

**Rising star**  
Sharvari Wagh bags IMDb 'Breakout Star Award' for holding the top position on 'Popular Indian Celebrities' list for four straight weeks

LEISURE | P2

**Appeal for peace**  
Head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel laureate Prof Mohammad Yunus fervently appeals for peace and calm

INTERNATIONAL | P9

**Lifestyle hub**  
India emerges as a hub for global lifestyle brands, with 90 per cent of the top 50 active and many others lining up for launch

BUSINESS | P10

**Embarrassing defeat**  
India suffer their first ODI series loss against Sri Lanka in 27 years going down by 110 runs in the third and final ODI

SPORTS | P12

**SHORT TAKES**

**Odia IPS officer Swain is new J&K DGP**

**Bhubaneswar:** Odia IPS officer Rashmi Ranjan Swain has been appointed as the Director General of police in Jammu & Kashmir, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a notification issued Wednesday. Swain incidentally hails from Rourkela. He had been holding the additional charge as DGP, J&K. Now he has been confirmed for the post in the Union Territory. After assuming charge Swain will continue in the position till September 30, 2024 or until further orders whichever is earlier, the notification stated. Swain has always been at the forefront in the fight against terrorism in J&K.

**400 Indians brought back from Dhaka**

**New Delhi:** Air India and IndiGo operated Wednesday special flights to Dhaka, bringing more than 400 people amid a volatile situation in the Bangladesh capital. A special Air India flight brought 205 people, including six infants and some staff from the Indian High Commission, from Dhaka to here Wednesday morning, an official said. IndiGo's special flight flew Tuesday from Dhaka to Kolkata to bring back more than 200 Indian nationals.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



What do you mean it's only 100 grams? 100 grams can cost as much as gold these days!

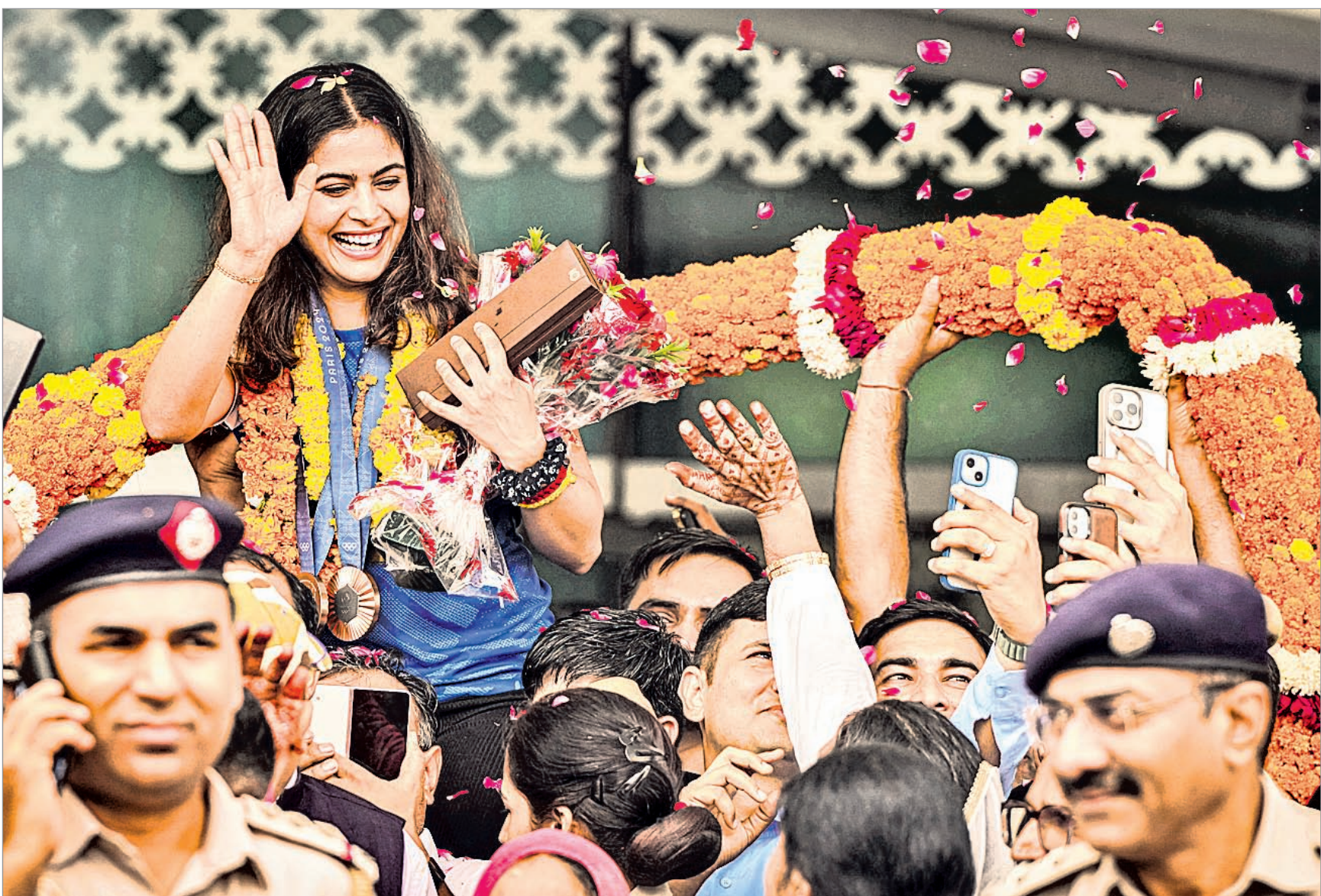
**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	79468.01	↑ 874.94
NIFTY	24297.50	↑ 304.95
DOLLAR	83.86	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	91.69	↓ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹69,030	↑ ₹65
SILVER	₹79,215	↑ ₹408

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.7°C	30.0°C
Min Temp	24.5°C	23.5°C
Humidity	98%	98%
Rainfall	40.4mm	11mm

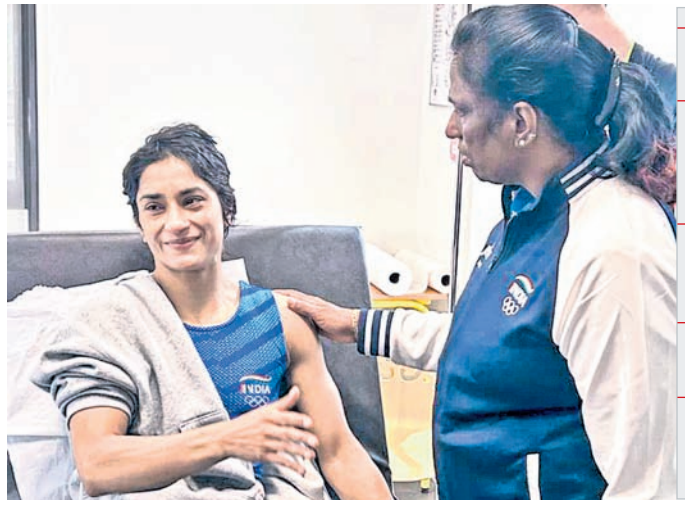
**FORECAST**  
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



**SWEET HOMECOMING:** Shooter Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals at the ongoing Paris Olympics, was accorded a rousing welcome on her arrival in Delhi, Wednesday

## 1.4bn dreams 'disqualified' 5T charter, Mo Sarkar appraisals scrapped

Failure to gauge the extent of solid and liquid intakes to maintain body weight leads to Vinesh's disqualification in her gold medal match, a bout she was considered favourite



IOA president PT Usha meets Vinesh Phogat at the Games village, Wednesday

**Paris, August 7:** Even Tuesday, there were many in India who did not know her name. However, they did so by night when Vinesh Phogat won three successive bouts in the 50kg category of women's wrestling at the Paris Olympics, including one against an undefeated World and Olympic champion. The nation went to sleep dreaming about a gold medal from Vinesh as she had already displayed exemplary grit and determination. Their hopes and dreams of a wrestling gold were shattered when the news about Vinesh's disqualification for overweight surfaced Wednesday. The nation was shocked beyond disbelief. An entire nation's hopes were crushed for just 100 grams. She stood on the scales Wednesday, hours before her bout. The figures on the display board were horrifying. For her 50kg category bout, she was 100gm overweight,

leading to an automatic disqualification on perhaps the biggest day of her sporting career. The shattered 29-year-old had to be taken to the polyclinic inside the Games village due to severe dehydration later in the day. "I met Vinesh at the Olympic Village polyclinic a short while ago and assured her of complete support of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Government of India and the whole country. We are providing Vinesh all medical and emotional support," association president PT Usha said. The contingent's chief medical officer Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala explained the process of weight cut and said that every possible trick was used to ensure that Vinesh could be within the prescribed limit. Pardiwala revealed that Vinesh had been merely given small amounts of water to prevent dehydration after three draining bouts Tuesday. "Her post participation weight

- Weigh-in is done 12 hours prior to a wrestler's bout
- Vinesh had been informed that her weigh-in would be conducted at 8.30am Wednesday (Paris time)
- During bouts through the day weight increase is not considered
- No relaxations allowed at the Olympics over weight
- Vinesh took sauna bath, cycled, sprinted Tuesday night to lose weight, but that didn't help

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The Odisha government has excluded the '5T charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' components from the annual Performance Appraisal Reports (PAR) and Confidence Character Rolls (CCR) of its employees. The General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department Wednesday issued an official communiqué in this regard to the Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Commissioner-cum-Secretaries of all departments, departmental chiefs, revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs) and district collectors of the state. "The state government felt that there is no need of the '5T charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' components in the annual PAR/CCR of Group A, B and C employees of Odisha. It has decided to drop the '5T charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' components from the PAR/CCR of government employees from 2024-25 fiscal," read the GA&PG department's communiqué. Sources said that the Mohan Charan Majhi-led BJP government feels that proper appraisal of the employees can also be done without both the '5T Charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' clauses. That is the reason it has decided to do away with both the clauses. Notably, the previous BJD government in Odisha, under the leadership of party supremo Naveen Patnaik, had introduced the '5T charter' and 'Mo Sarkar' components in the PAR/CCR of Group A, B and C employees of the state. The BJD government had then asked all departments to accord 20 per cent weightage to an employee's performance in implementing the '5T charter' in his PAR/CCR. The BJD lost power in Odisha to the BJP in the 2024 Assembly polls in the state. This is the first time that the BJP has managed to dethrone the BJD after 24 years.

## Couple murdered over witchcraft in Gajapati

**R Udayagiri, August 7:** Miscrants brutally killed a couple late Tuesday night by slitting their throats over suspected witchcraft and sorcery practice. The gruesome murders took place at the house of both the deceased on top of a hill near Tunguru village under R Udayagiri police limits in Gajapati district. The victims were identified as Chaitanya Mandal, 60, an herbal healer and his wife Irjani Mandal, 50. On being informed Wednesday, police along with a scientific team reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital in Paralakhemundi. Preliminary inquiry suggested that miscrants might have murdered the couple over suspected witchcraft practice and sorcery. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on, R Udayagiri police IIC Sabyasachi Malla informed. Police said that Chaitanya, a healer used to prescribe herbs to people when they came to him for treatment. He had built a hut on the hilltop and had been staying there with his wife for more than five years. However, later on people suspected that the two were involved in witchcraft which led to their murder, police said.

## Musk's 'Civil War' comment irks UK govt

MINISTERS ASK TECH BILLIONAIRE TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND IN A RESTRAINED WAY

**London, August 7:** The British government has asked Elon Musk to act responsibly and warned him of strict measures after the tech billionaire used his social media platform 'X' to unleash a barrage of posts that officials say risk inflaming the violent unrest gripping the country. Justice Minister Heidi Alexander made the comments Wednesday morning after Musk posted a comment. It said that 'Civil war is inevitable' in the UK. Musk later doubled down, highlighting complaints that the British criminal justice system treats Muslims more leniently than far-right activists and comparing Britain's crackdown on social media users to the Soviet Union. "Use of language such as a civil war 'is in no way acceptable', Alexander told *Times Radio*. "We are seeing police officers being seriously injured, buildings set alight, and so I really do think that everyone who has a platform should be exercising their power responsibly," Alexander added. Britain has been shaken by violence for more than a week, as police clashed with crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans in cities and towns from Northern Ireland to the south coast of England. The unrest began after right-wing activists used social media



to spread misinformation about a knife attack that killed three girls during a Taylor Swift-themed dance event July 29. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has described the riots as 'far-right thuggery', said after an emergency meeting with law

enforcement officials and government ministers Tuesday that perpetrators will swiftly be punished. So far 400 persons have been arrested, he added. The prime minister however, deflected direct questions from reporters about Musk. He said his focus was on keeping communities safe. Alexander meanwhile said that the government would look at strengthening the existing 'Online Safety Act', which was approved last year and won't be fully implemented until 2025. That type of rhetoric may be part of what sparked Musk's attack on the government. Musk has taken a more combative approach to his critics than was the norm in Silicon Valley technology firms, said Alex Krasodomski, who studies the intersection between technology and politics at 'Chatham House', a London-based think tank. Musk just kept wading into the debate about the violence in Britain. After Starmer posted a comment on 'X' saying that the government 'will not tolerate attacks on mosques or on Muslim communities', Musk responded with the question, "Shouldn't you be concerned about attacks on (asterisk) all(asterisk) communities?" Musk attached a similar comment to a video that said it showed a 'Muslim patrol' attacking a pub in Birmingham, highlighting the original post for his 193 million followers.

# leisure



**MARIAH CAREY: I'M ETERNALLY 12**  
Singer Mariah Carey finds it unbelievable that she is a mother of teenagers and calls herself 'eternally 12.' "I know, normally I'd say 'Well here's the thing, I'm eternally 12, so I don't even know how that's possible!'" the 55-year-old told *E! News*.

**GOMEZ: HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM MERYL STREEP**

Singer-actress Selena Gomez has spoken about being in awe of her co-actress and Hollywood star Meryl Streep. Gomez shared: "She's an inspiration, and she's someone who is incredibly talented while being very humble, professional, and kind. I've learned so much from her just by her being Meryl," she told *The Hollywood Reporter*.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
You feel lost and thoroughly depressed today. This will make you turn towards spirituality, says Ganesh. You will devote more time to meditation and will pray a lot. Despite the adverse circumstances, Ganesh says you will make a good deal of material headway.

**TAURUS**  
Feel your imagination run wild as you star-gaze throughout the day wondering about the existence of the extra terrestrial. You will paint the workplace in your flavour of innovation, combined with a drive to work equally hard.

**GEMINI**  
A long and hectic day awaits you. You will be in the mood to finish off long-pending projects at work or at home. There is a chance that your personal life may get affected due to the extra attention you pay towards work. You need to guard against hurting the feelings of your family members, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh advises you to be careful before signing any document. A hard time for share brokers and traders. So be on the guard during deals and transactions. Average time for business. Ganesh tells you to be self-confidence.

**LEO**  
You will pay serious attention to your work. You will feel that you have no option but to work hard. You will not be in the mood for socialising. This is only a temporary phase, hence there is no need to worry. You will be back to your usual gregarious self in no time at all, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Matters of religion and spirituality rise to the fore today. Throw yourself into a single-minded pursuit to be successful in your chosen field, and make the most of your skills and natural talent, says Ganesh. Matters of relationships will see you more critical and analytical than emotional.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that today you shall be very careful in money matters. It is nothing to do with miserliness at all. When buying things you will be careful while spending money and will stick to your budget. On the other hand when you are out with your loved ones you will not think about holding back and will spend lavishly.

**SCORPIO**  
It is likely that you shall learn an important lesson in life today. Remember that spite and envy beget enemies. Ganesh advises you to display some errors so as to make you seem more human and approachable.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesh, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

**CAPRICORN**  
Whether you're an artist, performer, professional or an entrepreneur, career issues will take the foreground today, while personal matters will wait in queue for your attention, says Ganesh. Your performance will be at its all-time high, and your efforts will be duly rewarded, but credit for this must go to your loved ones who will lend their unceasing support for all your endeavours.

**AQUARIUS**  
Listen to your inner voice, follow what your heart says and you will not need anyone else guiding you on your path. At work, you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions. Go on a romantic date in the evening, and mark a perfect ending to the day, feels Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
While you will need loads of moral support to keep your spirits up, you are also likely to be blessed with the company of a person who is equipped to provide just that. Positive results will come your way as long as you do not give up. Use your imagination and creativity to surge ahead of the competition, says Ganesh.

**POST-DIVORCE**

## Kusha on dealing with societal pressures

**Mumbai:** Kusha Kapila is preparing for the release of her upcoming web series *Life Hill Gayi*. During the promotions of the same, the actor and social media personality discussed her divorce from Zorawar Singh Ahluwalia as well as receiving comments about her appearance. In an interview with an entertainment portal, Kusha discussed how society treats women unfairly and how she used to isolate herself to deal with it. Kusha revealed that her mother had to deal with far more than she did because she lives a normal life.

During the interview, Kusha stated, "Unkinder to women, that society is anyway so I think that is something my mother had to go through. I completely shut myself to opinions or anything. I didn't have the bandwidth for it. So I am sure my mother can speak very clearly about it."

She went on to add, "She had to speak to relatives and speak to society. She has her own life... she goes to the temple or to the park, she has her own social communities where she had to face opinions and that is how the world works. This is the reality, this is the truth of where we live in and the times we live in."

## Sharvari becomes IMDb Breakout Star

**Mumbai:** Actress Sharvari Wagh, who is fresh off the success of the horror-comedy *Munjya*, has received the IMDb Breakout Star STARmeter Award.

The actress, who has earlier worked as an assistant director, made her debut in 2021 with *Bunty Aur Babli 2* in which she was paired opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi.

While *Bunty Aur Babli 2* didn't receive much positive response coupled by Covid-19, the actress registered a landslide success with her second film *Munjya*, which released almost three years after her film debut.

*Munjya*, which belongs to the Maddock Films' supernatural universe, became a surprise hit of 2024, and continues to play in theatres.

Talking about receiving the honour, Sharvari said: "Thank you so much, IMDb. I am so overwhelmed to receive the IMDb Breakout Star STARmeter Award. It's incredible. I'm so grateful to all the fans and audiences who've loved everything I've done this past month and for all the love that they've showered upon me. I'm just very, very grateful."

The award recognises stars who are strong performers on the Popular Indian Celebrities list on the IMDb app. The list charts the page views of the more than 250 million monthly visitors to IMDb worldwide.



## Ricky Kej recreates National Anthem with 14K tribal kids

**Bhubaneswar:** Three-time Grammy award-winning musician and environmentalist Ricky Kej has created another version of the national anthem, this time collaborating with legendary instrumentalists and 14,000 tribal kids. Ricky says this project aims to create an ecosystem of music appreciators, adding, "Legendary musicians performed the melody for this project. This is something I wanted to do after last year's orchestra version."

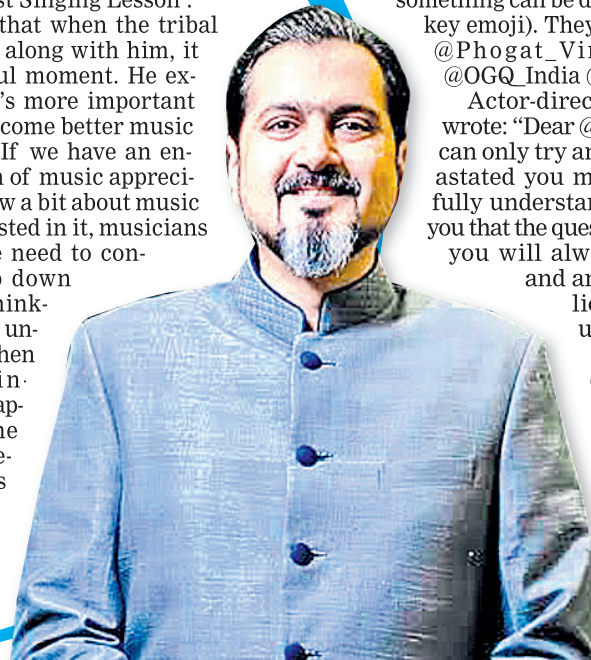
This is the fourth version of the National Anthem that Ricky has created.

"Last year, I created an anthem with the British symphony. This year, I decided to build on that by recording an anthem with legendary instrumentalists and a choir of 14,000 children from tribal communities in Bhubaneswar, using the orchestra as the base," he says.

The choir was recorded by Ricky in collaboration with educationist Achyuta Samanta, founder of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Ricky conducted a brief music lesson with all the children, teaching them Sa Re Ga Ma, rhythm, and scale - and set a new Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Singing Lesson'.

Ricky says that when the tribal students sang along with him, it was a powerful moment. He explains, "What's more important is that they become better music appreciators. If we have an entire ecosystem of music appreciators who know a bit about music and are interested in it, musicians won't feel the need to constantly dumb down their work, thinking no one will understand it. When you have informed music appreciators, the artform is elevated. That's what I hope happens with these 14,000 kids."



## 'Keep your chin up, Vinesh'

**Mumbai:** Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Paris Olympics in the 50 kg category has left the country shell-shocked and the Hindi film industry is not an exception.

Several members of the film fraternity are expressing their displeasure against the decision and are also supporting the Indian wrestler with words of praise.

Actress Taapsee Pannu took to the Stories section of her Instagram on Wednesday, and wrote: "This is heartbreaking but honestly, this woman has made her mark beyond gold by now."

Sonakshi Sinha, who tied the nuptial knot in June this year, expressed her shock as she wrote in her Instagram Story: "Unbelievable! I can't imagine how you're feeling right now, and don't know what to say except (that) you were, are and always will be a champion."

Actress Swara Bhasker took to her X and wrote: "Who believes this 100 grams over-



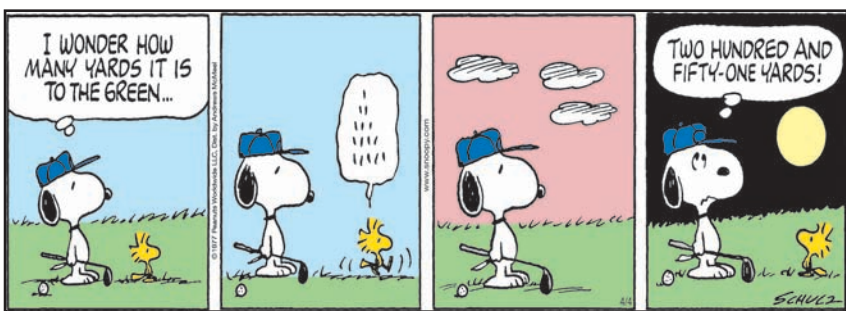
weight story??? (Heartbreak emoji)."

Huma Qureshi wrote on X: "Please tell me something can be done (see-no-evil monkey emoji). They have to let her fight @Phogat\_Vinesh @Olympics @OGQ\_India @IndianOlympians."

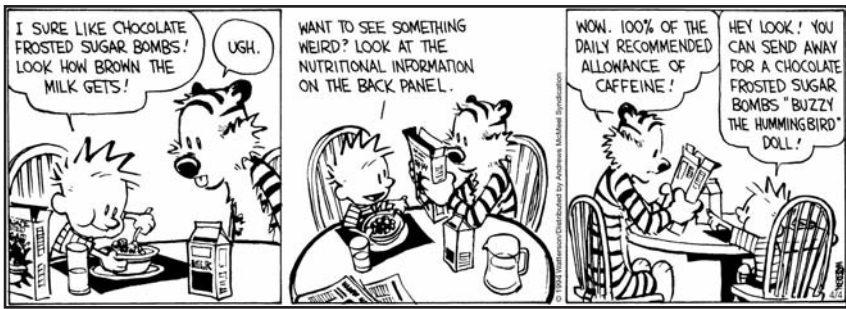
Actor-director Farhan Akhtar wrote: "Dear @vineshphogat.. One can only try and imagine how devastated you must be but still not fully understand. Heartbroken for you that the quest ended like this. But you will always be a champion and an inspiration to millions. Keep your chin up."

Vinesh, who earlier defeated Japanese wrestler Yui Susaki, has been disqualified from further competition after she was found to be 100 grams over 50 kg category.

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

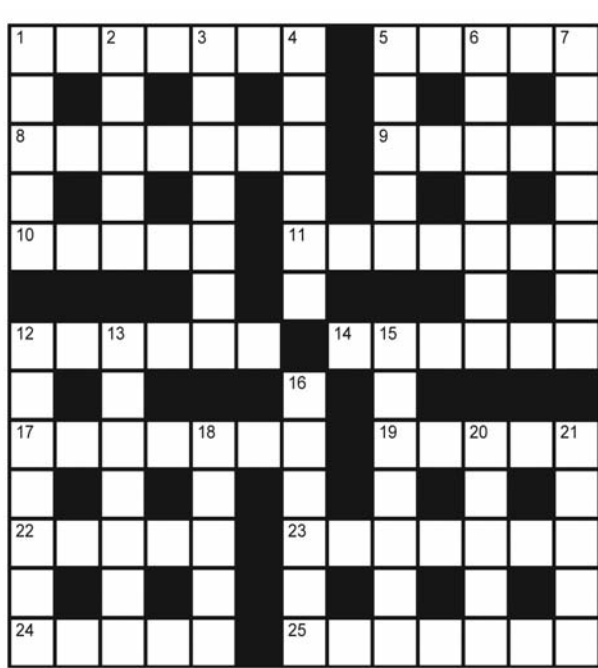


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

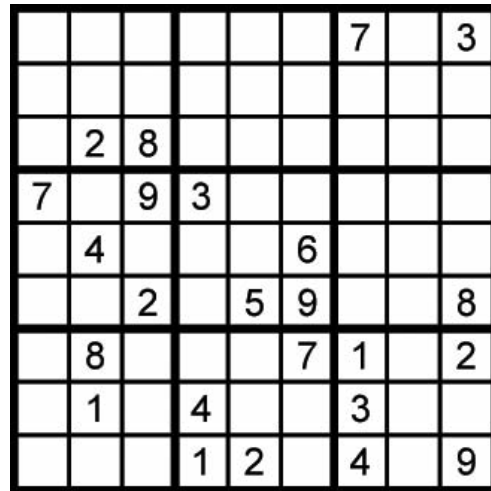
**CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 1 Perfect
  - 5 Hooded snake
  - 8 Debauched
  - 9 River valleys
  - 10 Possibly
  - 11 Put down by force
  - 12 Contusion
  - 14 Moses' successor
  - 17 Wash
  - 19 Katmandu's land
  - 22 Claw
  - 23 One of the Flintstones
  - 24 Laconically
  - 25 Person of interest
  - 6 Tall marsh plant
  - 7 Graz location
  - 12 Like some birthday wishes
  - 13 More often than not
  - 15 Double-decker
  - 16 Brunch fare
  - 18 Fashion plate
  - 20 Sign of life
  - 21 19th century piano virtuoso
- Down**
- 1 Dialect
  - 2 Delicious!
  - 3 Pantries
  - 4 Spotted cat
  - 5 Witches' group

**SUDOKU**

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**



**SUDOKU**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# ICMR funds to develop emergency care in Puri



City AIIMS to provide technical support to the National Health Research Priority Project and state government to take care of logistics and manpower

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will fund the National Health Research Priority Project, aiming to develop advanced emergency care systems, including immediate treatment of heart attack or brain stroke patients in five places of the country including Puri, officials said Wednesday. Besides Puri, the project will be taken up in four places - Ludhiana (Punjab), Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), Vadodara (Gujarat), and Pondicherry, they said. A three-day national consultation conference, involving the stakeholders, was held at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar to fix the modalities of the project, officials said. The project work was formally launched in Puri from the conference that concluded Tuesday.

The project will address seven critical emergencies -- heart attack, brain stroke, trauma, snake bite, poisoning, respiratory emergencies, and neonatal and maternal emergencies

in collaboration with the state government, officials said. Notably, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with ICMR and the state government, is spearheading the project in the state. The meeting, themed "Collaborative Action: Strategies to Strengthen Emergency Care in India," saw participation of key stakeholders to discuss strategies for enhancing emergency care. Speaking on this occasion, Director of Health Services Bijay Kumar Mohapatra, stressed the importance of enhancing the emergency healthcare system in the state while Nilakantha Mishra highlighted the need to integrate the INDIA-EMS with national programmes and scale it across all districts. Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Professor Santosh Kumar Mishra addressed the gaps in ambulance care, calling for better paramedic engagement and training. In the meeting, Biswas unveiled the Vision Document of INDIA EMS and Training Manuals, advocating for the integration of geo-tagging systems, IT, HR and HMIS. He stressed on improvement in transport, ALS facility ambulances, immediate response and community education on basic life support.



SENSITISATION PROGRAMME: Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) conducts dengue awareness campaign at Ward-24 near Dolamundai in Cuttack, Wednesday

## H&UD Min reviews WATCO activities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: A review meeting to evaluate the activities of Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) was held under the chairmanship of Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra at Kharavela Bhawan here, Wednesday. On the occasion, Mahapatra reviewed the corporation's commitment in providing safe and hygienic drinking water to the public, a fundamental necessity for the health and well-being. He also directed WATCO officials to expedite the completion of all ongoing projects and adhere to the deadlines. Mahapatra directed the offi-



cialists concerned to approach public grievances with empathy and responsiveness and ensure that citizen concerns are addressed promptly and effectively. During the review, WATCO CEO Pradipta Kumar Swain presented an overview of the corporation's journey, its achievements, and current objectives of the corporation. Swain shared status of various ongoing projects, outlined the action plan for the fiscal year 2024-25, and shared details on future projects which are aimed at strate-

At the review meet, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra emphasised on providing safe and hygienic drinking water throughout the state. Public Enterprises Commissioner-cum-Secretary T Ao and Special Secretary Nihar Ranjan Dash, H&UD department Special Secretary Sagarika Pattanaik, including other officials joined the meeting. gic initiatives for enhancing water supply infrastructure across the state.

## 73 WSC students get employment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 7: As many as 73 students from World Skill Center (WSC) bagged jobs with Tata Steel Technical Services Limited during a recently held campus recruitment drive. The selected students comprised 27 from Mechatronics stream, nine from Air Conditioning and Refrigeration and 37 from Mechanical and Electrical Services. They are 2023-24 batch students from School of Engineering and they will be employed by the company at its various locations across the country. Odisha Skill Development Authority CEO Rashmita Panda congratulated the students on their recruitment. The elated students expressed their gratitude to the state government and WSC for giving them this opportunity.

## National Handloom Day celebrated in Capital city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department celebrated the National Handloom Day (NHD) at Sookhana Bhawan here, Wednesday. Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee inaugurated an event organised by the department. Addressing the gathering, he underlined the significance of handloom weaving in state's cultural heritage and economy while recognising the weavers' contributions towards the growth of textile industry. Padhee reiterated the state government's commitment to support and promote the handloom sector through various initiatives, including financial aid, skill development programmes and marketing support.



Four weavers were felicitated on this occasion for their successful engagement in weaving handloom products. Suresh Kumar Rout from Khurda district was awarded for his work with Dhalapathar Parda and Fabrics While Sambhunatha Senapati from Mayurbhanj district honoured for his expertise in Phuta sarees. Bhagabati Sisa from Koraput district was acknowledged for her craft in Kerang fabric, and Jalandhar Meher from Kalahandi district was felicitated for his creation of Habaspuri sarees

National Handloom Day was first celebrated in 2015 to mark the anniversary of the 1905 Swadeshi Movement

"Handloom products such as Sambalpuri, Ikat, Bomkai, Maniabandha and Berhampuri sarees are celebrated for their unique designs and vibrant colours worldwide. These textiles are not just pieces of fabric but are woven stories of the region's history, culture and traditions," he further stated. Notably, National Handloom Day was first celebrated in 2015 to mark the anniversary of the 1905 Swadeshi Movement. It supported homegrown businesses and discouraged the purchase of foreign goods, during India's fight for independence.

## CSIR-IMMT hosts one-month training for Hindalco GETs

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, August 7: Fifty Graduate Engineer Trainees (GETs) from Hindalco Industries Limited participated in a one-month professional training programme on 'Recent Trends in Mineral Characterisation, Beneficiation, Metallurgy, and Materials Development', organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Minerals and Materials

Technology (CSIR-IMMT), which concluded here recently. The programme featured a series of theory as well as practical knowledge sharing, and hands-on training sessions. CSIR-Human Research Development Centre at Ghaziabad head TS Rana attended as the chief guest and delivered the valedictory lecture. He also interacted with participants on various human resources development activities conducted by CSIR.

## BMC's green initiative



Bhubaneswar: As part of the Green Bhubaneswar initiative, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), in collaboration with City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar started plantation drive in Miyawaki method Wednesday. Housing & Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra inaugurated the special drive by planting a 'Baula' sapling at Patrapada in the City. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kanhar, Standing Committee Chairman Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar, Local Corporator Rashmiranjan Pattasani, BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil and Divisional Forest Officer Ajit Kumar Satpathy were present on the occasion.

# 'Tiny' bone unlocks mystery of ancient humans species

The latest fossil suggests that the species underwent an early and dramatic reduction in body size in response to the unique evolutionary pressures of being marooned on an island

Komodo dragons and giant rats the size of rabbits. It is thought to be from a very early individual of the 'hobbit' species Homo floresiensis that has perplexed scientists since its discovery two decades ago. The latest fossil suggests that the species underwent an early and dramatic reduction in body size in response to the unique evolutionary pressures of being marooned on an island. "Island dwarfism was well known before from fossil remains of megafauna on islands in the Mediterranean and Indonesia that were miniature versions of their mainland ancestors" said Gert van den Bergh, a palaeontologist and co-author based at the University of Wollongong, Australia. "As long as animals are concerned, no one has a problem with island dwarfism, but when it comes to



hominins it seems somehow more difficult to accept." Since the discovery of the first 'hobbit' fossils, dating from 60,000 years ago, the miniature human's evolutionary origins have been fiercely disputed. Some experts have questioned whether floresiensis was even a unique species or simply a tribe of modern humans afflicted by a congenital stunting disease, while others

proposed they were related to a more primitive ape-like species that was small to begin with. The scientists behind the latest discovery say it adds weight to the theory that the 'hobbits' descended from Homo erectus, or Java man, an archaic hominid roughly similar in stature to us, which somehow became stranded on Flores. The tiny arm bone is similar in anatomy to previously discovered 'hobbit' skeletons, while a newly discovered pair of teeth from the same site bear a resemblance to Homo erectus teeth - although much smaller. Based on the estimated length of the bone, the team was able to calculate the height of the ancient human to be about 100cm. This is about 6cm shorter than the estimated height of the 60,000-year-old skeleton discovered

75km away on the same island. "This 700,000-year-old adult humerus is not just shorter than that of the original Homo floresiensis, it is the smallest upper arm bone known from the hominin fossil record worldwide," said Prof Adam Brumm from Griffith University's Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution and a co-author of the paper. "This very rare specimen confirms our hypothesis that the ancestors of Homo floresiensis were extremely small in body size. However, it is now apparent from the tiny proportions of this limb bone that the early progenitors of the 'hobbit' were even smaller than we had previously thought." Some questions remain unanswered, including how the ancestors of floresiensis washed up on the island in the first place.

Stone tools show that the island was occupied as early as 1m years ago. "It was generally thought that only modern humans with boat technology would have been able to reach an oceanic island surrounded by deep sea straits such as Flores," said van den Bergh. Prof Chris Stringer, head of human origins at the Natural History Museum, said, "Being able to track a single evolving hominin lineage over that timescale holds great promise for future research." "Many researchers assume a dwarfing process occurred on Flores itself, but there is currently no way of knowing that at the moment, since the process could have already started on other islands, such as Sumbawa or Sulawesi, prior to the arrival on Flores," Stringer added.

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The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being



SRI AUROBINDO

Existential Risk

In May, experts from many fields gathered in Montenegro to discuss "Existential Threats and Other Disasters: How Should We Address Them."

To appreciate the distinction between existential risks and other disasters, consider climate change. In some scenarios, runaway global warming could render most of the Earth too hot for humans to continue to live there.

To be sure, if the seriousness of a disaster is directly proportional to the number of people it kills, the difference between a disaster that kills nearly all of Earth's human population and one that brings about its extinction would not be so great.

The Montenegro conference, by referring in its title to "other disasters," was not limited to existential risks, but much of the discussion was about them. As the final session of the conference was drawing to a close, some of those present felt that the issues we had been discussing were so serious, and yet so neglected, that we should seek to draw public attention, and the attention of governments, to the topic.

The statement notes that there are serious risks to the survival of humankind, most of them created by human beings, whether intentionally, like bioterrorism, or unintentionally, like climate change or the risk posed by the creation of an artificial superintelligence that is not aligned with our values.

The statement supports its view with reference to two claims made by Toby Ord in his 2020 book, The Precipice. Ord estimated the probability of our species becoming extinct in the next 100 years to 16-17 per cent, or one in six.

In an update that appeared in July, Ord says that because new evidence suggests that the most extreme climate-change scenarios are unlikely, the existential risk posed by climate change is less than he thought it was in 2020.

Ord sees the focus on chatbots as taking AI in a less dangerous direction, because chatbots are not agents. But he regards the increased competition in the race to create advanced artificial general intelligence as likely to lead to cutting corners on AI safety.

Overall, Ord has not changed his estimate - which he admits is very rough - that there is a one in six chance that our species will not survive the next 100 years.

The Montenegro statement urges governments to work cooperatively to prevent existential disasters and calls especially on affluent countries' governments to invest "significant resources" in finding the best ways to reduce risks of human extinction.

The writer, founder of the organisation The Life You Can Save, is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.

WISDOM CORNER

Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end.

All good things which exist are the fruits of originality.

Great men are like eagles, and build their nest on some lofty solitude.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1945: The United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and France signed the London Agreement, which authorized the Nurnberg trials...
1963: Armed robbers stole £2.6 million from the Glasgow-London Royal Mail Train near Bridego Bridge...
1974: Resignation of U.S. President Nixon.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

CRISES UNABATED

The targeted killings of Fuad Shukur and Ismael Haniyeh by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas in Beirut and Tehran on July 30 and 31 respectively has set the Middle East on fire again.



Malay Mishra

AS PER ASSESSMENT OF US INTELLIGENCE, A LOW-KEY AND CALIBRATED ATTACK OF IRAN AND ITS ALLIES IS VERY LIKELY

That Netanyahu was brazenly addressing the Congress and meeting the President, VP and Trump at his Mar-a-Lago residence was clearly indicative of his deceptive stance that he was in fact inciting Iran for a regional war behind America's back

to over 40,000 casualties, a large part being innocent civilians, women and children, including aid workers, humanitarian agencies and the media.

part, to reignite a regional conflict and get his Western allies involved while the hostage issue could take a temporary burial. Predictably, the incensed Iranian leadership swore retaliation and revenge while galvanizing its "Axis of Resistance" allies.

As per assessment of US intelligence, a low-key and calibrated attack of Iran and its allies is very likely. Iran would bide for time as its nuclearisation process was nearly complete and it could not take a risk of its nuclear facilities being bombed in the eventuality of a full-fledged war.

Ironically, the killings of both the Iran-supported leaders had been planned months in advance according to Western reports and had been kept hidden from the USG going by Secretary of State Blinken's statement in Singapore that the USG had no idea of the attack.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Bleak status of gender equality

NITI Aayog has recently released the report "Towards Viksit Bharat: Sustainable Progress, Inclusive Growth" on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2023-24, based on 70 targets and 113 indicators.



Sujit Kumar Mishra

DESPITE HUGE MATERIAL AND INTELLECTUAL INVESTMENTS MADE BY THE STATE, THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN SUB-OPTIMAL

important SDGs: (i) Zero Hunger (SDG-2) - score of 45; (ii) Quality Education (SDG-4) - score of 40; (iii) Gender Equality (SDG-5) - score of 39; and (iv) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG-9) - score of 40.

SDG-5 has a direct link with women's empowerment because it has a bearing on ending all forms of violence, sexual exploitation, perception about unpaid and care work.

Child sex ratio indicates the status of the girl child. In spite of a favourable sex ratio in the total population (1063 as per the National Family Health Survey, Round 5), the sex ratio at birth is unfavourable (894) in Odisha.

have experienced spousal violence (physical/ sexual), categorising Odisha among the worst performers like Karnataka, Bihar, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Jharkhand. The ratio of female to male labour force participation rate in the age group of 15-59 is 0.58 for Odisha, compared to 0.48 for all-India.

Odisha by 2030 seems like a pipe dream given the present dismal status. Despite huge material and intellectual investments made by the state, the outcome has been sub-optimal. In order to achieve SDG-5, various initiatives have been implemented, such as the Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana, construction of working women's hostels, grants to the State Commission for Women, support to social welfare board for awareness campaign on declining sex ratio, among others.

The writer is a Professor, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. Views are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID.

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Unplayable opponent

Sir, The hugely talented Lakshya Sen was in control of the semifinals against Axelsen for most part of the first set and the early second set till the infamous bugbear called "nerves" caught up with him.

Political instability

Sir, The resignation of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina introduces significant uncertainty in Bangladesh, a country already grappling with high unemployment, corruption, and climate change.













# Tough fight awaits Neeraj

Men's javelin defending champion in bid for another piece of history today



**Paris, August 7:** His stunning monster throw of 89.34m in the qualification round made quite a statement but a tough challenge awaits defending champion Neeraj Chopra as he seeks another piece of history in the Paris Olympics men's javelin throw final round here Thursday.

Just like he did at the same stage in the Tokyo Olympics three years back, Chopra needed just a few seconds to top the qualification round with his

opening throw but the similarity ends there.

This time, the quality of the field is better than Tokyo with nine throwers crossing the automatic final round qualification mark of 84m in Paris as against six in Tokyo. Out of the nine, five made it to the final round with their first throws and thus will have a lot in their tanks for the medal round.

The 26-year-old Chopra knows it too well, having been in the global circuit for more than eight years.

**Neeraj Chopra will have a chance to become only the fifth man in Olympic javelin throw history to defend the title**

"In the final, everyone has a different mindset and different situation. It will be a good competition. Whoever qualifies automatically is the best in preparation," Neeraj told journalists after his 'lightening' appearance

on the field.

He was in a hurry to go back to the Games Village and take rest to prepare for his best for the final round, as a lot is at stake Thursday.

Chopra will have a chance to become only the fifth man in Olympic javelin throw history to defend the title.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myyrä (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the

only ones to have defended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

If he wins gold, and for that matter a medal, he will become the most decorated Indian in Olympics in individual sport.

Shuttler PV Sindhu (one silver, one bronze), wrestler Sushil Kumar (one silver, one bronze) and shooter Manu Bhaker (two bronze) have won two Olympic medals each post Independence.

The tremendous effort, which was the second best of his career, also set aside concerns surrounding Chopra's fitness after he revealed that he had been battling an adductor niggle in the build-up to the Games. His personal best continues to be 89.94m achieved back in 2022.

His 89.34m throw may also raise hopes of millions of Indian fans to see Chopra cross the elusive 90m mark on Thursday. His effort was also the second-best qualifying throw at an Olympics after the 89.39m registered by the legendary Jan Zelezny at 2000 Sydney Games.

But there were some ominous signs coming out from the qualification round which Chopra will have to be wary of.

The peaking of two-time world champion Anderson Peters (personal best 93.07m) of Grenada as well as immediate hitting of form by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem may indicate that the final round at Stade de France could be a classic contest.

Nadeem has not beaten Chopra in 10 meetings since 2016 but he can spring a surprise.

## CAMPAIGN ENDS Panghal surrenders



**THE WRESTLER LOSES IN FIRST ROUND ON OLYMPIC DEBUT**

AGENCIES

**Paris:** India's biggest wrestling medal hope at the Paris Games, Antim Panghal ended her Olympic campaign with a humiliating 0-10 defeat to Turkey's Yetgil Zeynep in the women's 53 kg category.

The 19-year-old debutant's hope of remaining in contention for a bronze medal via repechage were also dashed after Zeynep lost to Annika Wendle of Germany in the quarterfinals.

Earlier, World Championships bronze medalist Antim, who was one of the first to gain an Olympic quota in the category earlier owned by Vinesh Phogat, was outclassed in 101 seconds in the first round.

The Turkish wrestler emerged victorious by virtue of

"Technical Superiority" where she had a clear 10-point lead over her Indian opponent.

Zeynep was in complete control as she first pinned Antim for two points, followed by another two and then performed a double flip to get four points.

She completed the rout with another two points when the referee stopped the bout leaving Antim in tears.

**Panghal becomes the third wrestler from the country who will return without any medal**

While Nisha Dahiya's (68kg) campaign ended Monday, the seasoned Vinesh, who became the first Indian female wrestler to reach an Olympic final in the 50kg category on Tuesday, was disqualified hours ahead of her gold medal bout on Wednesday for being 100 grams over the weight limit.

## ATHLETES FAIL TO IMPRESS

**Paris:** Experienced Indian javelin thrower Annu Rani once again failed to impress on the global stage as she made a qualification round exit from the Olympics with an extremely poor performance here Wednesday.

The 31-year-old national record holder opened her event with 55.81m and could not improve upon that mark in her next two attempts, which measured 53.22m and 53.55m, to finish at 15th among 16 competitors in Group A and 26th overall.

Annu, who has been training abroad in the build-up to the Olympics, has a season's best of 60.68m and her national record stands at 63.82m.

In the past two years, she has thrown over 60m only twice, with the Asian Games gold-winning effort of 62.92m being one of them.

She had qualified for the Paris Olympics through world ranking quota.

In another below-par show, national record holder 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji failed to book an automatic semifinal spot after finishing seventh in her round one heat race.

# Eye on consecutive bronze medals

**Paris:** A heart-wrenching defeat in the semifinals, notwithstanding, a demoralised Indian men's hockey team will have to regroup quickly and aim for a second consecutive podium finish at the Olympics when it takes on Spain in the bronze medal play-off here Thursday.

The Indians played bravely against Germany, putting their defence under pressure from the start and in the process took the lead in the seventh minute through a penalty corner conversion by skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

But the Germans came back strongly in the second quarter and fourth quarters to secure the close win, courtesy some silly defensive lapses from the Indians, especially Jarmanpreet Singh.

The Indians too were guilty of wasting too many scoring chances, including as many as 10 penalty corners, while converting two, one directly and another through variation.

The opposition teams seemed to have found out a way to deny one of the world's best drag-flicker Harmanpreet as he managed to be on target just once Tuesday.

The over-reliance on



Harmanpreet and lack of innovative penalty corner variations seemed to be hurting India badly here as they don't have much options in their hands.

But the return of Amit Rohidas, who missed Tuesday's match after being shown the red card against Great Britain in the quarterfinal, should bolster the Indian defence and also give more chances from penalty corners as he is second best option from set pieces after Harmanpreet.

The Indians were looking to

break a 44-year-old jinx to reach an Olympic final but it eluded them narrowly.

The last time India made the Olympic hockey final was way back in 1980 Moscow Games, which, in fact, was their last of the eight gold medals at the quadrennial event.

A place in final would have at least assured India a silver medal after 1960 Olympics but that also slipped out of hands. But all is not lost for the Indians as they still have a chance to claim a podium finish if they beat

Spain Thursday in the bronze medal match.

For that, the Indians will have to leave the baggage of the semifinal loss behind and come out with a fresh mind to get the better of Spain.

Veteran India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who is playing his last international tournament, reminded his teammates that all is not lost.

"It's a heartbreaking loss for us (against Germany). We had the chance to win gold, but now, we have to forget this semifinal and focus on the bronze medal match," he had said.

"It's a medal match and it's about the country. It's about those 19 players here, all the staff. And I think we all get a last opportunity to play, to get a medal for our country rather than worrying about what happened today (Tuesday). These 19 players should play like this is our last opportunity as a player to get a medal for our country."

Going by form and world ranking, the Indians are clear favourites to win the tie against Spain but in the end it will all boil down to the mental aspect of the side.

While India lost a close semifinal, Spain were thrashed 0-4 by Netherlands.

## Women's TT team to return empty-handed

**Paris:** Archana Kamath gave a brief resistance but that was not enough as India lost 1-3 to technically superior Germany in the women's table tennis team event quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics here Wednesday.

Indian table tennis campaign ended with the loss. The Indian duo of Sreeja Akula and Archana lost the opening doubles match 5-11 11-8 10-12 6-11 to the German pair of Yuan Wan and Xiona Shan. Sreeja and Archana were holding the fort till the third game but they lost it in deuce. Thereafter, they lost the match. In the first singles, star Indian Manika Batra was not at her best as she won the first game but lost the next three (11-8 5-11 7-11 5-11) against Annett Kaufmann as Germany took 2-0 lead in the tie. It was at this point that Archana gave India a glimmer of hope as she held off Germany charge briefly with a 19-17 1-11 11-5 11-9 win over Xiona Shan in the second singles. But in the third singles, Kaufmann blanked Sreeja 11-6 11-7 11-7 to seal the tie for Germany and book a semifinal berth. The two, however, could not progress beyond that stage, losing to higher-ranked opponents.

The Paris Games marked the first time that India competed in the team event at the Olympics. The men's and women's team events in table tennis were introduced at the 2008 Beijing Games.



## OLYMPICS TIDBITS

**French economy given a lift by Olympics**

The Paris Olympics is giving a much-needed lift to the French economy thanks to increased consumer spending, according to a report from US bank card and financial transactions firm Visa. France, the euro zone's second-biggest economy, is banking on the Games to shore up its meagre growth, with its statistics office predicting a 0.3 percentage point boost from ticket and TV rights sales and more tourism. Visa said its data showed that small businesses in Paris reported a 26% rise in sales to Visa cardholders during the first weekend of the Olympic Games compared with a year earlier. "Our latest data shows a significant increase in consumer spending among Visa cardholders during the opening ceremony weekend," said Visa Europe CEO Charlotte Hogg.

**IOC vows more exposure for sponsors**

From selfies with Samsung phones on the podium to Louis Vuitton cases at the opening ceremony, the Paris Olympics have widened the scope for sponsors' product placement like never before, and this trend will continue in future Games, the International Olympic Committee said Wednesday. The IOC saw revenues of \$2.295 billion from its top sponsors for the period 2017-2021, the second biggest source of income for the Olympic movement, with broadcasters paying \$4.544 billion over the same period. No advertising is displayed in any of the competition venues where the Olympic rings are the only visible logos to audiences around the world.

## TENSIONS SIMMER OVER GAZA Israeli athletes receive threats

**Paris, August 7:** Israel's Olympic team said some athletes have received threats as they compete in Paris amid larger tensions over Palestinian deaths during the war in Gaza and the threat of a wider regional conflict in the Middle East.

Yael Arad, president of the Israeli National Olympic Committee, told The Associated Press Tuesday that team members had received "centralized" threats meant to generate "psychological terror" in athletes, without giving further details.

Last week, Paris prosecutors opened an investigation into emailed death threats to Israeli athletes, and the national cybercrime agency is looking into the leak of some Israeli athletes' personal data online, which has since been taken down.

Prosecutors also launched an



inquiry into inciting racial hatred after Israeli athletes received 'discriminatory gestures' during an Israel-Paraguay match.

Tom Reuveny, a 24-year-old Israeli athlete who won a gold in

Tuesday of the deadly attack that targeted the Israeli delegation at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. The September 5, 1972, assault by the Palestinian group Black September killed 11 Israelis and a police officer.

"I don't think any politics should be involved in sport, especially in the Olympic Games," Reuveny said. "Unfortunately, there is a lot of politics involved — not in the Games — of the people who don't want us to compete and don't want us to be here. I've gotten quite a few messages and threats."

While Israel has called for the Olympics to remain a neutral space, the Palestinian delegation has used the Games as a way to generate conversation about the day-to-day struggles of those in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war has claimed more than 39,000 Palestinian lives.

"The thing that really hurts me is that people are looking at Palestinians as just numbers now. The number of people that died. The number of people displaced," Palestinian American Olympic swimmer Valerie Tarazi told the AP Sunday.

"As athletes, we're here just as everyone else. We want to compete. As people, we have lives. ... We want to live in our homes, just like everyone else in the world," she added.

The world is coming together in Paris at a moment of global political upheaval, multiple wars, historic migration and a deepening climate crisis, all issues that have risen to the forefront of conversation in the Olympics.

Tuesday's memorial of the 1972 attack underscored how the Olympics have frequently found themselves caught up in international crises that aren't directly related to sport.



# HEARTBREAKING DISQUALIFICATION India in shock, hails Vinesh

**“We have to respect the rules. I’m so sad that what happened to her. She was overweight very small one. But the rules are rules and everything is public. All the athletes are there and it’s impossible to let someone who does not make the weight”**  
NENAD LALOVIC | CHIEF, UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

whole of India is in shock. Once again Vinesh is losing to the dictatorial system.”  
Phogat, who had dropped down to the 50kg weight class to compete at the Olympics, was found overweight by 100gm this morning.  
According to International rules, if any grappler is found overweight at the time of weigh-in then he or she will end up at the bottom of the final standings. Celebrities also expressed their anguish at the terrible news.  
The sports fraternity also expressed their support for Phogat, who was taken to the polyclinic inside the Games village due to severe dehydration.  
“I think it’s (the) most unfortunate. I also think it’s most unfair. I do hope that the authorities will take notice of it, take a strong response to this because this is not just the initial round,” legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar said at an event in Mumbai.  
“We’re talking about the world medal round and therefore this cannot and should not be taken lying down by anybody in India — whether it’s the Indian Olympic Association or the government of India. I think we actually must be protesting very very strongly about this whole thing.”  
Rio Olympic bronze medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik called it “devastating”.  
“My heart is nervous and troubled, what Vinesh has done is beyond imagination. This is perhaps the most devastating incident to happen to an Indian athlete in this Olympics. We can’t even imagine what she might be going through. If it was possible, I would have given my medal to Vinesh,” Malik wrote.  
The 29-year-old had taken down defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan en route the finals Tuesday in a remarkable performance and was to face American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt in the summit bout this evening.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat, a gold hopeful at the Paris Olympics, suffered a heartbreak as she was disqualified from the event hours before her final bout. Her ‘confirmed’ silver medal also stands cancelled after her disqualification, which happened over her weight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: India was in a state of disbelief after Vinesh Phogat’s shocking disqualification ahead of her 50kg wrestling final as people from all walks of life expressed their disappointment and frustration at the huge setback, calling it “cruel” and “biggest heartbreak” of the Paris Olympics.  
Phogat was disqualified Wednesday from the Olympics after being found overweight ahead of her women’s 50kg final here, leaving her medal-less within hours of coming close

to an unparalleled gold.  
The news sparked widespread anger as fans flooded the social media with messages supporting the athlete and many also questioned the “dictatorial system”.  
“This is a cruel end to Vinesh Phogat’s Olympic journey. She was unstoppable...,” wrote a fan, while another added: “Biggest heartbreak of 2024 Olympics for India. Vinesh Phogat was thrown out of the Olympics due to being 100 grams overweight. The Indian lioness moving towards gold will not get any medal now. Heartbreak.”

## ‘It’s part of the game’

Paris: “It’s part of the game,” a brave Vinesh Phogat told the Indian coaches who met her after her shock disqualification from the Paris Olympics for weighing 100g more than the permissible limit in the women’s 50kg category here Wednesday.  
Women’s national coach Virender Dahiya and Manjeet Rani met the feisty wrestler, who had caused a flutter at the wrestling arena by beating world number one and defending champion Yui Susaki in the opening round Tuesday.  
As the nation prepared to celebrate Vinesh’s medal-winning run — she was assured of at-least a silver — Vinesh was disqualified when she could not ace the second weigh-in.  
“It sent a shockwave through the wrestling contingent. The girls were feeling pretty low after the news broke. We met Vinesh and tried to console her. She was brave. She told us, ‘it’s hard luck that we missed the medal, but it is part of the game,’” Dahiya said, sharing the details of their meeting.  
“Several IOA officials were also there to meet her.”  
There was more bad news for Indian wrestling during the day when Antim Panghal made a first round exit in the women’s 53kg, losing her opening bout by technical superiority.  
“She just could not play her game, did not look in her element,” said the coach.

## Govt asks IOA to take action



New Delhi: Wrestler Vinesh Phogat will always be a champion, said politicians across party lines as they came out in support of the grappler after her disqualification from the Paris Olympics, with the government asking the Indian Olympic Association to take “appropriate action” in the matter.  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu described the setback as painful but said Phogat is a champion among champions for the more than 1.4 billion people of India and the nation’s pride.  
In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the Indian Olympic Association lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling (UWW) over Phogat’s disqualification and Prime Minister Modi has asked IOA chief PT Usha to take “appropriate action”.  
Leaders of several parties, including the Congress, demanded accountability be fixed and the decision leading to her disqualification be reviewed.  
On X, Modi said, “Vinesh, you are a champion among champions! You are India’s pride and an inspiration for each and every Indian.” President Murmu said, “While we all share her disappointment at the disqualification, she remains a champion in the hearts of 1.4 billion people.” Phogat’s extraordinary feats at the Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and done the country proud, she said on X.  
The Congress urged the government and the IOA to make all efforts to appeal against Phogat’s disqualification from the Olympics, with party leader Rahul Gandhi expressing confidence that she will come back stronger to the wrestling arena. She is India’s pride, the party said.  
“She went through a lot. From protesting at the footpath for justice to reaching the pinnacle podium of the Olympics,” he said, referring to Phogat being at the forefront of a lengthy protest alleging government inaction against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by women wrestlers.  
Gandhi, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, hoped the IOA will strongly challenge this decision.

“Vinesh is not one to give up, we are confident that she will come back stronger to the wrestling arena. You have always made the country proud Vinesh,” he said.  
In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the government had provided all possible assistance to Phogat according to her requirement which included personal staff.  
“Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been disqualified from the Paris Olympics due to being overweight by 100 gm. Vinesh was playing in the 50 kg category and her weight had to be 50 kg for the competition. According to the rules and regulations of UWW, for all competitions, weigh-ins are organised every morning for the respective category,” Mandaviya said.

### Vijender cries sabotage

New Delhi: Indian boxing stalwart Vijender Singh has alleged that wrestler Vinesh Phogat’s disqualification from the Olympics final might be a case of sabotage as elite athletes like her are well-versed with the techniques of cutting weight before major competitions. Vijender, who is India’s first and only male boxer to have won an Olympic medal, knows a thing or two about maintaining weight before major bouts and he said it is shocking that Vinesh (50kg) was 100gm over in the weigh-in before an Olympic final. “I think it might be sabotage. 100gm, you have got to be kidding me. We athletes can shed 5 to 6kg overnight. It is difficult no doubt but we know how to control our hunger, thirst, and exert to the extreme,” the middle-weight (75kg) boxer told PTI. “And when I say sabotage I mean people who are not happy to see India rise as a sporting nation. This girl has been through so much, your heart breaks for her. What more could she have done? Which other test?” he wondered.

### Punjab CM visits Vinesh’s home

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday asked why the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) did not raise any objection after wrestler Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics on being found overweight ahead of her women’s 50 kg final bout. Mann met the family of Vinesh in Charkhi Dadri where he had gone to address a rally. Speaking to media, Mann said he came to Vinesh’s residence here. “We are sad,” he said while referring to Vinesh’s disqualification from the Paris Olympics. Praising Vinesh, Mann said she won three games in a day and she defeated strong contestants, including a defending champion. “Whose fault is this?” he asked on her disqualification. Meanwhile, Vinesh’s uncle and Dronacharya awardee wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat said the whole country is sad after she was disqualified from the Olympics. “There is nothing left to say. The entire country was hoping for a gold medal. Now she has been disqualified,” said Phogat.

## History-maker Manu arrives home



The 22-year-old shooter won a bronze each in the women’s 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event, in which she had paired with Sarabjot Singh, to script Olympic history for the country.  
Before her, only British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had achieved the rare landmark for the country with his two silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but this happened in the pre-Independence era.  
The youngster was greeted with bouquets, garlands, and celebratory dhol after emerging from the airport exit. Rose petals were also showered on her and Rana as soon as they came out amid significant police presence to manage the crowd. Bhaker and Rana were eventually lifted on the shoulders by the gathering.  
Manu will head back to Paris Saturday to participate in the closing ceremony Sunday where she will be one of India’s flag-bearers.

## Spirited SL crush shaky India

### WELLALAGE CONSIGNS INDIA TO 110-RUN DEFEAT WITH FIVE-WICKET HAUL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 7: The shockingly clueless Indian batting unit was strangled by crafty Sri Lankan spinners, led by five-wicket man Dumith Wellalage, as Rohit Sharma’s men crashed to an embarrassing 110-run defeat in the third and final ODI here Wednesday.  
Chasing a competitive 249 on a sharp turner at Premadasa, India were bowled out for a woful 138 in 26.1 overs, and the new head coach Gautam Gambhir will have a few hard points to ponder early into his stint.  
The left-arm spinner Wellalage, who hurt India with the bat till now, chose to bruise the visitors by ball taking five for 27 after opener Avishka Fernando made a well-paced 96 to carry Lanka to 248 for seven.  
However, India had a rather good beginning, despite the early departure of Shubman Gill, to their chase, courtesy Rohit Sharma’s breakneck 35 off 20 balls that included an 18-run over off Maheesh Theekshana.  
The runs cascaded through a sequence of 6, 4, 4, 4 in the fourth over of the innings.  
But sweep, one of the favoured shots of Rohit, brought the downfall of the Indian skipper. His attempt to play it off Wellalage ended in the hands of Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.  
Once Rohit walked back, the rest of the Indian batters submerged into a whirlpool of confusion.  
Virat Kohli (20) played for turn when there was none and was ad-



### HISTORIC WIN: SL bag the three-match series 2-0 after the first match ended in a tie, and this is the Islanders’ first bilateral ODI series win over India since 1997

Riyon Parag, who made his ODI debut while coming in place of Arshdeep Singh, offered no shot to a straight one from leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay to get bowled.  
In between, Shreyas Iyer also fell before Wellalage, taking the total number of lbw and clean bowled dismissals in this Indian innings to seven, and no other crumb of statistics will offer a clearer picture of the muddled Indian minds than that.  
“We knew they are used to small grounds and good wickets in India. So they would struggle on a big Premadasa ground. We knew we could get an advantage with some turn on the wicket, and we have good spinners,” Theekshana’s post match TV comments with reference to tracks used during ODI World Cup, was like rubbing salt to the wound.  
Before their spinners pushed Indian batters deep into trouble, Lanka managed to work through the Indian bowling through opener Avishka Fernando (96, 102 balls, 9x4, 2x6) and Kusal (59, 82b, 4x4).  
India fought through an excellent spell of off-spin by Parag (3/54) but apart from Kuldeep Yadav (1/36) there was no real assistance for him.

Babar, Rizwan, Shaheen retained in Test squad  
Lahore: Pakistan Wednesday dropped its plans to conduct a “major surgery” on the national team as it included senior players Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi in the Test squad for the two-match series against Bangladesh. The trio was under the scanner, failing to perform in the T20 World Cup Cup in June, where Pakistan was eliminated in the opening round.