



## Editorial

### 'India' walked two and a half miles

After the fourth meeting of the opposition alliance 'India', it can be said that it has become somewhat active, some decisions have been taken, the desire to win the elections has arisen and for the first time the name of Mallikarjun Kharge has emerged as the face of the Prime Minister. Although the alliance's common minimum programme, secretariat, logo etc. are still under consideration, the proposal for the convenor or prime ministerial face was put forward by Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress President Mamata Banerjee, who was also supported by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister. Leaders of 12 parties including Kejriwal approved. Mamta-Kejriwal had taken this decision without informing Congress. Their strategy was that if the first Dalit Prime Minister and an experienced leader with a spotless image were presented before the country, then it would be easier to generate public opinion in favor of the alliance, but CPM General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said in front of the media that in the meeting the Prime Minister There was no discussion on the face. Such contradictions question the unity of 'India'. However, Congress President Kharge rejected the issue of Prime Minister's face and said that first of all we have to win the elections and get majority. If the MPs do not have a majority, then how will the Prime Minister be elected? Kharge also clarified that the Prime Minister will be decided after the election victory. First, it is necessary for all of us to fight and win the elections together. Raising the issue of 'coordinator', Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray said that there should be more or less a leadership face. It is not necessary that the one who is the coordinator should later be made the Prime Minister. But Kharge pushed this issue aside. Actually, the initiative of collective alliance of opposition was taken by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. It was he who contacted and communicated with key opposition leaders, but even after four meetings, his role is that of a component of the alliance, hence he and RJD President Lalu Yadav are said to be angry. He returned to Patna even before the press briefing. In this way, the roles of coordinator and charioteer of 'India' are still unresolved.

Dr. Dheeraj Kumar Bhargava

### Drug proliferation destructive than war: Rishiraj Singh



**Thiruvananthapuram.** Emphasising the gravity of the drug proliferation issue, former Kerala DGP Rishiraj Singh has said 'it is more perilous and destructive than a war.'

He said this while inaugurating an anti-drug awareness and art show, organised by the Abhijit Foundation for the children of Sree Chitra Home, marking a significant initiative in their year-long anti-drug programs across colleges, schools, and public spaces in the district.

He also urged law enforcement and the government to intervene effectively, utilizing special laws in place to combat the drug proliferation which is destructive than war.

During the ceremony, Justice M. R. Hariharan Nair, the chief patron of the foundation,

presided over the event. Adv. KR Rajan delivered a compelling keynote speech. Other notable figures present included Abhijit Foundation Managing Trustee Kotukal Krishnakumar, Metro Mart Managing Director Siji Nair, Foundation Working Chairman S. Prakash, General Secretary Ajith Venniyur, Patron Sajitha Rani, and Secretary Panathura Baiju. The ceremony also saw expressions of gratitude from Sree Chitra Home Superintendent Bindu S and Foundation Patron Dr. Gangaprasad. Rishiraj Singh cautioned students to be vigilant and not accept any free items from others, as schools become venues for the exchange of drugs among children. This event stands as a testament to the collective effort to combat the drug menace and raise awareness among the youth.

## Final touches underway for FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi

**New Delhi.** With only three weeks until the FIH Hockey Olympics Qualifiers Ranchi 2024, the Indian Women's Hockey Team is preparing to compete in Ranchi, aiming to secure a spot in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

"We have some high-calibre teams coming to Ranchi to battle for qualification to the Paris 2024 Olympics, but we have a great group of players and an outstanding support staff. So, we are certain that we can finish on the podium and qualify for the Olympics. The aim will be to play each match on our terms, take more responsibility for our actions in-game, be solid at the back, and capitalize on the chances we create," commented Indian Women's Hockey Team Chief Coach Janneke Schopman on India's chances in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers Ranchi 2024.

India will begin the campaign against the United States on January 13 and go on to face New Zealand on January 14, before their last Pool B clash against Italy on January 16. The Pool A comprises Germany,



Japan, Chile, Czech Republic.

The team is entering this tournament after playing preparatory matches in Spain. The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the Gold medal at the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 and the Bronze medal at the 19th Asian Games, both times defeating Japan. The team is optimistic about the upcoming tour, buoyed by the enthusiastic support of home fans. The team's main goal is to finish in the top three and secure a spot in the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Elaborating on the preparations, Janneke Schopman said, "The last few

months were crucial, and I am happy with the way the team has responded after missing out on direct qualification from the Asian Games.

Our performance in the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 is an example of the team's potential. The next step is to tap into this potential and become a consistently high-performing team.

The 5 Nations Tournament Valencia 2023 was important in this regard, as it helped us fine-tune our game and maintain match sharpness before entering a critical juncture in our journey to the Paris 2024 Olympics."

## Sakshi Malik quits wrestling after Brijbhushan's election as WFI chief

**New Delhi.** Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik on Thursday announced her retirement from wrestling soon after Sanjay Singh was elected as Wrestling Federation of India president.

"We fought from our heart but if a man like Brij Bhushan's business partner and a close aide is elected as the president of WFI, I quit wrestling ..." a teary-eyed Sakshi said at a press conference here. Earlier in the day, Brij Bhushan's close aide Sanjay Singh was elected as WFI president. Sanjay Singh defeated Anita Sheoran 40-7 in a virtually one-sided contest. However, Prem Chand Lochab, who seemingly got the support of the protesting wrestlers, was



elected as the secretary general. "We wanted a woman president but that did not materialise," the Commonwealth Games gold medalist said. Ahead of elections, Olympic medal-winning grapplers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi had

requested Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to dissuade anyone close to Brijbhushan from contesting the elections. Punia expressed disappointment over the government's failure to stop a close aide of Brijbhushan from contesting the elections.

## 4 killed, 3 Injured as car collided with lorry in Telangana

**Hanmakonda (Telangana).** In a devastating incident, four individuals lost their lives, and three others sustained serious injuries when the car they were traveling in collided with a lorry at Penchikalpet, Elkathrthi Mandal in this district in the early hours of Friday.

According to the police, the accident took place as the occupants of the car, close



relatives, were en route from Eturunagaram to Vemulawada on a pilgrimage. The car

suffered extensive damage in the collision.

The injured have been admitted to MGM Hospital for medical treatment.

The deceased have been identified as Kanthaiah (72), Memthena Shankar (60), Memthena Bharat (29), and Memthena Memdanna (16). A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway, the police added.











