

The week from 05 Aug to 11 Aug 2024

A violent student-led protest in Bangladesh against the controversial reservations policy by the ruling Awami League led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government. Hasina fled to India, as Nobel prize-winning economist Mohd Yunus was appointed Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh.

The Indian Men's hockey team won a bronze, repeating their historic 2021 achievement by beating Spain in the play-off for 3rd place. Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, the hero of the campaign, retired from international hockey after the win. In the course of the campaign India beat Australia at the Olympics after 52 years, with captain Harmanpreet scoring 10 goals, the most in the Games.

Sri Lanka beat India 2-0 in a 3 match ODI series, the first Lankan series win over India in 27 years. Although captain Rohit Sharma sparked, the rest of the Indian batters were not able to cope with the Lankan spin attack on slow turning wickets.

Tokyo Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra secured the silver medal behind Pakistan's Nadeem Ashraf who broke the Olympic record with a throw of 92.97m in the final. The camaraderie between Chopra and Ashraf, and their families, caught the attention of netizens in India as well as Pakistan.

Wrestler Aman Sehrawat, who was orphaned at 11, and began wrestling as a means to survive, became the youngest ever Indian to win an Olympic medal. Aged 21 years and 24 days, he won the bronze in 57kg class by defeating Darian Cruz of Puerto Rico.

President Smt Droupadi Murmu visited Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-Leste. Fijian President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere conferred the highest civilian award of Fiji - Companion of the Order of Fiji - upon President Murmu. The Pacific nation of Fiji, once a British colony, is home to a large Indian diaspora.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 50kg class final but was disqualified for being 100gm overweight. Drastic efforts to lose weight led to her being hospitalised, and she announced her retirement from wrestling. In 2023, she led an agitation against the Wrestling Federation of India, which led to the ultimate suspension of the WFI by the Central Government.

World Lion Day was observed on 10 August. The lion, of which there are two main sub-species, the African and the Indian, is a majestic animal revered in culture and history. The Asiatic lion is now only found in India, largely in the Gir National Park in Gujarat.



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