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## EDITORIAL 01

### Medal count: On countdown to the Paris Olympics and India

*India needs a strong showing in Paris as it bids for 2036 Olympics*

As Paris is ready to host its third Olympics after a century, the 117 Indian athletes are gearing up **earnestly** to increase the country's medal count in the post-COVID Games, kicking off on the banks of the majestic river Seine on July 26. When the pandemic-delayed Olympics were staged behind closed doors in Tokyo three years ago, India claimed seven medals to record its best-ever tally. With the country aiming to bid for the 2036 Games, it is understandable that the government, pumping in money into sports promotion, is **optimistic** about double-digit medals. World and Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is the brightest medal contender for India. The second Indian individual gold medallist after shooter Abhinav Bindra, he is fourth among the leading throwers this season with a mark of 88.36m. To **bolster** his legendary status, he must perform at his peak and overcome several elite competitors. Shuttler P.V. Sindhu, the only Indian





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woman with two Olympic medals, will seek to overcome a **slump** and bag an **unprecedented** third medal. The other two individual medallists from Tokyo, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain will also look to secure second consecutive medals and make history. Mirabai, the women's 49kg silver medallist, has recovered from a hip injury and needs to perform at her best to register a 200kg-plus total for a podium finish. Lovlina, a 69kg Tokyo bronze medallist, will try to live up to her current status — the 75kg World champion.

Another World champion boxer Nikhat Zareen (50kg), former Worlds silver medallist Amit Panghal (51kg), Worlds bronze medallist wrestler Antim Panghal (53kg) and two-time bronze medallist Vinesh Phogat (50kg), who was a prominent face during the wrestlers' protest, World No.3 men's doubles badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be some of the names expected to contribute to the medal **kitty**. Altogether, 21 shooters have qualified this time and will be determined to end Indian shooting's flop show in the last two Olympics. Pistol shooters Manu Bhaker, Anish Bhanwala, and rifle shooters Sift Kaur Samra and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar hold much promise. The Indian hockey team, which ended a 41-year medal drought in

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Tokyo by landing a bronze, will hope to **excel** under new coach Craig Fulton and repeat its glorious performance in Tokyo. An improved medals tally in Paris would lift the country's profile as a sporting nation and help build the momentum for India's aspirations to **embrace** the Olympic movement in the near future.

### SUMMARY

India is preparing to bid for the 2036 Olympics in Paris, with 117 athletes aiming to increase their medal count. The country's best-ever medal tally was seven at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago. With the government investing in sports promotion, India is optimistic about double-digit medals. World and Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is the brightest medal contender, while shuttler P.V. Sindhu, the only Indian woman with two Olympic medals, is expected to bag an unprecedented third medal. Other medallists include weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who are recovering from a hip injury. Other athletes include boxer Nikhat Zareen, former Worlds silver medallist Amit Panghal, Worlds bronze medallist wrestler Antim Panghal, and World No.3 men's doubles badminton pair

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Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. An improved medals tally in Paris would lift India's profile as a sporting nation and help build momentum for its aspirations to embrace the Olympic movement.

## Vocabulary

### 1. Earnestly

**Synonyms:** Sincerely, seriously, intent

**Antonyms:** Casually, indifferently, frivolously

### 2. Optimistic

**Synonyms:** Hopeful, positive, upbeat

**Antonyms:** Pessimistic, gloomy, doubtful

### 3. Bolster

**Synonyms:** Support, strengthen, reinforce

**Antonyms:** Undermine, weaken, diminish

### 4. Slump

**Synonyms:** Decline, drop, recession

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**Antonyms:** Rise, increase, growth

## 5. Unprecedented

**Synonyms:** Unparalleled, novel, unmatched

**Antonyms:** Common, familiar, ordinary

## 6. Kitty

**Synonyms:** Fund, pool, collection

**Antonyms:** Debt, deficit, liability

## 7. Excel

**Synonyms:** Surpass, outshine, exceed

**Antonyms:** Fail, underperform, lag

## 8. Embrace

**Synonyms:** Hug, accept, adopt

**Antonyms:** Reject, shun, exclude



## EDITORIAL 02

### Shock-proof state: On an outage and a democratic digital infrastructure

*India must ensure its democratic digital infrastructure is shock-proof*

A bright light fell on the extent of the world's dependence on information technologies when on July 19, supermarkets, banks, hospitals, airports, and many other services in between suffered a simultaneous **blackout** after a common software solution they used **glitched**. Between then and the time at which the solution's developers rolled out a fix, news of the problem and the resulting downtime spread around the world through the same networks that have been **erected** to facilitate communications between these systems. Technological advancements are **inevitable** and desirable, but the **concurrent** responsibility to set up **failsafes** and emergency protocols is often less glamorous. These gaps are **exacerbated** in societies where the adoption of new technologies is concentrated in sectors competing in the global market and in piecemeal fashion vis-à-vis services provided in local markets. Thus, for example, the





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glitch may have caused an airline operator to suffer greater monetary losses but it would have been more **debilitating** for cardiac facilities at a **tertiary** care centre, or a computer trying to access a thermal power facility during peak demand.

Such glitches are more common than people realise thanks to otherwise **trivial** process- or business-level failures. The focus must instead be on the network interconnections that allow these technologies to be useful and the implementation of life-saving **redundancies**. Unfortunately, unlike most other technological enterprises, information technologies are yet to develop a mature self-awareness of their pansocial character and the **impetus** to adjust for this rudiment lies with the state. This requires a 'Digital India' push that is **cognisant** of software solutions' relationship with digital privacy and data sovereignty, layered over the challenges that income inequality and political marginalisation impose on communities navigating more socially interconnected settings. For example, public distrust in electronic voting machines, stoked by an incomplete understanding of software security among the political class, the judiciary, and civil society, could have been restored with open-source software and modes of integrity testing that violate neither physical nor digital property rights. The July 19 outage

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offers a similar opportunity: to **rejig** the software that public sector institutions need to provide their essential services and to incorporate redundancies, including moving away from single-vendor policies, that preserve the links between these institutions and people engaged in informal economies in the event of a network-level outage. The state was previously duty-bound to develop democratic digital infrastructure. Now, cognisant of more powerful interlinks among social, economic, and cultural realities, it is also duty-bound to ensure that this infrastructure is shock-proof.

### SUMMARY

The global dependence on information technologies was highlighted by the July 19 outage, which affected services such as supermarkets, banks, hospitals, and airports. The state must ensure its democratic digital infrastructure is shock-proof, focusing on network interconnections and implementing redundancies. Information technologies are yet to develop a mature self-awareness of their pansocial character, and the state must adjust for this. A 'Digital India' push is needed, considering software solutions' relationship with digital privacy and data sovereignty, income inequality, and political marginalization. Open-source software and integrity testing could restore public distrust in

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electronic voting machines. The July 19 outage presents an opportunity to rejig public sector institutions' software and incorporate redundancies, moving away from single-vendor policies, to preserve links between institutions and informal economies in case of network-level outages.

## Vocabulary

### 1. Blackout

**Meaning:** In the cyber world, a "blackout" often refers to a temporary loss of access to online services or data, usually due to technical issues, cyberattacks, or deliberate network shutdowns.

### 2. Glitched

**Synonyms:** Malfunctioned, errored, bugged

**Antonyms:** Functioned, worked, operated

### 3. Erected

**Synonyms:** Constructed, built, raised

**Antonyms:** Demolished, dismantled, collapsed



## 4. Inevitable

**Synonyms:** Unavoidable, certain, inescapable

**Antonyms:** Avoidable, unlikely, preventable

## 5. Concurrent

**Synonyms:** Simultaneous, coinciding, parallel

**Antonyms:** Sequential, successive, alternating

## 6. Failsafes

**Synonyms:** Safeguards, protections

**Antonyms:** Risks, vulnerabilities, exposures

## 7. Exacerbated

**Synonyms:** Worsened, aggravated, intensified

**Antonyms:** Alleviated, improved, mitigated

## 8. Debilitating

**Synonyms:** Weakening, incapacitating

**Antonyms:** Strengthening, invigorating, revitalizing



## 9. Tertiary

**Synonyms:** Third, auxiliary, subordinate

**Antonyms:** Primary, principal, main

## 10. Trivial

**Synonyms:** Insignificant, minor, petty

**Antonyms:** Significant, important, substantial

## 11. Redundancy

**Synonyms:** Excess, surplus, repetition

**Antonyms:** Necessity, shortage, brevity

## 12. Impetus

**Synonyms:** Momentum, drive, stimulus

**Antonyms:** Deterrent, hindrance, obstacle

## 13. Cognisant

**Synonyms:** Aware, conscious, informed

**Antonyms:** Unaware, ignorant, oblivious

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## 14. Rejig

**Synonyms:** Reorganize, adjust, rearrange

**Antonyms:** Stabilize, maintain, preserve

