

# Wrestler Vinesh Phogat Disqualified

## Why In News

- **Wrestler Vinesh Phogat** was disqualified after the official weigh-in on Wednesday morning, ahead of her scheduled gold medal bout in the evening.
- While she had cleared the weigh-in on Tuesday, **Vinesh was found to be** “a few grams over 50 kg” on Wednesday morning’s weigh-in. She was reportedly 2 kilos overweight on Tuesday night — weight she tried her best to shed overnight but couldn’t.



- **The 29-year-old wrestler, who** became the first Indian female to reach an Olympic final, was one bout away from a historic gold after putting up stunning performances on the way to the final. However, she was disqualified after the mandatory morning weigh-in on Tuesday showed her being overweight by 100 grams.

## Why Does One’s Weight Matter In Wrestling

- **Combat sports** — wrestling, boxing, judo, mixed martial arts (MMA), etc. — are organised according to weight classes. This is to facilitate fair and competitive matches. **Fighters of similar weight** (and thus, size) are more likely to have similar physical attributes, making for a more even playing field. **Without weight classes**, larger and bulkier athletes would have a natural advantage over smaller ones, even if they are not as technically gifted.



## What Are Weigh Ins

- **Athletes in a particular weight class** (say 50 kg) have to weigh equal to, or less than, the stipulated weight. However, one's weight is never static. It constantly fluctuates within a certain range depending on a number of factors, from how much you eat and drink, to how much you sweat, and other bodily functions.



- **Moreover, it is impractical to constantly** monitor an athlete's weight throughout a competition. Thus, combat sports use a system of weigh-ins. There are designated times before (and in some competitions, after) when an athlete has to be weighed, and meet the requirements of their weight class.

- According to United World Wrestling's (UWW) Olympics weigh-in rules, wrestlers are weighed on the morning of their competition, while wearing their singlet. Since the Olympics competition goes on for two days, there are two weigh-ins — there is a 30 minute period on Day 1, and a 15 minute period on Day 2.

## Court of Arbitration for Sports

- Phogat has appealed to the **Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS)** for permission to fight for gold. If it is granted, she has requested to be awarded a joint silver medal. The interim ruling by CAS is expected on Thursday.



- **CAS was established in 1984** and is an international body for settling disputes related to sport through arbitration.
- The CAS headquarters are located in Switzerland and its courts are in New York, Sydney and Lausanne. Temporary courts are also established in current Olympic host cities.