> If he (Sooryavanshi) gets a chance in this series, we've seen what he can do and opponents have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play
> -Mitchell Santner

Sports Nation

Gavit leads India's gold-silver finish in men's 100m T47 event

Medal rush continues in para-athletics; Ayush, Praveen, Khilari add to gold tally

NAGOYA: India's Dilip Gavit won the men's 100m T46/47 combined event gold medal at the Asian Para Games while compatriot Mohammed Morssinganakath Basil clinched the silver in the same event here on Wednesday. The 23-year-old Gavit, a T46 athlete, clocked 10.69 seconds to finish on top.Basil, a T47 athlete, clinched the silver with a Games record time of 10.72 seconds.

China's Kangjun Shi (T46) won the bronze, clocking 10.80 seconds. Athletes of two or more classifications can be clubbed together in a combined event to ensure that there are enough number of participants. T46 and T47 categories are for athletes

with upper limb impairment. The primary difference between T46 and T47 comes down to the severity and location of the upper limb impairment.

T46 applies to athletes with a more severe unilateral or bilateral impairment affecting the shoulder or elbow -- roughly equivalent to an above-elbow amputation -- whereas T47 is for athletes with a less severe impairment affecting the wrist or below the elbow -- roughly equivalent to a below-elbow amputation. Gavit had won a 400m gold at the previous Para Asiad in China, besides a 100m gold in the Glasgow Para Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

There was no stopping the Indian juggernaut as 10 more medals, including three gold, were added to the tally on the third day of competitions here on Wednesday. Ayush Verma gave India the first para-athletics gold of the day in the men's shot put F53 event, followed by Praveen Kumar (men's high jump T44/64) and Sachin Khilari (men's shot put F46). India also grabbed four silver medals in the morning session through Banti (men's high jump T44/64), Bhagyashri Jadhav (women's shot put F34), Mohd Yasser (men's shot put F46) and Manjeet (men's javelin F12/13). Anubhav Choudhary (men's 100m T35), Parveen (men's shot put F46) and Rakeshbhai Bhatt (men's 100m T37) won a bronze each.

Simran grabs second gold

NAGOYA: Indian sprinter Simran collected her second gold medal by winning the women's 100m T12 competition with a Games record time of 12.02 seconds here on Wednesday. Simran had also won the 200m gold with a new Games record. On Wednesday, she once again finished ahead of Iran's Hajar Safarzadeh, who clocked 12.30sec. Indonesia's Made Ni Putri finished third with a timing of 12.51sec. T12 classification covers athletes with moderate visual impairment. The 26-year-old Simran, who won a bronze in the 2024 Paris Paralympics, is on a comeback trail with her new guide Shivam after her previous guide Umar Saifi was banned for a doping violation. Simran had won silver medals in both her events in the 2023 Hangzhou edition of the Games.

Sheetal-Payal pair wins silver

NAGOYA: The teenage Indian pair of Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag clinched a silver medal after losing the compound women's doubles final on Wednesday, while Swati Chaudhary and Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari won bronze in the mixed team W1 recurve event Sheetal, who was born without arms, and Payal, a quadruple amputee, went down 141-150 to China's Xu Xueqing and Zhao Jing in the gold-medal match. The 19-year-old Indians struggled to keep pace with their Chinese opponents after the opening end, playing catch-up for the remainder of the contest. Paris Paralympics bronze medallist Sheetal was more consistent, shooting four 10s, but Asian Games debutant Payal could not match her partner's accuracy, managing just 9s and 8s before finishing with a 7 on her final arrow.

SUKHCHAIN BAGS BRONZE

NAGOYA: India's Sukhchain settled for bronze in the men's javelin throw F55 event after managing a modest 29.94m throw in a competition dominated by China's Zhou Feifei. The 32-year-old was well below his best as Zhou clinched gold with a throw of 37.63m, breaking the 22-year-old world record of 35.30m. Zaker Zafar of Iran took silver with a personal best of 36.00m, leaving Sukhchain trailing the top two by a considerable margin. Indian swimmer Himanshu Nandal clinched his second bronze medal, finishing third in the men's 100m breaststroke S11 event. The 22-year-old from Rohtak, Haryana, who has been completely visually impaired since birth due to an optic nerve failure, clocked 1:20.72 seconds. China's Yang Bozun won the gold in a Games-record time of 1:12.69, while Japan's Keiichi Kimura took silver in 1:12.72. Himanshu had opened his medal account on Tuesday, clocking 5:10.91 to

finish third in a four-swimmer field in the men's 400m freestyle S11 event.

India look to beat travel fatigue in T20 opener against Kiwis

Match starts 12.30 PM

CHRISTCHURCH: Unbeaten in their last two T20 series here, the Shreyas Iyer-led India would rely heavily on their batting firepower to outwit New Zealand even though the relatively inexperienced tourists have got barely two days to rest, acclimatise and train for the five-match rubber beginning here on Thursday. Their most recent T20 clash on New Zealand soil was in 2022 in Napier where the rain-interrupted match ended in a tie via the Duckworth-Lewis method.

The series, however, was claimed by India who managed to win the only game that was not wrecked by inclement weather.

In the line-up of batters chosen for the upcoming assignment, only four have previously played T20Is in New Zealand. That includes skipper Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Shivam Dube. Therefore, even though the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi are known marauders, the nippy and seaming conditions in this part of the world would need some adjustment.

For Iyer, the challenge would be to prove himself in a challenging away assignment after his tenure began with back-to-back losses in Ireland and England.

Mitchell Santner's New Zealand would be eager to make it as difficult as possible for Iyer, who is coming here after India's second successive gold-winning run at the Asian Games and a drawn hard-fought home series against the West Indies.

However, if the New Zealand series follows the script that unfolded in the UK earlier this year, pressure will only mount on Iyer, who is expected to lead India in the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand in two years' time. A confident Iyer said his team is used to playing in different conditions, having taken a long flight from India hours after sharing the home series against the West Indies.

We have plans for Sooryavanshi: Santner

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner conceded that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would be "quite hard to stop" if he plays for India in the five-match T20 International series beginning here on Thursday, but his team has some plans to deal with the young batting sensation.

Sooryavanshi has been used sparingly since being picked for the tour of UK earlier this year, largely because regular openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson have done the job quite well.

Santner said should the 15-year-old make the playing XI in the series here, some research has been done to figure out his game. "He (Sooryavanshi) did not play in the last series (against West Indies), but we know how good he is, in IPL. We know other players like Abhishek are doing very well. But he (Sooryavanshi) has a huge part to play for India, whether it's in this series or not, but in future," Santner said "If he does get a crack at this series, we've seen what he can do and guys have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play."

Santner was also asked about the return of veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian T20I team after a nearly four-year absence. The home skipper said he expects Bhuvneshwar to love the conditions here. "I think Bhuvi will love these conditions in New Zealand. If there's anything in the wicket, he finds something out of it. On some flat ones in India, he still managed to nip the ball and swing the ball, so I think with the new ball out here, especially, it'll be a challenge (for New Zealand).

Indian bowling has been lacking experience: Iyer

CHRISTCHURCH: India T20 captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said the team's bowling attack had been lacking experience in recent past and veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return would help address this issue. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar has returned to the Indian T20I setup after four years after being named in squad for the five-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning here on Thursday.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar

"Bhuvi brings a lot of experience to the team. And we were lacking that, especially after the IPL. We had a lot of new bowlers," Iyer said at the pre-match press conference. "But in T20, if you see his career graph, he has won the IPL in each of the last two years.

So, he has a very good idea of how to dominate this format." In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, India's T20I bowling attack featuring fast bowlers Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav, and Gurnoor Brar has faced scrutiny after repeatedly conceding big totals on flat tracks.

Bhuvneshwar, known for his ability to generate swing and seam movement, has collected 90 scalps across 88 T20Is. In the IPL, he played a key role in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's back-to-back titles, taking 17 wickets in the 2025 season and 28 in 2026.

Harmanpreet breaks down after knock against Zim

RAIPUR: Former India captain Harmanpreet Kaur fought back tears after ending a prolonged lean patch with a blistering unbeaten 91 off 41 balls against Zimbabwe in the third and final T20I here but later regained composure to credit her turnaround to the hours she spent practising in the nets. Harmanpreet, who stepped down as India captain across formats earlier this month, had not scored a half-century in her last 10 matches. She did not have much success with the bat in the Women's T20 Asia Cup as well as the Asian Games, despite India winning both titles comfortably. "It feels great. Just wanted to enjoy myself, and great that I got some time in the middle and really enjoyed myself on the field," Harmanpreet told the host broadcaster during the innings break. The 37-year-old was not able to control her tears in a post-innings chat with the on-air commentators. WV Raman, who was also the head coach of the Indian women's team, was speaking with Harmanpreet when the latter broke down and left abruptly tossing the microphone away. "I just wanted to bat as long as possible, and glad that I was able to do that. I think I should give credit to you also (to WV Raman). "The moment we came, you stepped in and you said, 'Now you do what you want to do,' and that's what I want to do, and really want to enjoy myself. Thanks for those words." Harmanpreet said there is no pressure on her anymore, having resigned as captain.

Tiger Shroff firing: 3 accused sent to police custody till Oct 31

MUMBAI

A Mumbai court remanded three accused in the Tiger Shroff firing case to police custody till Oct 31.

Three key accused apprehended in connection with the firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday, police said.

Police brought them by road from Kota to Mumbai and, upon arrival, immediately took them to GT Hospital for a mandatory medical examination, an official said. Following the medical checkup, the accused were escorted to the Mumbai Crime Branch's Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) office for interrogation. The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Sukka, from Sonipat in Haryana; Ritik Kurmi alias Roshan, originally from Begusarai in Bihar and living in Mumbai; and Phool Singh from Haryana, the official said.

The apprehended accused were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday

The Kota city police had handed them over to Mumbai Police, which formally arrested them and produced them before a magistrate there. The court granted transit remand to take them to Mumbai. Meanwhile, advocate Ajinkya Mirgal arrived at the AEC office in Mumbai on Wednesday morning, informing officials that he would represent the accused as their defence counsel in the case. At least two men fired gunshots at Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening before speeding away on a motorcycle. The actor escaped relatively unhurt, while his driver and a bystander were injured. According to Mumbai Police, five to six rounds were fired at the car. A motorcycle, allegedly used by the shooters, was found abandoned in Andheri. The accused fled to Surat and once there, boarded a Jaipur-bound train. The three were supposed to go to Delhi on a bus and then flee to Nepal. The Mumbai Police have registered a case under the provisions of attempt to murder and the Arms Act. According to the police, Rehan was

in touch with Anil Pandit, an alleged associate of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which claimed responsibility for the attack in an unverified social media post.

Suvendu blames Oppn for Durga puja stampede

KOLKATA

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday accused Opposition parties of using the Chorbagan Durga Puja stampede for political gain instead of reaching out to the victims and those injured in the tragedy.

Adhikari made the remarks while visiting the family of Priya Samaddar, one of the 19 people killed in the stampede, at their home in New Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district. He handed over Rs 25 lakh in compensation to the bereaved family on behalf of the state government.

The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19

The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19 lives and left 25 people injured

lives and left 25 people injured.

When asked about criticism regarding the government's response and the police arrangements at the pandal, Adhikari questioned whether opposition leaders had done enough to support the victims.

"Which opposition is there? Only the Leader of the Opposition, Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction exists," he said.

He also questioned whether the Trinamool Congress, the CPI(M) and other opposition parties had visited the families of the victims or those injured in the incident.

"Did any such opposition party go to the Kolkata Medical College morgue or the Medical College Hospital after the stampede?" he asked.

Another book stall vandalised, members assaulted: CPM

KOLKATA: Several books were damaged in an alleged attack on their book stall at Islampur, West Bengal, on Tuesday, the CPM has alleged.

The CPM said that Jayanta Deb, a local party member, was among those who were injured in the incident.

However, the police said the situation was under control.

Every year, several book stalls are installed near Durga Puja pandals in West Bengal by the CPM. These book stalls have been facing attacks in the last few days, while some have been dismantled citing the lack of requisite permission.

BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya has reiterated that his party does not support acts of vandalism by its members.

West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari had earlier directed Durga Puja committees to deny permission to CPI-M book stalls if they used the term "Sharodotsav" (autumn festival) instead of "Durga Puja" on banners and hoardings.

Boat capsizes during idol immersion in Kota; 2 dead

KOTA: The bodies of two young men were recovered after a boat carrying seven people capsized during a Durga idol immersion ceremony in a canal in Rajasthan's Kota, with rescue teams resuming the search operation on Wednesday morning. The bodies of Suraj Singh (22) and Vikas Verma (22), both Kota residents, were recovered during the search operation that resumed at 5.30 am, ASP Kota City Subhash Chandra Mishra and SDRF officials Ekta Mahipal confirmed.

The search is underway for the two remaining missing youths, Rahul Joshi (18) and Ashu Joshi (19), who are cousins and residents of Sanjay Nagar in Kota city. The boat capsized near Steel Bridge under the Borekheda police station limits around 5.30 pm on Tuesday during a Durga idol immersion ceremony.

Of the seven people aboard, three -- Deepak, a woman identified as Maankanwar, and the boatman, Suresh -- managed to swim to safety and were rescued by passersby. The search operation was called off at 11.30 pm on Tuesday in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and resumed at 5.30 am on Wednesday, Mishra said. The two recovered bodies were found close to each other, around 200 to 300 metres from the accident site, he said, adding that they were sent to a mortuary for post-mortem.

Naxal menace ended in MP because of brave soldiers: CM

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday hailed the "vital role" played by the police and armed forces in maintaining national security, and said because of courageous soldiers, the state succeeded in ending the Naxal menace which it endured for over three decades. He also praised the police for enhancing Madhya Pradesh's reputation through their efficiency. "It is a moment of great pride for us that our state has now succeeded in overcoming the scourge of Naxalism, which it had been enduring for nearly 35 years. It was a difficult period, fraught with many challenges. However, our brave and courageous soldiers made the state proud with their indomitable courage, valour, and dedication," Yadav said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the state has successfully tackled and overcome the serious challenge of Naxalism, he said. The country observes the Police Commemoration Day on October 21 to remember the sacrifices of the police personnel, Yadav added. This day reminds us how important the role of our police force and armed forces is in maintaining national security, peace, and social order, according to him. "The police and the armed forces have a special significance in our history. In our eternal culture, bearing arms does not merely mean a display of power, but rather a pledge to protect society and the nation.