

INDIA'S GOLDEN EYE(S)

Compound archers, shooters strike 4 gold

Boxers Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settle for bronze

Wrestler Sunil Kumar clinches bronze in the men's 87kg event

India's overall medal tally rises to 60 with 10 gold, 21 silver and 29 bronze

NAGOYA, Sept 30 (PTI)

INDIA'S patchy Asian Games campaign finally found the momentum it desperately needed with compound archers sweeping the gold medals in all the team events and the trap shooting combination of Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai snaring the mixed gold to round off the country's most successful day at the ongoing edition.

A couple of bronze medals from the boxing ring through Priya (60kg) and Kapil (90kg) and one from the wrestling mat through Sunil Kumar (87kg) took the overall tally to 60 (10 gold, 21 silver and 29 bronze), improving



Gold medalist India's Sahil Jadhav and Chikitha Taniparthi during the medal ceremony for the compound mixed team archery event. (PTI)

India's overall position.

The day well and truly belonged to the compound archers, who defended their men's, women's and mixed team crowns.

The women's trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha and Prithika Pradeep kicked off the gold rush that culminated with Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru rallying to win the men's team top honours.



(Top) Gold medalists Prithika Pradeep, Chikitha Taniparthi and Jyothi Surekha Vennam pose for photographs after the compound women's team archery event. (Above) Gold medalist, Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru during the medal ceremony for the compound men's team archery event at the 20th Asian Games, in Nagoya, Japan. (PTI)

In between, Chikitha and Sahil claimed the mixed gold and with that also secured an Olympic quota place for the country.



India's Neeru Dhanda, and Kynan Chenai celebrate after winning gold medal in the trap mixed team shooting event at the 20th Asian Games. (PTI)

India thus became the first country to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in the compound mixed team event, which will mark the discipline's debut in the Los Angeles Games.

It was a title defence done in style with the women's team producing a sensational performance to outclass the Chinese trio of Wunier, Yue Wang and Fangyao Wei 238-234. The Indian total was a world record-equalling score.

Chikitha and Sahil, who walked away with two gold medals, showed nerves of steel to prevail over Korea's Jungyoon Park and Choi Eun Gyu in the thrilling mixed team final, winning 158-157 after a shoot-off.

Kushal, Sahil and Ganesh then bounced back to outwit the Chinese trio of Jiahao Liao, Jinyi Liu and Jingyu Shi in the finals 238-237.

At the shooting range, Neeru and Kynan overcame a disastrous start to claim the gold with an Asian and Games record score of 34. Neeru thus became the ongoing Games' most successful Indian athlete, having already clinched the historic individual trap gold and played a stellar role in the women's team's silver-winning performance.

20-year-old Priya, making her Asian Games debut, went down 1-4 to former World Champion Yang Chenggu of China in a bruising 60kg semi-final.

Another Indian debutant, Kapil suffered a similar 1-4 defeat against reigning world champion 'Turabek' Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the 90kg semi-final to settle for bronze.

On the wrestling mat, Sunil Kumar became the first Indian Greco-Roman wrestler to win two Asian Games medal after

(Contd on page 3)

Centre raises wheat MSP by Rs 25/quintal; pulses, oilseeds get bigger hike

NEW DELHI, Sept 30 (PTI)

THE Centre on Wednesday raised the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat marginally by Rs 25 to Rs 2,610 per quintal for the 2027-28 rabi marketing year, while increasing support prices of pulses and oilseeds by up to Rs 675 per quintal.

The MSP for wheat in the 2026-27 rabi marketing year (April-March) was Rs 2,585 per quintal.

The proposal from the Agriculture Ministry on MSP for wheat and five other rabi crops was cleared at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, along with gram, masur and rapeseed/mustard. Sowing of all six rabi crops begins next month, while harvesting starts in April.

"The production cost of wheat is Rs 1,264 per quintal, but MSP has been kept at more than double, at Rs 2,610 per quintal for 2027-28," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters. Barley MSP has been raised to Rs 2,286 per quintal from Rs 2,150 in 2026-27.

Among pulses, the MSP of gram has been increased by Rs 83 to Rs 5,958 per quintal from Rs 5,875, while that of masur (lentil) has been raised by Rs 390 to Rs 7,390 per quintal from Rs 7,000.

For oilseeds, the MSP of rapeseed/mustard has gone up by Rs 413 to Rs 6,613 per quintal from Rs 6,200.

Rs 1.86 lakh cr Green Energy Corridor Phase-III cleared

■ **Delhi Bureau and Agencies**
NEW DELHI, Sept 30

THE Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) scheme to enable evacuation of up to 135 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy across States and Union Territories.

The scheme is targeted to be set up by FY 2032-33 with a total project outlay of Rs 1,86,405 crore, comprising Rs 1,36,378 crore for the development of Intra-State Transmission Systems (InSTS) under GEC-III and Rs 50,000 crore for 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) manufacturing and deployment will additionally

generate employment in the domestic energy storage industry.

The scheme will also generate long-term skilled employment in operation, maintenance, and grid management across participating States.

According to an official statement, the scheme also provides for deployment of 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at the

Renewable Energy (RE) developer/generator end or any other location of importance for grid flexibility to address intermittency, congestion, peak-hour curtailment and meet non-solar hour demand.

Moreover, the scheme will facilitate grid integration and

power evacuation within the States/Union Territories of India.

Rs 1,790-crore AI-powered traffic management project for Delhi

The Cabinet Committee on

CABINET DECISIONS

Economic
Affairs
(CCEA),

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the implementation of an Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) project for Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs 1,789.52 crore, aimed at improving traffic flow, road safety and urban

mobility across the national capital.

The project, to be implemented by Delhi Police, will cover 42 identified traffic corridors and will be rolled out in three phases over a period of 24 months. It will be followed by five years of operation and maintenance. The initiative forms part of broader efforts by the Centre and the Delhi Government to improve traffic management and transport infrastructure in the city.

The Intelligent Traffic Management System will use real-time traffic data, adaptive traffic signals, automated enforcement mechanisms and integrated command-and-control systems to manage Delhi's road network more efficiently.

Monsoon deficit at 13%, officially a drought year

Winter Rains Expected To Be Better

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New Delhi: The rainy season in India technically ended on Wednesday, with the summer (southwest) monsoon rainfall during June-Sept period recording a deficit of nearly 13% — a level of shortfall which is considered a drought. Significantly, this is the fourth lowest seasonal rainfall since 2001 and the 13th lowest since 1901.

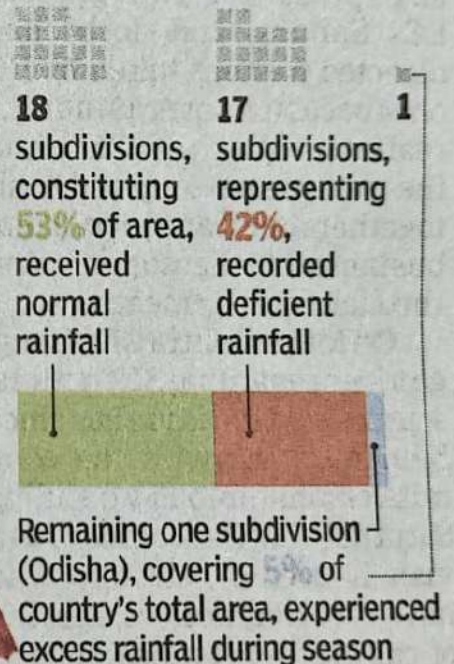
The situation is likely to be better during winter when northeast monsoon hits south Peninsular India between Oct 15 and Oct 21, with the IMD predicting 'normal' rainfall over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema region, Kerala and south interior Karnataka during Oct-Dec period. However, the win-

RAINFALL 4TH LOWEST SINCE 2001

Southwest (Summer) Monsoon 2026

- Rainfall over country as a whole during June-Sept was **87%** of its long period average
- All-India summer monsoon rainfall was 4th lowest since 2001 and 13th lowest since 1901
- Rainfall over east and northeast India was **lowest since 1901**
- In south peninsula, it was **4th lowest since 1901** and 2nd lowest since 2001
- Central India, however, received normal rainfall

36 Meteorological Subdivisions



ter monsoon will bring cheer to limited regions.

Though most other parts of India are expected to receive 'below-normal' rainfall during the Oct-Dec period, some areas of northwest India (Punjab, parts of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal and J&K) and southern parts of

peninsular India are likely to get "normal to above-normal" rainfall. Incidentally, Punjab and peninsular India had to face huge rainfall deficit during the summer monsoon season, which led to drought in many districts.

► **Southern India, P 19**

Reviewed ties in trade, defence, critical tech: PM on Trump talks

► Continued from P1

Earlier Jaishankar and foreign secretary Vikram Misri had flagged the same concerns with US authorities, emphasising that the recently-enacted Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 would have consequences for India-US ties. India continues to maintain its energy sourcing is driven by national interests and the need to ensure reliable and affordable supplies for 1.4 billion people.

Modi said on X that he had a productive conversation with Trump. "We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas. We agreed to maintain close engagement



Narendra Modi and Donald Trump

to take our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward," he said, adding that they exchanged views on regional and international issues, including ongoing efforts to advance global peace and security.

An Indian readout said they agreed to maintain engagement to deepen cooperation, and also to remain in touch. There was no White House

readout till late in the evening.

According to sources, the conversation helped reinforce the strategic partnership amid the friction over the US's passage of the Russia-related legislation and also differences over trade that have prevented the two countries from concluding a bilateral trade agreement. Modi will travel to the US in Dec for the G20 summit in Florida, where he is likely to also have a bilateral meeting with Trump. However, potential US tariffs or penalties could disrupt the diplomatic buildup to the visit.

Jaishankar had raised India's concerns related to the SRIA with his counterpart Marco Rubio in a meeting on the margins of the UNGA last week.

Hasina: Restore democratic rights, rule of law in B'desh

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Expressing concern over what she described as a renewed threat from militancy and violent extremism, former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, who is facing the death penalty at home, has called for the restoration of democratic rights, political participation and the rule of law in Bangladesh, saying the country is facing a "profound crisis" of governance, security and public confidence.

"We must restore the democratic rights and economic emancipation of the people of Bangladesh, give them back

their voice and ensure that the future of Bangladesh is decided by the people of Bangladesh themselves," she said. "That is my responsibility. That is my commitment and I will not abandon that," Hasina said, noting that she will share in detail her plan for how she will return to Bangladesh in Dec this year.

Hasina made the remarks while addressing online a seminar titled "Safeguarding Democracy in Bangladesh: Rights, Freedoms and the Rule of Law" at Godfrey Mitchell Room of One Great George Street in London.

The seminar was organised by the Global Center for

Democratic Governance (GCDG), Canada and the UK. GCDG identifies itself as an organisation focused on democracy, good governance, justice and human rights in Bangladesh. Other speakers included Sajeeb Wazed Joy, former adviser to prime minister of Bangladesh, UK MP Bob Blackman and former European Parliament member Paulo Casaca.

Hasina, now based in New Delhi, said that although she had been away from Bangladesh for more than two years, she remained connected with people in the country. "Every day I hear from people of Bangladesh," she said.