 230 opposed it. The Bill required 352 votes for a two-thirds majority.

India to host BRICS Environment Working Group meetings

oration, sharing knowledge, leading practices and success stories to develop innovative approaches from the Member Countries.

The second would be afforestation. Forest Fire Management and Disaster Resilience focuses on strengthening land restoration by combining structured knowledge exchange and capacity building with advanced data collection, monitoring and addressing shared challenges through integrated, landscape-based greening approaches. This priority also emphasises forest fire management, prevention, preparedness, early detection and rapid response, as noted in the release.

Priority three would be that the Circular Economy showcases effective waste management practices by developing robust Extended Producer Responsibility policy frameworks and regulatory approaches. This priority aims to exemplify leading practices across Member Countries to ensure equity and resource use efficiency, which would lead to a pivotal policy instrument for advancing circular economy transitions.

Priority fourth is the adaptation focuses on advancing co-operation on climate adaptation through people-centric and community-led adaptation built on traditional knowledge. This priority supports the deliberation on practical cooperation, structured knowledge exchange, exchange of best practices and policy-relevant outcomes built on traditional knowledge systems that strengthen climate resilience across BRICS Member Countries, as per the release.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, under its BRICS 2026 Chairship, initiated discussions and deliberations through a series of virtual meetings, technical sessions, webinars and dialogues during the period March to July. Dialogues on BRICS Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, and Aligning Carbon Markets with Adaptation Goals, besides Webinars on Initiatives Towards addressing Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought, and Integrated Approaches to Wildfire Management for Disaster Resilience, were also organised. These consultations provided an important plat-

form for building consensus and setting the context for in-person deliberations in New Delhi on August 17-18.

The BRICS Environment Working Group (EWG) was established in 2015 during the first BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Moscow. It was envisioned as a platform for BRICS to address fundamental environmental priorities, exchange experiences, share best practices and strengthen collective action amongst BRICS Member Countries, according to a release.

The Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development was established in 2024 as an effective mechanism for cooperation on climate change issues amongst BRICS member countries.

On I-Day, Guv unveils plaque commemorating Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Independence, laid down their lives to preserve the unity and integrity of our country and to protect our borders. Their courage & sacrifice will forever continue to inspire us," he said, recalling that 15th August 1947 marked a glorious chapter in India's history, made possible by the sacrifice, dedication and struggle of countless freedom fighters.

Extending his warm greetings to the people of Himachal Pradesh, the governor said that Independence Day is not merely about hoisting the Tricolour but also celebrated as one of the greatest festivals of the nation.

"The occasion is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation," he said, calling upon every citizen to contribute towards building a strong, prosperous and self-reliant India.

The governor emphasised that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India today stands before the world with a clear vision, firm policies and renewed confidence, making steady progress in every sphere of development.

"India has become the world's fourth-largest economy and, through sustained reforms, is steadily moving towards becoming the third-largest in the years ahead," he said.

"The country has grown considerably stronger and more self-reliant in the defence sector, in keeping with the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. India was once a victim of terror attacks; today, a strong and resolute India ensures that our Armed Forces give a befitting reply to anyone who attempts to harm the nation," he added.

"PM Modi, in his Red Fort address, unveiled "Sapta Dhara" - Seven Streams of Strength - framework to guide the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation, Viksit Bharat, by 2047. Under his visionary leadership, the country is moving ahead with renewed confidence towards this goal, and Himachal Pradesh, with its rich cultural heritage, abundant natural resources and resilient people, is committed to playing its full part in this national endeavour by working towards the vision of an Atmanirbhar Himachal and Viksit Bharat by 2047," Gupta said.