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**England gamble on rookie Hull as they target Sri Lanka clean sweep**

**LONDON:** England have once again gambled on young talent for their final home Test of the season against Sri Lanka, picking rookie seamer Josh Hull as they chase a sixth straight win. The 6 feet, 7 inches (2 metres) tall left-arm seamer replaces Matthew Potts for the third Test at The Oval starting on Friday. England are 2-0 up in the series after a 3-0 clean sweep against the West Indies in July. The 20-year-old Hull, who only made his first-class debut last year has taken just 16 wickets in 10 matches for Leicestershire who play in the second division of the County Championship. England: Dan Lawrence, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (capt), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Olly Stone, Josh Hull, Shoaib Bashir

**Kamal rules out retirement in near future, commits to playing another season on tour**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian table tennis great Sharath Kamal was expected to chalk out his retirement plans post his fifth appearance at the Olympics but the 42-year-old on Wednesday committed to another season on the professional tour. Sharath was on Wednesday named captain of the Indian men's team for the Asian Championships in Astana next month. Speaking to PTI, India's flag-bearer at the Paris Olympics said he would also be competing in the China Smash later this month before travelling to Kazakhstan for the Asian Championships beginning October 7. The highest ranked Indian at 37 is also aiming to play in the 2025 World Championships in Doha. "For the next nine months to one year I would still be an active player. But at the same time, I will be exploring options in IOC and ITTF."

**Pranjali wins bronze in 25m pistol at World Deaf Shooting Championship**

**NEW DELHI:** Pranjali Dharmal on Tuesday secured a bronze medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany. Pranjali qualified for the finals with a deaf world record and championship record score of 571. In the finals, Dharmal clinched the bronze by hitting three out of five shots in the eighth series, edging out Croatia's Lana Skeledzija by a single point. She finished with a score of 29, trailing the Ukrainian duo Sofia Olenych and Halyna Mosina, who claimed gold and silver, respectively. Another Indian shooter, Anuya Prasad, finished fifth in the finals with a score of 21, after qualifying with 558 points. Vedika Sharma, the third Indian in the fray, ended her qualification round with a score of 473. India have won three gold, six silver, and four bronze so far in the tournament.

**Tahir Zaman takes over as Pakistan hockey team head coach**

**KARACHI:** Former Olympian Tahir Zaman has been appointed as the head coach of the Pakistan hockey team ahead of the Asian Champions Trophy and he will join the team at Hulunbuir city in China. The tournament will begin on September 8 and the urgent appointment had to be made after Roelant Oltmans refused to accept another short-term assignment from the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). "Tahir Zaman will now oversee the technical aspects and planning of the team as head coach while Zeeshan has been appointed as team manager for this tournament," a PHF official said.

# Harvinder's historic golden touch, Sachin's silver take India's medal haul to 22 at Paralympics

**PTI, PARIS:** Harvinder Singh scripted history by becoming the first Indian archer to clinch a gold at the Paralympics after world champion shot-putter Sachin Sarjearo Khilari's record-shattering silver-winning effort as the country's athletes continued to surpass expectations in its best ever performance at the Games here.

**PARIS PARALYMPICS**

The 33-year-old Harvinder, who became the first Indian to win an archery medal at the Games with a bronze three years ago in Tokyo, bettered the colour of his medal in a superlative performance of five consecutive wins.

He defeated Poland's Lukasz Cizek 6-0 in a one-sided final to script history for himself and the country. Both legs of the Harvinder-archer were impaired while he was still a toddler owing to a dengue treatment

adversely affecting him.

Earlier, the 34-year-old Khilari pulled off a 16.32m throw in his second attempt of the F46 category final to better his own Asian record of 16.30m which he set in May while winning gold in the World Para-Athletics Championships in Japan.

Their performance took India's medal haul to 22 and the nation is currently placed 15th in the overall standings with four gold, eight silver and 10 bronze medals. Greg Stewart of Canada defended his Tokyo Paralympics gold with a throw of 16.38m, while Luka Bakovic of Croatia took the bronze with 16.27m.

Khilari's silver was also India's 11th medal from track-and-field, the Tokyo haul of one gold, five silver and two bronze medals long overhauled.

Late on Tuesday night, Indians won silver and



Athlete Sachin Khilari competes in the Men's shotput F46 event during the Paralympic Games 2024, in Paris. Khilari won a silver medal in the event with an Asian record distance of 16.32m

bronze in both men's high jump T63 and javelin throw F46 after Deepthi Jeevanji's bronze in the women's 400m T20 category in India's best day at

**The 33-year-old Harvinder, who became the first Indian to win an archery medal at the Games with a bronze three years ago in Tokyo, bettered the colour of his medal in a superlative performance of five consecutive wins**

trict, Khilari met with an accident during his childhood. The injury resulted in gangrene of the skin on his elbow and muscle atrophy. Even after several surgeries, his arm never recovered. He also lost his mother when he was young.

**Simran enters 100m semis**

World champion sprinter Simran entered the semifinals of the 100m (T12) event with a season's best timing of 12.17sec. The runner was visually impaired as an infant after being born prematurely.

After the heat race of Wednesday, she was ranked second overall, finishing behind reigning Paralympic champion and world record holder Omar Durand of Cuba, who also ran a season's best of 11.87s, in the 16-member field. The semi-final will take place on Thursday.

## Dravid to join Royals as coach

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Rahul Dravid, who masterminded India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, is set to take over Rajasthan Royals' head coach role in the IPL 2025.

Dravid, who is currently on a short career-break since India's victory at Barbados in June, will soon start working with the franchise on important issues such as player retention ahead of the auction later this year.

"The talks have reached the final stages and he will soon step into the head coach job," a source close to the development told PTI.

Kumar Sangakkara, who has been Royals' Director of

Cricket since 2021, will continue in his role and is likely to be more hands-on with Barbados Royals (CPL) and Paarl Royals (SA20).

Dravid has a long-standing association with Royals as their captain for two seasons in 2012 and 2013 before serving as mentor for two more years.

At Royals, Dravid will reunite with Sanju Samson, who is all set to be retained as RR captain for another season. Samson blossomed first under the 52-year-old.

Meanwhile, Vikram Rathour, could be roped in by the franchise as its assistant coach.

## Bopanna-Sutjiadi exit US Open

**PTI, NEW YORK:** Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi lost to the American pair of Donald Young and Taylor Townsend 3-6, 4-6 in the mixed doubles semifinal of the US Open here.

In the quarter-finals, Bopanna-Sutjiadi had recorded a hard-fought win over Ebdon and Czech Republic's Barbora Krejickova in a contest lasting more than one hour and 30 minutes.

The 44-year-old Bopanna had also lost in the men's doubles in the third round when he and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden were beaten by the Argentine duo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni.

## Tiafoe, Fritz will meet in an all-US semis: US Open

**AP, NEW YORK:** Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz set up an all-American semifinal at the US Open with victories Tuesday, guaranteeing the United States a man in the title match at the country's Grand Slam tournament for the first time in 18 years.

The 20th-seeded Tiafoe made it to the final four at Flushing Meadows for the second time in three years when his quarterfinal opponent, Grigor Dimitrov, stopped playing because of an injury in the fourth set. Tiafoe was leading 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 4-1 with midnight approaching when Dimitrov retired from the match, providing an

anticlimactic ending to a contest that was not necessarily of the highest quality.

After years of climbing the rankings, of becoming the top American man in tennis, of coming close to making a breakthrough at one of his sport's four most important events, Fritz finally came through at home, beating Zverev 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to reach a major semifinal for the first time.

The 12th-seeded Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, entered the day with an 0-4 record in Slam quarterfinals. Now on Friday, he will take on longtime friend Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland

who lost to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz in the 2022 U.S. Open semifinals. Fritz holds a 6-1 head-to-head edge over Tiafoe as pros.

No American man has won a Grand Slam singles trophy since Andy Roddick triumphed at the U.S. Open in 2003; Roddick was the last man from the United States in the U.S. Open final, losing to Roger Federer in 2006.

In the women's bracket, No. 13 Emma Navarro of the U.S. reached her first Grand Slam semi-final by taking the last six games in a 6-2, 7-5 victory over No. 26 Paula Badosa and next faces No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka.

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