

Mirabai, Lovlina set to be India’s flagbearers in CWG opening ceremony

NEW DELHI: Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain, both Olympic medalists, will be India’s flagbearers at the opening ceremony of the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Indian Olympic Association announced on Saturday. The opening ceremony of the scaled-down multi-sport event will be held on July 23.

“It is a matter of pride Mirabai and Lovlina will be doing the honours at the OVO Hydro. I wish both the girls and the entire contingent good luck. It is a matter of pride two women have been chosen to do the honours for Team India at the opening ceremony, which will set the tone and tenor for the Games,” IOA said in a media release.

“Both Mirabai and Lovlina have time and again proved themselves in the international arena for India. They are at present training in right earnest for the Games in the United



Kingdom,” it added. Mirabai, who turns 32 on August 8, has been India’s leading weightlifter for close to a decade. She won the silver medal in the women’s 49kg category at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and followed it up with gold at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Although she was unable to replicate that success at the 2024 Paris Olympics,

she remains one of India’s strongest medal hopes in Glasgow. She is also a multiple medalist at the World Championships. Lovlina, meanwhile, claimed the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics before winning gold at the 2023 World Championships. She also secured a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou and is expected to be among India’s lead-

ing medal contenders in Glasgow. On July 10, the Sports Ministry had approved a 191-strong Indian contingent, including 126 athletes and 51 team officials, for the Commonwealth Games, making it clear that it would not bear expenses of those officials who are elected members of the Indian Olympic Association’s Executive Committee.

Injury update: Harsh Dubey replaces Washington Sundar for IND vs ENG 3rd ODI

LONDON: India has drafted in Harsh Dubey in place of injured Washington Sundar for the third and final ODI between India and England at Lord’s in London on Sunday.

“Washington sustained a right hamstring injury during the second ODI at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, and has been ruled out of the remainder of the series. He will undergo scans and seek a specialist opinion for further management of his injury,” the statement from BCCI quoted.

Joe Root masterfully anchored England’s chase as the hosts beat India by six wickets in the second ODI in Cardiff on Thursday. England have thus levelled the three-match series 1-1.

On what turned out to be a tricky pitch, India set England a target of 234 to chase and the hosts had to grind it out. Opener Ben Duckett fell for a golden duck first ball of the innings



itself to Jasprit Bumrah and his partner Jacob Bethell fell in the fourth over after scoring just four runs. Captain Harry Brook, Sam Curran and Jos Buttler all then put up useful partnerships with Root before Will Jacks put up 72 runs for the fifth wicket with him and put England on their way to victory. Jacks fell in the 40th over after which Gus Atkinson came in and expedited England’s chase. He ended up dominating strike towards the end of

the match and scored the winning runs, thus leaving Root rooted on 99 off 133 balls. “Quite disappointing, to be honest with you. We thought 300, 310 would be a good total after 25 overs. We were at a good position. But, we lost too many wickets in the middle overs. I mean, our tailenders are not the best batsmen. But I think we expected a bit more from our lower middle order and we were not able to capitalize on the start that we got.

US Government Official Reacts To Argentina’s Falklands Banner Celebration Row At FIFA World Cup 2026

NEW JERSEY: Argentina registered a comeback 2-1 victory over England in the second semi-final of the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Atlanta, United States. After their sensational win, some Argentine players came up with a controversial celebration. They held up a banner that read: “Las Malvinas son Argentinas (The Falklands are Argentine).” This was the second time that Argentina’s players had raised this controversial issue during the ongoing World Cup. A few days before this, they had sung a chant referencing the Falklands in the wake of their 3-2 victory over Egypt in the round of 16. While the banner displayed by the Argentine players triggered huge controversy, the White House has defended them. When asked about the players waving the controversial banner, Andrew Giuliani, the head of the White House FIFA

What was concerning about Rohit’s innings in 2nd ODI vs ENG? Abhishek Nayar answers

MUMBAI: Rohit Sharma scored 26 off 47 balls in the 2nd ODI against England on Thursday. He looked scratchy throughout that innings, and England missed a few half-chances. Former Indian coach Abhishek Nayar acknowledged that the concern is not the rustiness in his innings, but Rohit’s inability to convert a score into a half-century.

“Conditions are important. You have to respect the conditions. In this game, the ball was seaming, doing a bit, so you expect Rohit Sharma to take time as he is not playing all formats. He also understands and will reflect. After a point, after Sam Curran’s over, it looked like he was under pressure. Other than that, I felt the tempo was fine. I am not so worried about the strike rate. But normally, when he gets to 26, he does make a 50 from there. So that is something he would be concerned about,” he said on Star Sports’ segment ‘Game Plan’.

Will Jacks picked up Rohit’s wicket. “Rohit does

not get out a lot against off-spinners. But he got out because it looked like he was sort of stuck for runs. So more than skill, it’s the mind. But he is batting well, so I am not concerned,” Abhishek said. “One thing that I have liked about him in this series and the recent past is that he is playing fearlessly. It is no longer that Virat, where he is only looking for singles. There are certain tactical nuances picked up which is very unique. He is being very intelligent with the way he wants to take bowlers down. Not necessarily by hitting shots, but also by using the crease,” he added. “He is in a great space, and looking at his body language, you feel like there is a free-flowing, non-apologetic, non-caring sort of batter batting and that is when you are most dangerous, when there is nothing to prove. And you can see that in Virat Kohli. How many times have you seen him step out and take a fast bowler down when the ball is seaming?



LG’s Diary



Glad to attend the third edition of ‘Chinar Book Festival’ today in Srinagar. I congratulated the National Book Trust and the organizers for their commendable work. I highlighted that this festival is more than just an event. It is a movement to build a vibrant community of readers, writers and thinkers. Our goal is to transform Jammu Kashmir into a national hub for knowledge, culture and creativity. I hope this book festival will inspire the youth to read every day, protect endangered languages, and use literature as a way to value and respect diversity.



Office of LG J&K reposted

Spoke with the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur and medical officials and inquired about the health condition of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims injured in the unfortunate road accident near Jakhani, Udhampur, earlier this morning. Five pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh and a driver from Ganderbal sustained injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at GMC Udhampur. Senior officials have been directed to ensure all necessary assistance and the best possible medical care is provided for their swift recovery. I pray to Baba Barfani for the safety, well-being and smooth journey of all devotees.

Manoj Sinha

Heartiest congratulations to Team Skyroot Aerospace on the successful maiden orbital launch of Vikram-1. This historic achievement is a proud moment for the nation and reflects Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji’s vision of strengthening India’s space sector through innovation and private enterprise. I applaud Team Skyroot for their pioneering spirit and dedication. May this remarkable success inspire our youth to embrace science and innovation and contribute to India’s journey as a global leader in space exploration.

Manoj Sinha

Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Singh, former Chairman and Managing Director, POWERGRID. A visionary leader and an outstanding institution builder, Dr. Singh played a pivotal role in strengthening India’s power transmission network and making a lasting contribution to the nation’s infrastructure development. My deepest condolences to his family, friends and admirers. Om Shantii!



NASA’s Perseverance Rover Finds Giant Layered Mars Rock Structure Shaped By Asteroids



NASA’s Perseverance Mars rover has uncovered new evidence about the ancient history of Mars. The rover found a 245-foot-thick layer of old rock on the rim of Jezero Crater, showing that the formation was created by repeated asteroid impacts, reported NASA.

The rock sequence, called the “Broom Point member” by the rover’s science team, is likely more than 3.9 billion years old. It is among the oldest terrain ever examined by a Mars rover. The findings were released on Wednesday in the Journal of Geophys-

ical Research: Planets and provide a look into one of the most violent periods in the history of the solar system. Ken Farley, Perseverance deputy project scientist at Caltech in Pasadena, California, said that since leaving Jezero, Perseverance had been exploring a new frontier both geographically and geologically. He explained that this chapter of Martian time predates the crater itself. Farley said that on Earth, the earliest geological history has been broken up, changed and erased by plate tectonics. He added that because Mars does not have plate tectonics to

recycle its crust, the ancient record remains intact and gives scientists a rare view of a geological period that does not exist on Earth. After climbing the western rim of Jezero Crater in late 2024, Perseverance began studying nearby locations using its science instruments. Data collected at Broom Point revealed six different rock types, including breccias, which are rocks made of angular fragments, along with layers of fine-grained, crushed rock dust. Scientists found that rock fragments inside the breccias contained gas-bubble cavities, showing that they were once molten. The presence of tiny, dark, glassy beads in the layers also provided clues about how the rocks formed. Researchers said that while volcanoes can create similar glassy droplets, they are rarely found in such large amounts. This pointed to asteroid impacts as the main cause of the rock formation. Some of the largest beads were similar in size to those produced by the Chicxulub asteroid impact that caused the extinction of dinosaurs on Earth. The repeated appearance of different rock types throughout the thick rock sequence showed that powerful impact events happened multiple times across the region in early Mars. Alex Jones, a PhD student in planetary geology at Imperial College London and lead author of the paper, said that the different rock layers recorded impacts of different sizes that happened at different distances from where the rocks formed. He explained that some large impacts occurred very far away, while smaller impacts happened nearby, and their debris eventually collected to create the thick rock section. Scientists said the formation of these layers may also suggest an interaction with water or ice. Some layers appear to have formed through fast-moving debris flows, which on Earth can happen when molten rock comes into contact with water or ice that quickly turns into steam.

77% of Indian professionals use AI at work; AI-skilled workers earn more: Naukri report



Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly becoming a core workplace skill in India, with 77 per cent of professionals now using it at work and workers with AI skills earning higher salaries than their contemporaries, according to Naukri’s World AI Day Report 2026. The report also found that demand for AI expertise in technology jobs has risen nearly 17 times since 2020, highlighting how rapidly AI is reshaping hiring and careers. It claims that AI-related skills now feature in 15.4 per cent of tech job descriptions, up sharply from 0.9 per cent in 2020. In comparison, mentions of AI skills in non-tech job descriptions have increased by about six-fold, from 0.26 per cent to 1.59 per cent. This shows that AI adoption is spreading beyond traditional tech roles. The findings are based

on a survey of nearly 27,000 professionals across more than 80 industries and 15 Indian cities, along with an analysis of over three lakh job descriptions and hiring data from the popular online recruitment platform. Despite AI becoming a mainstay in workplaces, the report highlights a gulf between adoption and organisational readiness. While AI use is widespread, only 35 per cent of professionals reported receiving formal AI training from their employers. Another 23 per cent rely on self-learning, while 21 per cent are still waiting for organisational training. Hiring trend and salary growth

lowed by Azure AI (2.9x), Large Language Models (2.4x), AI Solutions (2.1x) and Prompt Engineering (1.6x). There is an uptick in hiring for specialised roles such as AI product managers, AI solution architects, AI platform engineers and AI trainers. Moreover, professionals with AI skills are also seeing a salary advantage. According to the report, workers possessing AI capabilities earn higher median salaries across both IT and non-IT roles than peers without AI skills, while AI-enabled roles have recorded stronger salary growth over the past four years. The report also shows IT professionals with AI skills earning a median salary of Rs 13.7 lakh, compared to Rs 11.9 lakh for those without AI skills, while non-IT professionals with AI skills earn Rs 11.3 lakh, compared to Rs 7.5 lakh for those without such

skills. The report also suggests that AI hiring is becoming more senior-focused. Demand grew fastest among professionals with 13 to 16 years of experience, where AI hiring increased 39 per cent year-on-year, followed by those with over 16 years of experience at 35 per cent. Recruiter demand also rose sharply for high-paying roles in the Rs 40-49 lakh and Rs 50 lakh-plus salary brackets, suggesting organisations are prioritising experienced professionals capable of leading AI transformation. At the same time, professionals are increasingly taking responsibility for their own AI upskilling. Nearly 79 per cent of respondents said they are already learning AI or plan to start soon, while more than half (52 per cent) of professionals with over 15 years of experience are actively upskilling in AI.