

Neeraj to miss Diamond League finals

Indian men loses to Belgium

Over 6,500 runners take part in Marathon's 5K

NEW DELHI: In a massive setback to India's medal hopes at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has pulled out of the remainder of the season due to an ankle injury. The injury also effectively rules him out of the Diamond League Finals in Brussels next week.

The 28-year-old last competed at the Lausanne Diamond League, where he finished second with a Season Best effort of 88.05m. His only other Diamond League appearance this season came in Doha, where he finished fourth with a distance of 85.69 metres.

Despite participating in just two Diamond League events, Neeraj had qualified for the Finals in Brussels as the sixth-best athlete this season.



He had also clinched silver at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last month, recording a best throw of 85.83 metres.

The Olympic and world champion said the injury occurred shortly after he produced his season's best throw in Lausanne, at a time when he felt he was finally beginning to find the rhythm he had been searching for.

"Unfortunately, shortly after, I sustained a ligament tear in my ankle during training. After discussions with my doctor and team, we've decided that I will sit out the rest of this season," Chopra said.

The injury also means Chopra will miss the upcoming Asian Games, where he was expected to defend his Hangzhou gold medal.

Chopra admitted that the

timing of the setback was disappointing, particularly as he felt his form was beginning to come together.

"It's disappointing, especially because I felt close to finding my rhythm. But as they say, setbacks are a part of the journey," he said.

The Panipat-born thrower said his immediate focus would now be on recovering well and returning stronger.

"My focus now is on recovering well and coming back even stronger," Chopra said, while thanking fans for their "love and support."

Four years back in Hangzhou, Neeraj led India to a historic double podium finish along with Kishore Jena, who finished second. Neeraj topped the podium with a massive throw of 88.88 metres.

At Aichi-Nagoya, Rohit Yadav, who had missed out on a medal at the Commonwealth Games, is the other Indian in javelin throw.

WAVRE: Indian men ended the Hockey World Cup with an eighth-place finish after losing to hosts Belgium 3-4 in the shootout in play off match at the Belfius Hockey Arena here on Friday night after the regulation period ended at 3-3.

The tie breaker resulted after India's last gap goal forced a shootout to decide the winner. Harmanpreet Singh finished the tournament with eight goals, joint top of the scoring charts with Argentina's Domene, with one day of competition remaining.

India opened the scoring through Abhishek in the sixth minute, while Belgium responded with two goals in quick succession in the second quarter, as Roman Duvekot and Hugo Labouchere putting

the hosts 2-1 ahead.

Harmanpreet restored parity immediately after half-time with a penalty-corner drag-flick. Belgium managed to regain the lead in the fourth quarter through Nicolas de Kerpel. But India earned a penalty corner with just 26 seconds remaining, and Harmanpreet made no mistake to force the match into a shootout. The shootout ultimately belonged to Belgium. Harmanpreet and Sukhjeet Singh were denied by Vincent Vanaasch, while Abhishek converted India's final attempt. Tom Boon, Arthur de Sloover, and Alexander Hendrickx (penalty stroke) scored before Roman Duvekot converted the decisive attempt despite Indian goalkeeper Mohith HS contesting with a referral. The goal stood, handing Belgium a 4-3 shootout victory.

HYDERABAD: More than 6,500 runners, including around 300 differently abled participants, took part in the 5K and Inclusive Run at HITEX on Saturday as part of the 15th edition of the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner M Ramesh and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner G Srijana flagged off the runs.

Wheelchair runners were flagged off first, followed by participants representing NGOs and charities and those taking part in the regular 5K Run.

Ramesh and Srijana also participated in the event and ran alongside the Inclusive Run participants.

"This is the first time the Hyderabad Marathon is organising an Inclusive Run. It is heartening to see around 300 differently abled participants, including wheelchair users and visually challenged runners, taking part," Ramesh said.

Srijana said the Inclusive Run promoted participation and equality by bringing together runners with and without disabilities.

NMDC Director (Personnel) Krishna Kumar Thakur encouraged the 5K participants to continue their running journey and expressed hope that many of them would progress to the 10K category in the next edition.

Hyderabad Runners Society founder and race director Rajesh Vetcha said more than 6,800 runners had registered for the 5K Run. Around 6,200 regular 5K runners and 300 Inclusive Run participants took part in Saturday's events.

The main events - the 10K, half marathon and full marathon - will be held on Sunday. The full marathon will start at 4.30 am and the half marathon at 5.30 am from People Plaza, Necklace Road, while the 10K Run will begin at 7 am from HITEX, Madhapur.

Junior Asia Cup

We have to play more big matches: Bruno Coutinho

Namibia beat S Africa

Spain's men stun Netherlands

Indian Jr women's hockey team departs

NEW DELHI: An upbeat Indian Junior Women's Hockey team on Saturday left for Moqi in China to take part in the AHF Women's Junior Asia Cup scheduled to be held from September 4 to 13. The 18-member squad, led by midfielder Khaideim Shileima Chanu, travels to China on the back of an extensive period of preparation under newly appointed Coach Tim White, including a productive exposure tour of the United Kingdom earlier this summer.

During the UK tour, held from July 5 to 14 in Edinburgh and Lilleshall, the team featured in seven matches against Scotland's Senior Women's team and the junior sides of the

United States, England and Belgium. India secured commanding wins over the United States (6-0) and recorded back-to-back 2-0 victories against England, in addition to edging the USA in a shootout (1-1, won 3-2 on penalties) in a closely contested rematch. The side also gained valuable experience against a more seasoned Scotland Senior Women's team and a strong Belgium U-21 outfit.

Speaking ahead of the team's departure, Tim White said, "The team is very excited to leave for China for the Asia Cup. Our preparation has been good, including important matches against a combined India-A team, which came to Bangalore for four matches.

KOLKATA: Former India captain and Arjuna Awardee Bruno Coutinho believes that facing Brazil, Uruguay, and Panama will provide India with invaluable experience and help the national team improve.

With the trio of World Cup-playing nations set to come to India for international friendlies during the September-October FIFA window, Indian football is preparing for some of its biggest tests in recent times.

For Coutinho, these matches are an opportunity for the players to challenge themselves against some of the strongest teams in world football and learn from the experience. Coutinho, who played an integral role in the Indian national team setup from the late 1980s until 2001, won the presti-

gious Arjuna Award, earned 44 caps for India and was named the AIFF Player of the Year in 1996.

In recent years, he has remained closely involved in Indian football, focusing on grassroots development, state ambassadorship, and coaching mentorship.

"Brazil and Uruguay are very tough opponents. Everybody knows how strong they are and how consistently they qualify for the World Cup. The Indian players will find it hard, but they should give their best and play to their full potential. Whether we win or lose, we can learn from our mistakes," He mentioned, "One or two matches cannot change everything. India has to work consistently and improve as a footballing nation. We have to play more big matches like these."

WINDHOEK: Namibia sealed a memorable 18-run win in the home tri-series opener over South Africa in the capital city.

The match marked only the second time the two teams squared off in T20Is, with Namibia having emerged victorious on both occasions. The result comes as a big positive for Namibia, who are the co-hosts of next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup alongside South Africa and Zimbabwe.

After being put in to bat first in Windhoek, Namibia posted 163/9 in their 20 overs, with opener Jan Frylinck compiling 60 runs off 38 deliveries on Friday.

Chasing the total, South Africa lost both openers Jordan Hermann and Lhuan-dre Pretorius inside the powerplay.

Dewald Brevis went on to launch a rescue act, scor-

ing 75 runs off 50 balls, an innings that saw him clear the ropes five times in addition to four more boundaries.

Having been a key contributor with the bat, JJ Smit went on to clinch three wickets, conceding only 31 runs. Meanwhile, Ruben Trimpelmann secured bowling figures of 3/24, according to ICC.

"It feels surreal," Smit said afterwards. "We beat the Proteas again. Just a really proud moment for Cricket Namibia and Namibia as a whole."

Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus also echoed the sentiment about the significance of the win holds.

"I think this is very important in the sense that it shows that we do belong, and it wasn't a once-off," he said post-match.

AMSTERDAM: Germany kept their FIH Hockey World Cup title defence on track with a semi-final victory over Argentina, while Spain stunned hosts the Netherlands in a thrilling clash to set up a mouth-watering final today (Sunday).

Spain reached their first FIH Hockey World Cup final since 1998 after upsetting the Netherlands 4-3 in Amsterdam.

The Dutch looked the more settled side early on, launching the first attack inside 10 seconds and putting Spain under sustained pressure. They eventually broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute when Koen Bijen finished a lovely move up the left.

Spain hit back in the third quarter, with José

Basterra adding the faintest of behind-the-back touches to a long ball into the circle to level the scores.

The turning point came when Duco Telgenkamp received a 10-minute yellow card for a shoulder charge on a screaming Xavier Gispert. Spain immediately took advantage, with an unmarked Basterra tapping in his second before Pepe Cunill added a penalty-corner goal moments later.

Basterra then completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot to put Spain 4-1 up after a bad challenge in the circle. The Netherlands launched a late fightback, with Jip Janssen scoring from a penalty corner before Joep de Mol added another with just over a minute remaining.

Commerce Secretary leads India-Argentina trade talks

NODWIN Gaming announces SpaceFest

India's BPM industry driving AI led transformation across micro verticals

NEW DELHI: Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal led the Indian delegation at the fourth India-Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting in Buenos Aires, with both countries reaffirming their commitment to deepen bilateral trade and economic ties across lithium, energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, digital services, space and emerging technologies. The meeting, held on August 24, reviewed progress on the roadmap agreed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina in 2025 and explored measures to expand and diversify bilateral trade.

India-Argentina bilateral trade crossed USD 6.5

billion in 2025, registering annual growth of more than 17 per cent. India is now Argentina's fifth-largest trading partner, underlining the potential for further expansion of economic engagement.

A key focus of the discussions was cooperation in critical minerals, particularly lithium. India's KABIL has made significant progress in its lithium mining activities in Argentina's Catamarca province, with Phase II drilling completed. Further opportunities in Salta and Jujuy are also being explored.

The two sides also advanced discussions on market access for Indian agricultural products. Technical-level talks on

sanitary and phytosanitary measures are progressing for onions, milk and dairy products, grapes, potatoes, bananas and pulses, which could create new opportunities for Indian farmers and exporters.

Significant progress was also made on pharmaceutical market access. Argentina has committed to work towards upgrading India from Annex II to Annex I under its pharmaceutical regulatory framework and reducing entry barriers for Indian pharmaceutical companies. The countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation in Ayurveda and Yoga, building on the 2019 MoU between Argentina's ANMAT and India's CDSCO.

MUMBAI: NODWIN Gaming, a global leader in new-age youth entertainment, gaming and esports, announced the launch of SpaceFest during the press conference held at Trident, Mumbai. Backed by the Government of Maharashtra, it will be India's first large-scale event dedicated to space, science, innovation and space-inspired pop culture, aiming to create a platform that brings knowledge and entertainment together.

The conference was attended by eminent guests including Hon'ble Minister Dr. Uday Samant, Industries, Investment and Services Department, Dr. P Anbalagan, IAS, Principal Secretary (Industries, Investment & Services) at

Government of Maharashtra, Shri Deependra Singh Kushwah, IAS, CEO of MIDC Mumbai alongwith Aarti Harbhajanka, Co-Founder and MD, Primus Partners India and Akshat Rathee, Co-founder and Managing Director of NODWIN Gaming, who conceptualised the IP.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for India's space economy and supported by the Government of Maharashtra, SpaceFest aims to be a flagship platform celebrating space exploration, innovation and discovery, while enabling Maharashtra's space-tech startups to showcase innovations, forge partnerships and connect with global industry leaders and investors.

NASHIK: As financial services organizations globally accelerate the use of AI, automation, analytics, and digital operating models, India's BPM industry is increasingly emerging as a strategic partner of choice in enabling innovation, operational excellence, risk management, and business outcomes across the BFSI sector.

As of FY26, India's BPM sector is expected to cross \$59 billion in revenue, contributing nearly 7% to the technology industry's export revenue. This growth is being driven by rising demand for AI-led solutions, data monetisation, cloud-based analytics, domain-specific platforms and automation-led outcomes. With deep BPM

talent, strong BFSI domain expertise and maturing platform-led delivery models, India is helping global enterprises move from process execution to outcome-focused transformation.

Across insurance, banking, lending, customer operations, claims, underwriting, and risk intelligence, BPM companies are moving beyond traditional process delivery to support high-value transformation mandates for global enterprises.

In banking and lending, India's BPM ecosystem is supporting global financial institutions with domain-led capabilities across live underwriting, loan operations and credit intelligence. As BFSI enterprises in the US and UK expand

offshore underwriting across retail lending, mortgages, commercial real estate and corporate banking, Indian teams are helping build specialist capability across credit frameworks, underwriting systems, loan authority, regulatory processes and credit committee support.

In insurance sector for example, BPM and technology teams in India are helping global insurers strengthen data, claims and risk operations through AI, automation and analytics. Unified data platforms are being used to bring together policy, claims, financial and reinsurance data, enabling better governance, faster analytics and stronger decision-making across underwriting, claims and finance.

Farm Peace Ltd IPO to open on Sept 1

MUMBAI: Farm Peace Limited, an integrated contract farming company specialising in processed-grade potato varieties supplied to processing companies for the manufacture of French fries, chips and other potato-based products, has filed its Prospectus with BSE SME ahead of its initial public offering (IPO).

Proceeds from the issue are proposed to be used to fund the Company's incremental working capital requirements and for general corporate purposes. The listing is also expected to enhance the Company's visibility and brand recognition among existing and potential customers.

Socradamus Capital Private Limited is the Lead Man-

ager to the Issue, Shreni Shares Limited is the Market maker to the issue and Bigshare Services Private Limited is the Registrar to the Issue. About Farm Peace Limited - Incorporated in October 2021 and headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Farm Peace Limited is an integrated contract farming company specialising in processed-grade potato varieties, including Santana, Frysona, Innovator, Lady Rosetta and Chipsona. The Company operates a 100% buy-back model: it supplies participating farmers with certified seed varieties, agronomic support and end-to-end technical assistance across the crop cycle, and in turn guarantees procurement of their entire produce at pre-agreed prices and quality parameters.



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