

WOMEN POWER INDIA TO DOUBLE GOLD

Neeru Dhanda 1st-ever women's trap champion Women's 4X100 relay team clinches gold

NAGOYA, Sept 29 (PTI)

UNDAUNTED by a heavy down-pour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhanda gave India its first ever women's trap gold in the Asian Games before the women's 4x400m relay team added another one in the evening as the country breached the 50-mark in the mega-event's medal tally to enter the top-10 here on Tuesday.

Dhanda's vision was at times disrupted by incessant rain but



From (L), India's Kiran, Prachi, Poovama Machettira, and Vithya Ramraj celebrate after winning gold medal in the women's 4x100 relay final in the ongoing Asian Games, in Nagoya, Japan.

Gulveer completes hat-trick of medals

Women's trap team bags silver

Bronze for Pooja Singh, Narender Berwal

Bronze for 4x100 mixed relay, men's 4x400 teams



From left, India's Manisha Keer, Ashima Ahlawat and Neeru Dhanda pose with the national flag in Nagoya on Tuesday. (PTI)

the focus was unwavering as she smashed the Asian record to claim the top finish, which was also India's first individual shooting gold in the ongoing Games with a score of 28 in the finals.

In the evening, the women's relay team of Kiran, Prachi Choudhary, MR Poovamma and

Vithya Ramraj claimed the 4x400 women's relay top honours with a timing of 3:29.69 seconds.

Of these, the 36-year-old Poovamma was a member of the Indian teams that won gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 Asiad as well.

Vithya had earlier bettered

the legendary PT Usha's over four-decade-old national record to claim bronze in the 400m hurdles competition.

As a result, the country's standing in the overall tally improved to 10th with 52 medals (6 gold, 21 silver and 25 bronze) so far.

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EAM flags US lack of understanding on cross-border terror concerns

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK, Sept 29 (PTI)

TERRORISM emanating from its neighbour is one of India's primary concerns, and if this is not fully appreciated by New Delhi's partners, it impacts bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, alluding to India-US relations amid upswing in Washington-Islamabad ties.

The External Affairs Minister has addressed prominent members of the Indian-American and diaspora community as well as policy experts at a special conversation hosted at Asia Society, as the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly wrapped

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during an event at Asia Society, in New York, US. (PTI)



up on Monday.

During a conversation moderated by former American diplomat and distinguished fellow at

the Asia Society Policy Institute Daniel Russel, Jaishankar was asked about US-India relations, (Contd on page 5)

India, US discuss evolving security landscape in Indo-Pacific region

NEW DELHI, Sept 29 (IANS)

INDIA and the US explored ways to deepen bilateral defence cooperation while exchanging views on the changing security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific.

The talks were held on Monday between Indian Army chief General Dhiraj Seth and Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General of United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), in New Delhi.

Following the meeting, the Indian Army took to X on Tuesday and posted: "Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, USARPAC, called on General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, on 28 September. The leaders dis-



Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth meets Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, US Army Pacific, in New Delhi. (PTI)

cussed the evolving security landscape in the Indo-Pacific and explored opportunities to

advance bilateral defence engagement across multiple domains."

"The interaction also focussed on measures to enhance interoperability through joint training and military exercises. The successful outcome of Exercise Yudh Abhyas validated the seamless synergy of joint operations and reaffirmed the commitment of both Armies towards strengthening military-to-military cooperation," it added.

Earlier on Monday, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh also held discussions with a bipartisan US Congressional delegation led by Representative Brian Mast on deepening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, with a particular focus on advancing defence industrial and technological cooperation.

Ruckus in J&K Assembly over full statehood restoration demand

SRINAGAR, Sept 29 (PTI)

RUCKUS erupted in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday over the adoption of a resolution moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah a day ago demanding urgent restoration of full Statehood.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the BJP has moved a motion seeking Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather's removal for allowing the resolution, and has left it to his conscience to step down.

The BJP said the resolution for full Statehood, passed by the Assembly on Monday, was allowed by the Speaker in contravention of the rules. As soon as the Assembly proceedings began on Tuesday, Sharma alleged that the Speaker allowed the resolution despite advice from the Law Department that it was "unconstitutional". "I leave



Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather amid a protest staged by opposition MLAs during the autumn session of the UT's Assembly, in Srinagar, on Tuesday. (PTI)

it to the conscience of the Speaker to step down from the chair," the LoP said. However, the treasury benches took to their feet and shouted slogans, such as "vote chor", against the Opposition.

The Speaker asked the mem-

bers to take their seats.

"I know what my powers and functions are as a Speaker. There is a procedure for it, which I informed you yesterday. Do not teach me how to function," Rather said.

Sitharaman holds bilateral meetings with Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, other countries

DOHA, Sept 29 (PTI)

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has held bilateral meetings with Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Jordan and Nepal on the sidelines of the AIIB annual meeting.

On the first day of her visit to Qatar on September 28, Sitharaman met her Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al-Jadaan who said that Saudi Arabia looks forward to early implementation of the bilateral investment treaty.

"Both Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which will provide a stronger and more predictable framework for bilateral investments and further strengthen investor confidence," the Finance Ministry said.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with AIIB President and Chair of the Board of Directors Zou Jiayi on the sidelines of AIIB Annual Meeting, in Doha. (PTI)

The Union Finance Minister conveyed that Saudi Arabia is India's trusted and valued strategic partner and highlighted the wide-rang-

ing partnership between the two countries across defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, healthcare, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges, the Ministry added.

Both the Ministers discussed further strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries. The Saudi Minister expressed keen interest in welcoming investments from India.

Sitharaman also met AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) Governor from Switzerland Ambassador Pietro Lazzeri and highlighted the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) as a trusted partner for foreign investors seeking to access opportunities in India. She invited Swiss investors to explore NIIF infrastructure funds to gain exposure to India's infrastructure sector.