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### WEATHER °C °F

Delhi	30	86
Kolkata	28	82
Chennai	28	82
Mumbai	26	79

## Report: Volleyball bridges cultural divide in TN



NDTV Correspondent

Tuesday, July 13, 2004 (Chennai):

Social and political integration through sport is not an unusual concept. Indo-Pak cricket ties are certainly an example and back home in Tamil Nadu volleyball is also proving to be a case study of how sport can bridge the divide caused by caste and culture.

Many senior citizens as part of a Volleyball team are vying for honours. For the first time women in these villages have come to the play fields. They say participating in these games has helped them discover their potential.

In the finals of an inter village tournament a fifty-seven-year old lady was the star attraction.

"I feel so young. This has revived the interest I had in games. Now I have the same enthusiasm that I had when I was a little girl," said the woman.

### Social change

Most of these villagers are labourers and games were not a part of their life in the past. Often they were clashing with each other on communal lines.

Now a voluntary organization has helped them form volley ball teams in over a hundred villages and this has brought together around seven thousand people.

"We are just using sport as a way of integrating people, beyond caste and religions. The necessary enthusiasm is needed for any social change to happen. The game is just one of the means for that to happen," said Sadhguru Jaggi, Founder, ISHA foundation.

### Professional training

For the younger players the prospect of getting a professional coach could find them a place in the district team.

"We use lights and practise till late. Earlier we used to just sit around and waste our time after work," said an enthusiastic player.

For more than fifty thousand people this was a memorable event. Having experienced the joy and unifying power of games, volleyball is going to be an integral part of their life.

### OTHER STORIES

#### Tennis

- Federer, Mauresmo win openers
- Bhupathi-Malisse crash out in first round
- Nadal visits ground zero
- Happy returns for Williams, Hingis, Safin
- US Open pays tribute to Katrina victims
- Federer against on-court coaching
- Federer set to help Aussie charity
- Roddick first player into third round
- Agassi takes cortisone shot

#### Cricket

- Eng-Pak ODI abandoned
- BCCI's documents illegible: Dalmiya
- Gibbs to visit India: Mickey Arthur
- Team India sweat it out at 'Ideas Camp'
- 1,300 online Ashes tickets cancelled

### In Sports This Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

on

### Specials



### Video Specials [4]



Indian cricket team attends rolling camp



Ranking to me just a number: Sania



Cricket biggies join Special Olympics Bharat movement

### Message Centre

Who do you think will win the US Open?

Subject

Username

Password

### Poll Centre

#### Report

- Kolkata hosts National Sub-junior Basketball C'ships
- Tokyo to bid for 2016 Summer Olympics

#### Hockey

- Vriesman seeks sweeping changes in Indian hockey

#### Football

- Ballack fined for not declaring handbag
- Italy, France to clash again

#### Motorsports

- Massa looking for more

#### Boxing

- Tyson now just another freak show

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#### Q. Should Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag open for India?

- Yes
- No
- Can't say

#### They Said It

“ *Let me make it very clear, I said my motivation factor is lacking, I am thinking of retiring. I never said I was going to retire. I needed time to think on my retirement, I did take some time. Yes I've decided I wanted to be back and I'm happy to be back,*

”

- **Bhaichung Bhutia**  
Former India captain  
speaking about his return to the national football team.