



Five get first-round byes, tricky for Panghal & Co

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

AMIT Panghal recently had sparring sessions with rivals from Colombia, France and Azerbaijan during the Indian boxers' training camp in Assisi, Italy. The Colombia pugilist in question was Yuberjen Martinez, Rio Olympics silver medalist (light flyweight (49kg). Now, it looks like Panghal, who was handed a first-round bye during the official draw on Thursday, could face Martinez in his opening bout on July 31.

Despite being top seed, men's chief coach CA Kuttappa, during an interaction with this daily, had said Panghal won't have it easy even during the preliminary rounds. "Amit has had tough sparring sessions with boxers from Colombia, France. Based on his performance, we can see what he can do better to improve. He has had tough sessions against Yuberjen Martinez. So that should help," Kuttappa had said.

Bearing in mind the draw, the coaches had put Panghal to test

against the Colombian. And that could prove to be invaluable as the Haryana boxer could be up against Martinez provided the Colombian beats Rajab Otukile Mahommed of Botswana in the Round of 32 contest.

If Amit plays to his potential, he could go on to meet arch-nemesis Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in the semifinals. There's also every possibility of meeting fourth seed Algerian Mohamed Flissi in the last-four stage. Apart from Panghal, four other Indians — Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Pooja Rani (75kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) — got byes and will start their campaign from last-16.

Taking part in her second Olympics, veteran MC Mary Kom (51kg) will be trading blows against Miguelina Garcia Hernandez of the Dominican Republic in the opening round. If Mary manages to win, she will be up against Colombia's Ingrid Valencia, who's No 3 seed, in the Round of 16.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

The first Summer Games in 1896 did not have women athletes. It was because of a questionable set of beliefs held by the Olympics' chief architect, Pierre de Coubertin. According to a document published by the United Nations in 2007, he had said: "no matter how toughened a sportswoman may be, her organism is not cut out to sustain certain shocks." Even though women were allowed to compete from 1900, there was prejudice.

That historical wrong, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) says, will be corrected in 2024. The body is aiming for true gender parity for the first time at the Paris Games (it's about 51:49 in Tokyo).

To recognise Coubertin's role in the Olympic Movement, his statue is installed at Japan Sport Olympic Square, a stone throw away from the National Stadium that will host the Opening and Closing Ceremony. When the athletics events begin on July 30, one can reasonably assume that the likes

of Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Sifan Hassan and Allyson Felix will see that statue on their way. At the Olympics, the three are not just expected to medal but in a way that could break several records. What would Coubertin think?

For all the emphasis on participation, the Games have always been defined by the superhuman feats of the athletes. These feats, some achieved against extreme adversity, have gone on to define the legacy of the Games (Michael Phelps in Beijing, Paavo Nurmi in Paris, Jesse Owens in Berlin etc. etc). In that context, picking a legacy for the Tokyo Games will be easy. Covid-19. It can be called the 'The Pandemics'.

Several officials, including Tokyo governor, Yuriko Koike, had attested that the Games going ahead would mean people coming together to celebrate defeating the virus. If anything, the virus continues to defeat humans. The Games will be played to the soundtrack of zero cheers, the eerie silence a reminder that the world is still

battling one of its gravest crises of recent times.

Rick Burton, who was the chief marketing officer for the US Olympic Committee in Beijing in 2008, wonders if Covid won't hold centre-stage. "Wonder if centre-stage will not be held by the pandemic and Covid-19," he told this daily. Academic Simon Chadwick echoes the same feeling. "I don't think the athletes will necessarily be centre-stage anywhere, because I think the virus & the ramifications of the effects of the virus will be the big star."

Keeping Covid-19 to one side, the one theme that is likely to emerge from Tokyo is the preeminence of women athletes. This means women will likely lord over men in advertising campaigns (Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka), scale new medal hauls (Felix), stand up for injustice (too many to mention) create classic rivalries (Hassan vs Letesenbet Gidey, Kate Ledecky vs Arianne Titmus), challenge sports policies (Laurel Hubbard), pen impossible stories (Fraser-Pryce) and bring in Generation Z (Sky

Brown). Chadwick, director of the Centre for Eurasian Sport, agrees. "This Olympics could be a major tipping point. Whereby women are more prominent, they are commercially valuable as endorses and as brand ambassadors. Their activism, their values and their voices mark them as being different. Their voice is really important as people are beginning to listen." One of the main undercurrents that will be visible throughout the Games is the way athletes protest injustice.

If Phelps and Usain Bolt were the biggest names of the last couple of editions, it's hard to look beyond Biles this time. On top of that, she will likely perform the 'Yurchenko Double Pike', a manoeuvre so tricky to execute only one woman has performed it before in a competitive event: Biles herself. But Biles isn't the only one chasing immortality. Hassan is aiming to become to win the 1500m, 5000m and 10000m in one week. Felix is one away from medalling in Olympics across three decades.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

TOKYO TRAIL

Refugee defector from Iran to face Iranian

A defector from Iran who competes in taekwondo for the refugee team at the Tokyo Olympics was drawn on Thursday to face an Iranian opponent in the qualifying round. Kimia Alizadeh, who left Iran citing institutional sexism, will face Nahid Kiyani Chande in the 57-kilogram class on Sunday. Alizadeh was the first Iranian woman to win an Olympic medal when she took bronze at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games when she was 18. She later criticized wearing the mandatory hijab headscarf, which she had to wear in Rio, and left Iran to live in Germany.

IOC to include athletes kneeling in highlights

After images of Olympic football players taking a knee were excluded from official highlight reels and social media channels, the IOC said Thursday that kneeling protests will be shown in the future. The concession under Olympic Charter Rule 50, which has long prohibited any athlete protest inside event venues, was finally allowed this month by the IOC.

Bear sighting at baseball stadium

A bear appears to have ignored the ban on spectators at the Olympics. Japanese media reported a bear was seen by guards early Wednesday at Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium before Japan and Australia's softball teams met in the opening event of the Olympics. Local media reported it was an Asian black bear. 'I woke up to text messages asking, is this real? There's a big black bear, saying that it got on the field.'

EXPRESS READ

Injured Washington out of England series

CHENNAI: India all-rounder, Washington Sundar, is all set to return home after suffering a finger injury in the UK. It is understood that Washington has been advised complete rest for a month as he experienced discomfort while batting in practice game. He is expected to play in T20 World Cup, Venkata Krishna B reports; Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

Curious case of Vinesh's physio; waiting game for a few others

or once everything seemed quiet in the Indian camp. There have been teething issues here and there but overall indications were the National Sports Federations, the Indian Olympic Association along with the sports ministry managed to accommodate requests of athletes' requirements. Now it seems somewhat like a facade. As the curtains are set to go up

on Friday, there are some dissatisfactions among athletes, coaches and support staff regarding access to venues during competitions. There are a few coaches and support staff from badminton, table tennis, swimming, hockey and boxing, who are in Tokyo but without access to the Games Village and competition arena. They can access only training venues.

Let's go to another related issue. What comes as a surprise is that a sport like wrestling



doesn't have a physio in the mix. All wrestlers felt the need for one but wrestler Vinesh Phogat had been pleading with the federation but nothing as of now has materialised. Her request was forwarded even be-

fore the lists were finalised. Considering she is our medal hope in wrestling, this seems like a gross oversight. However, Brajesh Kumar has been listed as the physio. He is currently with the men wrestlers — Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia — in Russia and will travel to Tokyo for the Games. He apparently has a P category card. All those with P category cards have to stay in hotels outside the Village.

Though the WFI said it had

sent Vinesh's physio name, Poornima R Ngomdir, to the IOA who forwarded it to the Tokyo organising committee, there are some officials who claim the name did not figure in the initial long list — that is the first list each of the federations sent. There have been occasions when officials opted out. Federations like the Badminton Association of India managed the accreditation process in a much more subtle way.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work- (1) **E-Tender No.:- ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-29-21-22:-** (2) **Name of work:-** Providing LC Surface by rubberized surface for doubling line at LC no. 46, 50, 55, 56, 60, 62 & 63 between Wyndhamganj to Dudhingar station in connection with Doubling of Ramnasingrauli BG Rail line Project under Dy.CE/Con/Renukat in Dhanbad Division of E.C.Railway (3) **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.):** Rs. 99.58,848.25 (4) **Cost of tender form in (Rs.):** Rs.00.00 (5) **Earnest money in (Rs.):** 0.00 (6) **Period of work completion:-** 06 (Six) Months. (7) **Date and Time for closing of tender:-** 09.08.2021 at 15:30 hrs. (8) **Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website:-[www.irigs.gov.in](#). Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website [www.irigs.gov.in](#) atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender**

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

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E-Tender No. CE/2021/05

(01) **Name of the work with its location:-** (1) Fabrication and Supply of Improved Switch Expansion Joints (complete set) for Long Welded Rail with Fillings for BG 60 Kg UIC on PSC Sleepers with 80 mm gap (UIC) to RDSO Drawing No. T-6902 with Alteration-4 and Specification IRS.T-10-2000 Corrigendum No-01 of December-2016 and Technical Specification for Improved SEJ: Provisional 2008 Corrigendum No-01 of December-2016. (Details of Fittings as per Annexure-A). (Quantity-50 sets). **Name of the work with its location:-** (2) Fabrication and Supply of Improved Switch Expansion Joints (complete set) for Long Welded Rail with Fillings for BG 60 Kg UIC on PSC Sleepers with 80 mm gap (UIC) to RDSO Drawing No. T-6922 with Alteration-3 and Specification IRS.T-10-2000 Corrigendum No-01 of December-2016 and Technical Specification for Improved SEJ: Provisional 2008 Corrigendum No-01 of December-2016. (Details of Fittings as per Annexure-A). (Quantity-50 sets). **Location:-** Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway, Hajipur. (02) **Approx. cost of the work:-** Rs. 4.64,26,390.00. (03) **Earnest Money to be deposited:-** 0.00 (04) **Date & Time for closing of tender:-** 11:30 Hrs on 11.08.2021. (05) **Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen:-** Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from website: [http://www.irigs.gov.in](#)

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The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16.08.2021 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

DHADIHAGAPATTI SALEM, 115570700047396, 7656, 7726, 7727, 7809, 7999, 8159, 8278, 8375, 8377, 8378, 8399, 8464, 8481, 8598, 8609, 8620, 8623, 8651, 8687, 9332, 9345, 9346, 9350, 9363, 9366, 9371, 9372, 9373, 9374, 9375, 9377, 9378, 9379, 9382, 9383, 9386, 9391, 9396, 9398, 9399, 9406, 9417, 9419, 9422, 9432, 9438, 9439, 9451, 9453, 9471, 9472, 9476, 9492, 9495, 9501, 9509, 9510, 9526, 9539, 9540, 9543, 9544, 9550, 9560, 9564, 9565, 9567, 9568, 9569, 9577, 9578, 9585, 115570730022053, 4833, 6238, 6361, 6843, 6923, 7700, 7701, 7702, 7902, 8115, 8331, 8332, 8333, 8360, 8384, 8666, 8726, 8759, 8761, 8839, 115570730031179, 1198, 1253, 1304, 1353, 1366, 1381, 1473, 1522, 1681, 1700, 1710, 1716, 115570780000007, EDAPADI SALEM, 1274307000028688, 9606, 9610, 1274307000030063, 0065, 0116, 0129, 0151, 0174, 0185, 0211, 0231, 0232, 0285, 0297, 0303, 0321, 0340, 0369, 0381, 0413, 0441, 0449, 0456, 0461, 0465, 0468, 0521, 0526, 0544, 0554, 0572, 0575, 0595, 0604, 0623, 0646, 0664, 0680, 0706, 0727, 0759, 0764, 1147, 1258, 1264, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1273, 1280, 1285, 1287, 1290, 1295, 1313, 1314, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1331, 1334, 1345, 1348, 1353, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1384, 1388, 1399, 1403, 1404, 1421, 1422, 1436, 1438, 1446, 1449, 1464, 1478, 1480, 127430730012298, 2489, 2543, 3211, 3212, 3312, 3367, 3442, 3444, 3458, 3634, 3664, 4489, 4500, 4511, 4520, 4533, 4552, 4560, 4563, 4571, 4592, 4603, 4604, 4614, 4617, 4625, 4659, 127430780000017, ELAMPILLAI SALEM, 118400700053908, 3962, 4103, 4258, 4653, 5959, 6072, 6077, 6112, 6113, 6189, 6191, 6261, 6274, 6345, 6530, 6540, 6696, 6772, 6819, 6924, 6929, 6978, 6980, 7023, 7092, 7163, 7198, 7201, 7229, 7319, 7330, 7458, 7527, 7568, 7615, 7616, 7649, 7678, 7711, 7748, 7756, 7775, 7836, 7940, 7985, 8802, 8807, 8809, 8813, 8815, 8817, 8822, 8824, 8826, 8828, 8831, 8844, 8847, 8848, 8849, 8851, 8852, 8857, 8861, 8864, 8881, 8883, 8887, 8892, 8901, 8905, 8911, 8918, 8927, 8928, 8929, 8931, 8940, 8942, 8946, 8947, 8954, 8960, 8961, 8976, 8977, 8979, 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