



"Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA," says INDIA alliance

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## SEVERAL LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION INDIA BLOC EXUDED CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WOULD WIN 2024 ELECTIONS



With the battle heating up for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, an informal meeting of the opposition bloc INDIA was held in Maharashtra's Mumbai on Thursday. Various leaders of opposition parties arrived in Mumbai to attend the third INDIA alliance meeting.

Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal after INDIA alliance's dinner meeting in Mumbai on Thursday said there will be nationwide seat sharing. After Thursday's INDIA alliance meeting, when asked if he (Kejriwal) raised the issue of seat sharing in Delhi and Punjab, Delhi CM said, "There will be nationwide seat sharing. We said that this kind of development should

take place everywhere."

Several leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc exuded confidence that they would prove to be a formidable opponent for the government. According to sources, discussions were held in the informal meeting regarding issues that should be put before everyone at the INDIA alliance conference on Friday. The third formal meeting of the opposition bloc INDIA alliance was held on Friday where leaders of all 28 political parties participated to chalk action plan for the next Lok Sabha Polls.

Hours before the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)

alliance leaders met informally in Mumbai on Thursday, the Centre announced that a special session—a rare occurrence in Parliament—will be held, which changed the tone of the Opposition's meeting on election preparations.

On Thursday, Union minister Pralhad Joshi announced via X (formerly Twitter) that the government has called for a "special session of Parliament" to be held from September 18 to 22, adding, that there will be five sittings.

"Everyone was talking about the parliament session. It suddenly became the focus of the meeting as many leaders sought quick decisions pointing out the

changed scenario and bracing for the unexpected," said a senior leader present in the meeting.

At 3.18pm on Thursday, three hours before 63 leaders of the INDIA bloc met informally to strategise for their 'Mumbai Summit' when key decisions about the alliance's future strategy would be taken, parliamentary affairs minister Joshi dropped the news.

Reacting to the announcement, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who addressed the press on the latest revelations on the Adani group on Thursday, dubbed the Centre's decision to call a special session "as out of panic".

## Velu Nachiyar: Brave woman who designed the first suicide bombing in Indian history

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

This is the story of a woman who took on British Forces on a ride. Indian independent history has many names buried in the past and no one really talks about them. History books will never tell you who Velu Nachiyar was, or that she was the first ever queen from India to have courageously fought against the British forces. Neither will they mention Kuyili, who was the commander of Velu's army, and gave the British East India Company a real run for their fortune. We know few selective freedom fighters and history books are filled with these known names but Indian independence has many warriors who fought against Nizams, Britishers and Moguls.

Velu Nachiyar, little-known heroic saga of probably one of the

first movements of active and violent resistance against the colonial autocrats. She was as brave as Jhansi Ki Rani. Women are unknown across the country despite their epic warfare tactics and historic win against the British in the eighteenth century. Velu was the princess of Ramanathapuram and the only child of King Chellamuthu Vijayaragunatha Sethupathy and Queen Sakandhimuthathal of the Ramnad kingdom. Nachiyar was trained in many approaches to battle, including war match weapons usage, martial arts like Valari, Silambam, horse riding, and archery. She was a scholar in many languages and was expert in languages like French, English and Urdu.

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# Editoritis

## Velu Nachiyar: Brave woman who designed the first suicide bombing in Indian history

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*She was academically strong, very skilled in armor and a beautiful woman. She married the king of Sivagangai, with whom she had a daughter.*

*When her husband, Muthu Vaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar was killed in a battle with EIC soldiers in 1780, she was drawn into the battle.*

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She was academically strong, very skilled in armor and a beautiful woman. She married the king of Sivagangai, with whom she had a daughter. When her husband, Muthu Vaduganatha Periyavudaya Thevar was killed in a battle with EIC soldiers in 1780, she was drawn into the battle. Velu Nachiyar ran away from Sivagangai as an escapee and sought the help of Hyder Ali. Hyder Ali helped her with 5,000 soldiers and gunpowder weapons. Initially Hyder Ali refused but later agreed to help her with soldiers, arms and training. Velu Nachiyar sought the help of rich merchants as well. After eight years of planning along with support of many mediaeval lords, Tipu Sultan, Marudhu brothers and Thandavarayan Pillai she fought against the British East India Company.

When Velu Nachiyar found the place where the EIC stored some their ammunition, her commander Kuyili made a suicide attack on the ammunition depot, blowing it up. Nachiyar re-inherited the kingdom of her husband, and ruled it for ten more years. In 1790, she was succeeded by her daughter Vellacci. She granted powers to her daughter with the Marudu brothers to help with the administration of the kingdom.

An agreement was reached whereby Rani Velu Nachiar was permitted to govern the Sivaganga Country and Chinna Marudu, the younger was appointed her minister and the elder Vellai Marudu as the Commander-in-chief. Thus, the widow Queen Velu Nachiar succeeded her husband in 1780. The Queen Velu Nachiar granted powers to Marudhu Brothers to administer the country in 1780. Rani Velu Nachiyar was the first queen to fight for freedom from the British in India. She granted powers to the Marudu brothers to administer the country in 1780. Velu Nachiyar died a few years later, on 25 December 1796.

Kingdom of Sivaganga, British India (now in Tamil Nadu, India). She significantly contributed to establishing



the initial platform for India's freedom from British rule. She worked with many freedom fighters, and with their help, she was able to take over Sivaganga again from the Britishers. Her courage and determination made Rani Velu Nachiyar the first queen in India who fought against the Britishers for India's freedom. All she wanted was take revenge for her husband's murder and win back her kingdom and she succeeded in her battles.

*Vaidehi Tamam*

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### 'kissa Kursi Ka'!

Too many cooks spoil the broth & a consortium of Party's without ideologies & an agenda will not last for long. Each Party on the INDIA platform has one single goal of displacing Narendra Modi as Prime Minister but no road map for governance & taking the nation forward on the path of development & progress. The consortium will take fewer time to disintegrate than the time it took to form, the moment they meet to decide who will be their leader & future PM. Every leader in their consortium has corruption charges against their name & no track record of fair governance.

Modi's stature has risen by leaps & bounds in the last 9 years as PM, both in India & globally. He is seen as a mass leader with no real competition for the upcoming Parliamentary elections next year. The role of opposition is important in the success of democracy & opposition leaders should first work to strengthen their own party in their states from the grassroot levels & than have bigger ambitions of coming to power at the Centre!

S.N.Kabra

### Unemployment Young

Prime Minister addressed from the Red Fort that India has the largest number of young people in the world and a golden future awaits them. Economic outlook data released by CMIE showed 65,000 jobs were lost in the country in the last seven years, while as per the rules of statistics, there are seven crore (one crore per year) additional young people looking for work. A total of 41.27 crore people were employed in 2016-2017 but their number decreased to 40.58 crore in 2022-2023.

In this regard, youth in the age group of 15-30 years took the biggest hit because their employment decreased by Rs. 3.25 crore during the period, i.e. from 25% to 17%. Meanwhile, employment rates among people aged 45-60 have increased from 37% to 49%. Youth power can be fruitful only when the country makes proper use of their mental and physical labour. The entry of one crore new youths into the job market every year in the country, and this too in a market where there are already one crore unemployed, will remind the planners of the promise of Prime Minister. They have to think where is going wrong? If the GDP numbers are so encouraging, why is employment declining? This report is a wake-up call for policy reform.

N Ashraf

### Phrontistry is Loving Home, not Communal poisonous

The disturbing video clip in which a teacher of a private school in Uttar Pradesh is seen sowing the seeds of communal bias and violence in the impressionable minds of her students is a reflection of a social situation that is, sadly, contrary to the national motto of "unity in diversity". That she should point out the Muslim identity of the boy and humiliate him by making his classmates slap him.

A thorough investigation should be done If found guilty of inciting hatred, the teacher should be given exemplary punishment that would serve as a warning to all those who look at people through a communal prism, especially those belonging to the disadvantaged or minority sections of society. That Islamophobia is becoming the elephant in the classroom is evident from the increasing frequency of such cases being reported. In this atmosphere of political polarisation, educational institutes should set an example by preaching and practising communal harmony. Otherwise, the social fabric of our country would be in danger of becoming tattered.

Mohammad Taukir

# How Kasavu sarees represent Kerala in all its glory?



The Zari utilized in the border of the Kerala sari is what is referred to as Kasavu, not the sari itself. It is the name of a substance that is employed in manufacturing. As a result, a Kasavu Mundu is what is created when Kasavu is incorporated into the mundu (dhoti). the golden borders of the saree, which reflect the sun's rays and evoke memories of Kerala landscapes, contrast with the white colour of the saree, which is thought to represent nature's pristine and undisturbed beauty. Together, the saree honours the area's luxuriant foliage and abundant natural beauty. Kerala's traditional Kasavu sari stands out for its beauty and aesthetic restraint in a nation filled with

a wide variety of designs and vibrant colours. However, its straightforward exterior belies a rich cultural history and distinctive design.

In the past, the Kasavu threads were made of pure gold and stood for elegance, success, and fortune. However, when gold grew rare and more costly, craftspeople started combining gold and copper-coated silver threads, giving the sarees their distinctive golden tint while also making them more cost-effective. Did you know that it takes around three to five days to complete a basic Kasavu saree with a simple border? It takes longer for those with heavier work and patterns. The price of the sarees is determined

by the length of time required for manufacture as well as the amount of gold used in the Zari or Kasavu.

The Kerala saree has gained popularity in modern times, not just in Kerala but also throughout India and internationally. A wide variety of Kerala sarees are available, with costs varied according to the material, pattern, and craftsmanship.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# NCP chief Sharad Pawar slams BJP for calling INDIA alliance as 'Ghamandia'

Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar on Friday slammed the BJP for terming the opposition bloc INDIA "ghamandia" and said that the jibe smacks of the ruling party's arrogance.

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) here, Pawar asked, "Who is a ghamandia... those who don't even like us meeting and interacting." The former Union minister said the INDIA alliance has offered a credible alternative to the country's people.



"We will never do anything wrong. We will try to bring those taking the wrong side on the right path. But we won't hesitate to sideline those who

refuse to take the right path," Pawar said. While working in politics, Pawar said, one needs to keep their feet firmly on the ground. "But the BJP seems to

have forgotten this and called us ghamandia. In a democracy, meetings and interactions over programmes and policies are necessary," he said.

Earlier, calling the bloc "ghamandia alliance", the BJP had said it was a selfish grouping. It alleged that leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Lalu Prasad Yadav were more likely to be driven by the future of their children in politics than the country's development. Pawar said the alliance leaders discussed serious issues concerning the country and their future strategy. "Each state has different issues. Farmers, workers and youths also have different sets of problems. People are not happy with the BJP government," he said. Pawar said 68 leaders from 28 political parties attended the meeting at Grand Hyatt. PTI

## Woman repeatedly raped in pretext of marriage in Navi Mumbai, one held

A 32-year-old woman was allegedly repeatedly raped by a man on the promise of marriage and forced to undergo abortion, Navi Mumbai police said on Friday.

Based on a complaint, the police on Thursday registered an offence under sections 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on a same woman) and 313 (miscarriage without the consent of the mother) of the Indian Penal Code against the accused, an of-

ficial said.

The victim, a resident of Kalamboli, has alleged that the accused befriended her and promised to marry her. He allegedly raped the woman on multiple occasions in Pune, Airoli, Panvel and Kalamboli, he said. The accused impregnated the woman and forced her to undergo an abortion, the official said, adding that the case has been transferred to the Pune police, as the crime began there. PTI

## Bombay HC says, "Cscope of the SC/ST act cannot be limited to the person's state of origin"

The Bombay High Court on Friday observed that the scope of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act cannot be limited to the state where a person is declared as being part of the community, and said holding otherwise would defeat the purpose of the enactment.

A full bench of Justices Ravati Mohite Dere, Bharati Dangre and N J Jamadar in their judgment said the Act was enacted to prevent atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and was intended to remove humiliation and harassment meted out to members of a



class and to ensure them fundamental, socio-economic and political rights.

The bench in its order held that the scope of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) cannot be limited to the state where a person is declared as a

member of the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community. "The person is also entitled protection under the Act, in any other part of the country, where the offence is committed, though he is not recognised as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe there," the court said. PTI

## INDIA alliance will fight 'mitra parivarvad', says Uddhav after oppn conclave in Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday asserted the INDIA bloc will fight and defeat "mitra parivarvad", an oblique reference to crony capitalism, in the country as the opposition grouping wrapped up its two-day conclave in Mumbai. Speaking at a press conference organised after the end of the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), Thackeray, who hosted the gath-

ering, said the bloc consisting of more than two dozen political outfits is a coalition of patriotic parties ranged against "mitra parivarvad". "When elections come there is slogan of 'sabka saath sabka vikas (togetherness of all, development for all)... but after elections are over it is sabko laath and mitron ka vikas (development of friends by ignoring others). We will not allow this," said the former Maharashtra CM. PTI

## A man held for thrashing RPF officer for stopping him over urinating on Nalasopara railway station

A 43-year-old man has been arrested for thrashing a Railway Protection Force personnel after the latter objected to him urinating on a railway station premises in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Friday.

Around 1.15 am on Thursday, an RPF jawan spotted the man, later identified as Chand Badsha Ajij Khan, relieving himself near the booking office at Nalasopara railway station, on



the outskirts of Mumbai, the official said.

When the uniformed personnel asked Khan not to dirty the station premises, the accused abused and thrashed him, the official. The Vasai Government Railway Police later arrested

Khan. A case has been registered against him under Indian Penal Code sections 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). PTI

## Nation

### 1995 double murder case: SC orders life sentence to RJD ex-MP Prabhunath Singh



The Supreme Court on Friday sentenced Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP) Prabhunath Singh to life imprisonment in a matter pertaining to the 1995 double murder case. The order was pronounced by a bench of justices,

including Sanjay Kishan Kaul, AS Oka, and Vikram Nath. The court directed Singh and the Bihar government to compensate the victims by paying Rs 10 lakh each to the deceased family and Rs 5 lakh to those injured.

The apex court held Prabhunath Singh guilty in the murder

case on August 18 and overturned the Patna High Court's order, which acquitted him earlier. On August 18, the court scheduled September 1 as the next date of hearing. Outlining the investigation done by the prosecution agency, the court noted that the investigation report shows how Singh used his power to influence the case in his favour, as he was a powerful person and a sitting MP of the ruling party. The top court had said that Prabhunath Singh is liable to be convicted under Sections 302 and 307 of the IPC for committing culpable homicide amounting to murder and an attempt to murder. The Court further noted that there was sufficient evidence to show his involvement in the case. ANI

### 'one nation, one fertiliser' scheme: CPI MP writes letter to PM Modi over raising concerns in this scheme

CPI MP Binoy Viswam has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising concerns over the naming of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna (PM-BJP), and questioned the 'one nation, one fertiliser' scheme for using the PM-BJP branding and printing PM's photograph on fertiliser. In a letter, Viswam said farmers deserve clarity, choice, and transparency in choosing fertilisers. He said the rationale behind unifying all fertilisers under one name is "unclear." "Both public and private fertiliser companies have worked in the

sector. A single name for all these fertilisers not only diminishes the identity and value these companies have built but may also lead to confusion among farmers who rely on specific products for specific needs. "Moreover, the decision to print 'PM-BJP' prominently on fertiliser bags raises further concerns. The abbreviation "BJP" in the name and logo, which also represents the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, can easily be misconstrued as a political branding exercise, especially with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024," he said. PTI

### Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "It will be impossible for the BJP to win the polls if the parties unite as the INDIA alliance represents 60 per cent of India's population"



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asserted that it will be impossible for the BJP to win the polls if the parties unite as the INDIA alliance represents 60 per cent of India's population. "This stage (INDIA alliance) represents 60 per cent of India's population. If the parties in the state unites it is impossible for the BJP to win. The task is to come together in the most efficient way possible," Rahul Gandhi said.

He further said that Today, two very big steps were taken, "Forming a coordination committee and the decision to expedite seat-sharing discussions--are the two steps necessary to ensure that the INDIA alliance defeats the BJP." "I am confident that the INDIA alliance will defeat the BJP. The real work in this alliance is the relationships that

are forged between leaders of this alliance," he further added. He further mentioned that the past two meetings have done a huge amount of work to build rapport and to ensure that we all work as one. After the meeting of the Opposition INDIA alliance, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Friday said that a resolution has been passed and four main committees have been formed.

The 14-member Coordination Committee and Election Strategy Committee includes KC Venugopal (INC), Sharad Pawar (NCP), TR Baalu (DMK), Hemant Soren (JMM), Sanjay Raut (SS-UBT), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Raghav Chadha (AAP), Javed Ali Khan (SP), Lalan Singh (JDU), D Raja (CPI), Omar Abdullah (NC), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), one more member from CPI(M) to also be announced. ANI

### 'One Nation One Election': Former President to explore the possibility of it, Constitutional amendment needed: say experts

As the Union government has constituted a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of 'One Nation, One Election', former chief election commissioner OP Rawat weighed in on the matter, saying it was possible and all that is needed is an amendment in the Constitution. "Framers of the Constitution had kept the provision of One Nation One Election in the law and in the Constitution. In 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967, both state assembly and nation happened together. Since 1967, it started going out of sync and started the phenomenon round the year election. The election commission had in the year 1982-83 put forward a suggestion



to bring an amendment (to the relevant law) so that one nation one election can again be held simultaneously. The suggestion did not fructify then.

"In 2015, the government asked the election commission whether one nation one election was possible, to which it replied 'Yes it is and we can do it if the constitution is amended' and amendments are made in Representation of the People Act, 1951." Asked

what is the difficulty in implementing it, he said, "There is one difficulty in the present situation and that is to make amendments in the constitution and law. It is the government's responsibility to make those amendments through the Parliament and by taking all political parties on board. Without amendments, the election commission is bound by law to hold elections as and when polls are due in the states." ANI

### Congress and SAD demanded that AAP punjab CM should own moral responsibility for the decision to dissolve all gram panchayats, instead of trying to make scapegoats of two IAS officers

The Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal Friday demanded that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the minister concerned should own moral responsibility for the decision to dissolve all gram panchayats, instead of trying to make scapegoats of two IAS officers in

the matter. This demand comes a day after the Punjab government took a "U-turn" by informing the high court that it is withdrawing its notification dissolving all gram panchayats in the state, and a few hours later, suspended two senior IAS officers for the decision. Rural Development and

Panchayats Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar Thursday said the state government suspended the principal secretary and director of the rural development and panchayats department with immediate effect for taking a "technically-flawed" decision regarding the dissolution of panchayats. PTI

World

# American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy hits out at critics, “debunks myths”, says “knives are out”

Indian-American entrepreneur and Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy hit out at his critics and said that the “knives are out” against him pertaining to him surging in the race. Ramaswamy gave clarification over two of the speculations regarding him; that he made money from an Alzheimer’s drug and that he is ‘anti-Israel’.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Ramaswamy wrote, “We’re surging. The knives are out. ‘Alzheimer’s Drug.’ ‘Israel.’ ‘Iran.’ Here’s the TRUTH. Stay skeptical. Keep the questions



coming & I’ll keep answering”.

The GOP candidate said that he would address each of the crit-

icisms and “debunk the myths” because he is running for the US President.

“We are continuing to surge, and that means the knives are continuing to come out. So, we’re

gonna keep debunking the myths as they come up because I think it is important to be transparent and address criticism. As part of what it means is that if you can’t handle the heat, you stay out of the kitchen. And I am running for the President of the United States. So, we are going to address each of these criticisms as they come out,” he said.

Refuting the allegations that he made a lot of money from a failed Alzheimer’s drug, Ramaswamy said that the drug failing was “extremely painful” for him. ANI

## 'Standard Map' of China: After India, four other nations also registered a protest



After India and four other nations — Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and the Philippines — registered strong protest over China’s so-called “standard map”, Vietnam too rejected all claims by Beijing in the East Sea region in the Indo Pacific. Hanoi has strongly reiterated its consistent stance on the sovereignty over Hoang Sa

(Paracel) and Truong Sa (Spratly), and resolutely rejected any maritime claims of China that are based on the “nine-dash line” in the East Sea, Vietnam-based news platform ‘Vietnam +’ reported.

The spokeswoman of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pham Thu Hang on August 31 made the statement, while answering questions on Vietnam’s

response to the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)’s release of the so-called “standard map 2023” which covers Vietnam’s Hoang Sa and Truong Sa

“The issuance of the map as well as China’s “nine-dash line” claim show a violation of Vietnam’s sovereignty over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, as well as Vietnam’s sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its waters as stipulated in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS),” Vietnam + quoted Hang as saying. “Therefore, the sovereignty and maritime claims based on the “nine-dash line” as reflected in the map are void and violate international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS,” she added. ANI

## US: 16 members of major crime were arrested for allegedly committing multiple violent armed robberies targeting Indian and other Asian jewellery stores

A total of 16 members of a major crime ring have been arrested for allegedly committing multiple violent armed robberies targeting Indian and other Asian jewellery stores across four east coast US states in a span of one year. Federal law enforcement arrested eight suspects on Wednesday, while the remaining eight were apprehend-

ed previously, according to a release by the US attorney’s office, District of Columbia. According to the indictment, between January 7, 2022 and January 27, 2023, the defendants conspired in the District of Columbia to commit robberies in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida, targeting jewellery stores owned by Asian Americans. PTI

## ASEAN summit: Chinese PM Li Qiang to visit Indonesia



Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang will visit Indonesia to attend a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) being held from September 5-8, the foreign ministry here said on Friday. The announcement comes amid reports that there is a possibility that China may send Li for the G20 summit to be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 as chances of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s participa-

tion in the event are very low. At the invitation of President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, the current ASEAN chair, Premier of the State Council Li Qiang will attend the 26th China-ASEAN Summit, the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from September 5 to 8, and pay an official visit to Indonesia, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. PTI

## Pakistan: Court orders release of Pervez Elahi who was working with former PM Imran Khan's party

Pakistani court on Friday ordered the immediate release of the president of former prime minister Imran Khan’s party, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, from the custody of the anti-graft agency in a corruption case, and warned it against arresting the former Punjab chief minister in any other case, according to media reports. Jus-



tice Amjad Rafiq of the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the release of the President of

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) failed to produce Elahi in the court on one pretext or another despite strong orders issued by the Court, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. “The LHC has ordered authorities to immediately release former Punjab chief minister Pervez Elahi,” the report said. PTI

## Expression

# Neeraj Chopra: The Golden Boy Created History



Lalit Garg

Columnist

Among the happy news and records that the country is getting continuously, Neeraj Chopra set another record. For the first time in four decades, an Indian winning a rare gold medal for the country at the World Athletics Championships is nothing short of creating a new history. Neeraj Chopra's gold medal win in Javelin Throw competition will be considered like raindrops in a drought. A ray of this light has given the countrymen the light of happiness, has given a message that if a single person of the country is determined to move forward with determination, he can reach the summit; can make the world a dwarf, can lift the heads of the inhabitants of the whole country. When the news of this historic and memorable achievement was published in the newspapers, everyone felt joyous.

Neeraj's journey as a sportsperson has been through many struggles, storms and challenges. Few years ago he was a young man troubled by increasing weight. At the age of 13, his weight had increased to 80 kg, due to which other children of his age used to tease him. Starting from there, Neeraj not only trained his body, but disciplined his mind and focused in such a way that he kept moving forward, creating records. But his feet are on the ground and when he throws the javelin, he goes far and creates a golden history. That's why till now no athlete has been able to bring glory to the country, Neeraj has brought it. But it is not just about this one gold. There are many things associated with this achievement of his which make him special. In making him special, where his dedication, hard work, loyalty and sportsmanship remained, he won gold in Asian Games in 2018 and then Commonwealth Games in 2018, Gold in Tokyo Olympics in 2020, Silver in World Championship in 2022, Gold in Diamond League in 2022 itself and his charisma of bringing gold in the World Championship in 2023 says a lot, the biggest thing is that he kept



improving his performance during this period.

He has also taken Indian sports to the top of the world. The most important question in this achievement-rich atmosphere is why the most populous country in the world has not been able to achieve the status it deserves in sports? Do we not have the atmosphere of sports here or due to lack of facilities the players are not able to move forward? Or is sports also a victim of politics? These questions arise because India is far behind in the list of countries that have won medals so far in the World Athletics Championships. Kenya, a country with a population of just five crores, has reached the second position with 65 gold medals. At the same time, Cuba, a country with a population of one crore, has put 22 gold medals in its bag in the World Championships. Talking about the Olympic Games, India's performance there has also been disappointing.

In the 127-year history of the Olympic Games, apart from hockey, we have got only two gold medals so far. Of these, one is in the name of Neeraj Chopra and the other is Abhinav Bindra. It is not that the country has not caught the pace of development after independence. India has touched new heights of progress in every field. Be it science or space, the country has made a distinct identity in the world. At this time we have become the fifth economic superpower of the world. Tricolor was hoisted on the moon six days ago. Because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's talk is given importance in the world. Amidst all

these achievements, the question arises that why are we lagging behind in sports? Are sports federations responsible for this? Politicians and bureaucrats who have encroached upon sports associations for years, are they not becoming an obstacle in the journey of development of sports?

At a time when Indian scientists have raised their flag in the field of space exploration by landing Chandrayaan near the south pole of the moon and young talents like Praggnananda in chess are showing new hopes, this achievement of Neeraj Chopra not only boosts the morale of the countrymen but also it not only elevates, but also gives confidence and inspiration to do better in other areas and gives courage to make the nectar of freedom. Neeraj set a record by throwing the javelin at a distance of 88.17 meters and proved that this country can do wonders if Indians themselves look at sports born in the soil of India with respect. If the truth is asked, Neeraj Chopra has become the 'superhero' of sports of Indian origin. Before him, this status has been achieved only by wrestling wrestler Ghulam Muhammad Baksh alias 'Gama' or by Major Dhyhan Chand, a hockey player who participated in the Olympic Games.

The contribution of Neeraj Chopra is big and great because he has given world prestige to rural and indigenous sports. Even though the game of cricket is more popular in India due to economic and dazzling thinking, where is the real spirit of the game? Compared to him, by dedicating his life to sports like javelin throw, Neeraj

worked to give a new direction and a new destination to the new generation of India and gave the message that if Indians want, they can also take the events called rural sports to the world stage.

Players like Neeraj Chopra are not less here. If the players get proper environment, training and facilities, then they can pile up medals, create new records. Records are always meant to be broken and breaking is a sign of progress. Neeraj is at the peak, so the efforts to touch him did not stop. There is limitless expanse to soar. When a player participates in our sports on the basis of his ability, he is neither a Hindu nor a Muslim, but an Indian or an Indian citizen. Our sports and players are also an example to show the strength of India's unity. So the existence of religion or religion is strictly a personal matter for us. Pakistan's player Arshad Nadeem was a little behind Neeraj Chopra last time as well and this time also this player was successful in winning the silver medal. Those who take sarcasm on the friendship of Neeraj and Arshad, also try to give communal colour to the sports.

Whenever a Neeraj picks up a spear and covers a great distance, or an Arjuna picks up a bow, takes aim, two hundred and eighty crore hands get stretched, one hundred and forty crores have a determination, a sense of concentration and many Neeraj are born. In our country, every bat lifter thinks himself Gavaskar-Sachin, every ball catcher thinks himself Kapil. Every player holding a hockey stick thinks himself to be Dhyhan Chand, every player holding a tennis racket thinks himself to be Ramanathan Krishnan. There are many other names, Milkha Singh, P.T. Usha, Prakash Padukone, Geet Sethi, who have become the measure of the height of sports. Today Neeraj has also become a measure and the one who becomes a measure is the best condition for the upliftment and progress of man. This is exemplary. Whoever establishes value, whoever creates merit, whoever creates, who increases the pride of the country, which is sung in songs, salute him. Salute to Neeraj's spear! Salute to his resolution!! Congratulations on his faith!!!

# Entertainment



## Actress Ileana D'Cruz shares glimpse of her baby, shares pictures on social media



Actor Ileana D'Cruz is currently enjoying the most amazing phase of her life, Motherhood! On Friday, the actor took to her Instagram stories and shared a new picture with her son Koa Phoenix Dolan.

She wrote, "Mornings with my baby." In the monochrome picture, the 'Main Tera Hero' actor could be seen lying on the bed with her baby. Ileana welcomed her first child on August 1 and revealed the name and news with her fans days later. She introduced her first child by sharing cute picture on August 5. **ANI**

## Director Sujoy Ghosh reveals about how Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan did the OTT debut

Kareena Kapoor Khan is all set to make a foray into the digital world with the Sujoy Ghosh-directed film 'Jaane Jaan'. The film is a screen adaptation of one of Japanese writer Keigo Higashino's most acclaimed works, 'The Devotion of Suspect X'.

Sharing how Kareena came on board, Sujoy said, "It felt like the universe was at work because it was such a huge coincidence that led up to Kareena being cast in the film. When I first got the rights to the film, I had told no one about it. It was right then that Kareena called me up talking about how she wants to be a part of a film like this. What are the odds!!!"

"For me, after having this script for 11 years, having Kareena play the role of Maya made sense instantly, it was a meant-to-be kind of situation. Her passion for the story and her eagerness to deliver the performance with utmost sincerity is what makes the story even more special" the director said in a statement. **ANI**



## Rumoured Lovebirds Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya Panday spotted at Goa Airport

The newest rumoured couple of town, Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday snapped together again at Goa Airport after their beachy vacation. Social media is flooded with pictures and videos of Aditya and Ananya from Goa airport.

In the pictures, the duo can be seen in a casual outfit. In the pictures, the duo can be seen in a casual outfit. In one of the videos, the 'Dream Girl 2' actor is seen handing over something to her beau. The lovebirds have been spotted together on several occasions. Recently, they were spotted at the Mumbai Airport as the duo returned from their trip to Lisbon. **ANI**