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PAPER WITH PASSION

New twist

The India-Canada row escalates amid US endorsement of Nijjar killing allegations

In recent weeks, global diplomatic relations have seen a shake-up following the growing rift between the India and Canada Governments. The heart of the conflict lies in Canada's allegations of an 'Indian hand' in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent pro-Khalistan Canadian national and a named terrorist by India for his involvement in several violent crimes. The spat is harming the interests of both countries but Canadian PM Justin Trudeau is not letting go because his political survival currently depends on maligning India's name. Meanwhile, there has been a new turn in the case with the US stating that Canada's allegations are "serious," adding fuel to the fiery debate. State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said, "We continue to be deeply concerned about the allegations referenced by Prime Minister Trudeau." He added, "It is critical that Canada's investigation proceeds and perpetrators be brought to justice; we also have publicly and privately urged the Indian Government to cooperate in the Canadian investigation." Nijjar was killed in British Columbia, Canada, by unidentified gunmen which Canada claims were Indian agents. Its intelligence agencies claim that there is credible evidence of Indian agencies' involvement in the murder, though it is yet to be shared with India.



The US statement has caught many by surprise, as it had previously maintained a neutral stance on the matter. This shift in the US position has raised eyebrows and intensified the dispute. The Indian Government has reiterated that it is not its policy to indulge in such acts and that it had no role in Nijjar's killing. The reason for the latest statement is best known to the US Administration but it certainly is doing no good in resolving the deadlock between two friendly countries, both staunch US supporters. The US has of late shifted its weight in favour of India, ostensibly to counter Chinese influence in the Asia Pacific, and gone ahead with several technical and strategic bilateral understandings. If it goes on pointing the finger at India without any proof, that would result in strained relations and the US design of circumventing China in the region would suffer. Nijjar's killing, though tragic and unfortunate, should not be reason for any diplomatic faux pas. India and Canada should amicably resolve the issue together and cooperate in the ongoing investigation, to which the Indian side has assured full support. The deepening rift between India and Canada has broader implications for international relations, too. Canadian insistence on providing haven to terrorists in the name of supporting freedom and liberty could have far-reaching consequences for that country itself. Moreover, its act has already affected the Indian diaspora in a big way as it faces threats and slurs from the emboldened Khalistanis. Where Trudeau wants to go with anti-India posturing to salvage his falling ratings is his call, but the ramifications are fraught with grave danger for both countries.

PICTALK



Fighter jets fly over Sangam area during a rehearsal ahead of the upcoming 91st Air Force Day in Prayagraj

Putting AI to work in business environment

Generative AI is being trained for commercial use like automated customer support, financial forecasting and fraud detection

For enterprises, generative AI holds massive potential, making CIOs the linchpin of customer experience. Powering GenAI's potential requires purpose-built approaches to mitigate the inherent risks of its adoption. Generative AI (GenAI), the basis for tools like OpenAI ChatGPT, Google Bard and Meta LLaMa, is a new AI technology that has quickly moved front and centre into the global limelight.

GenAI for Enterprise: Today, an estimated 60% of IT leaders are looking to implement GenAI. At the same time, concerns exist. Most notably, for about 71% of IT leaders, angst about security creates a barrier to adoption, mandating that approaches, infrastructure, data strategies and security be appropriately aligned. According to the Dell Technologies 2023 Innovation Index report, 59% of Indian businesses are currently investing or exploring the feasibility of investing in AI, Machine Learning and advanced analytics to advance innovation. Finding the right, fit-for-use GenAI model for enterprises is the key to mit-



igating its risks, dispelling concerns and ushering in GenAI's mainstream adoption in the enterprise world. Purpose-built GenAI: To enable that revolution, the way enterprises use GenAI will likely differ from general-purpose Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT. Instead, enterprises are likely to use GenAI models that are trained and tuned to solve specific problems; for instance, to enable automated customer support, financial forecasting and fraud detection. Although LLMs such as ChatGPT can be used for enterprise applications, the accuracy of their results will not match that of a purpose-built model created to meet a specific need.

OTHER MAJOR BENEFITS
Data security: AI's unique capability is handling and analyzing huge datasets with unprecedented speed and efficiency. Simply put, if

AI is a rocket ship, data is the fuel. Enterprises can tune their LLMs with customer purchase history, support or telesales logs, health records, financial records and other data sources. Consequently, securely handling this data will become even more important than it is today. Additionally, some industries, such as healthcare and finance, must comply with stringent regulations regarding data privacy and security. Time to market: Most enterprises will need to update their GenAI models regularly, which is easier to do with purpose-built GenAI models. The time required to train general-purpose LLMs can take months. That's because massive amounts of data are required for training, eclipsing deployment speed and time to market, the very benefits GenAI enables. Reducing time-to-model and facilitating faster data-to-decisions can improve business efficiency.

Performance: Purpose-built models also provide performance benefits over general-purpose models. Specifically, enterprises using third-party general-purpose

LLMs may not be able to optimize performance and reduce the latency of their GenAI workloads. This is problematic for applications that require real-time processing, a key attribute of GenAI adoption.

Cost: The smaller amounts of training data needed for purpose-built GenAI models also translate into cost savings. As a result, purpose-built LLMs often cost far less to train and re-train compared to general-purpose LLMs like ChatGPT.

According to the Dell Technologies 2023 Innovation Index report, India has the highest number of businesses (37%) using AI-based optimisation software to automate processes. For enterprises, in India and across the globe, GenAI holds the profound potential to automate complex processes, improve customer interactions and unlock new possibilities with better machine intelligence — and CIOs are the key to moving it forward.

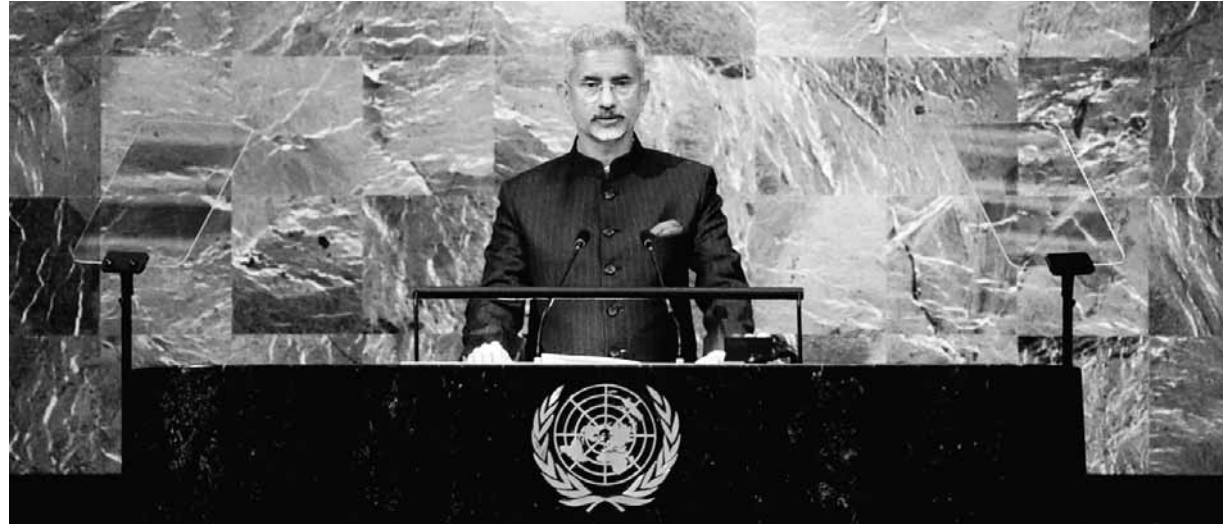
(The writer is Vice President, Infrastructure Solutions Group, Dell Technologies India; views expressed are personal)



MANISH GUPTA

India emerges as a voice of Global South

India has been airing the concerns of the Global South vociferously; S Jaishankar's address at the 78th Session of UNGA was a case in point



India has tried to use consistently the forum of the United Nations not only in pursuing its foreign policy goals effectively but also in projecting itself as the advocate of the Global South. India's leadership quality was demonstrated in the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which made it possible for the Stockholm Declaration to embody several principles that protect the interests of the global south. The legacy of Stockholm carries even today when India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar raised the issue of climate change, mobilising resources for sustainable development goals and reforming multilateral development banks at the 78th session of the UN on 29 September 2023.

This has to be seen in the context of the New Delhi Declaration of G20. The declaration set the direction of future negotiations on important economic issues including climate financing which has for the first time put a \$5.9 trillion figure to green financing requirements for developing countries, reforms in multilateral development banks, international taxation and sustainable development. Although this new green financing requirement does not generate legal obligations for the developed north, it amounts to underlining very clearly that in the context of urgency of restricting global average temperature below 1.5 degrees as compared to industrial level, financial needs will have to enhance over and above 100 billion dollar mark. The requirement of mobilising 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 is the obligation on the part of the developed north.

India as an Advocate in the Context of Climate Change. One agenda item that India has used to position itself as the advocate of the global south is the issue of climate change. The latter is not only a serious environmental challenge but is also a serious economic and developmental concern, which also directly impinges upon realizing the goals of sustainable development. India's contribution is least in the creation of climate change but it

is placed to bear the brunt likewise of many developing countries more. India used its coalitional reach of the global south that the developed countries are historically responsible for climate change and their per capita emissions of greenhouse gases are very high as compared to developing countries. In addition, the developed north is financially and technologically capable of playing a lead role in dealing with the challenge of climate change.

India's arguments relating to climate change galvanized adequate support of the global south in enshrining a regime of differentiation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The idea of differentiation expressed through the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR) has been held responsible for warding off pressure by the developed north that the developing countries should also bear greenhouse gas mitigation obligations. The formulation of the principle of CBDR is being interpreted as an Indian formula that corresponds between the northern advocates of common responsibilities and southern proponents of a main responsibility of the developed north. Although the regime of differentiation has changed as it is reflected in the Paris Agree-



S JAISHANKAR TOUCHED UPON LIFESTYLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN HIS SPEECH AT THE UN, WHICH IS NOT RHETORIC BUT IS GROUNDED IN A REASONED ARGUMENT

ment on Climate Change 2015, it still guides many aspects of climate change and the environment, especially the transfer of finance and technology from the developed north to the developing south.

Mr Jaishankar touched upon lifestyle for the environment in his speech at the UN, which is not rhetoric but is grounded in a reasoned argument. This is an affirmation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's introduction of the mission of "LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)" at the Conference of the Parties meeting of the UNFCCC. The lifestyle for the environment is aimed at engaging individuals in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. In other words, it is also about developing long-term environment-friendly habits. India's lifestyle for environment argument is aimed at curbing and underlining the overconsumption lifestyle more found in the North than in the South. This argument is very close to the argument developed by noted environmentalists Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain in their research titled Global Warming in an Unequal World. They argued in their work, which constitutes a centrepiece of the argument taken by the global south quite often during climate change negotiations, that there is a need to distinguish

between "survival" emissions of developing countries and "luxury" emissions in developed countries.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) shows that lower capita GHG emissions in India are not due to poverty alone, but also to more sustainable lifestyles than in developed countries. For example, CO2 emissions from the agricultural sector from the field to the table are about 0.1 tons CO2/million calories in India against 1.7-2.2 tons in developed countries, inter alia due to a less meat-based diet. CO2 emissions from transportation per passenger kilometre are 16 grams in India against 118 and 193 grams in the European Union (EU) and the US respectively.

This is an era when agriculture systems worldwide are in search of sustainable cropping to deal with existing issues of malnutrition, food insecurity, resource depletion, climate-resilient crops, and environmental problems associated with agriculture, millet is a new tool for India which fits in well with India's efforts in strengthening its narrative of lifestyle for environment.

(The author is a senior Assistant Professor in International Environmental Law at the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's spectacular performance



The will to be progressive helped the Indian Juggernaut roll on and cross the platinum jubilee (the 75 magic figure).Till now, in

Asiad-2023 (at Hangzhou), India has won 76 medals (16 gold, 28 silver, 32 bronze), the largest ever in an ASIAD outing, ranking fourth out of 45 participating nations. (The 2018 Jakarta record of 70 medals is now a thing of the past).Indians have often proved that where there is a will, there is a way.

Every Indian lip and heart are murmuring, "How many more?" For that, we must wait until the final day (8th Oct 2023).In any field, it has become a habit for India to expertly swim against the tide to achieve victory, despite many obstacles such as funding shortages, lack of access to the latest scientific methods and equipment, and unpredictable weather.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunderabad

of External Affairs (MEA), S. Jaishankar, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, has proved beyond doubt that he is the most inefficient Foreign Minister Free India has ever seen.

When the ruling BJP dispensation has gone out of the way to make Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bombings, an MP and lawmaker of the nation, and when criminals convicted in the Bilkis Bano rape and murder case were given premature release, our Independence Day by the BJP-led Gujarat government, it doesn't sound right to accuse the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of protecting terrorists when he has protested against the murders of his citizens on his own soil. Instead of branding those who speak the truth as anti-Indians, it is time for the Modi-led government to introspect on international matters and make more thoughtful decisions.

Tharcuis S Fernando | Chennai

UNITY OVER DIVISION

Sir—No kudos are enough for the author Arundhati Roy for appealing to the people to sink their differences and defeat the merchants of hatred because there is no other option. Else, even the last traces of secularism, democracy, and all ethos of the

Constitution are bound to be crushed beyond recognition.

However, I humbly differ with Roy when she asserts that the saffron ecosystem "makes everyone fight against one another" by playing caste (and communal) games. It must be noted that neither communalism nor casteism can be injected into society unless society itself is casteist and communally-driven in the first place. Perhaps it would not be out of context if some personal experiences are invoked. In my hostel/college life or in office days, I have come across many Muslim batchmates, hostel seniors/juniors, and colleagues. Among the Hindu acquaintances, many are affiliated with various caste groups.

If the general Indian society reforms itself by transcending narrow barriers of caste and religion and views all citizens as fellow Indians and human beings, all the games of caste and religion will be emphatically defeated, rather exterminated from the soil of India, even if the saffronites play such games the "best".

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



NZ STUNS CHAMPIONS ENG Pak face Netherlands in opener



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Unbeaten centurions Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra produced their own version of bruising 'Bazball' as New Zealand hammered defending champions England by nine wickets in the World Cup opener here on Thursday.

After England posted a below par 282 for 9 largely due to Joe Root's pragmatic 77, New Zealand romped to 283 for 1 in just 36.2 overs, courtesy buccaneering hundreds by Conway (152 off 121 balls) and Ravindra (123 off 96 balls).

While New Zealand, who regularly punch above their weight in the ICC events, put the rest of the teams on notice with that brutal onslaught, England will have to do more than one boardroom session to regain some confidence.

Kiwis would thank Conway and Ravindra for that, who creamed a record-breaking 273 off 211 balls during their stunning unbroken second wicket alliance.

For the record, this was the fourth highest stand for any wicket in the World Cup, whereas Conway's ton was his fifth in the format, first in the World Cup and second against England.

Ravindra brought up his maiden century in his 13th ODI and first in the World Cup, while Conway's ton was his fifth in the format, first in the World Cup and second against England.

Having batted only once at the No. 3 position in his fledgling career, Ravindra matched Conway in strokes all around the ground, displaying the authority of a top-drawer player.

Ravindra's outstanding 123 (11x4s, 5x6s) may as well have

caught down the leg for a first-ball duck in the second over.

But after that early success, what transpired was completely demoralising for England, as Ravindra and Conway maintained a strike rate of 125 without a fuss.

Of course, the pitch eased up a bit more, compared to the gripper that it was during the England innings.

Neither Adil Rashid's leg-spin nor Mark Wood's express pace — who was hit for 38 runs in his first three overs — could come to England's rescue.

Earlier, New Zealand made regular inroads to keep England's long batting line-up in check and restrict the defending champions to a moderate 282 for nine.

New Zealand spinners exploited the hot and humid conditions in the afternoon perfectly to be on top against England's free-flowing and aggressive batting approach, while producing a collective bowling performance.

With his part-time spin, Glenn Phillips delivered an unexpected but successful spell of 3-0-17-2 accounting for Joe Root (77) and Moeen Ali (11).

Mitchell Santner's 2 for 37 and pacer Matt Henry's 3 for 48 were the other key performances that helped New Zealand keep England under 300 on a surface that offered a good amount of turn and grip in the first session.

The first runs of the 2023 World Cup came off a six when Jonny Bairstow (33 off 35 balls, 4x4s, 1x6s) cleared the back-square ropes with a flick off the pads on the second ball of the tournament from Trent Boult.

A boundary followed soon as England collected 12 runs off the first over to make their intentions clear, but soon the New Zealand bowlers applied breaks on the Three Lions' innings from which they never really recovered.

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Pakistan would be desperate to plug the gaping holes and hope their star players regain form when they open their World Cup campaign against a free spirited Netherlands here on Friday.

Following a pre-mature Asia Cup exit and defeats in the two warm-up games, Pakistan definitely need to raise their game to go deep in the ODI show-piece.

The problems begin from the top with the opening combination not looking the most threatening in the competition. Imam-ul-Haq averages an impressive 50 in ODIs but on flatter decks in India, he needs to better his strike rate of 82 by a few notches.

Imam is expected to start against Netherlands but the team will need to choose between the destructive but out-of-form Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique who doesn't have the experience of world events.

The big positive for the unpredictable team is that its number three and four, skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, are in sublime touch.

Iftikhar Ahmed too has been getting the runs but it remains to be seen if Salman Agha also gets accommodated in the middle-order.

If the warm-ups are an indication, the game on Friday is expected to be another high-scoring affair with bowlers having no margin for error. Getting used to the varied conditions in India will be another challenge for Babar and his players, who don't get to play in the IPL like the players of other teams.

In the absence of injured Naseem Shah, the Pakistan bowlers were at the receiving end in the couple of warm-ups against New Zealand and Australia.

Pakistan vice-captain Shadab Khan has been struggling since Asia Cup and goes into the opener under pressure. Fellow leg-spinner Usama Mir is breathing down his neck and there is a possibility that both may start against the Netherlands as Pakistan search for wickets in the middle overs.

The seasoned Hasan Ali has big shoes to fill in Naseem's absence as he will open the bowling alongside Shaheen Afridi.

Haris Rauf, who leaked 97 runs in nine overs against Australia, too need to be at his best if Pakistan are to advance in the competition.

Of late, Pakistan have left a lot to be desired in the fielding department and will be looking to correct that.

Netherlands, the only associate team in the competition, cannot be taken lightly and it's only better for Pakistan to face them early in the competition before taking on the bigger teams.

Netherlands, playing their first ODI World Cup since 2011, go into the competition a bit short on game time. Both their warm-ups were hit by rain and they last played an ODI in the Qualifiers in July when they finished ahead of West Indies and another full-member Ireland.

Wesley Barresi, the only one in the current lot who played in 2011, has come out of retirement for his last dance. Former South African left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe, 38, is another key member of the squad.

The team which is packed with semi-professionals will rely on Andhra-born Teja Nidamanuru for runs in the middle-order.

All-rounder Bas de Leede, whose father Tim has also featured in World Cups, is the x-factor player for Netherlands.

Scott Edwards will captain the side. Having come this far, Netherlands have nothing to lose and Pakistan will be wary of that.



OTHER SPORTS

Stimac's contract extended until 2026

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior national team head coach Igor Stimac's contract has been extended until 2026, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced on Thursday, rewarding him for overseeing three title triumphs this year.

As per the contract, the Croat will automatically get an extension by another two years if India qualify for the third round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Former India stopper Mahesh Gawli, the assistant coach of the senior men's team, was appointed as the head coach of the men's U-23 team.

Stimac, a member of the Croatia side that finished third at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, took charge of the Blue Tigers in 2019 and has won four major titles with the side, including two SAFF Championships.

"The federation, the members have decided to extend the contract of our national team, Igor Stimac, until the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers. We have agreed to this, agreed to continue as one team," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said during a virtual interaction.

Stimac was seated beside Prabhakaran and Gawli as the top AIFF official made the announcement.

Most recently, Stimac guided the Indian men's team to the round of 16 at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. It is the



first time in 13 years that the team has progressed thus far in the continental showpiece.

"We are seeking to ensure stability in the national team. What we have experienced in the last few months, winning back-to-back tournaments, the performance on the pitch, even in the Kings Cup match against Iraq was great. We can only progress, we can only improve

Prannoy battles his way to Asian Games medal, Sindhu bows out

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Valiant HS Prannoy battled his way to the semifinals, becoming only the first Indian in 41 years to win a badminton medal in men's singles at the Asian Games but it was curtains for PV Sindhu in women's singles here on Thursday.

Playing with a taping on his lower back and a belt under his shirt, Prannoy battled severe back spasms to dish out a performance for the ages, outshining Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 21-16, 21-23, 22-20 in the quarterfinals to assure India a second badminton medal at the ongoing Games.

India had won a silver in men's team championships last Sunday.

"I think it was a really tough one out there. I think Lee is always a tough opponent. It was a very physical match today for me," Prannoy said after the match.

"I'm not at all in a condition where I could say I'm 80 per cent right. But I think to pull off something like this, I would give a lot of credit to myself. I think the will to fight was always there. So I think that paid off."

After fighting his way through a marathon 78 minute contest, the 31-year-old from Kerala fell on the court in disbelief. He then removed his shirt, fist-pumped and ran into



the arms of chief coach Pullela Gopichand. Prannoy thus ended India's long wait for a men's singles medal at the Asian Games

bronze medalist was ruled out of team championships final due to the back injury as India went down 2-3 to China to settle for a silver.

"It is affecting me. But that's how sport is. You can't be 100 per cent every day. But you have to learn to pull off matches even when you're 60 or 70 per cent. I think today was one of those days when I had to do that," he said.

While it was ecstasy for Prannoy, Sindhu had to endure the pain of returning without a medal for the first time in nine years after she lost 16-21, 12-21 to world No. 5 Chinese He Bingjiao in 47 minutes to bow out of the competition.

Antim wins bronze on tough day for Indian wrestlers

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Tween sensation Antim Panghal humbled Tokyo Olympics medalist Bolortuya Bat-Ochir 3-1 to win a bronze medal but other Indian wrestlers struggled badly at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Antim bounced back after losing to two-time Japanese world champion Akari Fujinami in the quarterfinals in a superb manner as she did not let the

Mongolian attack much in the women's 53kg bronze play-off.

Antim saved the day for the Indian contingent which badly needed a medal after Narinder Cheema (Greco-Roman 97kg), Naveen (Greco Roman 130kg) and Pooja Gehlot (women's 50kg) were ousted.

Pooja was outplayed 2-9 in the bronze medal bout by Aktenge Keunimjaeva, the Asian championship bronze winner.

A lot was expected from Mansi Ahlawat (women's 57kg) too but she ended up losing her bronze play-off by fall to Uzbekistan's Laylokhon Sobirova, who needed just 70 seconds to win the contest.

Antim had come to Hangzhou after winning a bronze at the world championships and she carried her good form into the prestigious event.

Her bronze is only the second wrestling medal of this edition.

In other match-ups,

Cheema lost his quarterfinal 1-3 to South Korea's Lee Seyoel 1-3, while Mansi was defeated 2-5 by Japan's Sakurai Tsugumi in the last-eight round.

Greco-Roman grappler Naveen, too, lost his quarterfinal contest 0-3 to 25-year-old Chinese Meng Lingzhe.

Bajrang Punia (65kg), who was widely criticised for accepting a direct entry into the Asian Games and the supremely talented Aman Sehrawat (56kg), will be in action on Friday.

India to face Pak in kabaddi semis

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

last league match to top group A.

India will next face Pakistan, who finished second in Group B.

Against Chinese Taipei, India inflicted three all-outs on their opponents while the raiders notched four bonus points.

The Indians led Chinese Taipei 28-12 in the first half before pocketing 22 more points as against their opponents' 15 in the second period.

Chinese Taipei also made an all-out on the Indian team.

Later in the day, India led by 24 points at halftime against Japan.

In kabaddi, the two losing semifinalists are awarded bronze medals since the 2010 edition at Guangzhou.

India were bronze medalist in the 2018 edition in Jakarta.