Indian Olympic Association welcomes resumption of partnership with the IOC

New Delhi, (UNI)

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) today welcomed the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to fully resume its partnership through the Olympic Solidarity programmes. IOA said that the development reflects the significant governance reforms and progress achieved within Indian sport in recent

In a letter addressed to the President IOA, the IOC commended the positive measures taken by the IOA and the Government of India to strengthen the sporting ecosystem and support athletes at every level, from grassroots to

The IOC highlighted two key developments: the formal appointment of Raghuram Iyer as the IOA's Chief Executive Officer and the adoption of the National Sports Governance Act by the Government of India-both seen as pivotal steps in building a stronger foundation for sport in the country.

With the reinstatement of Olympic Solidari-



ty programmes, India's athletes stand to be the greatest beneficiaries. The renewed support will provide direct funding and development opportunities to assist in training, preparation, and participation in the Olympic Games and other major international competitions.

IOA President, Dr. P.T. Usha, described the

announcement as a landmark moment for Indian sport, and stated "This reflects our shared commitment- from the JOA to the Government of India, under the new and transformative sports legislation-to uphold the highest standards of governance in sport. Together, we are shaping a strong and promising future for India's athletes. This renewed partnership with the IOC will play a vital role in helping our athletes realise their Olympic aspirations. We sincerely thank the JOC for its continued trust support, and guidance.'

The IOA reaffirms its dedication to working closely with the IOC to further strengthen the Olympic Movement in India and ensure sustained support for the nation's athletes.

Inside PKL's referee training program



With the Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 well underway, a dedi-cated group of officials from 'Kashmir to Kanyakumari' completed an intensive 12-day training camp that signals a significant transformation in kabaddi

Running from August 15 to August 27 in Hyderabad, this comprehensive program welcomed 23 newcomers, taking the total number to 45 officials, creating a perfect blend of fresh talent and seasoned referees. Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra led the representation with four referees each, reflecting the nationwide commitment to officiating in

"Due to changes in some rules and formats this season, we have increased the number of officials in our training," explains E Prasad Rao, Technical Director of the PKL. He highlighted how the rule modifications have necessitated an expanded preparation program. The selection process was thorough, beginning with online training before bringing the final cohort together for in-tensive face-to-face sessions.

What makes this training key is the response to PKL's new tiebreaker format, which has transformed every match into what officials describe as a 'do or die' situation. "Now every match is a whether you can say do or die match. Every match has to be decided by a tiebreaker rule, 'Kabaddi' Rao emphasised, un derlining the heightened respon-

sibility officials now carry.

The tiebreaker format intro duced game-changing complexities: five raids per team, no play er eliminations during tiebreak ers and the baulk line becoming the bonus line. "So many rules are changed in a tiebreaker," making the officials' role 'very, very, very crucial,' reiterated

The camp's methodology re-flects PKL's evolution from sporting competition to preci sion-based entertainment. With multiple matches per venue, of ficials must execute decisions with accuracy. "How to go, how fast to collect information," he noted, emphasising that every procedural element has been 'calculated with time and methodology.'

Reigning champs Hyd to take on TNČA Prez XI in Buchibabu ckt final



Chennai, (UNI)

Reigning champions Hyder-abad will meet TNCA President's XIin the finals of the All India Invitation Buchibabu cricket tournament to be held herefrom Septem-

On the fourth and final day of the semifinals here today, Hyderabad humbled Haryana, set a tarin the summit clash, while the hometeam made the final after J and K conceded the match after conceding a huge 337 runfirst innings lead, collapsing from 212 for four in 65 overs overnight to 230 all

74 overs, Haryana were never in the hunt as leftarm spinner Nitin Sai Yadav spun a web aroundthe batsmen finshing with a seven wicket haul, picking up five of the remaining eightwickets on the fi-

Haryana resuming at 6/2 in 4 overs, were bundled out for 181 manshu Rana top scoring with 46.

Another leftarm spinner Aniketh Reddy chipped in with two wickets to fashion Hyderabad's-

In the other semifinal, Jammu and Kashmir, which had shown grit, determination andresilience right through the tournament, suffight through the tournament, suffered a stunning collapse on the fourthmorning and conceded a massive first innings lead of 337 runs, thanks to a sevenwicket haul by leftarm spinner P Vidyuth, who nicked up his second fifer in this picked up his second fifer in thistournament.

Resuming at 212 for four in 65 overs, in response to home team's humongous total of

567 for nine declared, the J and K innings lasted a mere nine overs on the last day asthey collapsed to 230 in 74 overs, adding a mere 18 runs, before losing their last fivewickets cheaply.

The contest lasted just 30 min-

utes on the final day.

One of the batsman did not bat due to injury and the innings was

World Boxing Championship: 20 member Indian contingent to test themselves against top global puglists

Led by the likes of Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and World Champions Nikhat Zareen, twenty Indian boxers will go head-to-head against some of the globe's top pugilists in as many categories at the inaugural World Boxing Championships 2025, Liverpool, scheduled to take place from September 4 to 14 at the M&S Bank Arena.

The biennial Championships will

bring together the finest amateur boxers from across the world, with India heading in top form after collecting 17 medals from the World Boxing Cups in Brazil and Kaza-khstan earlier this year.

India enters the tournament with strong momentum, building on remarkable performances at recent international competitions. At the World Boxing Cup in Brazil, India's contingent delivered six medals, with Hitesh bagging a gold and Abhinash Jamwal a silver, alongside four bronze medals. This international success continued at the World Boxing Cup in Kazakhstan, where India's consistency and depth both shone as the contingent picked up 11 more medals, including three golds. The country's ability to compete successfully across all categories was also on display as Nupur Sheoran clinched gold in the heavyweight division.

India eye victory against Afghanistan in last push for CAFA Nations Cup play-offs binations ahead of this crucial tie.

Hisor (Tajikistan), (UNI)

Qualification for the CAFA Nations Cup 2025 Playoff Stage is on the line, as India take on Afghanistan in their last match of Group B at the Hisor Central Stadium here, on tomorrow, at 17:30 IST.

The Blue Tigers have played two, won one, and lost one, against Tajikistan (2-1) and IR Iran (0-3), respectively, so far in the CAFA Nations Cup.

India are tied on three points with Tajikistan, and the former are ahead by virtue of a better head-tohead record. The top teams from each group will progress to the final, while the two second-placed teams will make it to the thirdplace match, both to take place on

As things stand, the Blue Tigers need a win against Afghanistan, and hope that Tajikistan do not win against Iran, in order to progress. A



between Iran and Tajikistan also ends in a draw or an Iranian victory. However, a defeat will result in elimination, as Tajikistan, in such a draw against Afghanistan may also scenario, would have the better be enough for India, if the match seen ough for India, if the match seen oug

played between the three teams who would end up on three points each (Tajikistan, India Afghanistan). India head coach

We are not thinking of all such scenarios at this point. There is no point to it," Jamil said to theaiff.com. "We will go into the game looking for a win. It's as simple as

India's victory against hosts Tajikistan in their first match of the tournament was their first competitive win since November 2023. While the 0-3 defeat against Iran may look otherwise on paper, the Blue Tigers are maintaining a posi-

We are all sad that we played so well in the first half, and then things did not click for us in the second. I'll be the first one to accept that I made a mistake with the substitution at that point, and they managed to score after it," said Jamil. "But this is as much of a learning curve for the players as it is for the coach. We will take

Uttar Pradesh defeat Kerala to win Sub Junior Girls' NFC Tier 2

Narainpur (Chhattisgarh),

Uttar Pradesh won the Sub Junior Girls' National Football Championship 2025-26 Tier 2, defeating Kerala 2-1 in the final at the RKM Ashrama Ground,

Both the teams secured promotion to Tier 1 for the upcoming edition as the finalists of this

After an intense first-half, the deadlock was broken in the 53rd minute when Uttar Pradesh's Niti Kumari converted the rebound after her penalty kick was saved initially.

In the 65th minute, Garima capitalised off a weak clearance from the Kerala goalkeeper, making it 2-0 for Uttar Pradesh. Kerala stepped up and struck



back immediately in the 66th minute, with Evana Biju finishing off a long ball from Samantha Saan to make it 2-1.

Despite their late chase for an equaliser, Kerala were unsuccessful in breaking down the Uttar Pradesh defence.

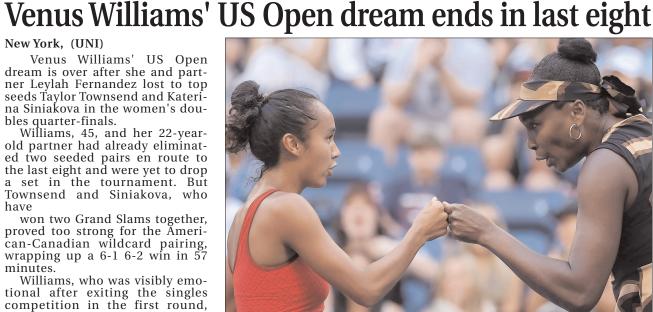
Venus Williams' US Open dream is over after she and partner Leylah Fernandez lost to top seeds Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova in the women's doubles quarter-finals.

Williams, 45, and her 22-yearold partner had already eliminated two seeded pairs en route to the last eight and were yet to drop a set in the tournament. But Townsend and Siniakova, who

won two Grand Slams together, proved too strong for the American-Canadian wildcard pairing, wrapping up a 6-1 6-2 win in 57

Williams, who was visibly emotional after exiting the singles competition in the first round, was all smiles as she soaked up the standing ovation from the crowd.

Both Townsend and Siniakova paid tribute to Williams, calling her an "inspiration" and a "leg-



end", according to a BBC news. "Growing up watching Venus and Serena, for me and my sister, we wanted to be like them. It was an honour to share the court with

her," Townsend said.
"It's a privilege to play her,"
Siniakova added.

Karnataka Sub-Junior Boys NFC trials on Sept 5



Bengaluru (UNI)

(KSFA) will conduct selection trials for the the national level.

Karnataka State Team for the National Football Championship (NFC) Sub-Junior Boys for the 2025-26 season.

The trials are scheduled for September 5 at the Bangalore Football Stadium, with reporting time set at 7:45 am. Players born between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2013, are eligible to participate.

Clubs, coaches, and players have been advised to ensure that all required details, including name, email, and photograph associated with their Google account, are accurately submitted while uploading the registration form.

KSFA stated that the trials aim to identify and nurture young football talent in Karnataka, providing an opportunity for he Karnataka State Football Association promising players to represent the state at

Sandesh Jhingan ruled out of CAFA Nations Cup due to injury



New Delhi, (UNI)

India have been dealt a blow ahead of the final group match against Afghanistan in the CAFA Nations Cup as defender Sandesh Jhingan has been ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to injury, the All India Football Federation con-

firmed on today. "Defender Sandesh Jhingan had

against IR Iran, and has been ruled out of the remaining matches. He will return to India today," a statement on AIFF's X handle said.

The Blue Tigers will sorely miss Jhingan's presence in the defence as he has been a rock at the heart of India's rearguard. India beat hosts Tajikistan in the first match before losing to Iran in the second. Jhingan has been influential with his leader-ship at the back. Khalid Jamil's men face Afghanistan on Thursday and need a victory to be assured of quali-fying for the 3rd 4th place playoff fying for the 3rd-4th place playoff.

A finish on the podium would be a

good achievement for India who are making their debut in the competition. Jamil will have to fall back on his squad to fill the void with Chinglen sana Singh and Rahul Bheke being alsustained an injury during India's #CAFANationsCup2025 match ternatives for the centre-back position.