



But honestly, we were just thinking to just bat on for the next three days. We had tried our best. If we have played for three days, we never knew we could have scored 700 runs; otherwise the match would have been drawn. But we have tried our best, but again credit goes to them. They have totally outplayed us.

- Tilak Varma, South Zone captain

Sports Nation

AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026

Indian women demolish Pak 19-0, storm into semis

MOQI (CHINA): India produced one of the most emphatic victories of the 2026 Women's Junior Asia Cup, dismantling Pakistan 19-0 in their quarterfinal on Thursday to move within two wins of a third successive continental title.

The defending champions needed only seven minutes to break the deadlock, with Puja Sahoo finding the net. Roshni Aind doubled the advantage two minutes later, and what followed was a relentless Indian assault that left Pakistan struggling to contain the pace and frequency of attacks.

India added four more goals in the next five minutes. Tanushree Dinesh Kadu and Sukhveer Kaur struck in the 11th and 13th minutes respectively, with Sanika Chandrakant Mane also scoring in the 13th minute. Madhu Sidar and Geeta Yadav then extended the advantage before Mane returned to score her second in the 23rd minute. Tanuja Toppo and Pooja Malik completed India's first-half scoring, while Purnima Yadav's 33rd-minute goal ensured the team went into the interval with a staggering



10-0 lead. There was no let-up after the restart. Madhu Sidar scored again in the 39th minute before Supriya opened her account a minute later. Malik then took centre stage, scoring in the 49th and 51st minutes to complete her hat-trick. Krishna Sharma and Binima Dhan added further goals as India continued to pile on the pressure. Supriya struck again in the 54th minute, while Roshni capped the extraordinary performance with her second goal in the final minute of the match.

The 19-goal haul came after India had already demonstrated their strength during the group stage, finishing top after victories over Japan, Malaysia and South Korea.

India will now await the winner of the South Korea-Malay-

sia quarterfinal for their semi-final clash. The result leaves the reigning champions just two victories away from a hat-trick of Junior Women's Asia Cup crowns, having lifted the trophy in 2023 and 2024.

For Pakistan, meanwhile, the quarterfinal turned into a one-sided contest almost from the outset, with India's sustained attacking pressure producing goals across all four quarters.

India's goals: Puja Sahoo (7'), Roshni Aind (9', 60+), Tanushree Dinesh Kadu (11'), Sukhveer Kaur (13'), Sanika Chandrakant Mane (13', 23'), Madhu Sidar (16', 39'), Geeta Yadav (18'), Tanuja Toppo (25'), Pooja Malik (27', 49', 51'), Purnima Yadav (33'), Supriya (40', 54'), Krishna Sharma (48'), Binima Dhan (55').

East Zone clinch Duleep Trophy after 13 years

Kishan, Quraishi shine; East Zone win on first innings as match drawn



CHENNAI: East Zone clinched the Duleep Trophy for the third time on Thursday after overcoming South Zone via first innings at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. The triumph ended East Zone's 13-year drought, with its previous title coming in the 2012-13 season.

Resuming their second innings, East Zone rode on a maiden first-class century from Md Kounain Quraishi (116 not out off 190 balls) and Anukul Roy's 64 before declaring at 388/7 in 99.2 overs. Quraishi reached his century in the 96th over, while his seventh-wicket partnership with Roy extended to 150\.

South Zone were also penalised five runs for slow over-rate. East Zone's title was built on a mammoth first-innings 708, featuring captain Is-han Kishan's 270 and Kumar

Kushagra's 101. Kishan added 80 in the second innings to finish with 350 runs in the match. Jharkhand talents Kushagra and Shikhar Mo-han, who scored 85 on debut, also played key roles.

South Zone pacer Mo-hammed Siraj bowled nine consecutive overs despite the result being virtually decided. After Kishan declared, celebrations erupted, with players dancing on the turf. Kishan and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi waved to spectators, with Sooryavanshi also joining the celebrations with a stump in hand.

BRIEF SCORES:

East Zone 708 and 388/7 in 99.2 overs (Md Kounain Quraishi 116, Ishan Kishan 80; MD Nidheesh 2-28, CV Milind 1-27) draw with South Zone 336 (Tilak Varma 99; Mukesh Kumar 3-62).

Services miss QF as Inter-Dept Hockey reaches knockouts

HYDERABAD: After six days and 40 matches, the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championships 2026 enters the knockout stage, with the quarterfinals scheduled at Gachibowli Hockey Stadium on Friday. Defending champions



Food Corporation of India and Canara Bank players in action

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), runners-up Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG), Food Corporation of India (FCI), Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), Sports Authority of India (SAI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) made the last eight. Services Sports Control Board, who had finished third last year, missed out despite winning three of four matches in Pool C, finishing level on nine points with AIPSCB and CBDT. AIPSCB topped with a +7 goal difference, CBDT were second at +6, while Services managed +4. Their 5-2 loss to CBDT proved costly. CBDT, who with two wins and two draws. CAG were unbeaten in Pool B with four wins, although two were narrow 5-4 victories. SAI finished second. RSPB also won all four matches, scoring 27 goals and conceding four. FCI advanced after another strong finish outside the top 10 last year, secured a quarterfinal berth. PSPB topped Pool A with three wins and a draw, while PNB advanced with two wins and two draws. CAG were unbeaten in Pool B with four wins, although two were narrow 5-4 victories. SAI finished second. RSPB also won all four matches, scoring 27 goals and conceding four. FCI advanced after another strong league campaign. The quarterfinals line-up: PSPB vs SA I, RSPB vs CBDT, CAG vs PNB and AIPSCB vs FCI.

World Archery Para Series Stage III

India finish second with 15 medals including 4 gold

AHMEDABAD: Hosts India finished their campaign at the World Archery Para Series Stage III with the highest overall medal tally of 15 — four gold, three silver and eight bronze — but placed second behind the Czech Republic, who topped the standings with five golds. China finished third with two gold, six silver and five bronze medals.

The event served as an important international test for India ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, scheduled from October 18 to 24.

Paralympic champion Harvinder Singh led India's gold rush, winning the para recurve men's doubles with Vijay Sundi and mixed team gold with Bhawna. Shyam Sunder Swami and Toman Kumar won compound men's doubles gold, while world champion Sheetal Devi claimed compound women's individual gold; Sarita took bronze.



India's silvers came through Bhawna-Pooja, Tanvi Ingale and Swati Chaudhary-Adil Mohammed Nazir Ansari. Bronze winners included Yugal Garg, Swati, Sheetal-Toman, Toman, Bhawna, Swati-Vasundhara Teotia and Adil-Vinayak Breed. Swati and Adil each secured two medals, while Bhawna won three.

The W1 discipline is for athletes with severe impairments affecting both upper and lower limbs and the torso.

17th South Zone Shooting C'ship

Future City Police Inspector James wins bronze medal

HYDERABAD

FUTURE City Police Commissionerate Inspector B James Babu won a bronze medal in the Standard Pistol event at the 17th South Zone Shooting Championship – Rifle & Pistol 2026, held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

His performance brought recognition to the Future City Police Commissionerate and the Police Department, high-

lighting his discipline, sustained practice and commitment to competitive shooting while continuing to discharge his professional responsibilities.

Inspector James Babu thanked Future City Police Commissioner Dr Tarun Joshi, IPS, for his continued encouragement, support and motivation towards sporting excellence among police personnel. He said the Commissioner's encouragement had inspired

him to pursue excellence both in policing and competitive shooting.

"I dedicate this achievement to the blessings of God and to the constant encouragement and support of my senior officers, colleagues, family and fellow shooters," James Babu said. He also expressed gratitude to Dr. Tarun Joshi for encouraging sporting talent and motivating police personnel to excel at national and international levels.



Commissioner of Police Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS, felicitates Inspector B James Babu at the Future City Police Commissionerate office in Ranga Reddy district here on Thursday.

Suicide of MPSC aspirant

It's a murder by system: Dipke

DHARASHIV: Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday termed the suicide of MPSC aspirant Prathamesh Deshmukh as a "murder done by the system", and said the government should ensure that incidents like this do not happen again.

He also said that people were demanding reservation as the government has completely failed in providing quality education and jobs to the youth.

Deshmukh (28), who was preparing for the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) examinations allegedly died by suicide in Pune with a note left behind by him mentioning that he had a debt of around Rs 2.5 lakh. He was a native of Paranda in Dharashiv, and was staying in a rented accommodation in Navi Peth area while preparing for competitive exams.

Dipke on Thursday visited Khasapuri village in Dharashiv and met Deshmukh's grieving family members.

Talking to reporters later, Dipke said Deshmukh went to Pune with a dream to get a job and take his family out



of poverty. "He borrowed money from friends to meet his expenses. But due to paper leaks and delayed results, pressure mounted on students. This (Deshmukh's suicide) is system's fault and it is a murder done by the system," he alleged.

Deshmukh took the extreme step as he was fed up with the system, unemployment and financial condition of youth in rural areas, the CJP convenor said. "Prathamesh stayed in Pune and used to have a meal only once a day due to his financial condition. According to his mother, Prathamesh used to say that he would come home in a government car, but unfortunately he was brought here in an ambulance yesterday. His father has already passed away,"

Dipke said. The MPSC aspirants from the rural areas face a challenge of meeting their expenses in a city like Pune, he added.

"He (Deshmukh) had borrowed Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh from his friends...A youth had to end his life for this much amount. This is the condition of our youth in rural areas because there is no employment," he said.

"Prathamesh was preparing for MPSC exams and we all know what is happening in the MPSC. Exams are not conducted properly, the results are improper and paper leaks also take place. How will the youth from rural areas survive in a city like Pune? How will they pay the money required for library, food, rent and coaching? This

is a question that haunts the youth from rural areas," he said.

"Prathamesh left the village with a dream to become an officer, then how can he return without cracking the exams? For this, he did everything that he could. He stayed there (in Pune) for four years by curtailing his expenses. There are thousands of youths like him," he said.

Talking about the quota issue, Dipke claimed that since people have lost faith in the government they were asking for a constitutional remedy.

"The government cannot give good facilities. If they get good facilities, good schools and education and opportunities, why would anyone ask for reservation? People are asking for reservation because the government has completely failed in giving quality education and providing jobs. People have lost faith in the government so they are seeking constitutional remedies," he said.

Dipke also said the CJP earlier only supported the agitation by the MPSC aspirants, but now it will also get involved in the agitation.

Keralam minister calls for action to curb organ trade

'Practical decisions needed in transplant cases'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Minister K Muraliedharan on Thursday said organ trading must be strictly prevented, but stressed that appeal committees should take practical decisions to protect patients' lives when transplantation applications are rejected.

In a Facebook post, the state Health minister said legal experts on the appeal committees should pay particular attention to the issue while examining applications for organ transplantation.

He was speaking after inaugurating 'Smriti Vandhanam 2026', organised by the Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation to remember deceased organ donors and honour their family members.

The minister honoured the families of 39 deceased donors who donated organs between August 2025 and August 2026.

"Organ trading must be strictly prevented. At the same time, when appeal committees reject applications, legal experts should ensure that the patient's life



is not put at risk and that practical decisions are taken to save the patient's life," he said.

Muraliedharan described the families of organ donors as an unparalleled example to society, saying they had come forward to help save other lives despite the immense grief caused by the loss of their loved ones.

"The pain of losing a loved one, especially a child, is unbearable. That families come forward to make such a sacrifice for another life even in such moments of intense grief is a noble act that must not go unrecognised by society," the minister added.

'Chhatron Ki Goonj' in Indore on Sept 19

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday announced that his fifth edition of the Chhatron ki Goonj initiative will be held in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on September 19 and asserted that it is essential to hear the voice of every student in the country to change the system.

Gandhi has held four Chhatron ki Goonj events in Kota, Dehradun, Prayagraj and Pune. The last one in

Pune on August 22 was for girl students.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "My dear students, youth and India's Gen Z, the entire country is watching with you as today a broken education system has extinguished the flame of your hopes and pushed your future into darkness."

"Through Chhatron ki Goonj, I am meeting you in different cities to understand your challenges. As part of

this campaign, on September 19, I will once again be among you in Indore," the leader of opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said.

But to change this system, it is essential to hear the voice of every student in the country, their pain and their opinion, he said.

"Go to the link below and tell us — what is stopping you from achieving your dreams? You can also reach us by making a video.

"Your problems. Your suggestions. Together, we will bring hope back," Gandhi said and shared the link for feedback of students.

In a video along with the post, Gandhi said the idea behind the Chhatron ki Goonj programme is to listen to what the students and the country feel and to allow students to express themselves.

"The objective of the Chhatron ki Goonj programme is to keep before



the country your thoughts, expression and fears. And also raise the issues that our students want raised," he said in the video.

He urged students to convey what needs to be done to restore hope among students in India's education system.

Jailed Hindu leader gets parole for mother's funeral

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities on Thursday granted five-hour parole to jailed Hindu rights leader Chinmoy Krishna Das to attend his mother's funeral, local media reported.

The Hindu monk was arrested in November 2024 on sedition charges for allegedly disrespecting the national flag, which sparked protests and communal tensions.

Chattogram District Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Zahidul Islam Mia ordered the Hindu



leader's release on Thursday afternoon following an application from his family, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Chinmoy's mother, Sandhya Rani Dhar, 70, was undergoing treatment at a hos-

pital in Hathazari and died early morning on Thursday.

"Following an application by his brother over the death of his mother, we have passed an order to release Chinmoy Krishna from jail on parole for five hours in accordance with the law," the newspaper quoted DC Zahidul Islam Mia as saying.

Swatantra Gauranga Das Brahmachari, vice-president of ISKCON's Prabartak Sri Krishna Temple, confirmed the decision, bdnews24.com news portal reported.