

WOMEN DAZZLE IN TRACK & FIELD

Vithya Equals PT Usha's 39-Yr-Old Record In 400m Hurdles Heats

➤ India wins a silver (**Parul Chaudhary**) and bronze (**Preeti**) in women's **3000m steeplechase**, followed by a silver (**Ancy Sojan**) in women's **long jump**. **4x400 mixed relay team** gets silver, upgraded from bronze after Sri Lankan team is disqualified for lane infringement

➤ **Vithya Ramraj**, 25, whose twin sister Nithya competed in 100m hurdles, clocks a personal best of **55.42 secs** in the women's 400m hurdles heats, **equals national record** set by track legend **P T Usha** 39 years ago

➤ **Sutirtha & Ayhika Mukherjee's** fairytale run ends with a narrow loss in women's TT doubles semifinal. They settle for **bronze**

➤ India's **speed skaters** spring a surprise with **two bronze** medals – one each in men's and women's 3000m team relay events to match their **best-ever performance** in roller sports. **Aarathy Kasturi Raj**, 29, a member of the women's



Preeti Lamba

Parul Chaudhary

team, got a **Masters degree in clinical embryology** last year

➤ Heptathlete **Swapna Burman** stirs a row alleging she 'lost' her bronze medal to a fellow **'transgender'** rival. The bronze was won by her countrymate Nandini Agarsara. Sapna later deletes her post on X

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Photo:PTI

Army chief Gen Pande on 4-day visit to Tanzania

NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (PTI)

ARMY chief General Manoj Pande on Monday began a four-day visit to Tanzania with a focus on building a stronger military partnership between the two countries.

General Pande is scheduled to meet the top civil and military brass of the east African country including President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Defence Minister Stergomena Lawrence Tax, officials said.

"This visit of the Chief of Army Staff further consolidates the high-level bilateral defence engagements and close defence ties shared between India and Tanzania," the Army said.

"The visit promises to not

just celebrate the existing collaborations but also pave the way for a stronger future partnership," it said in a statement.

General Pande will also hold wide-ranging talks with Tanzania's Chief of Defence Force General Jacob John Mkunda, the officials said.

In addition, interaction with the Commander of the 101st Infantry Brigade General Saidi Hamisi Saidi is also scheduled.

Besides Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, Gen Pande will also visit the historical city of Zanzibar, and Arusha. General Pande will also be addressing the National Defence College and interact with Major General Wilbert Augustine Ibuge, the Commandant and the faculty of the institution.

Med Nobel for scientists behind mRNA Covid vax

Hungarian scientist Katalin Karikó and her US colleague Drew Weissman, who met in line for a photocopier before making mRNA molecule discoveries that paved the way for Covid-19 vaccines, won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday. Their work enabled potent vaccines to be made in less than a year, but the breakthroughs behind the shots unfolded little by little over decades, including at the University of Pennsylvania, where Weissman runs a lab.

The technology could be used in the future to develop shots against other diseases like cancer and lupus.

Weissman said that he found out about the prize at 4 am when Karikó texted him, asking if he had heard from To-



Katalin Karikó & Drew Weissman

mas yet. "No. Who's Tomas?" he replied. Kariko told him that Tomas was from the Nobel committee. He was looking for Weissman's phone number.

Karikó, the 13th woman to win the prize, languished for many long years without funding or a permanent academic position, keeping her research afloat only by latching onto more senior scientists at UPenn. She was forced to retire from the university a decade ago, she said. AGENCIES **P19**

China border posts to have additional intel personnel

Mago (Arunachal Pradesh): Border posts of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) along the India-China frontier from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh will have an additional team of intelligence officers for surveillance and information gathering.

A highly placed source said the central government has approved a proposal for establishing the set-up that will be known as the Border Intelligence Post (BIP). The move bears significance in view of the increased Chinese activities along the border and transgressions by China's People's Liberation Army.

Each of the BIPs will be manned by four-five officials of the Intelligence Bureau and protected by ITBP personnel, the source said.

The source, however, refused to disclose the amount sanctioned by the central government for the project citing its sensitive nature. PTI

'India to clock GDP growth of 6.5 pc in FY24'

■ **By Bijay Kumar Singh**
NEW DELHI, Oct 2 (PTI)

THE Indian economy will grow at around 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal as the country's macroeconomic situation is benefiting from the reforms that have been taken up in the last nine years by the Narendra Modi-led Government, former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Monday.

Kumar further said that India needs and can grow at 8 per cent-plus as that level of economic growth is required to



meet aspirations of the country's young population and to generate sufficient jobs for its workforce.

"My growth projection (of India's GDP growth in FY 2023-24) is 6.5 per cent. "And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few

years," he told PTI in an interview. India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

According to Reserve Bank of India's projections, India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Kumar further said, "Macroeconomic situation India is benefiting from the reforms that have been implemented in the last nine years. Therefore, both the external macroeconomic balance as well as the domestic ones are in good shape."