



Haryana girls avenge last year's defeat, win Junior National Hockey title

NEW DELHI, AUG 24: Haryana's junior women's hockey team avenged last year's final defeat by beating Jharkhand 2-1 in the final to win the 16th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship in Pune yesterday.

Haryana had lost to Jharkhand by the same scoreline in last year's final at Kakinada.

Haryana coach Azad Singh Malik said the team had won the national title after a gap of three years. Haryana had previously won the championship in 2021 and 2022. In the past three editions, the team had finished runners-up once and third twice.

Haryana remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. The team opened with a 10-1 win over Bengal, followed by a 3-0 victory over Odisha. In the quarter-



final, Haryana defeated Chandigarh 3-1 before thrashing Chhattisgarh 8-0 in the semi-final.

In the final, Jharkhand took the lead through Mundri Saroj in the 19th minute. Haryana equalised when Bhavya converted a

penalty corner in the 23rd minute. Khushi then scored the winner in the 42nd minute to seal the title, Malik said. The coach said Haryana had steadily emerged as a strong force at the.

The Haryana team com-

prised Ishika, Bhavya, Jasmine, Tamanna, Sakshi and Khushi from Sonapat; Deepika, Himanshi, Kirti, Aditi, Anjali, Diksha, Shashi Khasa, Durga and Van-shishika from Hisar; and Anjani and Sukhpreet Kaur from Kurukshetra.

Girls Shine Bright in Karate, Badminton at Baramulla

BARAMULLA AUGUST 24: In continuation of the Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions, the Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Baramulla, today conducted Karate for Girls across all age groups and the Under-19 Girls Badminton Competition at different indoor venues across the district.

The Karate competition was held at Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla, witnessing enthusiastic participation of 50+ girls, while the Under-19 Girls Badminton Competition was conducted at Bipin Rawat Indoor Stadium, Baramulla, and concluded successfully today.

The competitions are being organised under the supervision of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, with the objective of



providing young athletes a competitive platform to showcase their talent, discipline and sporting potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, DYSSO Baramulla, highlighted the enthusiastic participation of girls and

said that such competitions are instrumental in identifying and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots level.

DC Kulgam Inaugurates Annual Athletic Meet

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 24

The Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Department, District Kulgam, organised the Annual Athletic Meet 2026 under the Annual Activity Calendar of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K, with enthusiastic participation from young athletes representing all six zones of the district.

The meet was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who appreciated the efforts of the YSS Department in promoting sports and providing young athletes with opportunities to develop and showcase their talent at the grassroots level.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam and Tehsildar Kulgam, along with other officials and sports enthusiasts, were also present on the occasion.

The athletic meet featured competitions in the



Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 Boys categories, with participants competing across a wide range of track and field events. These included 100m, 200m, 400m, 600m, 800m, 1500m and 3000m races, besides field events such as Javelin Throw, Shot Put, High Jump, Long

Jump and Discus Throw.

The event provided budding athletes with a vibrant platform to demonstrate their speed, strength, stamina and sporting ability in a disciplined and competitive environment. The enthusiastic participation of athletes from all six zones reflected the growing inter-

est in athletics among the youth of the district.

The Annual Athletic Meet forms part of the YSS Department's continued efforts to promote a strong sporting culture, identify emerging talent and encourage greater youth participation in sports across Kulgam district.

Asian Games: 4 Himachal girls make it to Indian kabaddi squad

SHIMLA, AUR 24: Four girls from Himachal Pradesh — Pushpa Rana, Bhavna Thakur, Jyoti Thakur and Ritu Negi — have made it to the Indian kabaddi squad for the Asian Games, further strengthening the state's reputation as a powerhouse of women's kabaddi.

The Games will be held in September in Japan.

"It's a matter of immense pride for the state that our four girls will represent India at the prestigious Asian Games. It shows how Himachali girls are dominating kabaddi at the national as well as international level," said Raj Kumar Bhranta, president of the Himachal Pradesh Kabaddi Association. Indianews updates

India will enter the Games as the defending champions. At the 2023



Asian Games, Himachal girls played a key role in India's gold-medal winning campaign, with as many as five players from the state featuring in the squad.

"This time, too, there would have been five girls from the state, but talented player Sakshi Sharma bowed out of the race due to an untimely injury," said Bhranta.

He further said Ritu Negi would be representing India at the Asian Games for the third consecutive time. "It's a massive achievement and shows her level and quality as a player," he said.

Bhranta said the state would continue to produce top kabaddi players as good infrastructure and playing opportunities are available to players at the grassroots

level.

"The association regularly holds tournaments at the sub-junior, junior and senior levels to spot the best talent," he said.

He further said the Education Department had introduced kabaddi at several sports hostels. "Besides, we have SAI and Khelo India centres where kabaddi players are trained," he said.

Suraj Narredu creates history in Japan, becomes first Indian jockey to win at JRA

BENGALURU, AUG 24: Suraj Narredu has created history in Japan, becoming the first Indian jockey to register a victory at the Japan Racing Association (JRA), after guiding Fier Chanter to victory at Sapporo Racecourse.

According to a press release, the landmark victory comes in a defining year for the Indian jockey. Earlier this year, Narredu became the first Indian jockey to surpass 2,500 career wins, adding another milestone to a career that has already established him among India's most accomplished riders. He has also recorded more than 250 domestic graded-race victories and over 100 classic titles. SouthAsians & Diaspora

Making his much-anticipated Japan debut as one of six overseas jockeys selected for the prestigious 2026 World All-Star Jockeys (WASJ), Narredu produced the historic result on only his second mount in Japan. Partnering three-year-old Fier Chanter over 2,600 metres, he secured the win with a horse that was the sixth choice in the field, making the result even more significant.



The victory came in a highly competitive international environment, with Narredu sharing the stage with leading jockeys from Australia, South Africa, France and Canada, alongside Japan's top riders.

Speaking after the race on Saturday, Narredu said, "To ride in Japan was a big dream for me. It feels very special to win on my very first day, and to do it in front of my family is always a very special moment. It's a very special moment for India as well. I thank the fans for their warm messages on so-

cial media and those who are here today waving the Indian flag."

The JRA victory adds another international milestone to Narredu's two-decade career at the highest level of Indian racing.

A four-time Indian Derby winner and four-time Champion Jockey of the Year, Narredu has built an extensive international racing resume, having competed across jurisdictions including Australia, France, Dubai, Ireland, Macau, Malaysia, Mauritius and the United States.

His international profile received a major boost with his breakthrough appearance at the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup at Ascot in 2025, where he represented Team Asia, recorded a race victory and helped his team claim the overall title. He returned to Ascot this year as part of the Rest of the World Team before travelling to Japan for his JRA debut.

His selection for the 2026 WASJ marked another significant recognition, with Narredu chosen among just six overseas jockeys for the prestigious international competition.

Narredu's victory represents more than an individual achievement. It marks a significant moment for Indian horse racing, with an Indian rider succeeding in Japan's highly regarded racing environment.

What makes the achievement particularly notable is the manner in which it was delivered: Narredu arrived in Japan as a first-time JRA rider, competing against an elite international field, and within just two rides secured a victory aboard a horse that was not among the race favourites.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 24

Zone Jammu and Zone Satwari emerged winner in under-14 and under-17 categories in the inter-zone district level boys Basketball tournament which was organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) at MA Stadium, here today.

In the under-14 group, Jammu defeated Zone Bhalwal 28-09 whereas in the under-17 category, Satwari outplayed Zone Jammu 31-18.

The district level activities are being organized under the guidance of district youth services and sports Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

Around 300 students participated in this event



with teams drawn from different zones of the district, a handout issued here today informed.

The winners and runners up teams were later felicitated by the district officer

with title trophies.

The technical penal comprised Rajesh Bandral, Amit Kalsi, Vaneet Pangotra and Manjeet Kour.

The Results: Semifinals: Under-14: Zone Bhalwal

beat Zone Gandhi Nagar 12-11; Zone Jammu beat Zone Satwari 21-08. Under-17: Zone Jammu beat Zone Gandhinagar 21-09; Zone Satwari beat Zone Bhalwal 22-05.

South Delhi Superstarz edge Central Delhi Queens by 11 runs in Women's DPL 2026

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24: South Delhi Superstarz produced a disciplined all-round performance to defeat Central Delhi Queens by 11 runs in the women's leg of the Delhi Premier League 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday.

Batting first, South Delhi

Superstarz posted 68/6 in eight overs (rain curtailed match), with captain Shweta Sehrawat leading the way with a composed 26 off 21 balls, according to a press release from DPL.

She struck three boundaries and anchored the innings through the middle overs.

Priya Punia provided an early burst, smashing two boundaries in her 9 off four deliveries before being dismissed by Sumiti Soni.

Tanisha Singh then added valuable momentum with 19 off 13 balls, including three fours, before Medhavi Bidhuri accounted for her.

South Delhi lost wickets in quick succession towards the end, but Ananya Pahuja remained unbeaten on five, while Disha Nagar contributed four off three balls at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, which will host international fixtures between India and Afghanistan. Indianews updates