

World Archery Para Series

India win two gold, four bronze medals

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AHMEDABAD

REIGNING Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high, winning two gold and four bronze medals, on the final day, here on Wednesday.

World No. 1 and reigning world champion Sheetal Devi held her nerve in a dramatic shoot-off to win the para compound women's individual gold, while double Paralympics medallist Harvinder, paired with Bhawna, helped India to gold in the para recurve mixed team event.

In the recurve mixed team final, double Paralympics medallist Harvinder and Bhawna



made short work of China's Liang Qiurong and Xia Lei, winning 6-0 in straight sets.

India took the opening set 35-31 before winning the second 36-33 and completing the clean sweep with a 34-32 victory in the third.

Bhawna then added another bronze in an all-Indian para recurve women's bronze-medal play-off, defeating compatriot Rajshree Rathod 6-0.

Sheetal returned in the evening session and produced a

composed performance against Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a thrilling compound women's individual final. Both the archers started with perfect 30s and remained locked at 59 after the second end, with both shooting 29. Aizada then edged ahead by a point in the third end after shooting 28 to Sheetal's 27.

The fourth end ended 29-29, before Sheetal produced a 29 in the final end against Aizada's 28 to level the scores at 144-all and force a shoot-off.



Alcaraz's US Open title defence ends

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003

LOS ANGELES

BEN Shelton beat defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10-7) in the early hours of Wednesday to reach the U.S. Open semi-finals in the latest-finishing match in tournament history.

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003. Seven-times major champion Alcaraz arrived at Arthur Ashe Stadium with a 13-0 Grand Slam record against U.S. men but found Shelton tough to break down in a match that

began at 11.05 p.m. on Tuesday and finished at 3.33 a.m. on Wednesday.

"For me it's always about the people in the crowd," Shelton said in explaining how he got through the gruelling contest.

"Whether it's my coaches and my team there, all my family and friends here, or the city of New York that showed up tonight till 3 a.m. with the USA chants until the very end.

"That's what kept me going, and that's what got me this tonight. "It's incredible. I always say that this is the greatest sports city in the world. I say that this is the greatest stadium in the world."

Alcaraz clinched a tight first-set tiebreak and looked to have all the momentum but uncharacteristic sloppiness allowed Shelton to breeze through the next set before the American tightened his grip on the quarter-final by taking the third.

ASIAN GAMES: 400 ATHLETES EVACUATED



Hundreds of athletes and officials were briefly evacuated after heavy rain battered Nagoya, but the city's mayor on Wednesday ruled out any disruption to the Asian Games. Torrential rain flooded roads and water entered some of the venues for the multi-sport event, scheduled from September 19 to October 4. Around 400 people, including staff and athletes, had to be evacuated due to the heavy rain, but they later returned and no injuries were reported, an Asian Games official told Reuters.

Nyra youngest Indian to qualify for Nationals

NEW DELHI

DELHI shooter Nyra Sharma, aged just 10 years and three months, has become the youngest Indian to qualify for the National Championship.

Nyra secured her place in 10m air rifle after scoring 363/400 at the recently concluded All India Inter School Shooting Championship in Bhopal. Nyra trains at the TOPGUN Shooting Academy in Delhi and will now prepare for the National Championship, scheduled to be held later this year. Her rise has been remarkably swift. She made her competitive debut at the Delhi State Championship in June, followed by the India Open in July at Dehradun. At only her third competition, she produced the score that earned



her a place at the Nationals.

Speaking about the achievement, Nyra's father, Prashant Sharma, said, "As a father, I feel immense pride and gratitude on seeing Nyra become India's youngest shooter to qualify for the Nationals. This remarkable achievement is the result of her hard work, discipline,

and determination, along with the guidance and support of TOPGUN Shooting Academy."

For a shooter who entered competitive sport only a few months ago, qualifying for the Nationals at just 10 years old marks an exceptional beginning to her competitive career

IOA to probe Lakra's harassment charge

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a four-member independent inquiry committee headed by retired High Court judge Deepa Sharma to probe the allegations of harassment and intimidation levelled against Hockey India secretary Bhola Nath Singh by former women's team captain

Asunta Lakra.

The panel, formed following a directive from the Sports Ministry, includes former track-and-field athlete Vandana Rao, former women's hockey team captain Mamta Kharb, and lawyer Sitwat Nabi as members.

Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India's Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and har-

assing her after she objected to the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand at the hands of local coach Sudhir Golla.

Hockey India has been directed to handle all requisite payments concerning the committee's honorarium, travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses.

"Hockey India is also requested to extend its full co-

operation to the committee and to ensure that all relevant documents, information and such other assistance as may be required is made available to the committee in a timely manner..." IOA President PT Usha's letter to HI stated.

The dispute between between Hockey India and Lakra had taken an ugly turn after the national federation's ethics committee is-



sued a show cause notice and launched an inquiry against the former captain after she was accused of threatening young player Albela Rani Toppo, who is also from Jharkhand.

TOP COURT: ENFORCE SEAT BELT LAW STRICTLY

The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there are adequate laws mandating wearing seat belts while a vehicle is in motion and it is the duty of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance.

The observation came from a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and

V Mohana, which was hearing a petition seeking directions for mandatory wearing of seat belts in vehicles.

The petitioner's counsel told the bench that many deaths and injuries from road accidents could be prevented if the law mandating seat belt use was followed.

He said that despite the law, a number of vehicles have non-functional seat

belts because of fancy seat covers or other modifications.

The bench said, "The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is of implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?"

The top court asked the petitioner to send his suggestions on the issue to the com-

petent authority.

"It is the work of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance," it said.

Referring to Rule 138(3) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the bench said it requires the driver, the person seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front-facing rear seats to wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion.

The petitioner's counsel argued that negligence of people and weak enforcement of law lead to serious injuries and even deaths in road accidents across the country.

The bench noted that there are adequate laws concerning road safety measures, including wearing of seat belts while a vehicle is in motion.

It said non-compliance of

law by people or failure of law enforcement agencies in taking appropriate action against the defaulters was essentially a question of maintenance of law and order.

The bench disposed of the plea while granting liberty to the petitioner to forward a copy of his petition to the concerned authority to consider the suggestions given by him.



Faridabad: Infant dies after drowning in water bucket

FARIDABAD

IN a tragic incident, a one-year-old boy died after drowning in a water-filled bucket while playing at his home in Jeevan Nagar Part-2, Faridabad, police said on Wednesday.



The deceased child was identified as Aryan.

Aryan's grandmother, Meena, said that at the time of the incident, the child and her mother were upstairs at home. While her mother was in a room, Aryan was playing outside. His father was away at work.

While playing, he wandered towards a bucket full of water kept near the bathroom and fell into it headfirst.

"After some time, I realised something was amiss when I could no longer hear any sound from the child," Meena said, adding that when she went to check on Aryan, she found him in the bucket.

She said that they then rushed Aryan to a government hospital, from where he was referred elsewhere. Aryan was then taken to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead, Meena added.

"The child's body has been placed in the mortuary at ESIC Medical College and Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report," said a senior police officer of Mujesar police station.

'UP govt docs can now serve till 70'

LUCKNOW

GOVERNMENT doctors in Uttar Pradesh will now be able to continue providing services through reappointment until the age of 70, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak has said.

Pathak -- who also holds the health portfolio -- said the move is aimed at further strengthening government healthcare services in the state.

Under the existing system, government doctors can serve until the age of 65. Following Pathak's direction, the health department has now initiated the process of issuing an order to facilitate their reappointment up to the age of 70, according to an official statement.

Government hospitals, community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in the state receive a large number of patients daily. Extending the services of experienced doctors would provide patients with better medical consul-



tation and treatment, while also easing the pressure on hospitals and health centres, the deputy chief minister said on Tuesday.

"The Provincial Medical and Health Services cadre is the principal medical cadre of the Health Department and includes medical officers and specialist doctors who play a crucial role in providing healthcare services at government hospitals, CHCs and PHCs," Pathak said.

He said allowing eligible and experienced doctors to serve until the age of 70

would enable patients to directly benefit from their expertise.

The arrangement would be particularly useful in departments facing a shortage of specialist doctors, and would also help strengthen healthcare services in rural areas, he said.

Pathak said the additional chief secretary, health department, has been directed to expedite the process of issuing orders regarding reappointment of doctors after retirement, up to the age of 70

Food licenses of Rly catering, ISKCON suspended

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday suspended the licenses of a supplier linked to a railway caterer, a dairy unit and multiple eateries at a religious centre in Juhu for alleged violations of food safety norms.

Improvement notices issued to four others. Licenses of three food establishments operating at ISKCON, Juhu, suspended. Serious irregularities found in the milk business, Kharghar; license suspended. Licenses were also suspended for 20 renowned food establishments (hotels, restaurants, etc.): 6 in Mumbai, 3 in Konkan Division, and 11 in Pune Division," FDA stated. According to the Maharashtra FDA, "Inspection of food establishments, specifically base kitchens and food plazas supplying food to railway passengers conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)." The food license of a hospitality and catering company was suspended and improvement notices were issued to four others. The enforcement drive also hit the dairy sector, with authorities suspending the license of a Kharghar-based milk business after uncovering alleged operational irregularities.

5,326 missing; Nepal toll climbs to 1,365

CHITWAN

THE death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 1,365 on Wednesday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said.

Rescue teams continued to search for 5,326 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, according to a Nepal Police news bulletin.

Rescue teams recovered 363 bodies from Chitwan district, 226 from Nawalparasi East, 222 from Nawalparasi West, and 197 from Nuwakot.

Similarly, 174 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa district, 75 from Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu.

So far, 102 bodies have been handed over to the family members after completing the identification process, police said.

Security personnel have safely kept 1,147 unidentified bodies underground in accordance with all prescribed protocols, including the collection of DNA samples to facilitate their identification.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.

