



North Delhi Strikers defend 141 to beat South Delhi Superstarz by 10 runs, go top of Women's DPL 2026 table

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22: North Delhi Strikers Women produced a disciplined bowling and fielding performance to defend their total of 141/4 and defeat South Delhi Superstarz Women by 10 runs in the Delhi Premier League, making it two wins from two matches and taking them to the top of the points table.

Chasing 142, South Delhi Superstarz finished on 131/5 in 20 overs, falling short despite a fighting effort from their middle order, according to a release.

After a difficult start, with wicketkeeper-batter Nishika Singh dismissed for a three-ball duck, South Delhi were reduced to 1/1 in the first over. Priya Punia and Tanishqa Singh attempted to rebuild the innings, adding 36 runs before Punia was dismissed for 10 off 18 balls.

Tanishqa played the anchor's role brilliantly, scoring a valuable 46 off 44 balls, including six boundaries.

She put on a partnership with captain Shweta Sehrawat, who contributed 27 off 23 balls with two fours and a six.

Tanishqa's dismissal in the 14th over left South Delhi at 72/3, while Sehrawat fell shortly after at 94/4. Ekta Bhadana was then dismissed for four, leaving South Delhi needing 28 runs from the final two overs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium that will host the India vs Afghanistan fixtures next month. SouthAsians & Diaspora

Tanisha Singh remained unbeaten on 24 off 19 balls, while Disha Nagar added an unbeaten nine off six, but the pair could only take South Delhi to 131/5.

For North Delhi Strikers, Nazma was the standout bowler, claiming 2/28 from four overs. Reshika Beniwal, Apeksha Anand and Priya Mishra picked up one wicket apiece.

Earlier, North Delhi Strikers posted 141/4, powered by a superb unbeaten 71 off 54 balls from Shivi Sharma, who struck nine boundaries.

Upasana Yadav added 43 off 42 balls, while captain Ayushi Soni scored 17.

The 10-run victory gives North Delhi Strikers two wins from two matches, placing them at the top of the Delhi Premier League women's points table. (ANI)



Bandipora Clinches U-17 Girls Kabaddi Title as Provincial-Level Competition Concludes

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 22

District Bandipora emerged victorious in the three-day Inter-District Provincial-Level Girls Kabaddi Competition for Under-17 girls, which concluded today at Government Higher Secondary School, Nadihal, Bandipora.

District Anantnag secured the runner-up position, while District Ganderbal finished third in the competition, which was organised by the District Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora.

The concluding day witnessed a series of exciting and closely contested matches, with young kabaddi players from various districts displaying impressive skill, agility, teamwork, discipline and determination. The competition provided the participants with valuable exposure at the provincial level while promoting sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit.

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Bandipora, was present on the occasion and presented the winner's trophy to the victorious Bandipora team. He congratulated the players for their commendable performance and appreciated the coaches, officials and support staff for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the event. The competition reflected the Directorate's continued commitment to promoting sports among young athletes, particularly girls, by providing them with opportunities to compete at higher levels and further develop their sporting abilities. The event also reinforced the importance of discipline, teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship among the participants.

The District Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, congratulated the winning teams and expressed appreciation to all participating players, coaches, officials and support staff for their valuable contribution to the successful completion of the three-day sporting event.



Inter-District Divisional-Level Table Tennis Competition for U-17 Boys Commences in Shopian

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 22

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Shopian, today commenced the Inter-District Divisional-Level Table Tennis Competition for Boys Under-17 at the Indoor Complex, Arhama, Shopian.

The competition began following the successful completion of the Under-14 Boys Table Tennis Competition, which was also held at the same venue.

The U-17 championship was formally inaugurated by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Shopian, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, who interacted with the participating young sportspersons representing all ten districts of the Kashmir Division.

Addressing the players, the DYSSO urged them to participate with dedication, discipline and true sportsmanship. He encouraged the young athletes to make the most of the championship by showcasing their talent and striving for excellence.

The competition provides an important platform for emerging table tennis players to demonstrate their skills, gain valuable competitive exposure and interact with fellow sportspersons from across the Kashmir Division. The event underscores the Department of Youth Services and Sports' continued commitment to promoting sporting activities, nurturing young talent and creating meaningful opportunities for budding athletes across the region.



Sopore Clinches U-19 IZDL Kabaddi Title in Baramulla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 22

Zone Sopore emerged victorious in the Under-19 Boys' Kabaddi Competition of the Inter-Zonal District Level (IZDL) tournament, defeating Zone Dangerpora in a closely contested and thrilling final held today at Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla.

The competition was organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Baramulla, under the supervision of the Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, Smt. Anuradha Gupta, JKAS. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes representing different zones of the district, providing them with an important platform to demonstrate their sporting talent, discipline and competitive spirit. The concluding ceremony was attended by Mushtaq Ahmad Pamori, DYSSO Baramulla, and Shabir Ahmad Thoker, PEM/Activity In-charge. On the occasion, the officials appreciated the participating players, officials and escort teachers for their dedication, discipline and exemplary sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Mohammad Arif Lone, PEL and Overall In-charge, shared valuable observations on the conduct of the competition and highlighted the department's continued efforts to identify and nurture sporting talent at the grassroots level. Shah Nawaz Sarwar, PEL/Selector, also shared his assessment of the performance and potential displayed by the participating players.

DYSSO Baramulla presented the winner's trophy to Zone Sopore and the runner-up trophy to Zone Dangerpora, congratulating both teams for their commendable performances and sportsmanlike conduct.

Meanwhile, the IZDL Badminton Competition for Girls continued at Bipin Rawat Indoor Stadium, Baramulla. More than 50 girls participated in the Under-17 category, showcasing their skills and competitive abilities.

The Table Tennis selection trials also continued at Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, where 16 Under-17 girls participated and competed for selection.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports remains committed to providing young athletes with quality competitive opportunities, professional exposure and platforms to hone their skills and progress towards higher levels.



India face must-win clash against Australia to keep FIH Women's Hockey World Cup hopes alive

AMSTELVEEN AUGUST 22 (ANI): The Indian women's hockey team faces a must-win battle against Australia in their decisive fixture at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 on Sunday, with the second semi-final spot from Pool E still up for grabs.

Both teams are on one point, and a victory will put the winner in the strongest position to progress, although the final permutations will also depend on the result in the match between the Netherlands and China, according to a Hockey India release.

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Hosts and defending champions Netherlands have already booked their place in the semi-finals after beating India 2-0 on Friday. The Dutch, who carried three points forward from the first stage, added another three with their win to move to six points. China, meanwhile, sit on two points after their draw against Australia, having also carried one point forward from the opening stage.

The equation will become clearer after the Netherlands take on China at 7:30 pm IST on Sunday, with India's clash against Australia scheduled for 10:30 pm IST.

For India, the immediate task is straightforward: produce a winning performance against the Hockeyroos to give themselves the best chance. But if China upset the hosts to avenge their defeat in the 2024 Paris Olympics final, they will move to five points, ending the hopes for both India and Australia, the release said.

However, if that match ends in a draw or a defeat for China, India will then need an outright win over Australia to progress and create history.

"We see it as a quarter-final," said India's Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne, as quoted by the release. "It's always very close (against Australia), and that's how I think the match on Sunday will be. There will not be many secrets because we play many times against each other. It's a must-win game for both sides and that's something which makes it a big challenge for us."

The two sides had a good look at each other during the four-match series just before the FIH Nations Cup earlier this year, with the closely fought contests resulting in a 2-2 draw. It highlights how evenly matched the teams are in a face-off.

Going into the big game against Australia, India will take confidence from their showing against the formidable Dutch side. Despite conceding an early goal, the Indian defence remained composed and disciplined, frustrating the hosts for long periods and ensuring they did not concede a field goal.

The defensive unit has been one of India's biggest strengths throughout the tournament, with legendary goalkeeper Savita and Bichu Devi providing an assured presence between the posts.

Against Australia, that defensive solidity will again be crucial, but India will also need greater efficiency in the attacking third. The team has created opportunities through both open play and penalty corners. It's now down to converting those chances into goals, which could prove decisive in a game where margins are likely to be fine.

"Against big teams, if you get three opportunities, you have to convert one or two. That's something we keep working on," Marijne added. "It's the same with penalty corners."

Kolkata Derby to decide champions of 135th Durand Cup edition

KOLKATA, AUGUST 22 (ANI): Asia's oldest football tournament returns to where it began four weeks ago as East Bengal FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant meet once more at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Sunday for the final of the 135th Durand Cup.

The Kolkata Derby needs no introduction, yet the circumstances of this renewal lend it an extra edge: Mohun Bagan won the opening match of the tournament, and East Bengal have spent the intervening weeks seeking a way to reverse that result when it matters most, according to a release.

The 135th edition began on July 25 with Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC drawing first blood in Group A. Sahal Abdul Samad's second-half strike settled a tight, tactically cagey derby 1-0 in the Mariners' favour. It remains the only defeat East Bengal have suffered in the campaign.

Everything else in their run to the final has been won, and won convincingly, giving Sunday's rematch a clear narrative: Mohun Bagan arrive as the sole unbeaten side left standing, while East Bengal arrive with the sharpest motive to correct the one result that got away.

The paths that brought both clubs back to Salt Lake Stadium reveal contrasting rhythms. Mohun Bagan swept through Group A with a perfect record, following the derby win with an 8-0 demolition of South United FC, Manvir Singh's hat-trick the headline act before sealing top spot with a 6-0 victory over CISF Protectors, in which Sahal claimed a first-half hat-trick of his own.

East Bengal's response to their opening defeat was emphatic: an 8-0 rout of CISF Protectors marked Antonio Lopez Habas's first win as head coach, followed by a 5-0 success against South United FC that secured passage as one of the two best runners-up across the six groups, the release said.

