

# Inaugural IGPL tour from Sept. 10; Yuvraj compares its potential impact to IPL

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) on Thursday launched its inaugural tour starting September 10, with co-founder and brand ambassador Yuvraj Singh likening the venture's potential impact on golf to the game-changing effect the IPL had on cricket.

In partnership with the Indian Golf Union (IGU) and the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI), the IGPL tour will comprise a 10-event calendar, beginning with the first tournament scheduled at Chandigarh Golf Club from September 10 to 12.

The tour is spread across multiple cities and it will also go to Sri Lanka and UAE.

Each event will be a three-day affair with no cuts, featuring a mix of young and veteran golfers alongside women professionals and amateurs.

The field size for the inaugural year will be 48 professionals: 36 men and 12 women, along with some amateurs, for a total of 54 participants.

"I'm really excited to



be part of IGPL because I feel that golf needs to grow in our country. I think it should become a part of our culture. IGPL will give them a chance to be fearless and be the best in the world," former India all-rounder Yuvraj told reporters.

"When I was playing cricket, I always thought I could have played more matches and done better. But when I started playing golf, I realized that probably my biggest regret is not starting golf at a young age."

Drawing from his experience as a cricketer, Yuvraj said: "Golf is such an amazing sport, but a golfer's life is tough. When you're on

tour, you have to pay your own bills, and manage everything yourself. In cricket, with the BCCI, we never had to worry about daily allowances or renting rooms because everything was taken care of.

"I think IGPL is providing a format where especially the young generation coming on board doesn't have to worry about those issues. That will give a lot of confidence to young talent to come forward. Going down to the grassroots level is very important.

"...I believe this format is going to be great. I hope it changes the momentum of golf because if you compare IGPL to IPL, the IPL

changed the whole dynamics of Indian cricket and world cricket. If IGPL can do that for golf, it will be incredible to see."

IGPL has also entered into a partnership with the Asian Tour, providing a pathway for the players, which includes allowing IGPL golfers to compete alongside the top Asian players at the Asian Tour event in India in November at Kensville Golf & Country Club.

"Because this is the pilot year of the IGPL, we're going to give the top four from the Order of Merit eligibility into the final stage of qualifying school," Cho Minn Thant, Tour Commissioner and CEO of the Asian Tour, said.

"The OQS (Open Championship Qualifying Series) also gives a spot into the British Open. So what will happen is the top player from IGPL, not otherwise exempt, will get an invite into one of the Asian Tour's OQS events.

"And if he finishes in the top three at that event, he'll get a spot in the British Open."

# Boxing World Championships: French women's team barred over late gender test results

**NEW DELHI:** The French women's team have been barred from the boxing world championships because the results of their gender tests were not delivered on time, the French Federation (FFBoxe) said on Thursday (Sep 4). World Boxing said last month that women wanting to compete in the event in Liverpool that starts on Thursday would have to undergo mandatory genetic sex testing under its new policy. Such tests have been banned in France since a law was passed in 1994, except under strict conditions, so the French federation had to wait till they reached England in order to proceed with them.

The five-member team underwent testing in a World Boxing-accredited laboratory with the understanding, FFBoxe said, that results would be available before the deadline. World Boxing, in a statement sent to AFP, laid the blame firmly at the door of the respec-



tive national federations.

"Since World Boxing first announced... its intention to introduce mandatory sex testing to determine the chromosomal sex of a male or female at birth, the organisation has made it clear that testing will be the responsibility of National Federations (NFs)," read the statement.

"They have the closest links and most access to their boxers and are best placed to manage the testing process.

"They also oversee the entry process for boxers, so they know which boxers need to be tested and when.

"It is very disappointing

for the boxers that some National Federations have not been able to complete this process in time, which means that some athletes have not made it through the sports entry process for the World Boxing Championships."

French Sports Minister Marie Barsacq slammed the decision as "inadmissible", and FFBoxe were left seething over the decision.

"It is with stupefaction and indignation that the French team learned on Wednesday evening the French women's boxing team would not be able to compete in the first world championships organised by World Boxing," FFBoxe said in a statement. "Despite guarantees given to us by World Boxing, the laboratory which they recommended to us was not up to the task of delivering the results on time.

"As a result, our athletes, as well as those from other countries, have been caught in this trap and excluded."

# Sub Jr Boys (U-15) category kicks off in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU:** The 64th edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament kicked off its Sub Junior Boys (U-15) category today in this city, with exciting contests marking the opening day.

The opening match was a close battle as Minerva Public School (CISCE) edged past Indira Modern High School (Haryana) 2-1. Gurtej Veer struck in the 32nd minute, followed by Kipgen's stoppage-time goal (50 2'). Rahul had given Haryana the lead in the very first minute, but Minerva fought back to seal the win.

Jharkhand's Shri Lalanand Secondary School dominated Tashi Namgyal Academy (IPSC) with a 5-1 victory. Suraj opened the scoring in the 20th minute, before Abhi (33', 35'), Ritesh (36'), and Ishant (48') extended the lead. S Chettri pulled one back for IPSC in the 38th minute.

# Dinosaur teeth unlock secrets of earth's ancient climate

A surprising new line of evidence is providing fresh insights into Earth's ancient climate. Fossilized dinosaur teeth reveal that the atmosphere during the Mesozoic era (between 252 and 66 million years ago) contained much higher levels of carbon dioxide than today. This conclusion comes from a study led by researchers at the Universities of Göttingen, Mainz, and Bochum, who examined oxygen isotopes preserved in tooth enamel. Their approach relies on a newly developed technique that offers exciting opportunities for studying Earth's climate history. The analysis also showed that global photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert sunlight into energy, was occurring at about twice the rate seen today. According to the researchers, this surge in plant activity likely played a role in shaping the highly dynamic climate that existed during the time of the dinosaurs. The team's findings were published in the journal PNAS. Tooth enamel, one of the hardest and most resilient biological substances, preserves oxygen isotope signatures that record what dinosaurs inhaled as they breathed. Because the ratio of oxygen isotopes is influenced by atmospheric carbon dioxide and plant photosynthesis, these traces provide a valuable window into both climate conditions and vegetation during the age of the dinosaurs.

# Switzerland releases 100% open AI model

A group of Swiss institutions has released a new open AI model, designed to serve as a foundation for future research and applications. Built by EPFL, ETH Zurich, and the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre (CSCS), the model is called Apertus – Latin for "open." The name reflects its core principle: every part of its design and training process is accessible to the public.

Developers and organisations can use Apertus to create chatbots, translation tools, or education-focused applications. It can be downloaded directly from Hugging Face or accessed through Swisscom, a strategic partner of the initiative. Two versions are available – an 8-billion-parameter model and a larger 70-billion-parameter version. Both are released under a permissive open-source licence, allowing use in research, education, and commercial projects.

Unlike other AI systems that reveal only select details, Apertus is a fully open AI model, with its architecture, training data, and documentation available for inspection.

"With this release, we aim to provide a blueprint for how a trustworthy, sovereign, and inclusive AI model can be developed," said Martin Jaggi, Professor of Machine Learning at EPFL and member of the Steering Committee of the Swiss AI Initiative. He

said Apertus will be updated regularly by a team of engineers and researchers from CSCS, ETH Zurich, and EPFL.

Thomas Schulthess, Director of CSCS and Professor at ETH Zurich, described Apertus as "a driver of innovation and a means of strengthening AI expertise in research, society and industry." He said the project is not a typical transfer of technology from research to product, but an effort to build infrastructure for long-term use.

The training process involved 15 trillion tokens in more than 1,000 languages, with about 40% of the data in non-English languages. Apertus includes languages often left out of LLMs, like Swiss German and Romansh.

"Apertus is built for the public good. It stands among the few fully open LLMs at this scale and is the first of its kind to embody multilingualism, transparency, and compliance as foundational design principles," said Imanol Schlag, technical lead of the project and Research Scientist at ETH Zurich.

Swisscom is already deploying Apertus on its sovereign AI platform. "This underscores our commitment to shaping a secure and responsible AI ecosystem that serves the public interest and strengthens Switzerland's digital sovereignty," said Daniel Dobos, Research Director at Swisscom.

While downloading Apertus is simple for experienced users, practical use requires servers, cloud resources, or dedicated interfaces. Developers will be able to test Apertus during the Swiss {ai} Weeks which continue until October 5, 2025. Hackathon participants will gain access through a Swisscom-hosted interface. Swisscom business customers can also begin using the model today through the company's AI platform. For international users, Apertus will be available through the Public AI Inference Utility.

"Currently, Apertus is the leading public AI model: a model built by public institutions, for the public interest. It is our best proof yet that AI can be a form of public infrastructure like highways, water, or electricity," said Joshua Tan, Lead Maintainer of the Public AI Inference Utility.

Under the open-source licence training data, model weights, and intermediate checkpoints are available.

The model's training process followed Swiss data protection rules, Swiss copyright law, and the transparency requirements of the EU AI Act.

The dataset was limited to publicly-available information, filtered to remove personal data and to honour website opt-out requests. Ethical guidelines were also applied to exclude unwanted material before training began.

# Delhi High Court asks EFI to explain selection criteria adopted for Youth Asian Games

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court has directed the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) to submit an affidavit within three weeks, detailing the selection criteria adopted to pick the Indian team for the upcoming Asian Youth Games even as one more athlete has knocked on the judiciary door questioning his exclusion. The Youth Asian Games are scheduled to be held in Manama, Bahrain, from October 22 to 31.

The Court order came on a writ petition filed by show jumping athlete Vaasvi Khaitan, through her father Vedant Khaitan, challenging her exclusion from the list of eight probables named by the EFI.

The last date to send India's entries was August

31 and it is clear that Vaasvi won't get a chance to compete in Bahrain despite having competed extensively at the international level, including FEI events.

Rider Fateh Jahan Singh Dhaliwal, aged 16, has also approached the court, through his mother, seeking quashing of the list of selected athletes and requested "further directions to conduct the shortlisting of riders for the Asian Youth Games".

While hearing the Vaasvi matter on September 1, the Court said given that the names of Indian athletes for participation in the concerned event have already been sent to the International Federation, and considering that the deadline for submission of names

has expired, it may no longer be possible for the petitioner to participate in the said event.

"Be that as it may, let an affidavit be filed by the EFI setting out the criteria adopted for selection of the athletes who have been selected to participate in the Asian Youth Games, Bahrain," said Justice Sachin Dutta.

"Let the affidavit also disclose the selection criteria to be adopted for future events. Let the same be filed within a period three weeks from today. Rejoinder thereto, if any, be filed within a period of two weeks thereafter."

EFI had named Avik Bhatia, Arun Kumar Harshiyt, Jaiveer Varma, Bhooan, Krishna Sahithi,

Ranbir Singh Dhillon, Jaiveer Nagra and Shubh Chowdhari in the Indian squad for the Games.

While hearing Dhaliwal's petition on Thursday, it emerged that IOA has forwarded only four names, instead of eight to the Organising Committee. The IOA counsel though, stated they have forwarded the names submitted by the EFI Executive Committee to them.

The Court then sought clarification from both IOA and EFI EC and listed the matter for September 18.

It is clear that the disputes within the EFI is creating chaos and confusion. Unless fresh elections are conducted, the athletes are bound to suffer and effective administration won't be possible.

# Abhay, Raiza top national shotgun selection trials 4 in Bhucho

**BHUCHO:** Abhay Singh Sekhon and Raiza Dhillon topped the national selection shotgun trial 4 (T4) in the men's and women's skeet event respectively here on Thursday. Raiza also topped the women's qualification rounds in the line-up of 19 athletes while Asian Shooting Championship gold medalist Anantjeet Singh Naruka dominated the men's qualification among 35 athletes at Bhucho Village Bhai Devinder Singh Sidhu Gun Club.

In the skeet men, Abhay hit 55 out of 60 targets to finish on the top in the T4, while Gurjoat Singh and Naruka finished second and third in the finals with 53 and 44 hits, respectively.

Earlier in the qualifications, Abhay finished fourth in the qualification with 117 hits in the five series of 25 shots each (24, 21, 23, 24,

25) and +3 in the shoot off.

Naruka topped the T4 qualification line-up with 121 hits (24, 23, 25, 25, 24) while Gurjoat Singh finished second with 118 (23, 24, 22, 25, 24) and +2 in the shoot-out as Bhavtegh Singh Gill, also on 118 (24, 25, 24, 24, 23), finished third in the qualification with a hit less in the shoot-out. Yuvek Battula with 117 hits (24, 24, 22, 23, 24) and Zorawar Singh Bedi, also with 117 hits (23, 24, 23, 23, 24), were the other finalists with +2 and 0 in the shoot-off.

Raiza Dhillon emerged as the top performer in T4 skeet women, as she maintained the high scores across all five rounds to finish with 119 hits (24, 25, 23, 23, 24) in the qualification and secured the top spot in the finals with 55 hits while Ganamet Sekhon shot two less to finish second in the finals.

# CAFA Nations Cup: India held by Afghanistan but remain in contention for third-fourth place match

**HISOR:** The Indian football team could not make use of the chances that came its way and was held to a goalless draw by Afghanistan at the CAFA Nations Cup here on Thursday.

But the draw could still prove enough for India to make the third-fourth-place playoff as Iran are the overwhelming favourites to beat co-hosts Tajikistan later Thursday and seal their place in the final. The Blue Tigers are tied on three points with Tajikistan, but the former are ahead by virtue of a better head-to-head record.

India, however, will be in trouble if Tajikistan manage to hold Iran to a draw, in which case Khalid Jamil's team and Ta-

jikistan will finish level on four points but the latter will advance due to a superior goal difference.

Afghanistan are out of the tournament. The Indians have been the better side in the first half and created plenty of opportunities, but failed to make them count.

Afghanistan too had their share of chances but could not breach the Indian defence in the first half and saw few attempts miss the target by a whisker after the break, and there was also a critical save by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

India had lost to Afghanistan in their last meeting during the second round 2026 World Cup Qualifiers in March 2024.

# PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Drink Safe Water Only Use boiled or chlorinated water.

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Practice Hand Hygiene – Wash hands with soap and clean water, especially before eating.

4

Food Safety – Eat freshly cooked food. Discard food & food items that has come in contact with flood water.

5

Seek Medical Help Early For fever, diarrhea, skin infection, or injuries.

6

Prevent Mosquito Breeding – Remove stagnant water in and around the house and from containers/flower pots.

7

Protect Against Snake Bites – Avoid walking in waterlogged areas ; use Gum boots & stick while moving.







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