

Moosa names 23-member U-23 squad for Tajikistan tour

PTI, NEW DELHI: Preparing for the 2026 Asian Cup Qualifiers, India U-23 men's team head coach Naushad Moosa on Monday announced a 23-member squad, including three players from the senior side, for the upcoming friendly matches against Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Blue Colts have been training at the AIFF National Centre of Excellence in Kolkata since June 1 and will leave for Tajikistan on Monday evening.

As part of their preparations for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers in September, India will face Tajikistan on June 18 before squaring off against Kyrgyz Republic on June

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Mohd Arbaz, Priyansh Dubey, Sahil Defenders: Bikash Yumnam, Dipendu Biswas, Muhammed Saheef AP, Nikhil Barla, Pramveer, Subham Bhattacharya, Tekcham Abhishek Singh

Midfielders: Ayush Chhetri, Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Lalrinliana Hnamte, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mohammed Aimen, Vibin Mohanan, Vinith Venkatesh

Forwards: Joseph Sunny, Mohammed Sanan K, Parthib Sundar Gogoi, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Thingujam Koru Singh

Moosa's squad was boosted by the addition of forward Suhail Ahmad Bhat, midfielder Ayush Chhetri and defender Tekcham Abhishek Singh, who joined the U23 camp after finishing their duties with the senior national team during the June FIFA window games against Thailand and Hong Kong.

"After these friendlies, we will get more understanding of our players and what else we need to work on. The opponents are of a pretty good level, I believe."

"It's important to play against such teams when you're preparing for the U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, where we will face Qatar and Bahrain," Moosa added.

21. Both matches will take place at the Hisor Central Stadium in Hisor, about 25 kilometres from Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe.

"These two matches against Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic will help us understand the level of our players, and what more we need to add to it. For now, I'm happy with the way we have prepared. We won a couple of practice matches by big margins, but it wasn't much of a competition," said Moosa.

The camp began with 29 players, of whom 20 made the final list.

Squad for AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers announced

The Blue Tigresses are placed in Group B of the Qualifiers, where they will face Mongolia (June 23), Timor Leste (June 29), Iraq (July 2) and hosts Thailand (July 5)

the weather has been very pleasant."

PTI, NEW DELHI: Having lost three forwards to injuries, the Indian senior women's team head coach, Crispin Chhetri, on Monday named a 24-member travelling squad to Thailand for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers.

The final squad of 23 players for the Qualifiers will be announced before the first match. The Blue Tigresses are placed in Group B of the Qualifiers, where they will face Mongolia (June 23), Timor Leste (June 29), Iraq (July 2) and hosts Thailand (July 5).

"Unfortunately, we had to let go of forwards like Karishma (Shirvoikar), Sandhya (Ranganathan) and Renu due to injuries. But that's part and parcel of football. And as compared to the Pink Ladies Cup squad (in February), we have more experienced players with us now."

The Indian coach tried various combinations during the two preparatory friendlies against Uzbekistan, rotating as many as eight players for the second game and handing out a total of five debuts.

"We had a clear plan for those two friendlies. We were trying to find the right combination for the qualifiers because we have to play almost four games in 13 days. Rotating players and giving them proper recovery time is important."

The group winners will qualify for the final tournament in Australia in March 2026. The Women's Asian Cup also serves as a qualifier for the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027.

Chhetri and his squad will arrive in Thailand on Monday evening, and will train for a week in the northern city of Chiang Mai before their first game. All matches will take place at the 700th Anniversary of Chiang Mai Stadium.

The Blue Tigresses camped at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru for six weeks, and as part of their preparations for the Qualifiers, played two friendlies against Uzbekistan on May 30 and June 3, losing 0-1 on both occasions.

"I was happy with the preparations in Bengaluru," said Chhetri.

"We trained for more than 40 days. The training ground and all the facilities were excellent. As far as the squad is concerned, we have a good mixture of young and senior players."

"To adjust to the more humid weather of Chiang Mai, the Blue Tigresses will arrive in the city a week before the first match against Mongolia. They will also have a five-day gap before taking on Timor Leste in the second game."

"I'm pleased with the federation for sending us early to Thailand. There is ample time for acclimatisation and recovery. In Bengaluru,

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Moirangthem Monalisha Devi, Payal Basude

Defenders: Hemam Shilky Devi, Kiran Pisdia, Martina Thokchom, Ngangbam Sweetsy Devi, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, Purnima Kumari, Sanju, Sorokhaibam Ranjana Chanu

Midfielders: Anju Tamang, Grace Dangmei, Karthika Angamuthu, Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi, Priyadarshini Selladurai, Sangita Basfore

Forwards: Lynda Kom Serto, Malavika P, Manisha Kalyan, Manisha Naik, Pyari Xaxa, Rimpal Haldar, Soumya Guguloth

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Goa's rising star Anaya sparkles

Team Herald sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Goa's rising star Anaya Kamat brought cheers to the local camp with a commanding 15-5, 15-7 victory over Urvee Hurkadli of Karnataka in the Girls U-15 second round match of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2025 played at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Monday.

Aditi Dhargalkar advanced via walkover in her match against Karnataka's Avani Murthy.

In Boys U-17 Doubles, Goa's Devansh Sakpal, pairing with Maharashtra's Eshaan Lagu, won 15-6, 15-7, while Shane D'Souza and Karthikeyan N. (Goa) advanced after a walkover win.

In the Mixed Doubles U-17 category, Goa's Yashila Ritika Chelluri, partnering with Andhra Pradesh's Vinayaka Mani Babu Machha Charan Sree Mani, displayed remarkable resilience to defeat Telangana's Rohan Pabbisetty and Dhriti Sahasra Banda in a gripping three-game contest, 12-15, 15-12, 15-13.

Despite their valiant efforts, several top ranked



Goa's Anaya Kamat keeping up the spirits high on Day 3 of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2025 played at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Monday

ALL INDIA SUB JUNIOR RANKING BADMINTON

Goan shuttlers bowed out after spirited fights.

In Girls U-15, Niharika Parwar, Kanika Pai Vernekar, Pragma Audi, Astha Pudal and Palak Ramnathkar went down in

were unable to overcome their seeded opponents.

In Boys U-17, Owais Tahasildar and Devansh Sakpal fought hard but narrowly lost their Round 3 matches in three tight games.

Nationally ranked players lived up to their billing with a series of dominant wins.

In a major upset, Girls U-15 top seed Abhishaa Sree Saravanan (Tamil Nadu) was knocked out by Eshanvi C B (Kerala) in a thrilling three-game match. Second seed Mehvish Kaur (Punjab) cruised to a 15-3, 15-3 win, while 5th seed Nimeesha Ojha (Odisha) and 6th seed Aarshia (Gujarat) also registered comfortable victories.

In Boys U-17, top four seeds Avadhut Kadam (Maharashtra), Parth Gawri (Haryana), Sivacharan Ganesan (Tamil Nadu), and Parth Puri (Gujarat) advanced, with Gawri surviving a close scare from West Bengal's Sayak Saha. Kaivalya Sood (Punjab), Sri Harsha Marka (Telangana) and other contenders also progressed to the next round, keeping the competition fierce at the national level.

Toss Academy emerge champions

Team Herald sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Toss Academy, Maharashtra, edged past fellow Maharashtra team Spinmoon 5 in a thrilling 3-2 final to emerge champions in the PMS Multi State Masters Table Tennis Team Championship organised by Panaji Morning Stars Sports Club at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, Panjim, on Monday.

In a contest that went down to the wire, Toss Academy displayed resilience and teamwork to secure the coveted championship trophy along with a cash prize of Rs 50,000. Spinmoon 5 had to settle for the runners-up position and a prize purse of Rs 30,000.



Champions Toss Academy along with the dignitaries at the Indoor Stadium, Campal-Panjim and received Rs 10,000 each along with trophies.

PMS MULTI STATE TABLE TENNIS TEAM C'SHIP

Earlier in the semi-finals, Toss Academy overcame MP Lions (Madhya Pradesh) 3-1, while Spinmoon 5 got the better of Guru Academy (Maharashtra) with an identical 3-1 scoreline. Both MP Lions and Guru Academy finished as joint third-place winners

participation from top veteran players across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, with the objective of blending competitive table tennis with camaraderie and fellowship among seasoned players. The final was graced by Goa Table Tennis Association President Sudin Venrenkar, sports promoter Yogish Dempo and office bearers of the hosts PMS Sports Club Niraj Kannure, Avdhut Kuvelkar, Dinesh Sinari, Chaitanya Tarcar, Deepak Gopani and Gaurish Agni among others.

Goa Velha SC open campaign with win

INACIO NORONHA



Stendly Lopes of Goa Velha SC receives the man-of-the-match award from Sunil Govekar

Team Herald sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Goa Velha Sports Club managed to edge past Augustias Sports Club, Pomburpa, by 2-1 margin in the inaugural match of 1st Vedanta

VEDANTA SOCCER

Soccer organised by Sinquerim SC at Sinquerim ground, on Monday.

St Anthony's SC march into quarters

INACIO NORONHA



Benaulim Sarpanch Xavier Pereira and Ressia Pereira present the man-of-the-match award to St Anthony's Sports Club goalkeeper Oswin Rodrigues for his outstanding performance

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RAIA: St Anthony's Sports Club, Assolda, pipped United Boys of Dando, Colva, 4-3, via tie-breaker to book a spot in the quarter-finals of 14th Super Soccer inter-village football tournament organised by United Club of Benaulim at the St John de Baptista ground, Benaulim, on Monday.

Carvalho. In the tense tie-breaker, Valentino Carvalho, Joaquim Carvalho and Akram Yadwad scored for St Anthony's Sports Club, while only Riston Gomes and Clayton Fernandes managed to...

TODAY'S SPORTS

- 24th Vagator Soccer (2nd semi-final):** St Savio Sports Club, Calangute, vs Youth Sports Club, Colvale, at Vagator ground, 4:30 pm
- 1st Vedanta Soccer:** St Anthony's SC, Marna-Siolim, vs Candolim SC, at Sinquerim ground, 4:30 pm
- Silver Jubilee Cup (semi-final):** Aggem SC vs FX Sports Club, Camarxet, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, 5 pm
- Anil Kamat Trophy inter-village football:** Goa Velha SC vs Sao Jose de Areal, at Our Lady of Hope Church ground, Chinchinim, 4:30 pm
- 19th Super Soccer:** Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, vs USC Seraulim, at St John the Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulim, 4:30 pm

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TIATR
Milagres De Chandor
Tequila Shots
 Writ & Dir: Milagres De Chandor
 Host: P.M. YOUNG'S ASSOCIATION

CON: 9822307084 / 8067450594