

PRESIDENT OF INDIA UNVEILS THE TROPHIES OF DURAND CUP TOURNAMENT

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The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu unveiled and flagged off the Trophies of the Durand Cup Tournament 2026 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (July 7, 2026).



Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated all past and present officials and players associated with the Durand Cup and said that this tournament has provided a platform for numerous talented footballers.

The President was happy to note that some new teams would compete this year for the Durand Cup, the President's Cup, and the Shimla Trophy, including a team from Sri Lanka. She expressed confidence that the inclusion of new teams would make this historic competition even more popular. She conveyed her best wishes to all participating teams and players for stellar performances.



The President said that football is one of the most popular sports in the world. It is a unique example of excellence, unity, and sportsmanship. She said that in the ongoing FIFA World Cup, the world's best teams and players are competing to enhance the prestige of football in their respective nations. These teams and players have fans across the globe who appreciate their fine performances. Football brings people together, and the outstanding performances of players inspire sports enthusiasts everywhere.

The President said that India still has a long journey ahead to establish a presence on the global football stage. She expressed hope that the tournament would play a significant role in nurturing football talent.



The President said that the significance of sporting spirit is not limited to sports alone. It teaches us the values of equality, cooperation, and remaining steadfast even in adverse circumstances. We are moving forward to transform our nation into 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047. She expressed confidence that we, the citizens of the country, will succeed in achieving the goal of *Viksit Bharat* by standing united, just as football players support one another in their team's march to victory.

[Please click here to see the President's Speech](#)

MJPS/SS/PRK

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