

# Jinson Johnson claims 1500m gold medal

## Bronze for Seema Punia and Chitra

JAKARTA, AUG 30 /-/ India's Jinson Johnson claimed a gold medal in the Asian Games men's 1500m event, in which 800m champion Manjit Singh finished fourth here today. Johnson clocked 3:44.72sec to claim the top honours ahead of Iran's Amir Moradi, who turned in a timing of 3:45.62sec, his season's best effort. Johnson earlier won a silver in the 800m event.

Ending with a bronze was Bahrain's Mohammed Tional (3:45.88sec). Manjit, who had stumbled one and all with his 800m gold, took the fourth position with a timing of 3:46.57sec. India's Asian champion P V Chitra won a bronze in the women's 1500m race in the Asian Games here today. Chitra entered into the race as Asian leader this season but had to settle for a bronze with a timing of 4 minutes and 12.56 seconds. Bahrain claimed 1-2 through Kalkidan Bekadu (4:07.88) and Tigist Belay (4:09.12). Chitra had won gold in the 2017 Asian Championships in a timing of 4:17.92. India's Seema Punia had to settle for the bronze medal in the women's discus throw event at the 18th Asian Games here on Thursday. Seema registered a throw of 62.26 metres to ensure a place on the podium. China clinched the top two positions with Chen Yang (65.12m) and Feng Bin (64.25m) gold and silver respectively.

## Bengal government announce cash award of Rs10 lakh for Swapna

### Governor congratulates Swapna

KOLKATA, AUG 30 /-/ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today announced a cash award of Rs 10 lakh and a government job for Swapna Barman, who won India's first-ever Asian Games gold medal in heptathlon.

Bengal tourism minister Gautam Deb today called on Swapna's family in Jalpaiguri and made her mother speak to the Chief Minister on phone. West Bengal Athletic Association secretary Kamal Maitra told PTI. "The CM announced a cash award of Rs 10 lakh and a government job for Swapna. The minister (Deb) spent about half an hour at Swapna's house, and also assured them full support," Maitra said. Swapna is likely to return around September 3-4 and the WBAA are also planning to felicitate the golden girl from Jalpaiguri. Maitra added. The 21-year-old from Jalpaiguri scripted history in Jakarta when she achieved her



personal best score of 6026 points in the seven-event competition to earn India a first heptathlon gold in Asian Games. Wishes poured in from all quarters including Bengal icon Sourav Ganguly, who congratulated Swapna on her special Twitter handle. "Congratulations to Swapna Barman @Swapna\_Barmans6. For her gold, we in India and Bengal are so happy and proud," Ganguly wrote. Swapna is yet another story in Indian Olympic sports that has seen her battle poverty and physical difficulty to run with hill-fitting shoes that always pinch the six toes on each of her feet. One of the four children of her parents, her story is a story of survival. Seeing his youngest daughter Swapna's interest in sport, her father Panchanan Barman, used to fix bamboo sticks on the field in the backyard of his tin-



Jinson Johnson of India celebrates after the race — REUTERS

## India wins Silver in men's 4x400m Relay

JAKARTA, AUG 30 /-/ The 12th day of sporting events at the 18th edition of the Asian Games 2018 kicks-off in Indonesia on August 30, Thursday. India, at the 9th rank, have bagged a total of 56 medals so far, which include 19 Gold, 29 Silver and 25 Bronze medals. India's 21-year-old Swarna Barman scripted history by winning Gold in the Women's Heptathlon event. She be-

came the first Indian Heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold. Swapna notched up 6026 points across the seven events in Heptathlon to finish on top.

The Athletics contingent continued their impressive form as 25-year-old Triple jumper Arpinder Singh clinched Gold with a stunning effort of 16.77m, ending India's 48-year yellow metal drought

in triple jump at the Games. Mohinder Singh Gill had jumped to Gold in the 1970 Thailand Asian Games. Sprinter Dutee Chand clocked 23.20 seconds to grab the Silver medal in the Women's 200m. Dutee Chand had also finished second (11.32s) in the 100m at the Games. Earlier, Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra won a bronze medal in Table Tennis Mixed Doubles. It

was India's first-ever Asian Games podium finish in the mixed doubles.

In Hockey, the women's team edged past China 1-0, advancing to their first Games final since 1998. India, on the brink to win their second-ever Asian Games gold, take on Japan in the final. India Women's Hockey had finished on top in the 1982 Games.



Gold medalist Yang Chen of China with silver medalist Bin Feng of China (L) and bronze medalist Seema Punia of India (R) during the medal ceremony — REUTERS

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	111	75	53	239
2	Japan	59	49	65	173
3	South Korea	39	46	55	140
4	Indonesia	30	23	37	90
5	Iran	19	19	20	58
6	Uzbekistan	15	19	19	53
8	India	13	20	25	58

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Men's 1,500m: Jinson Johnson bags gold.
- Women's 4x400m: India clinches gold. (Hima Das, Saritaben Gayakwad, Poovamma Raju and Vismaya)
- Men's 4x400m: Silver for India. (Kunhu Muhammed, Muhammed Anas, Arokia Rajiv and Dharun Ayyasamy)
- Discus throw: Seema Punia wins the bronze medal.
- Women's 1,500m: Chitra Unnikrishnan wins the bronze medal.
- Table Tennis: Mouma Das bows out in the Round of 32 of women's singles.
- Equestrian: Medal chances unlikely in the jumping individual final.
- Volleyball: India finishes 12th in volleyball after losing to Myanmar 3-2.
- Hockey: India loses to Malaysia in the men's semifinal.
- No major wins for India in cycling, judo and canoe today.

## Asian Games boxing: India, Kazakhstan sailing in same boat

NEW DELHI, AUG 30 /-/ It's not everyday that Indian boxing finds itself bracketed with a powerhouse like Kazakhstan but that's exactly what has happened at the ongoing Asian Games. What is not particularly pleasing is the stat which binds the two countries in the women's competition. Kazakhstan have just two semifinals in the men's draw and no challenge left in the women's competition at the end of the quarterfinal stage. "Obviously we wanted more, two medals is less than what we had targeted. But I would like to believe it is just one blip. We have equalled the last time's performance in terms of number of medals and hopefully a better colour would be coming along to make the overall show better," Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva told PTI from Jakarta. Kazakhstan topped the boxing medals tally at the 2014 Games with six gold, two silver and two bronze medals, making the ongoing edition nothing short of a disaster for them. It's a dip that India can probably relate to given that the country went from two gold, three silver and four bronze in Guangzhou 2010 to a mere two bronze at Incheon 2014 for men. India has managed to match the 2014 haul for men with two semifinals. And it might get better if the seasoned Vikas Krishan (75kg) and in-form debutant Amit Panghal (49kg) make the finals tomorrow. Despite the slight disappointment, Nieva ruled out any drastic repercussions for how things have gone in Jakarta. "We must always look for things to improve and we will sit down and analyse the performance but I don't believe there will be too many radical changes as of now," he said. "Have a look at how the Kazakhs have done, just two semifinals, which I am sure is not what they might have hoped for." (PTI)

## MOEEN ALI, SAM CURRAN REBUILD FOR ENGLAND



Mohammed Shami celebrates the wicket of England's Ben Stokes — Reuters

Indian seamers continued to impress as England found themselves struggling at 139 for 6 at tea on Day 1 of the fourth Test in Southampton. After Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma rattled the English top order in the morning session, Mohammed Shami bowled brilliantly in the post-lunch session. Resuming on 57 for the loss of four wickets, England lost Jos Buttler (21) early in the second session. Although, Ben Stokes showed resilience, playing a gritty 23-run knock, he was dismissed by a beautiful in-swinging delivery from Shami. Post Stokes' departure, Moeen Ali (30) and Sam Curran (27) stitched an unbeaten 51-run partnership taking England out of trouble. For India, Mohammed Shami took two wickets in the second session