



This is my first Asian Games and I won mixed and team medals. I could not have asked for more. I did not have much time between the women's team gold and the mixed final. I was in a rush and we just got time to sit there and prepare ourselves

-Chikitha Taniparthi, Telangana archer

# Sports Nation

## Asian Games 2026

# Golden hat-trick in compound archery

Indian mixed, women's and men's teams claim top finish; cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav, also securing an Olympic quota place for the country

NAGOYA: India's compound archers displayed admirable poise under pressure to complete a golden sweep in the Asian Games team competitions, successfully defending their crowns in men's, women's and mixed events here on Wednesday with performances that ranged from domineering to gritty.

Cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav also securing an Olympic quota place for the country following their top finish.

India thus became the first country to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in the compound mixed team event, which will mark the disci-



The Indian women's compound team celebrate with their gold medals



pline's debut in the Los Angeles Games.

The women's trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha and Prithika Pradeep kicked off the gold rush that culminated with the men's combination of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru rally-

ing to outwit the Chinese trio of Jiahao Liao, Jinyi Liu and Jingyu Shi in the finals 238-237. For Chikitha and Sahil, the day brought two gold medals as they had earlier showed nerves of steel to prevail over Korea's Jungyoon Park and Choi Eun Gyu in a thrilling mixed team final, winning 158-157 after a shoot-off.

The Indian duo had entered the gold-medal match after beating Thailand 156-155 in the semifinals.

This was after the Indian women's compound team produced a sensational performance to outclass the Chinese trio of Wunier, Yue Wang and Fangyao Wei 238-234 and retain its gold with a world record-equaling score. Jyothi, Chikitha and Prithika dominated the women's summit clash to secure the top spot on the podium. Of these, Jyothi was a part of the gold-winning women's team in Hangzhou as well.

The Indians equalled the world record held by South Korea in achieving the feat. Korea had secured the record total during the Incheon Asian Games in 2014.

## Sunil wins second bronze

NAGOYA: Sunil Kumar became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win two Asian Games medal after clinching a bronze in the men's 87kg event but Nisha Dahiya endured a medal-less campaign on the opening day of the wrestling competition here Wednesday. Sunil assured his podium place with a technical superiority win (9-0) over Philippines' Roberts Callum Johnston, who



was no match to the strength and technical skill of the Indian. Locking his rival's right arm, Sunil effected two take downs to quickly open up a 4-0 lead. A defensive

Johnston was put on ground in 'Par Terre' position from where Sunil made more scoring moves to finish the bout in the first period itself. Sunil had won a bronze in Hangzhou 2023 Games, ending a 13-year wait for India for medal in the Greco Roman style.

## Indian women in hockey final

NAGOYA: The inform Indian women's hockey team placed itself on the verge of ending a 44-year wait for an Asian Games gold, beating South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the continental showpiece here on Wednesday. Ishika Chaudhary (44th minute) and skipper Salima Tete (48th) were the goal scorers for India. India are now just a victory away from securing its only second Asian Games women's hockey gold medal.

The previous triumph came way back in the 1982 New Delhi games. India will take on defending champions China in the final on Friday. China beat Japan 4-2 in a shoot-out after both sides failed to break the deadlock in the entire 60 minutes of the first semifinal. South Korea will face Japan in the bronze medal match.



## Squash: India assured of medals

NAGOYA: The Indian men's and women's teams eased into the Asian Games semifinals with convincing wins over Kuwait and Singapore respectively, assuring themselves of a medal here on Wednesday. The Indian men, top seed and defending champions, collected a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the quarterfinals. Among the two singles, Veer Chotrani had to dig deep against Bader Almoghrebi before prevailing 12-10, 8-11, 11-0, 11-5 in a 34-minute contest. Abhay Singh, India's highest ranked players and silver medalist in the singles competition, sealed the tie 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 win over Ammar Altamimi. In the women's singles, the Anahat Singh-led team tamed Singapore 2-0 in its quarterfinal.

## Nagal moves to last eight

NAGOYA: Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals at the Asian Games with a fluent 6-3 6-2 win over Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin here on Wednesday, while Dhakshinewar Suresh bowed out after losing his third-round match. The 249th-ranked Nagal, seeded seventh, controlled the contest against Fomin and moved into the last eight with a straight-set victory.

## India renew hockey rivalry against Pak

KAKAMIGAHARA: Defending champions India will renew the fiercest rivalry in men's international hockey when they take on Pakistan in a mouth-watering semifinal of the Asian Games here on Thursday, with eyes firmly set on securing a direct ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

## Neeru-Kynan pair wins trap mixed team gold

NAGOYA: The Indian pair of Neeru Dhandu and Kynan Chenai clinched the Asian Games trap mixed team gold on Wednesday, smashing the continental record in the process and ensuring that the last leg of country's shooting campaign here makes up for the early disappointments to an extent.

The Indian team shot a score of 34 in the final after qualifying in the fourth position. Qatar's Mohammed Al-Rumaihi and Ray Bassil took the silver with a score of 32.



The medal marks a remarkable end to the Asian Games campaign of the 26-year-old Neeru, who became India's first woman shooter to claim an individual trap medal at the showpiece with her gold that came on the back of an Asian record-shattering score on Tuesday.

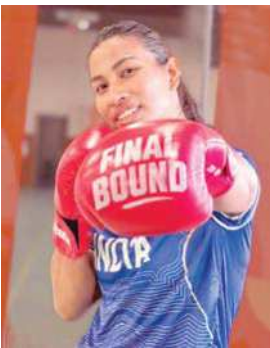
## LOVLINA TO FIGHT FOR GOLD

NISHIO: Lovlina Borgohain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday. Last edition's silver-medallist Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought 75kg semifinal to assure herself of at least a silver.

However, 20-year-old Priya, making her Asian Games debut, went down 1-4 to former world champion Yang Chengyu of China in a bruising 60kg semifinal.

Another Indian debutant, Kapil suffered a similar 1-4 defeat against reigning world champion Turabek Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the 90kg semifinal to settle for bronze.

India will thus have three boxers -- Lovlina, Parveen Hooda (65kg) and Ankush Panghal (80kg) fighting for gold in Friday.



# Family preserves man's body in freezer for 4 yrs, spends Rs 50 lakh

MUMBAI

THE family of an 80-year-old Mumbai man who died four years ago has preserved his body due to 'deep emotional attachment', spending over Rs 50 lakh in the process, police said on Wednesday.

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cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments.

The family initially kept the body in a freezer in their home in Mumbai's Malad area, said an official from Kurar police station.

According to the police, the man's wife and two children, one of whom is a lawyer, decided against performing the last rites due to 'deep emotional

attachment'.

When their residential building underwent redevelopment, the family moved the body to a local dispensary, which closed down about a month ago, they said.

"The family has spent more than Rs 50 lakh to keep the body preserved and was explor-

ing options to send it to a facility in the United States offering long-term cryopreservation services," a police official said.

Cryopreservation broadly refers to storing cells, tissues or organs at extremely low temperatures.

Police uncovered the unusual case after receiving a tip-off.



## One chapter has ended: Pahalgam victim's daughter on Moosa death

MUMBAI: Asavari Jagdale, daughter of Pahalgam terror attack victim Santosh Jagdale, on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and security agencies following the killing of Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Hashim Moosa in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam.

Speaking to ANI, Jagdale said she considered the day one of the happiest for her, recalling the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

"Today, I will consider it the happiest day for me. On April 22, 2025, the way our people were killed in the Baisaran Valley, 26 lives were lost. They were killed after asking about their religion. The way they brutally killed our people, today I came to know that the mastermind behind it has been eliminated in an encounter. I would say this should be the happiest day for the country," she said. Expressing her gratitude



towards the security forces, she said, "I want to thank the Army and all the intelligence forces working on this. I request you to continue this operation and eliminate all the terrorists in this country until the last terrorist is eliminated." Jagdale recalled that she had performed her father's shradh (death anniversary ritual) the previous day and had spoken to

his photograph about the ongoing operations against terrorism. "Yesterday was my father's shradh, and I was talking to him. I told him that whatever operations are happening against terrorism are because of the sacrifice of all of you. The 26 people who were killed, the sacrifice of those 26 people is the reason these operations are taking place," she said.

## Maha govt orders banks not to visit farmers for loan recovery

PUNE: Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule directed banks not to visit farmers' homes for loan recovery due to the prevailing drought situation and asked officials to explore whether the RBI could issue a circular suspending such recovery proceedings.

During a meeting of the Bawankule-headed drought relief cabinet sub-committee on Tuesday, directives were also issued for implementing a 10 per cent water cut in urban areas and to maintain the conserved water as a buffer until June next year, according to an official release.

At present, water is being supplied through 560 tankers in the state, it stated, as the panel members suggested proper planning to preserve drinking water supplies for 10 months, before the next monsoon.

The Maharashtra government has declared drought in 265 of its 358 talukas, or 74 per cent of the state, amid rainfall deficit, and announced relief measures,



including crop loan restructuring, land revenue concessions, and power bill subsidies.

It has activated 'Trigger-1' under its manual for drought management 2016 (updated in 2020) and Drought Management Code to declare drought conditions and initiate relief.

Trigger-1 is the first stage in the state's drought framework, activated by a rainfall deficit of more than 25 per cent combined with a prolonged dry spell of 21 days.

According to Principal Secretary Vinita Ved Singh, scarcity conditions have been reported in 265 talukas of the state based on information received from divisional commissioners. Drought conditions have become evident under the 'Trigger-1' criteria, while 43 talukas have qualified under 'Trigger-2'.

## 'Jail Bharo Andolan' on Oct 2 from Shivaji Park

MUMBAI: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday announced that a "Jail Bharo Andolan" will begin from Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Gandhi Jayanti, alleging that the Election Commission's functioning was not in the interest of the country.

After reaching Mumbai, Dipke said that the protest movement would start from Shivaji Park on October 2 and appealed to all political parties to participate in the agitation.

He alleged that the "dictatorship" of the Election Commission was a matter of concern and claimed that collective efforts were needed to bring change in the country.

Supporting the remarks made by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar regarding alleged misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in elections, Deepak said that everyone should come together to address concerns related to the electoral process.

## Eiffel Tower chief to quit after exclusion of female staff

PARIS: The head of the company that operates the Eiffel Tower is to leave his post at the end of the year after female employees were excluded from a visit by a Hindu religious group at the Paris landmark.

Patrick Branco Ruivo, director general of the Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE), will step down following an investigation by an independent firm into operational failures surrounding the group's visit on September 5.

The investigation found that the failures had led to female members of staff being kept away from the delegation, which SETE described in a statement as an "unacceptable situation". Ruivo has headed the company since the end of 2018.

The 330-metre (1,083-foot) tower, one of Paris's most recognisable landmarks and a major tourist attraction that draws around seven million visitors each year, was closed on



September 7 after staff went on strike. A union official described the management instructions surrounding the visit as "unacceptable". Tensions had risen among employees after management instructed female workers not to come into contact with members of the delegation from Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Known as BAPS, the organisation is a global religious and civic group within the Swaminarayan tradition of Hinduism. Its members had been in Paris for celebrations marking the inauguration of a traditional Hindu stone temple.

BAPS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the announcement.