



India saw those tense moments in the fourth quarter to win the match 2-1, securing back-to-back bronze medals at the Olympics. Harmanpreet Singh with the goals for India, after Spain had taken the lead through Marc Miralles. Spain gave them a scare after earning a late penalty corner. They had a referral for a penalty stroke chalked off by the officials. In the end, India cleared the ball to see out the final seconds of the match

## Sarpanchji Salute Hai!



Anjali Sharma  
Senior journalist & wildlife enthusiast

The Fields and hockey sticks are favouring India, and it doesn't matter if some others are not. Harmanpreet Singh converted two penalty corners as India beat Spain 2-1 in the men's hockey bronze medal match of Paris Olympics 2024 at Stade Yves-du-Manoir. India thus secured back-to-back medals at the Olympics, having also won bronze in Tokyo three years back, for the first time in 52 years. The last time India won back-to-back hockey medals at Olympics was in 1968 and 1972. Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who was playing his final match for India, made some extra-ordinary saves to deny Spanish captain Marc Miralles from the penalty corners. The Indian players mobbed Sreejesh after the full-time whistle, capping off a brilliant farewell for the 36-year-old.

Sreejesh is fondly called sarpanchji by his teammates, and he has announced his retirement. India captain Harmanpreet Singh, who ends the campaign with 11 goals including two in the final, said that the team wanted to win the gold for the country. He said that while they came close to going all the way, winning gold was not in their fate. He also apologised to the nation for not winning the gold this time, but pointed that Indian hockey is on the rise. Former India captain Manpreet Singh said

that the team wanted to dedicate the medal to PR Sreejesh. Manpreet, 32, said that he has played with Sreejesh, 36, for 13 years and have seen a lot over that period. Sreejesh's last dance and this is what he had to say after the bronze medal match. I think this is the better way to finish among all Games. Thanks to my team, hockey staff and 10A to make this tournament so beautiful. After this game, people may ask me that this will be my last game and I (decided) to play like that. The bronze medal was a desperate wait for the Indian contingent in Paris, which has endured six fourth-place finishes so far, apart from heartbreaking disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat. Spain went ahead with skipper Marc Miralles converting a penalty stroke while India captain Harmanpreet Singh stole the limelight with a brace. Shrugging off their heart-wrenching 2-3 defeat against Germany in the semifinal, India came out all guns blazing to dominate the possession in the first quarter. It was an offensive start from India as they penetrated Spain's defence regularly in the first 15 minutes and created the first scoring chance of the match in the sixth minute. Vice-captain Hardik Singh created a fine move from the right and passed the ball into the D to Sukhjeet Singh, whose shot went just wide of the left side Spanish goal as the Europeans survived. The Spanish came with more purpose and intensity in the second quarter and pressed hard on the Indian goal. They took the lead in the 18th minute through a penalty stroke conversion by



Sreejesh

### President Droupadi Murmu congratulates team India

India vs Spain Live, Bronze Medal: President Droupadi Murmu has congratulated Indian Hockey team for winning the bronze medal in Paris Olympics 2024.

He took to X and wrote, "Heartiest congratulations to our Hockey Team for securing the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics! It is after over five decades that India has won bronze medals in back-to-back Olympic Games. The team deserves highest praise for resurgence of Indian Hockey. They have done India proud. Hurray, India!"

### PM Modi congratulates team India

India vs Spain Live, Bronze Medal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Indian Hockey team for winning the bronze medal in Paris Olympics 2024.

He took to X and wrote, "A feat that will be cherished for generations to come! The Indian Hockey team shines bright at the Olympics, bringing home the Bronze Medal! This is even more special because it is their second consecutive Medal at the Olympics." "Their success is a triumph of skill, perseverance and team spirit. They showed immense grit and resilience. Congratulations to the players."

A big shout out to the South African who took over the team at a precarious time and led them to a bronze in Paris. The tactical work he put on when Amit Rohidas was sent off against Great Britain was just simply remarkable. India saw some tense moments in the fourth quarter to win the match 2-1, securing back-to-back bronze medals at the



President Droupadi Murmu congratulating the Indian Hockey team.

Olympics. Harmanpreet Singh



PM Modi congratulating the Indian Hockey team.

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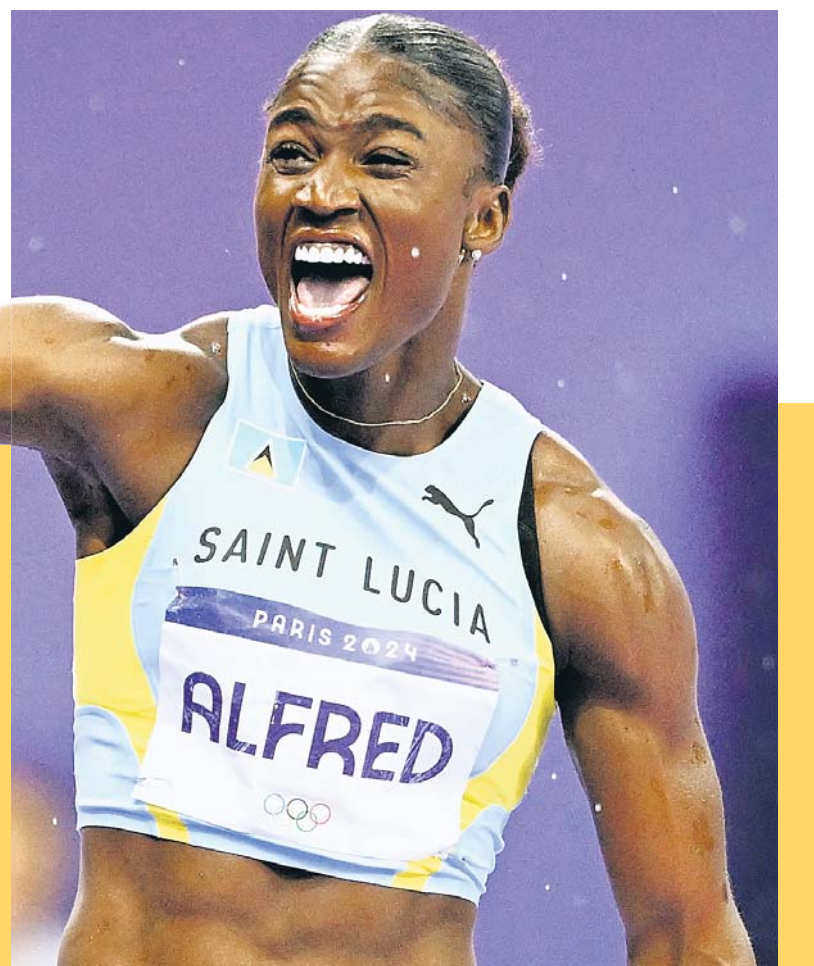
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## It's Not The Size Of Your Country...

"I have put in so much work to be in this position. It would be all that hard work and dedication paying off." "One thing I always say is: Be a bit delusional. Believe in yourself, keep going, and don't give up." Alfred was right. A post on X showed a watch party in Castries, where hundreds of fans gathered to cheer her on, and then broke into dancing, singing, and cheering after she won.



Julien Alfred.



### Betty Boop Day

Betty Boop is a timeless character who never seems to age! Betty Boop got her start in the early 20th century when she appeared as part of the Dizzy Dishes cartoon on August 9, 1930. Many people don't realize that Betty Boop started out not as a human but as a dog! That's right, her big eyes were meant to be reminiscent of a Cocker Spaniel, and what are now her huge hoop earrings started out as floppy ears. When she was originally created, her role was that of the girlfriend of a character named Bimbo, who was also a dog.



Prakash Bhandari  
The writer is a senior journalist

Saint Lucia, an island nation in the Caribbean Sea, has a population of about 1.86 lakh, roughly equivalent to the size of three or four municipal wards in Jaipur. Despite its small size, it is a member

of the Commonwealth. In several Olympics, when India failed to win any hockey medals, people often remarked that in a country of over 130 crore, there was not a single medal winner. The various sports federations and the government faced significant criticism.

When Julien Alfred sprinted to athletics gold in the women's 100m at the 2024 Olympic Games on Saturday, August 3, it was more than just a victory for a single athlete. It was a historic moment for the entire nation of Saint Lucia.

As the first Olympic medal winner from the tiny island nation, Alfred hoped her win would be the first of many, as did her Caribbean island nation.

"Growing up, I used to struggle on the field, running barefoot, in my school uniform, all over the place." The 23-year-old Alfred said, reflecting on her stunning upset over reigning world champion Sha'Carri Richardson of the USA, who had to settle for silver.

"We barely have the right facilities. The stadium is not fixed. I hope this gold medal will help Saint Lucia build a new stadium and help the sport grow."

"I'm going to start crying. I've



Sha'Carri Richardson.

been trying to stay strong as much as possible. This means a lot to me, my coach, and my country, which I'm sure is celebrating now."

She added, "My goals are through the roof. I don't put limits on myself at all. It would mean the world to me (to win an individual medal)."

"I have put in so much work to be in this position. It would be all that hard work and dedication paying off."

"One thing I always say is: Be a bit delusional. Believe in yourself, keep going, and don't give up."

Alfred was right. A post on X showed a watch party in Castries, where hundreds of fans gathered to cheer her on, and then broke into dancing, singing, and cheering after she won. At the watch party, where many gathered to watch the event on a large screen, some spectators were nervous ahead of the semi-finals. Others beamed confidently, certain that Alfred would bring home the gold

medal. As Alfred bolted to the finish line ahead of her competitors in delight, as spectators roared in excitement and screaming in jubilation.

However, some in attendance remained cautious, expecting her to be on the podium. Big up, Julien, I hope you continue to put us where we have never been."

Rhysa Joseph expressed her pride in experiencing such a moment. "The feeling is overwhelming, jubilant. I am so excited for this history-making moment."

She added that Alfred has shown the world that excellence thrives in Saint Lucia, an island of just 238 square miles.

Julien Alfred delivered a brilliant gun-to-tape performance to win the women's 100 meters final on Saturday and claim Saint Lucia's first-ever Olympic medal, though the controversial absence of Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce cast a shadow over the race.

Alfred made her usual slick start and remained clear in heavy rain on a sodden track, finishing in a national record time of 10.72 seconds. World champion and race favourite, Sha'Carri Richardson, took silver in 10.87, but the American never really threatened,

### #OLYMPICS



Map of Saint Lucia showing its location in the Caribbean Sea.

of emotion was unleashed at the square, as spectators roared in delight, as spectators roared in excitement and screaming in jubilation.

With Fraser-Pryce missing from the heat, Richardson was slow out of the blocks and could not overhaul Alfred. It was almost a repeat of last year's World Championships, when Richardson sneaked into the final as a fast loser and won the title from lane nine. There was no repeat this time, however, as Alfred hit her stride brilliantly, and splashed home for a glorious gold. Alfred's victory also ended Jamaica's stranglehold on the event, after

they won the last four Olympic golds, and 10 of the 12 available medals.

All eyes were on Richardson as she attempted to end a long American wait for Olympic women's 100 meters gold.

The Saint Lucian sprinter delivered a brilliant performance, setting a national record of 10.72 seconds to win the 100 meters final, beating world champion Richardson into silver and breaking Jamaica's recent dominance in the event. "I feel honoured just to be an ambassador for my country," Alfred told reporters. "Not many people know about Saint Lucia. Sometimes, I can be in an Uber, and they ask me where I'm from... and they'll be like, 'Where's Saint Lucia?'"

David-and-Goliath stories are common in the Olympics, but perhaps, few are as significant as Saint Lucia versus the United States, or Jamaica.

Saint Lucia had never previously had an athlete on the Olympic podium, while Americans have won well over 300 titles in athletics alone, topping the all-time medal table by a massive margin. Alfred, 23, got herself in the right mindset by watching videos of retired Jamaican 'Great

Usain Bolt' on Saturday morning, and by the evening, she had catapulted herself into her country's own pantheon of greats.

While attending Leon Comprehensive School in Castries, Saint Lucia, her sprinting times were recognized by the school's librarian, when she was running against boys in her grade 1 or 2 class. After losing her father at age 12, she gave up the sport for some time. But her coach, Cutbert Modeste, went to her community and convinced her to return. After moving to Jamaica at the age of 14, she enjoyed her first major international victory with the 100m title at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2017, and then carved her name in Olympic history. Alfred's famous victory, however, took a back seat as the conversation centered on the absence of veteran Olympian Fraser-Pryce. The 37-year-old, competing in her last Games after

firming as injury-induced, social media was ablaze with speculation that the 37-year-old had abandoned the race after being denied entry to the warm-up area at Stade de France.

Footage widely shared on social media showed Fraser-Pryce being denied entry earlier in the day, with security claiming that the gate she was at was not an entrance.

Jamaica's chef de mission, Ian Kelly, later clarified that the runner's absence was due to an injury and not the events earlier in the day when she could not enter the venue.

"Fraser-Pryce was allowed to enter the warm-up track but from another gate, from which she was directed to enter," Kelly said. "There is no truth to the claim that she was not allowed to enter the stadium. Unfortunately, she was not able to compete due to an injury sustained during her final warm-up."

Despite this explanation, there was still anger from netizens, with some speculating that Fraser-Pryce may have been disturbed by the entrance ordeal, leading to her injury. The decorated sprinter posted a vague statement on her social media accounts.

"It is difficult for me to find the words to describe the depth of my disappointment," Fraser-Pryce wrote. "I know that my supporters share and shoulder this disappointment with me. I am truly blessed to have had the steadfast support of my fans since my Olympic debut in 2008."

Depending on the nature of her injury, Fraser-Pryce may still have an opportunity to end her stellar career with a medal. She will be in a race against time to compete in the 100m women's relay, the final of which is scheduled for August 9.

Before Fraser-Pryce's absence from her semifinal lane was con-

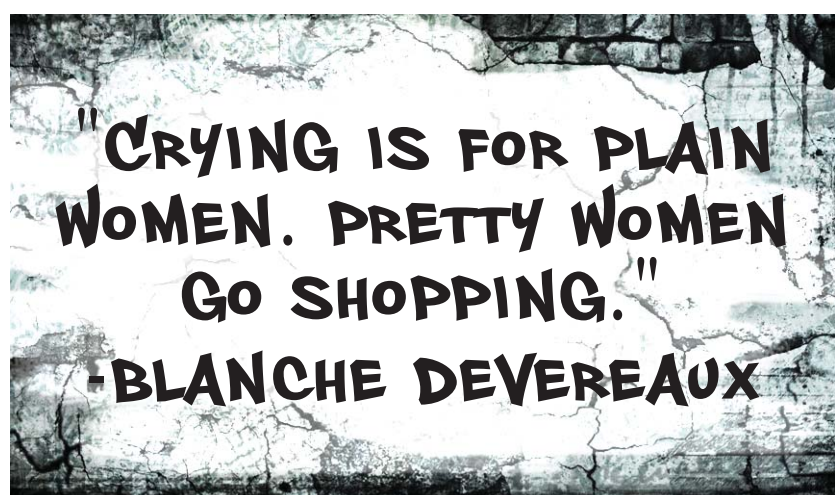
firming as injury-induced, social media was ablaze with speculation that the 37-year-old had abandoned the race after being denied entry to the warm-up area at Stade de France.

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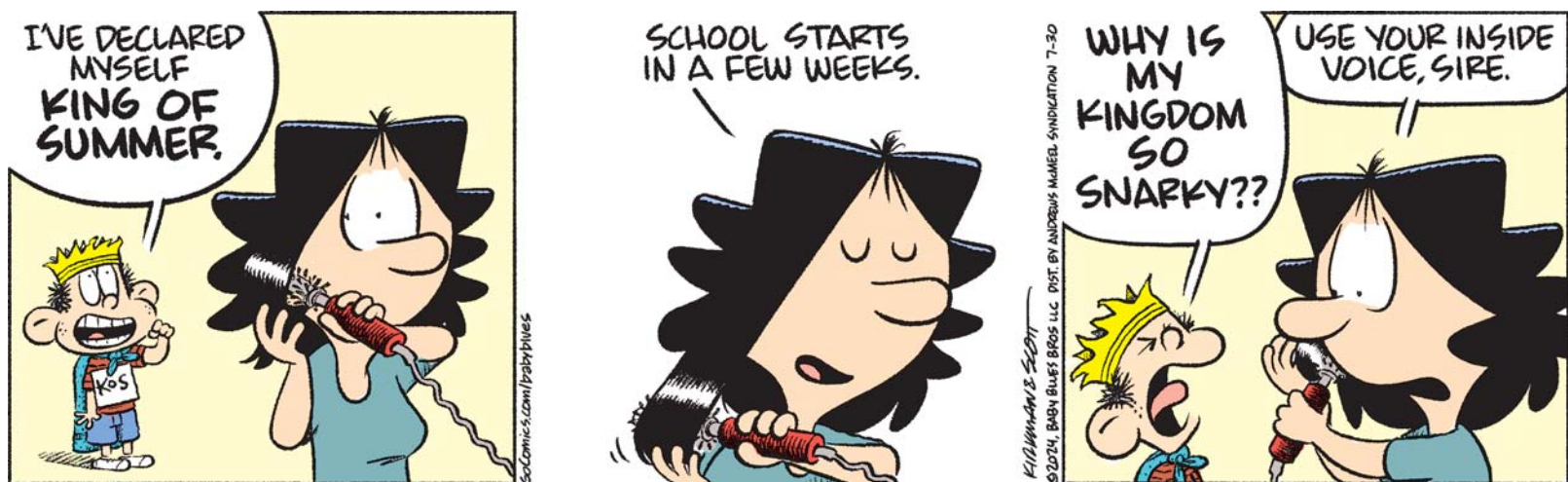


Melissa Jefferson.

### THE WALL



### BABY BLUES



### ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman