



India U17 women to play two friendlies against Philippines in Goa

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28: The India U17 women's team will continue their preparations for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers with two friendly matches against Philippines in Goa on September 26 and 29, 2026.

According to a media release from the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the venue for both matches will be confirmed at a later date. It will mark only the second meeting between India and Philippines at this age level. The Southeast Asians won 2-0 in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifiers.

Coached by Joakim Alexandersson, India are currently in Tashkent to play two friendlies against hosts Uzbekistan. The first one ended goalless on Thursday, while the second will take place on Sunday. The games against Philippines will be the Young Tigresses' last friendly outings before they travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2027 Qualifiers,

which will be held from October 5 to 11. India will open their campaign against Iraq on October 5, before facing Syria on October 8 and hosting Malaysia on October 11. Following their historic first-ever appearance in the knockout stage of the previous edition in Suzhou, China, the Young Tigresses will be aiming to qualify for back-to-back AFC U17 Women's Asian Cups for the first time.

Earlier, the AIFF appointed Anthony Andrews as the assistant coach of the India U17 women's national team, with Joakim Alexandersson continuing as the head coach.

Andrews, who also serves as head coach of East Bengal FC, will take up the role on a dual basis with the club and country.

The current Indian Women's League (IWL) champion with East Bengal, Andrews is the most successful coach in the league's history, having won four titles. He guided Gokulam Kerala FC to consecutive IWL titles in 2021-22 and 2022-23 before leading East Bengal FC to back-to-back championships in 2024-25 and 2025-26. He is the only coach to have won multiple IWL trophies.



Telangana CM congratulates Praggnanandhaa on historic Grand Chess Tour triumph

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 28: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated the Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa on his Grand Chess Tour (GCT) title win.

CM Reddy hailed Praggnanandhaa for clinching the GCT title in St. Louis, USA, applauding him for making history by winning the title and showcasing India's expertise on the international stage once again, according to a Telangana CMO.

"It is a proud moment for every citizen", the CM said as per the statement. He said that Praggnanandhaa's success serves as an inspiration to athletes and the youth aspiring to become ace sportspersons.

CM Revanth Reddy hoped that Praggnanandhaa would achieve many more remarkable victories and bring further glory to the nation in the future.

Praggnanandhaa went from trailing 3-9 in the classical phase to winning the title as he beat USA's Fabiano Caruana in the title clash 15-13, despite trailing 3-9 by the end of two classical games.

In the first rapid game, the Indian won 0-4 and then followed it with a win in the second rapid game as well by 4-0, making it 11-9 in his favour. Indianews updates The first blitz game was a draw, bringing the scores to 12-10, and the drama was heightened with Fabiano winning the second to level the scores.

Praggnanandhaa won the third rapid game, bringing back the lead 14-12, and drew the final game to make



it 15-13 and to complete a memorable win.

Praggnanandhaa, USA's Wesley So, USA's Fabiano Caruana and Vincent Keymer were four players taking part in the Grand Chess Tour finale from August 22-27.

The Grand Chess Tour 2026 is a six-tournament affair, consisting of Super Rapid and Blitz Poland, Super Chess Classic Romania, Super Rapid and Blitz Croatia, St Louis Rapid and Blitz, Sinquefeld Cup and finally the Grand Chess Tour Finals.

The Indian Grandmaster was the leading point-getter in the Sinquefeld Cup alongside the US's Wesley So, with 5.5 each. Praggnanandhaa's excellent performances in the Sinquefeld Cup and the win in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz competition earned him a spot in the GCT Finals.

Neeraj Chopra qualifies for 2026 Diamond League final despite missing Zurich meet

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28: India's javelin throw legend Neeraj Chopra has booked his place in the javelin throw final, despite missing the Zurich Diamond League held on Thursday.

As per the Diamond League's official website, there is already a 'Q' in front of Neeraj's name, who has secured 12 points in the competition, having played in Doha and Lausanne. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage is the table-topper with 39 points. The Diamond League final will take place from September 4-5 in Brussels this year.

As per the website, six athletes, Rumesh, Anderson Peters, Keshorn Walcott, Curtis Thompson and Julius Yego have booked their tickets for javelin throw event in the men's javelin throw.

Recently in Lausanne, Neeraj finished second with a season-best throw of 88.05m, missing out on the top spot by just nine centimetres. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage continued his impressive 2026 campaign, winning the event with an 88.14m effort.

The result extended Chopra's wait for a victory, with his last win coming at the Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru in July 2025. However, his return to the 88m range will be a major positive, particularly after a difficult start to the season.

Before Lausanne,

Chopra had competed in just two events in 2026 -- finishing fourth at the Doha Diamond League and second at the Commonwealth Games -- without crossing the 86m mark in either competition.

In June, he made a comeback after a nine-month layoff during the Doha Diamond League yesterday, with a best throw of 85.69 metres, which helped him achieve the fourth position. Indians updates

The star athlete enjoys competing in the Diamond League, with five meet wins and a title win in the final. In the 2022 final in Zurich, he took the top spot with a best throw of 88.44 m, becoming the

National Sports Day celebrated with enthusiasm at KK Hakoo Stadium

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 28

National Sports Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm under the banner of the J&K Sports Council at K.K Hakku Stadium, with the aim of promoting sports, fitness, discipline and healthy lifestyle among the youth.

The occasion was graced by Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar as the chief guest.

Monish Kumar, SO attended the event as the Guest of Honour.

The event was organized under the guidance of D.S.O Bashir Ahmed and Manager K.K Hakku Stadium Ajay Gupta.

A series of sports activities were organised to mark National Sports

Day, witnessing enthusiastic participation from athletes, coaches, officials and sports enthusiasts.

The chief guest interacted with the players and encouraged them to participate actively in sports and make physical fitness an integral part of their lives. He highlighted the

important role of sports in developing discipline, confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship among the younger generation.

The dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the J&K Sports Council in promoting sports culture and providing opportunities

and platforms to budding sportspersons.

The celebration concluded with the inspiring message "Stay Fit, Stay Active and Make Sports a Way of Life."

Pawandeep Kaur, Sr. Athletic Coach and other coaches/officials attended the celebration.



National Sports Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 28

National Sports Day was today celebrated with great enthusiasm and sports spirit at the Indoor Sports Hall, Subash Stadium, Udhampur.

A Table Tennis event was hosted under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council to mark the day, which coincides with the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand.

As his extraordinary contribution to Indian sports continues to inspire generations of athletes across the country, National Sports Day serves as an important occasion to remember his legacy and promote the values of dedication, discipline, hard work and sporting excellence among the youth.

The Table Tennis event witnessed an encouraging participation of around 70 young players, who displayed remarkable enthusiasm, skill and competitive spirit throughout the programme.

Member Legislative Assembly Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He encouraged the participating players to stay committed to sports and strive for excellence. His presence and interaction with the young sportspersons served as a great source of motivation for the participants.

The programme highlighted the importance of

sports and physical fitness in the overall development of young people. The participants were encouraged to adopt sports as an integral part of their lives and develop qualities such as discipline, confidence, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship.

The celebration reflected the growing interest of youngsters in Table Tennis and the continued efforts of the J&K Sports Council towards promoting sports and providing opportunities to young athletes at the grassroots level.

The event concluded on a positive and inspiring note, with appreciation extended to all the participating players, coaches and officials who contributed towards making the 'National Sports Day' celebration a successful and memorable occasion.



HI announces Rs 50 lakh cash award for women's hockey team

NEW DELHI, AUG 28: After a stellar final push against Germany to secure historic fifth spot in FIH World Cup, the Hockey India on Friday announced cash awards for all the players and support staff. A total of Rs 50 lakh for the Indian women's team has been announced in recognition of their historic fifth-place finish.

Salima Tete's side sealed the milestone with a 3-1 win over World No 5 Germany in the 5th/6th place classification match in Amstelveen on Thursday, marking India's best result at the tournament since they finished fourth at the inaugural edition in 1974.

The team went through the campaign with just one defeat, holding higher-ranked sides China, England and Australia to draws and recording a 6-1 win over South Africa, before completing their run under Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne with the win over Germany. Congratulating the team

on the achievement, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said, "This is a historic result for Indian women's hockey. To finish fifth at a World Cup after 52

years is a testament to the hard work, resilience and fighting spirit this team has shown throughout the tournament." On behalf of Hockey India, I am pleased

to announce a cash award of INR 50 lakh for the team as a token of our appreciation, and I hope this inspires the players to keep raising the bar," he added.

