



ISSO National Table Tennis and Cricket Championships witness over 400 players, 15 cricket teams in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT), OCTOBER 14: The International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) successfully conducted its National Table Tennis and Under-19 Boys Cricket Championships at Adani International School, Ahmedabad, bringing together young sporting talent from across India.

With over 400 table tennis players and 15 cricket teams participating, the championships witnessed spirited competition, outstanding performances and enthusiastic participation from schools across the country, as per an ISSO press release.

The championships opened on an energetic and inspiring note with the gracious presence of Bhavinaben Patel, India's Paralympic silver medalist in table tennis. Popularly known as Bhavina Ben, she created history by winning a silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, becoming India's first Paralympic medalist in table tennis. Her remarkable journey of determination, resilience and sporting excellence served as a powerful inspiration for the young athletes.

The National Table Tennis Championship, held from October 8 to 11, featured boys' and girls' competitions across the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 age categories, including individual and team events.

In the boys' team events, CHIREC International School, Hyderabad, claimed the Under-14 title, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, emerged victorious in Under-17, while DPS International School, Gurugram, secured the Under-19 championship.

Among the girls, Inventure Academy, Bengaluru, won the Under-14 team championship, Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurugram, secured



the Under-17 title, and Pathways School, Noida, emerged as the Under-19 champion.

The individual competitions also witnessed outstanding performances from young paddlers.

In the U14 Boys category, Ishaan Goyal of Jayshree Periwai Global School won the gold medal, while Aarna Sahney, also from Jayshree Periwai Global School, emerged as the U14 Girls champion. In the U17 Boys category, Aman George Thomas of Vidyashilp Academy claimed the gold medal, while Ishana Babu of Rose Manor International won the U17 Girls title. In the U19 Boys category, Nimay Gogia of DPS International, Gurugram, secured the gold medal, while Mahi Kejriwal of Bombay International School emerged as the U19 Girls champion.

The Under-19 Boys Cricket Championship featured 15 school teams competing for national honours. Inventure Academy, Bengaluru, emerged as the champions, followed by Indus International School, Hyderabad, as runners-up, while Saint MSG Glorious International School se-

cured third place.

The championships concluded with the gracious presence of Shri Kunal, Joint Secretary (Sports Development), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, who honoured the national merit holders with their medals and awards. On the occasion he stated, "The athletes competing at these championships today could well be India's Olympians in 2036. Keep the momentum high, continue playing sports and remain committed to your journey. Winning and losing are part of the game, but discipline, consistency and perseverance will take you forward. The champions of tomorrow are among us today."

Gaurav Dixit, Founding Director, ISSO, added, "Over the past 11 years, ISSO has worked towards building a structured school sports ecosystem that provides quality competitions and meaningful pathways for young athletes. The growing participation reflects the confidence of schools in our vision. We appreciate Adani International School's commitment to supporting national-level

sporting opportunities and believe that strong school sports are the foundation of India's future sporting success.

Aakanksha Thapak, Director, ISSO echoed the sentiment and said, "It is encouraging to witness the competitive spirit and enthusiasm of young athletes from across India. We are grateful to Bhavina Ben and Shri Kunal for inspiring our participants and to Adani International School for providing excellent facilities and support. Our commitment remains to create opportunities for every young athlete to compete, learn and progress."

ISSO extended its appreciation to Adani International School, Ahmedabad, for hosting both championships and providing the sporting infrastructure and organisational support required for their successful conduct.

The championships reflected the growing enthusiasm for school sports and the importance of collaboration between educational institutions, sporting organisations and national sporting leadership in nurturing young talent.

3 J&K Soft Tennis players to represent India at World Championship in China

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 14

In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, three talented players from the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre; Sidhani Singh, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh Sambyal have been selected to represent the country at the upcoming World Soft Tennis Championship to be held in China from 26 to 31 October.

The selection, made by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and recommended by the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, marks a significant achievement for the players and reflects their consistent performances, dedication and hard work over the past several years.

All three athletes have earned medals at various national level championships, bringing recognition to Jammu & Kashmir through their outstanding performances.

Adding to their achievements, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh recently excelled at the Junior National Soft Tennis Championship held in Srinagar. Shreemai Bhatt secured two bronze medals while Madhvender Singh Sambyal won one bronze medal, further strengthening their credentials at the national level.

These achievements have come under the guidance and mentorship of Indu



Bhushan, whose support, training and guidance have played an important role in the players' development and success. The players' dedication, combined with consistent coaching, reflects the growing strength of soft tennis in Jammu & Kashmir.

Their selection for the

World Championship is a matter of immense pride for the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Their success highlights the importance of structured training and the Khelo India initiative in nurturing young sporting talent

and preparing athletes for national and international competitions.

The achievement is expected to inspire the aspiring soft tennis players across the region to work towards excellence and bring further laurels to Jammu & Kashmir on the international stage.

India becomes 2nd team to complete 2,000 T20I sixes

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 14 : Team India made history, becoming the second team to complete 2,000 sixes as a unit in the T20I format on Wednesday.

During the fourth T20I against West Indies, Samson's loft over long-off in the third over bowled by Roston Chase marked India's 2000th chase in T20I cricket.

India is the only second team to have reached the milestone, having raced to the milestone in 297 matches. WI is the first team to have reached 2,000 T20I sixes, with 2,026 sixes in 259 matches.

New Zealand (1,585), Pakistan (1,507) and South Africa (1,407) hold other spots in the top five.

Notably, Samson also became the sixth Indian to hit 100 T20I sixes during the fourth T20I against West Indies at Hyderabad's Uppal Stadium on Wednesday.

Following WI skipper Shai Hope's onslaught and fourth century of the tour, Samson started the 248-run chase in an ultra-aggressive fashion, scoring 56 in 22 balls, with six fours and four sixes at a strike rate of



243.48.

Now, Samson has 102 T20I sixes, with Rohit Sharma (205), Suryakumar Yadav (179), Abhishek Sharma (141* at the time of writing), Hardik Pandya (126) and Virat Kohli (124) being the other members of India's 100 sixes T20I club.

This year has been very productive for Samson, hav-

ing made 687 runs in 24 matches and innings at an average of 29.86 and a strike rate of 178.44, with seven fifties and a best score of 97*.

This also includes three successive fifties from a Super Eight T20 WC clash against the same opposition to the T20 WC final against New Zealand, which earned him the T20 WC 'Player of the

Tournament' award and India their third T20 WC title.

In 76 T20Is and 68 innings, Samson has made 1,719 runs at an average of 27.28, with a strike rate of 158.87, with three centuries and 10 fifties.

At the end of the powerplay during the chase, India ended at 80/2, with skipper Shreyas Iyer and Abhishek Sharma at the crease.

Coming to the match, India elected to field first, but WI made them pay. Knocks from Hope (102* in 50 balls, with four boundaries and nine sixes), his 52-run stand with Jewel Andrew (21 in 16 balls, with two fours and six) set the tone. Shimron Hetmyer (33 in 12 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes), Rovman Powell (24 in 17 balls, with three fours and a six) and Sherfane Rutherford (49* in 26 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes) also chipped in valuable and impactful runs, taking WI to 247/3.

Prince Yadav (1/36) was the pick of the bowlers for India, with Arshdeep Singh (1/52) and Mayank Yadav (0/52) being carted around the park.

Hope's India love affair: West Indies skipper re-writes record books with fourth century of tour

HYDERABAD (TELANGANA) [INDIA], OCTOBER 14 : West Indies skipper Shai Hope continued his incredible tour to India, smashing his fourth ton of the tour across the ODI and 20-over leg during the fourth T20I at Hyderabad on Wednesday. During his knock, Hope also became the fourth WI batter to reach 2,000 T20I runs.

Hope brought up his third T20I ton with two sixes on the final two deliveries of the innings, scoring 102* in 50 balls, with four boundaries and nine sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 204.00.

Now in 74 T20Is and 72 innings, he has made 2,004 runs at an average of 33.40 and a strike rate of 141.82, with three centuries and 13 fifties. With his third T20I ton, he has overtaken Chris Gayle and Evin Lewis (two each) for most T20I tons by a WI batter. He is also the fourth WI batter to enter 2,000 T20I runs club, alongside Rovman Powell (2400), Nicholas Pooran (2275) and Brandon King (2028).

He has also joined Phil Salt (two against WI away from home, 2023), Sanju



Samson and Tilak Verma (two against South Africa away from home, 2024), Mohammed Ihsan of Spain (two against Croatia in 2025 at home) as the fifth batter to register two T20I tons in a bilateral series.

He is also level with Virat Kohli (against England, 2021 at home), Suryakumar Yadav (against NZ at home, 2026) and Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan (against Sri Lanka, 2026 at home) for most fifty-plus scores in a bilateral T20I series, with three each, among Test-playing teams.

Hope also levelled with Gayle for most fifty-plus

scores for WI in T20Is, with 16 each, Hope has one more hundred than Gayle, while Gayle has two centuries and 14 fifties.

The WI skipper is enjoying his best T20I year with 601 runs in 16 innings at an average of 50.08 and a strike rate of over 152, with two centuries and four fifties. Across all international cricket this year, he has made 1,336 runs in 29 matches and 30 innings at an average of 55.66, with a strike rate of 92.01, with five centuries and seven fifties.

Hope is enjoying an incredible run in India, being WI's leading run-getter and

overall second-highest run-getter in ODIs with 278 runs in three innings at an average of 139.00, with two centuries and a best score of 162* in the final ODI at Assam. With 261 runs in four innings and matches in the T20I leg, including two centuries and a fifty, Hope is the leading run-scorer in T20Is. Overall across seven innings, the WI skipper has made 539 runs at an average of 134.75, including four centuries and a fifty.

The batter's record against India across formats stands at: 1,961 runs in 45 matches and 49 innings at an average of 47.82, with eight centuries and six fifties, with best score of 162*.

Coming to the match, India elected to field first, but WI made them pay. Knocks from Hope, his 52-run stand with Jewel Andrew (21 in 16 balls, with two fours and six) set the tone. Shimron Hetmyer (33 in 12 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes), Rovman Powell (24 in 17 balls, with three fours and a six) and Sherfane Rutherford (49* in 26 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes) also chipped in valuable and impactful runs, taking WI to 247/3.