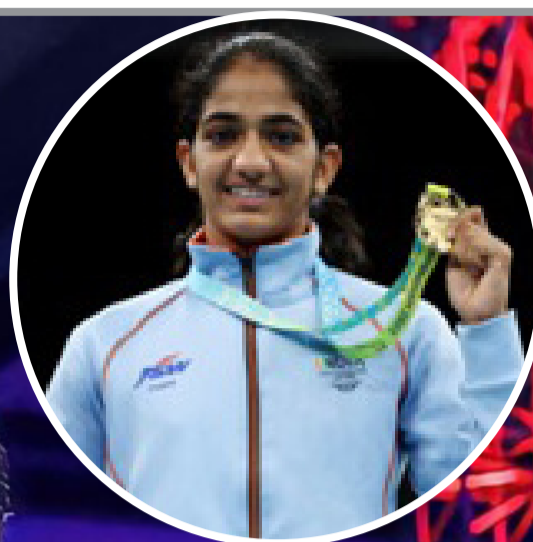




PUNCHING WAY TO SUCCESS!



NITU GHANGHAS BECOMES THE SIXTH INDIAN WOMAN BOXER TO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW DELHI: Nitu Ghanghas (48 kg), who won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, beat Lutsai-khan Altantsetseg of Mongolia to win the World Championship on Saturday.

In front of a large crowd, including bronze medalist from the Beijing Olympics and Nitu's idol Vijender Singh, the Indian put up an incredible performance to defeat Altantsetseg 5-0 and win the title for the least weight category.

Nitu came out on an attacking mode, and she skilfully combined punches, jabs, and hooks to eke out the victory. The 22-year-old boxer from Bhiwani was successful in winning the opening round 5-0. She launched a string of direct jabs to start the second round. The Indian southpaw retaliated against Altantsetseg's attack by landing a right hook on her adversary.

The two fighters engaged in a lot of holding during the action-packed contest, which saw Nitu penalised for clinching towards the conclusion of the second round. Nitu was nevertheless able to win the round 3-2 despite a great comeback by Altantsetseg in the second round. In the final three minutes, Altantsetseg was also given a point deduction for clinching, thus Nitu began from a distance but soon abandoned the plan and returned to playing from close range.

For the entire competition, Nitu has been in unstoppable form, winning her first three matches by RSC (Referee stops contest). She expertly adjusted to counteract Alua-Balkibekova's strength who had defeated Nitu in the quarterfinal round of the previous event. The 2022 Strandja Memorial gold medalist's victory made her the sixth Indian boxer to win the global title. The other fighters who have captured the world title include Mary Kom, a six-time champion (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006), Lekha KC (2006), and Nikhat Zareen (2022).

ISSF WORLD CUP

SARABJOT SINGH BAGS GOLD, VARUN TOMAR SETTLES FOR BRONZE

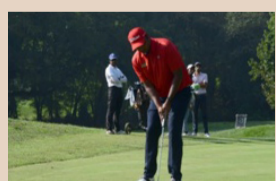


The Indian team became the first team to win gold in the men's 10m air pistol competition in its own backyard. In addition, Varun Tomar, the cousin of the now-forgotten Saurabh

Chaudhary, won bronze. Sarabjot Singh won his first senior ISSF gold medal. In the gold medal match, Ruslan Lunev was defeated by Sarabjot in just eight strokes. Even after shooting a 10.4 and making it eventually look like Sarabjot's Azerbaijani opponent would leave with at least two points, the Ambala-born shooter nailed a dramatic 10.9. The last shooter to qualify for the top eight was Varun (579-16x), who was ranked tenth overall. Three RPO shooters, Narwal, Xu Zhanyi (583-19x), and Arjun Singh Cheema (579-18x), had received higher scores.

GOLF

AFTER A TEN-YEAR HIATUS, THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE TOUR RETURNS



Indian golfers will enjoy a two-week bonanza as they get to compete in consecutive European Challenge Tour tournaments at Bengaluru's KGA Golf facility. The Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge,

the first of the two USD 300,000 competitions, begins on March 30 at the KGA with the majority of the Indian talents competing. After a ten-year hiatus, the European Challenge Tour visits India again. The top Indian players in the field are Udayan Mane, an Olympian who won the PGTI Order of Merit in the past, Khalin Joshi, Sachin Baisoya, Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, and Aman Raj, as well as the bright rookie Aryan Roopa Anand, who is competing in his hometown.

CRICKET

UNUSUAL RECORD OF INDIA'S SURYA KUMAR YADAV



Suryakumar Yadav sets a humiliating milestone as he became the first batsman from India to ever have three straight golden ducks in an ODI series. In the third ODI at

Chennai, Ashton Agar bowled the Indian hitter, who had been dismissed for two first-ball ducks in the first two ODIs, and he was out to his first delivery. SKY and the crowd were stunned when the spinner defeated him after breaking through his defenses. Earlier in the first two ODIs in Mumbai and Vishakapatnam, Australian Speedster Mitchell Starc got the better of Surya by dismissing him for first ball ducks. Australia defeated India by 21 runs in the third ODI to seal the series 2-1.

HOCKEY

SALIMA TETE NAMED AN AHF ATHLETE AMBASSADOR



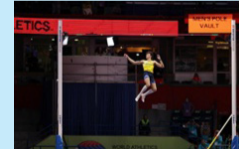
Salima Tete, a midfielder for the national women's hockey team, has been named the Indian AHF Athletes

Ambassador for a two-year term beginning on March 25. During the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Convention in Mungyeong, Korea, Tete accepted the diploma and the job. Tete is one of four players from Asia who have been appointed for the position. Tete coached the Indian women's junior hockey team to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa.



INDOOR ATHLETICS

2026 WORLD INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD IN POLAND



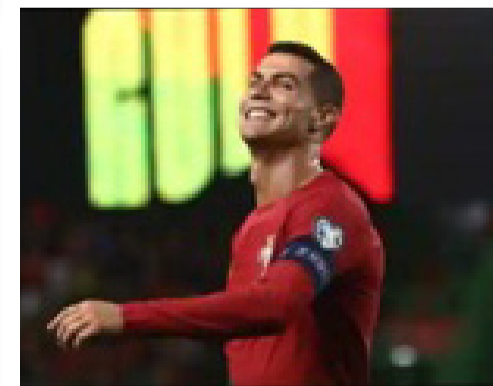
The 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships will take place in Torun, Poland, the sport's international governing body said on Wednesday.

Sebastian Coe, the president of International Athletics, noted that Torun, which is in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian region, had previously held the European Athletics Indoor Championships in 2021. Following the 2012 World Athletics Indoor Championships, which were hosted in Istanbul, this will be the second World Athletics Series event that Turkey will hold.

KHO KHO

INDIA SHINES AT ASIAN KHO KHO CHAMPIONSHIP

India—which played the host—clinched both men's and women's titles of the Asian Kho Kho Championship held at Tamulpur in Assam. In the women category, Indian Eves defeated Nepal by an inning and 33 points. The men's team defeated Nepal by an inning and six points. India remained unbeaten in both the categories throughout the tournament. A total of nine had countries participated in the event.



FOOTBALL

RONALDO, KANE SET RECORDS IN PORTUGAL & ENGLAND VICTORIES

The 38-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo, who was already the top scorer in men's international football, surpassed all other male players by making appearance No. 197 in Portugal's 4-0 victory over Liechtenstein. The former Real Madrid and Manchester United striker celebrated by scoring twice in the second half, including a decisive free kick from the edge of the box to reach 120 goals in international competition. Harry Kane, on the other hand, surpassed Wayne Rooney as England's all-time leading scorer with a first-half penalty in a 2-1 victory over Italy. With one more goal than Wayne Rooney, Kane now has 54 goals for his country.

MOTOGP

INDIA'S MAIDEN MOTOGP EVENT TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

This weekend marks the start of the MotoGP season in Portugal, and Dorna's CEO Carmelo Ezpeleta is excited about the possibility of inaugural races in India and Kazakhstan. The two races have been added, bringing the season total to 21, in an effort to diversify the sport's fan base outside its usual European stronghold (19 of the 22 riders hail from the continent). On July 9, the Kazakhstan race is held at the Sokol International Racecourse outside of Almaty, and on September 24, the Buddh International Circuit will host India's inaugural MotoGP.