



Sheetal Devi's gold headlines India's 15-medal haul at World Archery Para Series 2026 in Ahmedabad



AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 9: Sheetal Devi clinched gold in the women's compound event as India wrapped up the World Archery Para Series 2026 Stage 3 in Ahmedabad with a haul of 15 medals — four gold, three silver and eight bronze — on Wednesday, according to Olympics.com.

The 19-year-old world champion overcame Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a shoot-off after the gold medal clash ended in a 144-144 draw. Sheetal scored 10 with her deciding arrow, while Seidan managed a 9, securing the title for the Indian at the Sabarmati Riverfront. It marked Sheetal's first individual gold medal at the World Archery Para Series, according to Olympics.com.

World No. 1 Sheetal entered the elimination rounds as the top seed after scoring a season-best 698 in qualification, improving her own Asian record by one point. She defeated Slo-

vakia's Liliana Lacova 147-142 in the round of 16 and Great Britain's Jessica Stretton 145-142 in the quarter-finals, before beating compatriot Sarita 145-143 in the semi-finals.

Sarita also secured a podium finish, defeating the People's Republic of China's Wang Huiting 141-140 in the bronze medal match.

Earlier in the competition, Sheetal had also set a world record in the mixed team event alongside fellow Paris 2024 bronze medallist Rakesh Kumar. Sheetal and Rakesh amassed 1,400 points in the compound mixed team qualification, surpassing their previous world record of 1,399, set at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, by one point, according to Olympics.com.

Sheetal contributed 698 points, while Rakesh added 702 to set the new world record.

Toman Kumar replaced Rakesh Kumar in the compound mixed team elimina-

tion rounds, partnering Sheetal Devi. The Indian duo secured the bronze medal on Wednesday with a convincing 157-145 victory over Iraq. India had narrowly missed out on a place in the gold medal match after losing a shoot-off to China in the semi-finals, following a 156-156 tie.

Meanwhile, Bhawna and Harvinder Singh clinched another gold for India in the recurve mixed team event. The Indian duo defeated China's Liang Qirong and Xia Lei 6-0 in the final, winning all three sets 35-31, 36-33 and 34-32, according to Olympics.com.

Bhawna also claimed bronze in the women's individual recurve event after defeating compatriot Rajshri Dhanraj Rathod 6-0.

Reigning compound men's world champion Toman Kumar signed off his individual campaign with a bronze medal after defeating Iraq's Abbas Kadhim 143-138.

Toman had earlier suf-

fered a 146-144 defeat to eventual champion Ken Swagumilang of Indonesia in the semi-finals.

The final-day medals added to India's impressive performance earlier in the competition.

On Tuesday, Toman Kumar and Shyam Sunder Swami clinched gold in the compound men's doubles after defeating Iraq 152-139.

Paris 2024 Paralympic champion Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi also secured gold in the recurve men's doubles, beating Slovakia 6-2.

Bhawna and Pooja settled for silver in the recurve women's doubles, while Swati Chaudhary and Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari finished runners-up in the W1 mixed team event. W1 is a para archery category for athletes with more significant physical impairments. Competitors shoot from wheelchairs and can use either recurve or compound bows with modified equipment.

India also secured bronze in both W1 doubles events, with Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari and Naveen Dalal finishing third in the men's category, while Swati Chaudhary and Vasundhra Teotia claimed bronze in the women's event.

Swati added another bronze to her tally in the individual W1 women's competition.

Earlier, Tanvi Pravin Ingale bagged silver, and Yugal Garg won bronze in the visually impaired category.

Held in Ahmedabad from September 5 to 9, the competition marked the first time India hosted a World Archery Para Series event.

Dr Roop Lal Memorial Cricket Tournament Begins at K2 Cricket Academy



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 09

The Dr. Roop Lal Memorial Cricket Tournament commenced with great enthusiasm at K2 Cricket Academy, drawing participation from budding cricketers and sports enthusiasts.

The tournament has been organized with the support and cooperation of Mr. Ravish Sharma, managing Director Trikota Group of Colleges (S/o Late Dr. Roop Lal) and Principal Dr. Nitin Mahajan, whose encouragement contributed significantly to the successful launch of the event.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of players, team members, coaches, and cricket lovers, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. The enthusiastic participation marked a promising start to the tournament.

The event aims to promote cricket among youth, encourage emerging talent, and provide a competitive platform for players to showcase their skills and sportsmanship.

On the occasion, the organizers expressed gratitude to Mr. Ravish Sharma and Principal Dr. Nitin Mahajan for their support and extended best wishes to all participating teams.

K2 Cricket Academy reiterated its commitment to nurturing sporting talent and promoting excellence in cricket.

Doda hosts Divisional Level Kabaddi Tournament

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 09

Inter-District Divisional Level Kabaddi Tournament for Under-14 Boys commenced at Indoor Stadium Doda, the other day. The tournament has brought together promising young Kabaddi players from different districts of the Jammu Division. The tournament features contests between teams categorized in Pool A and Pool B.



The tournament is being conducted as per the approved annual Activity Calendar of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the guidance of Director General J&K Anuradha Gupta and Joint Director Jammu Inderjeet Singh Parihar and under

the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ashok Kumar. The tournament was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal. He appreciated the Department for promoting sports and providing a platform to young

athletes to showcase their talent and sporting abilities.

The opening match in Pool A witnessed an exciting encounter between Jammu and Poonch which ended in a 41-41 draw. Similarly, in Pool-B Ramban defeated Kishtwar by 12

points. In another Pool-A encounter, Rajouri registered an impressive 08-point victory over Doda.

The inaugural ceremony featured a vibrant march past, oath ceremony and the official declaration of the opening of the tournament.

East Zone take commanding 584-run lead as Kishan shines again in Duleep Trophy Final

CHENNAI [INDIA], SEPTEMBER 9 (ANI): East Zone strengthened their control on the Duleep Trophy 2026 final as they reached 212/5, leading by 584 runs in their second innings at stumps on Day 4 against South Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Wednesday.

East Zone, who had posted a giant total of 708 in their first innings, now lead by 584 runs. Kumar Kushagra remained unbeaten on 34 off 55 balls at the close of play, while Md Kounain Quraishi was also unbeaten on 26 off 30 deliveries. Kushagra struck three fours, while Quraishi hit two fours and a six.

It turned out to be a highly productive day for the bowlers, with nine wickets falling across three sessions. East Zone wrapped up the South Zone tail early in the morning and, as expected, chose not to enforce the follow-on, opting instead to bat



again on a pitch that continues to offer favourable conditions for run-scoring.

Captain Ishan Kishan followed his 250+ in the first innings with a composed 80 off 98 balls. His innings included nine fours and three sixes and provided the backbone of East Zone's second-innings effort. Kishan was involved in a 126-run part-

nership with Shikhar Mohan, who contributed 52 off 85 balls, including five fours and a six. The partnership helped East Zone recover after they were reduced to 13/2 early in the innings.

Earlier in the day, South Zone were bowled out for 336 in their first innings, conceding a massive 372-run lead to East Zone. Skipper

Tilak Varma narrowly missed out on a century, top-scoring with 99 off 211 balls, while Devdutt Padikkal made 62 off 104 deliveries and Chama V Milind contributed 43 off 68 balls.

For East Zone, Mukesh Kumar was the pick of the bowlers in South Zone's first innings, finishing with 3/62, while Mohammed Shami claimed 2/42. Md Kounain Quraishi also took two wickets for 99 runs.

East Zone had earlier piled up 708 in their first innings, with Ishan Kishan producing a spectacular 270 off 334 balls. Kumar Kushagra scored 101 off 132 balls, while Shikhar Mohan made 85 and Abhimanyu Easwaran contributed 72.

At stumps on Day 4, East Zone were 212/5 after 51 overs, with Kushagra and Quraishi at the crease. With a 584-run lead, East Zone are firmly in control of the final heading into the concluding day. (ANI)

Delhi HC seeks WFI's stand on Vinesh Phogat's eligibility for World Wrestling Championship trials

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to take instructions on whether wrestler Vinesh Phogat could be permitted to participate in the upcoming selection trials for the 2026 Senior World Wrestling Championship. The Court also considered her request that no final order be passed in the disciplinary proceedings initi-

ated against her until the matter is heard. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma directed the WFI's counsel to take instructions on both issues and listed the matter for hearing on Thursday. The Court was hearing two applications filed by Phogat in her pending case against the WFI.

Through one application, Phogat sought an early hearing of her petition challenging disciplinary proceedings

initiated against her following showcase notices concerning allegations of indiscipline, violation of anti-doping regulations and misconduct during the 2026 Asian Games selection trial. In the second application, she challenged a September 7 circular issued by the WFI setting out the eligibility criteria for the selection trials for the 2026 Senior World Wrestling Championship.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 09

The Inter-Division UT-Level Chess Competition commenced today at Chanderkote, with enthusiastic participation of 59 young chess players from Kashmir and Jammu Divisions.

The competition is being organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in collaboration

with district administration Ramban will culminate tomorrow.

Chief Education Officer Oneel Kumar Bhat welcomed the participating teams and coaches. He encouraged the young sportspersons to maintain discipline, work hard and strive for excellence, while maintaining a healthy balance between sports and education.

DYSSO Nazir Hussain assured the participating

teams and officials of all necessary facilities, hospitality and conducive sporting environment during their stay at Chanderkote.

The inaugural programme was attended by District Treasury Officer Sumit Sharma, Accounts Officer District Fund Office Dr. Vinay Kumar, Additional Treasury Officer Lokesh Shan, officers and officials from the Department of Youth Services & Sports, coaches, technical

officials and ground staff.

The competition provides a valuable platform for young players to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and develop skills such as concentration, strategic thinking, patience and decision-making. The Department reiterated its commitment to providing youth with quality sporting opportunities and encouraging them towards higher levels of achievement.