



Press Release

Bhavina Patel assures India a historic Table Tennis medal in Tokyo Paralympics

New Delhi, August 27: Bhavinaben Patel created history on Friday by becoming the first Indian to enter the semifinals of the Paralympic Games Table Tennis competition and confirm a medal for India. The 34-year-old Gujarat-based paddler defeated the defending champion and veteran Borislava Peric of Serbia 11-5 11-6 11-7 in just 18 minutes in their women's singles quarterfinal Class 4 category.

Earlier, Bhavina, who became the first Indian para-TT player to reach the pre-quarterfinals yesterday, beat Brazil's Joyce de Oliveira also in straight games. Bhavina's opponent in the quarterfinals was a gold as well as a silver medalist at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

Competing in her maiden Paralympic Games, Bhavina has been given the best support by the Government in terms of international competitions, assistance towards procuring a Robot 'Butterfly – Amicus Prime' worth Rs 2.85 lakh, an Ottobock Wheelchair worth Rs 2.74 Lakh and a table. Other assistance included support towards Physiotherapy, Dietician, psychologist and coach fee to prepare for the Paralympic Games besides sport-specific equipment.

Bhavina will be in action in the semifinals at 6:10 am (IST) on Saturday.

Compound para-archer Rakesh Kumar recorded a Personal Best score of 699 to be third in the Men's Individual Open Ranking Round. Competing among 36 archers, he will be in action in the Elimination Rounds tomorrow, along with his compatriot Shyam Sundar, who stood 21st. The archers have been provided financial assistance by the Government towards equipment, six international competitions and national coaching camps besides Sports Science support.

Jyoti Balyan, the only Indian Women's Compound Archer in the Games, stood 15th in the Ranking Rounds, while Recurve Archers Vivek Chikara and Harvinder Singh were 10th and 21st respectively.

It was tough luck for women's Powerlifter Sakina Khatun, who finished fifth in the 50kg class with a best bench press of 93kg. Jai Deep, who participated in the men's 65kg category, finished out of the Top 7.



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