

Praveen Kumar leaps to **GOLD IN HIGH JUMP**



Praveen smashed Asian record with season-best jump of 2.08m in the six-jumper field

India's Praveen Kumar holds the tricolour flag after winning the Gold Medal in the Men's High Jump - T64 event at the Paris Paralympics 2024, in Paris on Friday. (ANI /DDSports Grab)

PARIS, Sept 6 (PTI)

INDIA'S Praveen Kumar dazzled with a record-breaking performance in the men's high jump T64 event, adding a Paralympic gold to his Tokyo Games silver here on Friday.

The 21-year-old from Noida, who was born with a short leg, smashed the Asian record with a best jump of 2.08m in the six-jumper field to finish on top of the podium.

USA's Derek Loccident claimed the silver with a jump

of 2.06m while Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov, who notched a personal best 2.03m, finished third.

Opting to start from 1.89m, Kumaraced seven jumps in his first attempt to put himself in pole position to grab the coveted gold medal.

The bar was then raised to 2.10m, with both Kumar and Loccident fighting for the top spot on the podium but failed to clear the mark. This was also the 2023 world championship bronze medallist's personal best performance.

T64 is for athletes with movement moderately affected in one lower leg or the
(Contd on page 3)

Over 85% of Indian districts face extreme climate: Study

NEW DELHI, Sept 6 (PTI)

MORE than 85 per cent of districts in India are exposed to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones, according to a new study.

The study by IPE Global and Esri India also found that 45 per cent of the districts were experiencing a "swapping" trend, where traditionally flood-prone areas were becoming drought-prone and vice versa. Using a penta-decadal analysis, the study compiled a catalogue of extreme climate events during a 50-year peri-

od from 1973 to 2023, employing spatial and temporal modelling. The last decade alone saw a five-fold increase in these climate extremes, with a four-fold increase in extreme flood events, it said.

Districts in eastern India are more prone to extreme flood events, followed closely by the country's north-eastern and southern parts. The study also shows there has been a two-fold increase in drought events, especially agricultural and meteorological droughts, and a four-fold increase in cyclone events.

It found that more than 60

per cent of districts in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Assam were experiencing more than one extreme climate event.

Abinash Mohanty -- head of climate change and sustainability practice at IPE Global and the study's author -- said, "The current trend of catastrophic climate extremes that makes nine out of 10 Indians exposed to extreme climate events is a result of a 0.6 degree Celsius temperature rise in the last century."

India, Maldives hold defence dialogue

Focus on Indian Ocean

NEW DELHI, Sept 6 (PTI)

INDIA and the Maldives on Friday held a fresh round of "productive" defence dialogue with a focus on the situation in the Indian Ocean and ways to expedite implementation of ongoing defence projects.

The defence dialogue in Delhi took place nearly a month after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives, in the first high-level trip from New Delhi after the island nation's pro-China President Mohammed Muizzu assumed office.

"The entire range of talks were productive which will advance shared interests of both the nations in near future and bring stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region," the Defence Ministry said on the defence dialogue.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office last November.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

The defence ministry said the fifth round of defence dialogue provided both sides with an opportunity to discuss matters related to bilateral defence cooperation.

"This, inter alia, included expediting the implementation of various ongoing defence cooperation projects," it said.

India is implementing various projects in the Maldives.

"The two sides also deliberated on a few other areas of common interest such as high-level exchanges and capability development projects," the Ministry said.

"The aspects of participation in forthcoming bilateral military exercises were also discussed," it said without elaborating. The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.

The Maldivian delegation was headed by Chief of Defence Force of the Maldives National Defence Force General Ibrahim Hilmy.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

IMEC initiative to boost India's maritime security, trade: Goyal

■ Delhi Bureau
NEW DELHI, Sept 6

EXPRESSING optimism about India-Mediterranean partnership, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has opined it will work towards economic prosperity and mutual growth for Mediterranean countries and India for a cleaner, sustainable, more resilient, secure, inclusive and brighter future for all.

Recalling India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor



(IMEC) was launched during India's G20 presidency, aiming to integrate India, the Europe and the Middle East through UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and the European Union, Goyal said IMEC is an important initiative that can add to India's maritime security and faster movement of goods between Europe and Asia. Goyal was speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) India-Mediterranean Business Conclave 2024 in New Delhi on Friday.

Noting that lower logistics cost, faster connectivity and secure movement of goods is dependent on better cooperation in this area, the Union Minister noted that initiatives like PLI scheme, Centre's efforts towards Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) through FTAs

and economic partnerships have boosted India's manufacturing growth story and nation's efforts to promote agri-value chains can support the initiatives between India and Mediterranean countries. Suggesting that the Government should have a working group on tourism between the nations of the Mediterranean and India as there is a huge potential for cooperation and mutual benefit, the minister said that India offers a large market for the Mediterranean goods and services given the close connection both the nations have shared over the decades.

Noting that India is one of the fastest growing economies with young demography and that it will drive global growth for decades to

come, India is expected to become the third largest economy in the next few years, he said that India has embarked on 'Make in India' and digitisation of economy and has initiated holistic effort to make doing business in India easier.

Noting that areas like renewable energy, manufacturing, maritime and blue economy, digitisation, pharma, Information Technology, agriculture and tourism have huge potential in the country and investors have opportunity to be a part of this growth story, the minister said that India and Mediterranean countries have huge common interest in the shipping sector, whether in ship building, ownership, maritime sector or in the cruise business.

Thousands form human chains in Manipur to protest drone attacks

IMPHAL, Sept 6 (PTI)

THOUSANDS of people across five districts of Imphal Valley on Friday formed human chains to protest the recent drone and gun attacks in Manipur that resulted in two civilian deaths and 12 injuries.

Participants also expressed dissatisfaction with the Government's handling of the ongoing conflict in the state.

Organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), the rally saw school and college students in uniform, as well as women from various localities, lining up along roadsides in Thoubal Bazar, Lilong Chajing in Thoubal district, and Sekmai, Kwakeithel, Singjameiin Imphal West district raising slogans condemning the recent attacks in Koutruk and Senjam Chirang.

Protesters carried placards with messages such as 'Drone bombing is an act of terrorism,' 'We condemn Manipur

Government's timidity,' 'Take action against Kuki terrorists,' 'Manipur's territorial and administrative integrity cannot be compromised,' and 'We want peace; save Manipur,' among others.

MAN KILLED, 5 HURT IN BOMB ATTACK IN EX-MANIPUR CM'S HOUSE: AN ELDERLY man was killed and five others were injured after suspected militants launched a bomb attack on a residential area of Moirang in Bishnupur district on Friday afternoon, officials said.

The rocket which fell on the compound of former Chief Minister Mairembam Koireng's residence seemed to be an improvised one.

It is the second rocket that was fired in the district on Friday.

"The elderly man was preparing for some religious rituals in the compound when the bomb exploded. He died on the spot," the official said.