

# BCCI bans offensive sectors from team sponsorship

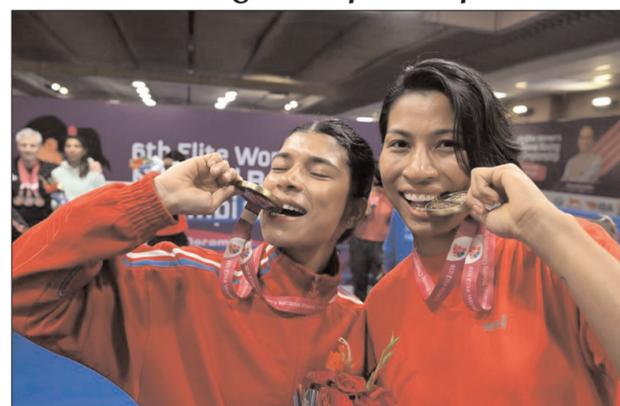


Mumbai, (UNI) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) today issued an Invitation for Expression of Interest (IEOI) for National Team Lead Sponsor Rights, with strict restrictions on categories deemed offensive or unsuitable for association with Indian cricket. Bidders from sectors such as alcohol, betting and gambling, cryptocurrency, online money gaming, tobacco, and any

brands likely to offend public morals—including pornography—are barred from participating. Apart from prohibited categories, certain existing sponsor

segments are also blocked, including athleisure and sportswear manufacturers, banks and NBFCs, non-alcoholic beverages, fans, mixer grinders, safety locks, and insurance. Surrogate or indirect bidding is strictly prohibited. Entities interested in acquiring the sponsorship rights must purchase the IEOI, priced at INR 5,00,000 plus GST for Indian bidders and USD 5,675 for foreign entities. The IEOI is available until September 12, 2025, and completed bid submissions are due by September 16, 2025. Eligibility requirements mandate a minimum average turnover or net worth of INR 300 crore over the past three years, and bidders must qualify as 'Fit and Proper Persons' without criminal convictions or conflicts of interest. BCCI reserves the right to amend or cancel the IEOI process at any stage without explanation.

# Lovlina, Zareen to spearhead Team India at World Boxing Championships



Bengaluru, (UNI)

Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen will spearhead a 20-member Indian contingent at the World Boxing Championships 2025, scheduled to begin September 4 in England. The inaugural edition of the championships, organised by World Boxing – the newly formed global governing body for the sport – will take place at the M&S Bank Arena and conclude on September 14. Over 550 boxers from more than 65 nations, including 17 Paris 2024 Olympic medallists, are set to compete across 20 weight divisions (10 men's and 10 women's). The India squad was finalised in July following a week-long assessment at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala. Borgohain will compete in the 75kg category, Zareen in 51kg, while Olympian Pooja Rani will box in the 80kg category. This marks the return of Borgohain and Zareen to international competition since Paris 2024. Other notable Indian boxers include Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal (90 kg) and World Boxing Cup gold medallists Hitesh Gulia (70kg) and

Abhinash Jamwal (65kg). The championships will follow a knockout format, with semi-final losers awarded bronze medals. Each bout will feature three three-minute rounds, judged using the "Ten Point Must" system. Quarter-finals start on September 10, semi-finals on September 12-13, and finals on September 14. Live streaming of the championships will be available on the World Boxing YouTube channel in India. There will be no live TV broadcast in the country. Indian squad – World Boxing Championships 2025: Women: Meenakshi Hooda (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Sakshi (54kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Sanju Khatri (60kg), Neeraj Phogat (60kg), Sanamacha Chanu (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Pooja Rani (80kg), Nupur Sheoran (80 kg) Men: Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Sachin Siwach Jr (60kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Hitesh Gulia (70kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Jugnoo Ahlawat (85kg), Harsh Chaudhary (90kg), Narender Berwal (90 kg).

# India's quest to create AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification history begins with Bahrain clash



Doha (Qatar), (UNI): The Indian men's U23 team will take on Bahrain in their AFC U23

play tomorrow, so I'll get some analysis from that game."

Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Qualifiers Group H opener on September 3, at the Suheim bin Hamad Stadium here, at 20:45 IST. The Blue Colts, led by head coach Naushad Moosa, are aiming to qualify for the AFC U23 Asian Cup for the first time ever. In the previous six attempts, India have not made it past the Qualifiers, so Moosa and his youngsters will be gunning to create history in the Qatar capital. Hosts Qatar and Brunei Darussalam are the other two teams in Group H. The group winners and the four best runners-up across all 11 groups will qualify for the final tournament, to be held in January 2026, in Saudi Arabia. In the pre-match press conference today, Moosa said, "I don't think any team is 'big'. It's important to respect every opponent. As far as Bahrain are concerned, we have watched two or three of their matches to prepare. We know Qatar are a very strong side. They

The Blue Colts have had two separate camps in the lead-up to the Qualifiers. In June, they played two friendly games against Tajikistan (2-3 defeat) and Kyrgyz Republic (0-0 draw) in Tajikistan. They had a 20-day camp at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru in August. In the last week of August, the India U23s travelled to Malaysia to play two closed-door friendly games against Iraq, where they lost 1-2 and 1-3, respectively. "All four friendlies we played were tough. But I was happy with the way the team played. We are well prepared – both mentally and physically – and I'm really looking forward to it. We are ready for the opening game against Bahrain," said Moosa. "Bahrain are a strong side. Watching them, I was very impressed with the way they attack, defend, and the intensity they bring. I have a lot of respect for them. It will be a competitive game, and it definitely won't be easy for Bahrain," he added.

# Chelsea's Jackson joins Bayern Munich in last-minute loan move

Berlin, (UNI)

Bayern Munich confirmed the loan arrival of Senegal international striker Nicolas Jackson from Chelsea in the final hours of Monday night. Initially, Chelsea had withdrawn permission for the 24-year-old to undergo a medical in Munich, citing an injury to striker Liam Delap and ordering Jackson to return to London. However, persistent talks between the clubs led to a breakthrough, allowing Bayern to secure the attacker as its fourth new signing of the transfer window after Jonathan Tah, Luis Diaz and Tom Bischof. "Nicolas was keen to play for Bayern from the beginning, so we are especially pleased that things have finally worked out," said sporting board member Max Eberl. "Even at a young age, he has already gained significant experience at international level. With his dynamism, speed, and hunger, he perfectly fits our profile and will immediately strengthen our attack." Sporting director Christoph Freund echoed the praise, highlighting Jackson's pace, eye for goal, and positive character as qualities that will help him settle quickly.

They will next face fourth-seeded Germans Tim Puetz and Kevin Krawietz. In their opening round, Bhambri and Venus had easily

# Bhambri, Venus reach US Open men's doubles pre-quarters

New York, (UNI)

India's Yuki Bhambri, partnering New Zealand's Michael Venus, advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the US Open 2025 men's doubles event here today. The 14th-seeded duo defeated the unseeded pair of Colombia's Gonzalo Escobar and Mexico's Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 6-1, 7-5 in an hour and 25 minutes at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre. Bhambri, India's top-ranked men's doubles player at world No. 32, and Venus broke their opponents twice to take a 3-0 lead and sealed the opening set 6-1. Escobar and Reyes-Varela fought back in the second set, but Bhambri and Venus held firm, winning 7-5 to secure their spot in the last 16.



depleted the USA's Marcos Giron and Learner Tien 6-0, 6-3. Last year, Bhambri, partnering Frenchman Albano Olivetti, had also reached the

pre-quarterfinals, losing to Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos in straight sets. Bhambri has yet to progress beyond this stage in a Grand Slam event. Meanwhile, Indian duo Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth exited the tournament after a 6-4, 6-3 loss to Brazil's Fernando Romboli and Australia's John-Patrick Smith on August 31, having earlier stunned eighth-seeded Americans Evan King and Christian Harrison in the first round. Other Indian entries faced early exits as veteran Rohan Bopanna and Monaco's Romain Arneodo lost in the opening round on August 30, while Arjun Kadhe and Ecuador's Diego Hidalgo also bowed out in their first match.

# Legend's "goosebumps" on record prize money for Women's World Cup

Dubai, (UNI)

The International Cricket Council announced a massive increase in prize money for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, which is set to take place later this month in India and Sri Lanka. The marquee event's overall prize pool has risen to USD 13.88 million, marking a whopping 297 percent increase from the previous edition held in 2022 in New Zealand. This also sees the total prize pot eclipse the men's event, which had a prize pool of USD 10 million in 2023. Former India great Jhulan Goswami was elated about the announcement on The ICC Review during her first appearance on the ICC Hindi Instagram channel, where she will also be featuring regularly in the lead-up to the tournament. "I am getting goosebumps.



"The increased prize money] is a very good thing," Goswami said on the historic announcement. "I would like to thank ICC from my side. The way they have thought of this, I think definitely women's cricket will get a lot of boost in this. "And for [budding women's cricketers'] parents, too. It is a reassurance that this sport can be played professionally and

taken forward. So, I think this is great news for women's cricket and I think this will definitely motivate all the players as well." The winners of the tournament will take home USD 4.48 million, while the runners-up will receive USD 2.24 million, with both amounts reflecting an increase of more than 200 percent from the 2022 edition. Both losing semifinalists will

receive USD 1.12 million each, while every group-stage participant is guaranteed USD 250,000. The fifth and sixth-placed teams will take home USD 700,000 each, and the seventh and eighth-placed sides will earn USD 280,000 each. In addition, every group-stage victory will fetch the winning team USD 34,414. This marks another significant milestone in the ICC's drive to amplify the growth of women's cricket and to establish pay parity with the men's game as announced ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024. The tournament is set to begin on 30 September with India taking on Sri Lanka in Guwahati. The two semifinals are scheduled for 29 and 30 October, with the showpiece final set to be played on 2 November.

# Vinay Yadav & Lakshya Nagar to hold joint lead in round one at Patna Golf

Patna, (UNI)

Delhi's Vinay Kumar Yadav and Noida's Lakshya Nagar shot scores of four-under 68 to hold the joint lead in round one of the sixth event of the PGTI NEXGEN season being played at the Patna Golf Club. Chandigarh's Amrit Lal carded a two-under 70 to be placed third. The Patna Golf Estate is a par-72 nine-hole course where the nine holes are played twice to comprise a round. Vinay Kumar Yadav today made two birdies on the front-nine thanks to a couple of quality chip-putts and then went on to add two more birdies on the back-nine with courtesy another top-class chip-putt and an outstanding drive on the Par-4 14th that found the green. Vinay, who is employed with the Indian Railways, said, "I played some solid golf today as I hit most of the fairways and greens. I made a lot of good chip-putts today. I've been feeling good about my putting



off late and today I converted putts at crucial moments. Lakshya Nagar, the joint leader along with Vinay Kumar Yadav, put together seven birdies and three bogeys during his round of 68. Md Nawab was the highest-placed among the local professionals as he returned a 75 to be tied 16th.

# Spanish cyclist Juan Ayuso will leave UAE Team Emirates XRG at the end

Madrid, (UNI)

Spanish cyclist Ayuso to leave UAE Team Emirates of 2025, the rider and team have confirmed. The news comes with Ayuso riding for UAE in the ongoing Vuelta a Espana, in which he won Stage 7 last week after slipping out of contention for the overall race the previous day. The Spaniard had a contract with the team until the end of 2028, but will now leave three years early, with Lidl-Trek thought to be his next destination. "Juan has been a valuable talent and we are grateful for what we have built together," commented UAE's CEO Mauro Gianetti. Ayuso and Portuguese rider Joao Almeida spearheaded the UAE team in Spain, after four-time Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar decided against competing after an intense season.



Pogacar's dominance of the sport and his clear leadership of the team when he is riding are possible factors in Ayuso's decision to look elsewhere, and in UAE allowing him to leave. "Our sporting project has always been focused on continuity, group harmony, and building a winning team. We believe that, in the best interests of both parties, this decision is the most consistent with the values that define our organization," said Gianetti. Meanwhile, Ayuso thanked his team. "I had the chance to grow and to compete alongside the very best, and I know that what I have learned will always remain part of my professional background." "I now feel it is time for me to take a different path, with the same enthusiasm and I wish UAE Team Emirates XRG success for the future," he added.

# Argentina's Fernandez joins Leverkusen



Berlin, (UNI) Bayer Leverkusen completed the signing of Argentine midfielder Ezequiel Fernandez from Saudi Pro League club Al-Qadsiyah. The 23-year-old has signed a deal

on Monday at the BayArena until June 2030, and will wear the No. 6 shirt. "With Ezequiel we are adding a player who combines strength in challenges with a reliable passing game," said sporting director Simon

Rolfes. "He plays with intensity, shows resilience and tactical intelligence, and will raise the overall standard of our squad. His arrival will also increase competition in midfield." Fernandez, who usually operates in a holding role, is regarded as a robust ball-winner with strong passing qualities and a tireless work ethic. At 1.78 meters tall, the left-footer brings defensive stability as well as composure in possession. The Buenos Aires-born midfielder started his professional career at Boca Juniors before moving to Al-Qadsiyah in 2024. Across his career to date, he has made 147 senior appearances in Argentina and Saudi Arabia. On the international stage, he featured for Argentina at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, where he played four matches and scored once.