

India off to flying start with 11 medals on Day One at Para Asiad



(L to R) Nishad Kumar clinched gold in men's T47 long jump. Rinku bagged gold in men's javelin F46 event. Soumya won gold medal in the women's 1500m T12/T13 event. Mona Agarwal wins gold in women's 10m air rifle event.

NAGOYA, Oct 19 (PTI)

INDIA were off to a spectacular start at the Asian Para Games with medals, including four gold, pouring in from four different sports following assured performances by established names like wheelchair-bound

shooter Mona Agarwal and long jumper Nishad Kumar here on Monday.

In all, India collected 11 medals -- four gold, five silver and two bronze -- to be fourth in the overall standings.

The medal rush began quite early in the day with Mona stag-

ing a stirring comeback in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) final to beat compatriot Avani Lekhara for the gold.

Mona, a bronze-medallist at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, climbed from sixth place to set an Asian Para Games record of

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Militants kill 3 in Manipur

IMPHAL, Oct 19 (PTI)

THREE people collecting firewood in a forest were killed allegedly by militants in Manipur on Monday, triggering protests by locals who placed two bodies outside the Chief Minister's residence here.

Three others were also injured as militants opened fire on a group of firewood collectors on the border of Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts, officials said, adding that three more have gone missing. While Arubam Ronil (35) and Lairenlakpam Inaobi (51) died on the spot, Kshetrimayum Sushil (32) succumbed to injuries at a private hospital, an official said. The injured -- N Suraj (19), Meisnam Somendro (53) and K Bosan (45) -- were undergoing treatment.

They were among 16 people who had gone to the hills near



Police personnel transport the bodies of two victims away from outside the Chief Minister's bungalow towards a hospital mortuary, in Imphal on Monday.

(PTI)

their village around 7 am to collect firewood when they were ambushed, officials said. Following the demonstration outside his residence, Chief Minister

Y Khemchand Singh visited the injured undergoing treatment at a private hospital, but did not respond to any media queries.

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Very close to finalising trade deal with India: Marco Rubio



US Govt had to waive sanctions over past few months because of impact on global supplies and prices, says US Secretary of State Marco Rubio

NEW DELHI/SAMARKAND, Oct 19 (Agencies)

THE United States is very close to finalising a trade deal with India, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday, linking energy waivers and sanctions policy to broader trade considerations ahead of his visit to the country on Tuesday.

"We are trying to finalise a trade deal with India right now. We are

very close to doing that," Rubio said in Samarkand.

Rubio who is in Uzbekistan will be in Mumbai on Tuesday where he will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Rubio will also travel to Jamnagar, home to one of the world's largest refineries, later in the week.

On Russian oil and gas, Rubio said the US had to waive sanctions over past few months

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India-NZ FTA comes into effect

NEW DELHI, Oct 19 (PTI)

A HOST of Indian goods from labour-intensive sectors such as leather, footwear, apparel and textiles will attract zero import duty in New Zealand from October 20, when the India-New Zealand FTA comes into force, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

The agreement, which was signed on April 27, provides duty-free access for 100 per cent of India's exports to New Zealand from Tuesday itself, he told reporters here.

The pact, he said, also facil-

itates significant investments of USD 20 billion over the next 15 years from New Zealand to India. He said that the pact would provide huge opportunities to Indian exporters.

Flagging off heavy earth-moving and construction equipment maker JCB India's small excavator, which will be exported to New Zealand under the trade pact, Goyal said the company exports 25 per cent of its total production to different countries from India.

"I am giving them a target to increase it to 50 per cent. New Zealand is now the 140th export destination for them," he said.

53 soldiers killed as Houthis strike Yemen military camp



■ By **Samy Magdy**

CAIRO, Oct 19 (AP)

IRANIAN-BACKED Houthi rebels struck a military camp for Government forces in southern Yemen on Monday, killing at least 53 soldiers, provincial authorities in Shabwa said on Monday, mak-

ing it one of the deadliest attacks in the recent surge in fighting.

The rebels fired three ballistic missiles on the al-Alam military camp in the southern province of Shabwa in an attack that also wounded 200 recruits, the Shabwa provincial Government said. The Iran-backed rebels have

acknowledged targeting the camp in Shabwa.

Shabwa provincial Government said in a statement that the death toll is preliminary, suggesting it may rise. It said the recruits were receiving training to be part of internal security forces.

"This bloody, treacherous attack targeted new recruits in the training and preparation phase and is considered an extremely critical military escalation and a blatant aggression on the security and stability of Shabwa province," the statement said. It called on Yemen's president, the Saudi-led coalition and the Government to expedite providing air defence and early warning systems to reinforce Shabwa's capabilities.

'India's semiconductor future taking shape with 12 approved projects, Rs 1.64 lakh cr investment'

NEW DELHI, Oct 19 (IANS)

INDIA'S semiconductor ecosystem is steadily taking shape with 12 approved projects across six States, backed by more than Rs 1.64 lakh crore in committed investments, Former NITI Aayog CEO and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Monday.

Sharing a graphic titled "The New Semiconductor Map of India" on social media platform X, Kant said the country's semiconductor future is taking shape through a growing network of fabrication, packaging, testing, and advanced technology facilities. "6 States and 12 approved projects, backed by Rs 1.64 lakh crore+ in committed investments. India's semiconductor future is taking shape!" he stated.

Gujarat has emerged as the biggest hub for semiconductor



Former NITI Aayog CEO
Amitabh Kant

investments. The State hosts six approved projects, including the Tata-PSMC semiconductor fabrication plant at Dholera with an investment of Rs 91,526 crore and a planned capacity of more than 50,000 wafers per month.

Major projects in the State include Micron Technology's DRAM and NAND assembly and test facility at Sanand with an investment of Rs 22,516 crore, and the CG Power-Renesas-Stars semiconductor OSAT facility

involving Rs 7,584 crore of investment. The State is also home to facilities being developed by Kaynes Semicon, Crystal Matrix, and Suchi Semicon, covering semiconductor packaging, compound semiconductors, mini-LED technologies, and discrete semiconductor manufacturing.

In Assam, Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test is setting up an OSAT and packaging facility involving an investment of Rs 27,120 crore with a proposed capacity of around 48 million units per day.

Odisha has secured two projects. SiCSem is developing a silicon carbide fabrication and packaging facility with an investment of Rs 2,066 crore, while 3D Glass Solutions is establishing an advanced packaging and 3D integration project with an investment of Rs 1,943 crore.

India to host global 'legal metrology' meet for first time from Oct 26-28

NEW DELHI, Oct 19 (IANS)

INDIA will host the 61st Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) for the first time from October 26 to 28 in the national capital, an official statement said on Monday.

The meeting -- being organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs in association with the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) -- is expected to bring together more than 100 international delegates and legal metrology experts from across the world, including representatives of OIML Member States, Corresponding Member States and international organisations, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public

Distribution.

"Hosting the meeting for the first time marks a significant milestone in India's growing role in international cooperation, harmonisation of measurement

standards, promotion of fair trade and consumer protection," it added.

In addition, an international seminar on 'Evolutions in Legal Metrology' will be organised on October 26. It will bring together experts from different countries to exchange experiences and best practices on modernisation of legal metrology systems.

An OIML Strategy Workshop



will also be organised on October 27, providing a platform for participating countries and international experts to deliberate on future strategic direction and priorities of the

organisation.

"Discussions are expected to cover emerging challenges, technological advancements, digital transformation, international cooperation and evolving requirements of legal metrology systems worldwide," according to the ministry.

During three-day programme, CIML members will deliberate on important matters relating to development and

revision of international recommendations, technical activities of OIML, OIML Certification System (OIML-CS), digital transformation, capacity building and international cooperation.

Moreover, the meeting will facilitate exchange of technical knowledge and experience among participating countries, supporting efforts to strengthen measurement systems and promote internationally recognised standards.

The 60th CIML Meeting was held between October 13 and October 15, 2025 in Paris, France with representatives of 55 Member States present or represented along with representatives of 12 corresponding members and five organisations in liaison.

Netanyahu warns of potentially hostile future US President

JERUSALEM, Oct 19 (PTI)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that a future US President could be hostile towards Israel, calling for new alliances with countries such as India and those in Latin America to strengthen his country's position.

Netanyahu made the remarks on Sunday during an event at which he presented his security doctrine, nine days before Israel's October 27 election.

The remarks came hours before a strong endorsement he received from US President Donald Trump, who publicly expressed his support for Netanyahu's re-election bid days before the country goes to the polls. "In two years, a President,

■ Calls for alliances with India, Latin America



man or woman, could come to power who is very hostile to Israel," Netanyahu said.

"How would you deal with that? How would you operate in relation to the United States? And beyond that, what solutions would be necessary?", he questioned. The Israeli Premier

stressed that Israel must use the remaining years of Trump's presidency to strengthen its position while preparing for a potentially dramatic shift in American policy.

"First, we must do everything we can during these two years, and during the following two years, in the American arena, through good times and bad," he said. "The second thing is to create other alliances. That is what I am working on now with many countries in our region and outside it. India is not a small country, and there are many others," the Israeli Prime Minister emphasised.

He pointed to political developments in Latin America as another opportunity to expand Israel's network of allies.