



Ahmedabad to make history as India hosts Hyundai World Archery Para Series 2026 for first time



AHMEDABAD , SEP 02: India is set to host the Hyundai World Archery Para Series (WAPS) for the first time, which will bring together over 100 athletes from 20 countries for five days, from September 5 to 9, 2026, at the iconic Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, according to a Gujarat CMO release.

The landmark event, organised by the Archery Association of India (AAI) with the support of the Government of Gujarat, Sports Authority of Gujarat and Sports Authority of India (SAI), will see some of the world's leading Para Archers compete across the Recurve Open, Compound Open, W1 and Visually Impaired categories.

The event will be formally inaugurated on September 4, 2026, at The Forum - Hotel & Convention, near Club O7, Shela, Ahmedabad. The ceremony will be graced by

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi.

"The opening ceremony, themed 'Every arrow tells a story of courage,' will celebrate the determination, resilience and sporting excellence of para-athletes, with the tournament showcasing precision and perseverance on an international platform," said Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, as per the release.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat has emerged as a major hub for hosting international sporting events. The hosting of the international series in Ahmedabad is expected to further highlight Gujarat's growing profile as a destination for major sporting events and provide a global platform for para-archery," Sanghavi added.

The competition will feature athletes from India,

People's Republic of China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Slovakia, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cyprus, Czechia, Iraq, Russian Federation and Sri Lanka. History

Among the leading Indian contenders are Paris 2024 Paralympic Champion Harvinder Singh, World Para Archery Champion and Paralympic medalist Sheetal Devi, Arjuna Awardee and World Para Archery medalist Rakesh Kumar, and Paralympian Shyam Sunder Swami

"It is a matter of great pride for the Archery Association of India to host the Hyundai World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad. Bringing the world's best Para Archers to India will provide our athletes with a world-class competitive opportunity while inspiring a

new generation of athletes. The selection of Ahmedabad also reflects India's growing capability to host major international sporting events and our commitment to inclusive and accessible sport," said Arjun Munda, President, Archery Association of India.

"Hosting the World Archery Para Series in India is a significant milestone for the sport and for the growth of the Para Archery ecosystem. Bringing a global field to India creates an opportunity to showcase the quality of Para Archery to a much wider audience, while bringing athletes, coaches and the international archery community together on Indian soil. With over 100 athletes expected from across the world, the event will help build greater visibility for the sport and create stronger connections across the global Para Archery community," said Virendra Sachdeva, Secretary General of the Archery Association of India.

This is also an important step towards establishing India as a regular destination for international Para Archery. With India set to host international archery events in 2027, including the Asia Cup Archery tournament, this event adds to the momentum around India's growing role on the international archery calendar.

With Ahmedabad preparing to host athletes from around the world, the Hyundai World Para Archery Series 2026 is poised to put Gujarat in the global sporting spotlight while celebrating the remarkable stories of courage behind every arrow.

Anahat Singh beats Mariam Metwally 11-3, 11-2 to reach London Squash Classic round 2

LONDON [UK], SEPTEMBER 2 : Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh delivered a dominant performance, dismantling Egypt's Mariam Metwally in straight games to storm into the next round of the London Squash Classic.

The 18-year-old Indian took just 11 minutes to seal a 11-3, 11-2 victory in her Women's Round 1 fixture on Tuesday.

Anahat asserted total dominance right from the start to quickly wrap up the first game 11-3. Metwally had no answers to the Indian's play in the second game, as Anahat conceded just two points before closing out the match 11-2.

Conceding a mere five points across the entire contest, Anahat's remarkable performance stands out as one of the shortest completed matches of the opening round.



Anahat will look to maintain her momentum as she moves into the second round of the PSA World Tour event, where she will face Belgium's Nele Gill.

Anahat entered the London Squash Classic event after having made history in

July by becoming the first Indian to win the women's singles title at the World Junior Squash Championships in Canada.

Anahat defeated Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 in the girls' singles final of the World Squash Junior

Championships 2026 to claim the prestigious title.

The 18-year-old was in complete control throughout the final and capped a dominant campaign in which she dropped just two games across six matches.

Anahat began her campaign with a straight-games win over Australian qualifier Lilly Wilson before defeating Hong Kong China's Pui Yin Chloe Lo and Malaysia's Doyce Ye San Lee to reach the quarterfinals.

She then overcame Egypt's Habiba Rizk 3-1 (11-7, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9) in the quarterfinals before defeating another Egyptian, Barb Sameh, 3-1 (11-3, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6) in the semifinals.

She is also part of India's squash squad for the 2026 Asian Games, which will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4. (ANI)

Love for Tests is in my blood: India's T20 vice-captain Tilak eyes traditional format initiation

BENGALURU, FEB 02: Behind his ears, Tilak Varma sports a popular motivational tattoo — Dancing Through the Storm.

True to the body art's inner meaning — finding calm in chaos — Tilak played two unbeaten knocks to take South Zone to the Duleep Trophy final here on Wednesday.

I have always loved to play the red ball cricket, and I have never dreamt of playing white ball formats for India, but that's a God's plan. I have debuted in T20 and One-Dayers for India, but my strength has always been red ball cricket," Tilak said after the match.

Tilak has already played 53 T20Is and five ODIs in the last three years, but the southpaw asserted that he never neglected training with red ball.

"I have worked hard, no one has seen it, maybe since I was 10 years old, and now I am 23. I got selected to white ball formats due to the IPL. But before that I have grounded a lot in red ball cricket.

"So, it's always my strength and I love playing Test cricket, something that's always there in my blood," he said.

Tilak said he could not play the desired amount of domestic cricket because of its conflicting schedule with international assignments.

"So for my country, right now, I am available for T20s and ODIs, but I love to play red ball cricket. But I don't have much time to play domestic red-ball cricket because in the last 3-4 years I was trying to play the Ranji Trophy.

"But I am not getting the time because I have an international schedule. So, I am trying to play as much as red ball cricket because I want to score there and come to the Indian side as well."

Perhaps, opening up of a few slots in the India Test team such as No. 3 or No. 6 recently might have fuelled his hopes to don the whites.

DC inaugurates Division-Level Chess Championship at Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 02

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today inaugurated Inter-District Division-Level Chess Competition (Jammu Province) 2026-27 here at Yatri Niwas, Chanderkote. As many as 150 young chess players from across the Jammu Division participated in the 5-day sports event.

The Deputy Commissioner was the Chief Guest, while Tehsildar Deep Kumar was the Guest of Honour. The championship is being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports under the direction of Commissioner Secretary, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta.

The competition features Boys Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories, with teams representing Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Ramban. The programme commenced with the sports pledge, emphasizing team spirit and sportsmanship, followed by a cultural programme.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner



appreciated the organizers, officials, teachers and coaches for their dedicated efforts in bringing the prestigious divisional-level championship to Ramban. He observed that the event could have been hosted in any district, but its organization in Ramban was a matter of pride and honour for the district.

Encouraging the young participants, the Deputy

Commissioner said that reaching the division-level championship after qualifying at the district level was itself a significant achievement. He urged them to compete with confidence, discipline, dedication and true sportsmanship, emphasizing that participation, learning and continuous improvement are as important as winning.

He expressed confidence

that with proper guidance, hard work and determination, talented youngsters can progress from the district level to the divisional, UT, national and international stages. The event was attended by departmental officers, PETs, REKs, NYCs, ground staff and other officials, whose coordination contributed to the smooth conduct of the championship.

MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir inaugurates IDPL Cricket Tournament at Verinag

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 02

Member Legislative Assembly, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, today inaugurated Inter-District Provincial Level Cricket Tournament for Under-17 Girls at Verinag, Anantnag.

On the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services & Sports in providing young girls with a structured platform to showcase their sporting talent and pursue excellence in cricket.

The inaugural ceremony at the scenic Verinag venue added a special dimension to the sporting event, highlighting the rich natural and tourism potential of the area.

The championship is witnessing participation from ten districts of the Kashmir Province, with teams comprising talented young girls accompanied by their respective escort teachers, coaches and officials. The participation reflects the Department's continued endeavour to promote women's participation in sports and provide equal opportunities to young sportspersons across Jammu & Kashmir.

As part of the tournament, the Department is



also facilitating a structured talent identification and selection process, through which promising performers will be shortlisted for further opportunities at higher levels. The selected players will be assessed on the basis of their performance, skills and overall potential.

For the smooth and effective conduct of the tournament, four venues have already been designated, where matches will be played during the championship.

The Department has also made comprehensive boarding and lodging arrangements for the participating teams and accompanying officials at Verinag.

Necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure the comfortable stay, safety and well-being of all participants, particularly the young girl athletes.

To ensure the professional and seamless conduct of the championship,

various dedicated committees have been constituted, including the Medical Committee, Lodging Committee and other essential management and coordination committees.

The Department has laid special emphasis on athlete safety, discipline, hospitality, medical support and efficient tournament management, ensuring that the participating players receive a positive and encouraging sporting environment.

Inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy to be held in India from February 14 to 28

DUBAI [UAE], SEPTEMBER 2: The inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy will be held in India from February 14 to 28 next year, with Mumbai and Vadodra confirmed as the host cities for the six-team tournament. According to a media release from the ICC, all matches of the maiden edition will be played at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai and the Vadodra International Cricket Stadium in Vadodra. The tournament was initially scheduled to

be hosted by Sri Lanka but has now been shifted to India as Sri Lanka Cricket continues to implement reforms outlined at the ICC Annual Conference in July. The ICC assessed Bangladesh, India and South Africa as potential replacement hosts against its established host evaluation criteria before recommending India. The decision was subsequently ratified by the ICC Board on September 1. "The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 marks an exciting new chapter for

women's cricket," ICC Chairman Jay Shah said, as per ICC. "The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 marks an exciting new chapter for women's cricket. As the inaugural edition of the tournament, it will bring together the best teams in the world in an intense, high-quality competition, while creating even greater incentive for teams to continue rising through the rankings and competing for a place on the global stage," he added, as per the release.