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Bhubaneswar | Thursday | 30, January 2025 | Volume- 01 | ISSUE - 10 | Price : Rs.7.00

Event Ends with Spectacular Success



promoting green energy, circular economy practices, and renewable technologies, he added further.

Expressing happiness over the fact that many industries are already in Odisha, he further added that today all of them have committed to expand their horizons. He emphasised that this is a testament to the double engine government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Reflecting on vision of Odisha and Bharat, he said that our focus will remain on creating a skilled workforce that meets the demands of emerging industries, developing world-class infrastructure, including port-based industrial hubs, expanding our global partnerships for sustainable and inclusive growth, and promoting local entrepreneurship and MSME development to drive grassroots-level transformation. Speaking on success of young entrepreneurs, he said, "Today, we are also proudly recognizing and felicitating 60 young entrepreneurs under the age of 40, whose exceptional resilience, determination, and innovation have significantly contributed to Odisha's economic growth. They serve as role models, inspiring Odisha's youth to pursue innovation, create employment, and build a vibrant industrial ecosystem."

Bhubaneswar, 29/1 (photonewstimes) The Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 has come to an end with a spectacular success. The conclave received an overwhelming response, with a total of 145 investment-related Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, paving the way for transformative industrial projects and partnerships in Odisha. MoUs worth ₹12.89 Lakh Crore of investment received across various sectors such as chemicals & petrochemicals, textiles, mining and metallurgy, renewable energy, IT/ITeS, tourism, and food processing. These investments are expected to generate over 8.94 Lakh job opportunities, creating a significant socio-economic impact and ensuring inclusive growth across the state. "Apart from the MoUs signed, 448 no. of investment

- 145 MoUs, 12.89 Lakh Crore Investment Commitments
- 16.73 Lakh Crore for 593 projects,
- Employment Potential of 12.88 Lakh Across 20 Sectors
- This Conclave Has Solidified Odisha's Position As A Global Investment Destination- CM

intention forms with an investment value of ₹3.84 Lakh Crore were received with an employment potential of 3.92 Lakh jobs.

The Utkarsh Odisha Conclave have been a huge success with the State receiving a total of 593 projects with an investment of 16.73 Lakh Crore and employment potential of 12.88 Lakh across over 20 sectors. Speaking at valedictory session of the conclave, Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi said, "As we are coming to conclude Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave, 2025 I stand here with the immense happiness, pride and gratitude. From that momentous event of inauguration yesterday by Hon'ble Prime Minister till today I had the opportunity to interact with the brightest minds in the world of business and I can sleep peacefully today, that the time we

invested in these two days are time well-spent."

He further said, "Through this platform I came to know about the enthusiasm, great interest to do business in the state and at the same time came to know about the concerns some of you have raised. Surely, the government will look into every suggestion and take remedial steps to further improving the business ecosystem in the goal of achieving 'ease of doing business' in Odisha."

Expressing confidence over the success of the event, he said, "this conclave has solidified Odisha's position as a global investment destination. Informing that delegates from over 16 countries, including our Partner Countries Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia, have participated in this mega conclave, he said that

Odisha desires to be the gateway to the South-Eastern countries. He urged all to make Odisha their business hub of exports. Saying that a lot of MoUs have been signed, he said that the Govt will set up a mechanism which will work round the clock how to ground these MoUs and interest into reality.

He further said, "I am aware that 'cost and time over-runs' are the two biggest turn offs for the industry. We will take care of this and ensure that there no inordinate delay in executing the projects on ground. I can assure you that my office is very accessible to you. It will facilitate everything you need. In any case I am just a phone call away. You can rest assured of that." Adding that it is not the end of the road, he said that the process will continue and anytime you can propose any new

idea for the betterment of opportunity in the state and we will be open to those ideas. 'I am looking forward to it'. He also said that he received useful insights from sessions on Skilled in Odisha, Women Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Odisha. These sessions have brought forth actionable strategies and fostered valuable partnerships, he added. Saying that the success of this conclave reflects his government's commitment to building an investor-friendly ecosystem, he emphasised that Odisha's Industrial Policy Resolution, single-window clearance system, and focus on 'ease, speed and cost of doing business' ensure that industries can thrive in our state. Beyond infrastructure and policies, we are focusing on sustainability by

30 Dead, 60 Injured In Maha Kumbh Stampede



Prayagraj, 29/1 (photonewstimes): Thirty people were killed in the stampede that happened just before dawn at the Maha Kumbh venue in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, the police chief that oversees security at the massive religious gathering told reporters today.

Twenty-five bodies have been identified, police officer Vaibhav Krishna told reporters, adding 60 were injured. Many have been hospitalised.

The announcement of casualties came hours after local reports and Prayagraj residents posted on social media about deaths at the stampede. The reports were, however, not

consistent with the number of dead.

The pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh broke out after many pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, one of the most auspicious days. Many people started breaking barricades before the stampede happened, the police officer said.

Sarojini, a Karnataka resident who came to take a dip in the Maha Kumbh, told news agency PTI, "We came in a batch of 60 people in two buses. There were nine people in our group. Suddenly there was pushing in the crowd, and we got trapped.

Many fell down and the crowd became uncontrollable."

A woman at a local hospital, whose child was injured, said there was nowhere to go when people started pushing in the massive crowd. "Some people who pushed us were laughing while we begged them for kindness towards the children," she told newsmen.

Mr Krishna, the Deputy Inspector in General (DIG) of Maha Kumbh, said the situation is under control. President of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, Mahant Ravindra Puri, who was headed towards the Triveni Sangam for the amrit snan said thousands of saints and Naga sadhus were coming with him. "We are going for the amrit snan... We will vacate the ghats very quickly so that all the devotees who have come here are able to take a holy dip." Digambar Naga Baba Chidanand Puri of Panchayati Niranjani Akhara told newsmen after taking amrit snan that after the incident, people from the Niranjani Akhara are coming in small numbers to take the holy dip.

Patnagarh parcel bomb case: SC orders early disposal before a month

New Delhi, 29/1 (photonewstimes): The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday directed the Patnagarh Trial Court in Odisha's Balangir district, for early disposal of the Patnagarh parcel bomb case.

While reviewing the bail pleas of the mastermind Punjilal Meher, the apex court ordered the subordinate court to complete the hearing of the trial of the case before one-month time. Earlier, the Orissa High Court had set a deadline to ensure the case's expedited resolution. The fierce bombing incident, which occurred on February 23, 2018 in Patnagarh, tragically resulted in the death of two individuals.

One Punjilal Meher, a college lecturer had hatched the game to kill his Principal's daughter and her spouse during the couple's knot ceremony.

Former Gramya Bank Manager Gets 2 Yr RI in Bribery Case

Bolangir, 29/1 (photonewstimes): The Special Judge, Vigilance convicted the former Branch Manager of Bolangir Anchalika Gramya Bank and sentenced him to undergo a rigorous imprisonment of 2 years. The convict has been identified as Khirod Kumar Sarangi, Former Branch Manager (Retired), Bolangir Anchalika Gramya Bank (BAGB), Dahita Branch, Dist-Bargarh. Sarangi was charge-sheeted by Odisha Vigilance in a

case U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d)/7 PC Act, 1988 for demanding and taking a bribe from a complainant (Farmer) to sanction an Agriculture cash credit loan in his favour. Sarangi was convicted by the Special Judge, Vigilance, Bargarh and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 2 years and a fine. Odisha Vigilance will now move the competent authority for the stoppage of the pension of Khirod Kumar Sarangi from service following his conviction.



Kriti Sanon's intense 1st look from Anand L Rai's Tere Ishq Mein with Dhanush out



'Tere Ishq Mein' teaser: Kriti Sanon joins Anand L Rai's Tere Ishq Mein alongside Dhanush, playing the intense role of Mukti. The first look video of Kriti Sanon as Mukti is now out.

Kriti Sanon has joined the cast of Anand L Rai's Tere Ishq Mein, featuring Dhanush. In the film, she will play the intense Mukti, and her first look video from the film is now out.

Kriti Sanon makes an impactful entry in the short one minute video that introduces her as Mukti. From the video, it is clear that this will also be a one-sided love story, just like Raanjhanaa. Fans can look forward to raw intensity, layered storytelling, and unforgettable dialogues that are deeply rooted in the world of Raanjhanaa.

After the unforgettable Raanjhanaa (2013), the powerhouse trio—Anand L Rai, Dhanush and A.R. Rahman—reunite to bring another intense tale of unrequited love. Produced by Anand L Rai, Himanshu Sharma, produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, this film promises to take audiences on a rollercoaster of emotions, with a monumental soundtrack by the legendary A.R. Rahman and poetic lyrics by Irshad Kamil. Tere Ishq Mein, set to go on floors in 2025, is a spiritual successor to the world of Raanjhanaa, delving deeper into themes of unrequited love, longing, and emotional conflict.

Starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, the film is scheduled to release worldwide in Hindi and Tamil on November 28, 2025.

Chhaava: Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna's period drama to release in Russia



Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna's period drama is all set to release in Russia on February 14. The film is directed by Laxman Utekar. Chhaava is set to release in Russia on February 14.

The film stars Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead. It is based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna are set to take their upcoming film, Chhaava International, with its release in Russia. The period drama directed by Laxman Utekar, is set to release simultaneously in Russia and India on February 14. Bollywood which has a strong base in Russia, is set to capture the Russian theatres with the release of Chhaava. The film is based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. With the expectations quite high after the trailer release, fans are excited to witness the visual spectacle on the big screen. Meanwhile, the film faced strong criticism after a glimpse of a song was shot to capture the celebratory mood in the kingdom of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj following his successful attack on Burhanpur, a wealthy Mughal city in Madhya Pradesh, in 1681.

Following the protest, the director said he would delete a dance sequence from the film. He mentioned in a detailed official statement that he imagined the Maratha warrior and king Sambhaji Maharaj as a 20-year-old boy in his film, and therefore, included a sequence showing him celebrating with the 'Lezim dance' after winning a battle.

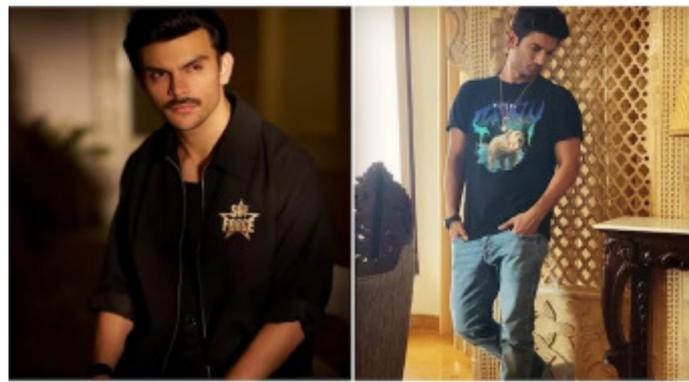
Apart from Vicky and Rashmika, Chhaava also features Akshaye Khanna playing the role of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Actors Diana Penty, Ahustosh Rana and Divya Dutta also play important roles in the film. Produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, Chhaava is hitting the screens on February 14.

Actor Veer Pahariya says Sushant Singh Rajput's career influenced his film choices

Actor Veer Pahariya, who debuted in movies with Sky Force, recently told us that he is heavily influenced by the late Sushant Singh Rajput. Veer starred in the film with Akshay Kumar and Sara Ali Khan. Set during India's first airstrike, Sky Force released in cinemas on January 24.

Actor Veer Pahariya, who recently made his Bollywood debut with Sky Force alongside Akshay Kumar, shared that the late Sushant Singh Rajput had a significant impact on his approach to selecting films. In an exclusive conversation with India Today Digital, Veer spoke about how Sushant's diverse and inspiring career became a guiding example for him as an aspiring actor.

Sushant Singh Rajput, known for his seamless



transition from television to becoming one of Bollywood's most respected actors, left a lasting impression on the industry with his versatility, originality, and dedication. His career choices, which balanced meaningful storytelling with commercial appeal, continue to resonate with artistes like Veer.

Speaking about Sushant's influence, Veer said, "One career

that I've really looked closely at in terms of film choices has been Sushant's. I have been a big fan of his, from his TV days to when he did Gattu sir's (Abhishek Kapoor) film (Kai Po Che!) and up to his last film. He was a man, an actor, and an artiste with a voice. He had a certain originality, and I really respect that about him. Sushant is someone who truly inspired me."

Veer's debut in Sky Force has already been met with praise, with critics noting his strong potential. Set against the backdrop of India's first airstrike, the film features Veer in a pivotal role, sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar. The film, directed by Abhishek Anil Kapur, released on January 24 and also stars Sara Ali Khan and Nimrat Kaur.

Rashmika Mandanna opens up about love, fans point to Vijay Deverakonda

Rashmika Mandanna, the talented actress known for her roles in films like Pushpa and Geetha Govindam, has recently sparked curiosity among her fans by hinting at her relationship status.

In a candid interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Rashmika opened up about her "happy place" and being a partner, leaving fans wondering about the identity of her significant other.

Although Rashmika didn't reveal the name of her partner, rumours suggest that she is in a relationship with Vijay Deverakonda, her co-star from Dear Comrade. The two have been spotted together on several occasions, and their on-screen chemistry has led fans to root for their real-life pairing.

During the interview, Rashmika shared her thoughts on what makes her feel grounded and happy. "Home is my happy place. It makes me feel anchored,



makes me feel rooted, makes me feel like success can come and go, but it's not forever. But home is forever. So, I work from that space. As much as the love and the visibility that I get, I still am, just a daughter, just a sister, just a partner. I respect that life, that personal life that I have." Rashmika also revealed what she looks for in a man, saying, "They say eyes are the window to one's soul. I believe in that and I keep smiling, so I am drawn to people

who have a smiley face. And, of course, someone who respects people around them no matter who they are." While Rashmika's comments have sparked speculation about her relationship status, Vijay Deverakonda has also been tight-lipped about the rumours. In a previous interview, the Arjun Reddy actor stated that he would talk about the rumours when he felt ready. "I will talk about it when I am ready; when I think that the world needs to know,

and I want to share it with everyone. There needs to be a reason, a purpose and a time for it. So, on such a day, I will happily share it with the world in my way." As fans continue to speculate about Rashmika's relationship status, the actress is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film, Chhaava, alongside Vicky Kaushal. The film promises to be a major cinematic event, and fans are eagerly awaiting Rashmika's performance.

Mrunal Thakur celebrates 1 year of 'Hi Nanna' with unseen pictures



As her film Hi Nanna completed one year since its release, actress Mrunal Thakur celebrated the moment by sharing unseen images and videos from the shoot.

Mrunal took to her Instagram, where she shared a reel video. The clip has her look test, videos from the sets, moments shared with her co-stars, dubbing sessions and a few glimpses of her behind-the-scenes moments among many others. Hi Nanna released in 2023. The Telugu-language romantic drama film directed by Shouryuv also stars Nani. The film was officially announced in January 2023 under the tentative title Nani 30, as it is Nani's 30th film as the lead actor, and the official title was announced in July 2023. It was shot in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Coonoor, and wrapped by late-September 2023.

The film told the tale of a loving father and his adorable 6-year-old daughter. The duo find their lives taking a dramatic turn when the woman he loves marries someone else.

An avid user of social media, Mrunal often shares updates about her professional and personal life on the platform.

Recently, she shared a post related to her "jeevan saathi", which included a delicious plate of poha, a popular Indian breakfast dish.

The picture was captioned: "Jeevan Saathi."

Mrunal started her acting career in 2012 with the television series "Mujhse Kuchh Kehti... Yeh Khamoshiyaan." She gained widespread recognition for her portrayal of Bulbul Arora in Ekta Kapoor's popular daily soap "Kumkum Bhagya" and left a lasting impression with her roles in other TV shows like Arjun. Mrunal showcased her acting prowess in movies such as Super 30 opposite Hrithik Roshan, Batla House, and Dhamaka. She received praise for her performance in the widely praised romantic drama Sita Ramam.

She also featured in the sci-fi epic Kalki 2898 AD, where she shared screen space with Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, and Deepika Padukone. Recently, Mrunal was seen shooting in the scenic locales of Uttarakhand for an untitled romantic film alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi. She also has Son of Sardaar 2 with Ajay Devgn, directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, and a comedy venture featuring Varun Dhawan under the direction of David Dhawan. She also has an upcoming film Pooja Meri Jaan in the lineup.

Chitrangda Singh's new emotion is 'nexcited'

Hindi film actress Chitrangda Singh has discovered a new emotion "nexcited", which is a combination of nervous and excited. Chitrangda took to Instagram, where she shared a boomerang video of herself in monochrome. In the clip, the 48-year-old actress is seen sitting in a robe and smiling at the camera.

However, the actress did not share what she is nervous and excited for. She used the queen of pop Madonna's song "True Blue" as the background score for the boomerang clip. It was recently announced that

Chitrangda has joined the cast of Housefull 5 starring Akshay Kumar. Chitrangda will be seen sharing screen space with Akshay once again after Desi Boyz and Khel Khel Mein. She had heaped praise on the star and called him a "true master of comedy." "Akshay is incredibly talented and a true master of comedy. We've known each other for a long time, and working with him is always a pleasure," the actress, who is heading to London for the shoot of Housefull 5, told newsmen.

The first installment of the film released in 2010, which had



Akshay, Riteish Deshmukh, Arjun Rampal, Lara Dutta, and Deepika Padukone

and late star Jiah Khan. Two years later, the second installment was released. A standalone

sequel to Housefull and also an uncredited remake of the 1998 Malayalam film

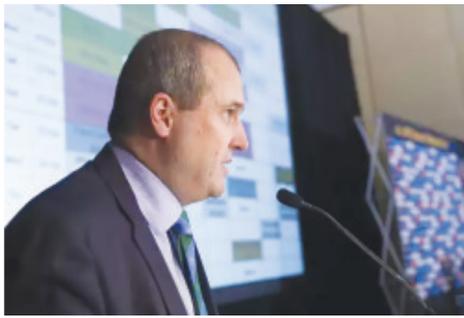
Mattupetti Machan. The first two parts were helmed by Sajid Khan.

The third and the fourth installment was directed by Farhad Samji and the fifth film Housefull 5 is directed by Tarun Mansukhani. The fifth installment also stars Fardeen Khan, Pooja Hegde and Riteish. The actress was last seen in Gaslight in 2023. The film, which is a mystery thriller, is directed by Pavan Kirpalani. It also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan.



Another ICC head rolls as CEO Allardice steps down

New Delhi, (photonewstimes):The ongoing shake-up within the International Cricket Council (ICC), that started last November with the removal of two top honchos, has claimed a major scalp. Chief Executive Geoff Allardice has now bitten dust. The ICC said it will take steps to find a replacement. The word body has not stated it in as many words but there seems to be some culpability issues over mess-up in last year's Twenty20 World Cup, the conduct of which had attracted a world-wide uproar. The build-up to the upcoming Champions Trophy has not been too smooth either and there are accountability issues here too. On Tuesday, the ICC



confirmed Allardice's exit, stating that the CEO has stepped down. Lately, his role came into scrutiny in the build-up to the Champions Trophy. The Indian team's non-participation issue was not addressed till the very last moment. In fact, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had written a strong letter pointing out delay in acting over various issues, including in the release of the schedule.

Even broadcaster Star had taken a strong objection to the continued delay in the release of the Champions Trophy schedule and reminded the world body of its responsibility and contractual obligation to reveal the programme before 100 days. Allardice, an Australian, joined the ICC in 2012 as ICC General Manager of Cricket, and was considered an efficient in that previous role. As the

CEO, he was found to be too soft. Before joining the ICC, he had held the role of Cricket Operations Manager at Cricket Australia. He was appointed as the ICC's CEO in November 2021, after previous CEO Manu Sawhney was removed. "On behalf of the ICC Board, I want to sincerely thank Geoff for his leadership and commitment during his tenure as Chief Executive. His efforts have played a key role in advancing cricket globally. We are truly grateful for his service and wish him all the very best in his future endeavors," said Jay Shah, the new ICC Chair. "It has been a privilege to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the International Cricket

Council and I am incredibly proud of the results we have achieved, from enhancing the global reach of cricket to the commercial foundation put in place for ICC Members," Allardice said. "I'd like to thank the ICC Chair, the board of directors and the entire cricket community for their support and collaboration over the past 13 years. I believe this is the right time for me to step down and pursue new challenges. I am confident that cricket has exciting times ahead, and I wish the ICC and the global cricket community every success in the future." The million dollar question is who next? The process will kickstart with a head-hunting firm

BCB to intervene in BPL payment fiasco



Dhaka, (photonewstimes):The Bangladesh Cricket Board has stated that they will have to take responsibility for the ongoing payment crisis in the Bangladesh Premier League. The Durbar Rajshahi franchise created shockwaves across the tournament as their players boycotted a practice session due to non-payment issues while their foreign cricketers refused to travel to play against Rangpur Rider 26th January as they were not paid on time. It came to light on Tuesday that cricketers of Durbar Rajshahi were facing huge problems due to multiple cheque bounce issues. "At the end of the day, obviously it is the Board's responsibility. We can't say someone else is responsible for it but we could have seen everything differently. The things which happened were still very unexpected. Having said that, we have to take responsibility," Najmul, who is secretary of the BPL governing council, told reporters following the meeting with owners of different franchises at the BCB headquarters. "Obviously when we do something like this, we will take these things into consideration. We know that there was a special situation and we weren't sure whether we would be able to do BPL and with how many teams. Still there is no excuse regarding what happened. There are many incidents which should not have happened and no excuses from our side. But in future, this kind of incident will not take place, which we can ensure with certainty," he said. "We didn't expect that a franchise would be interested in taking a team and then creating a situation like this.

None of us expected that," he said. "From the beginning, there was an effort to establish a good relationship with the franchises. We have always considered them as partners and ensured they don't feel like outsiders," he said. "We observed some activities that don't align with the spirit of the BPL, and we reminded them of these issues. There are also payment concerns we talked about. Discussions were held regarding their plans, and we have reached some understanding. With seven days remaining, I am unsure how much resolution can be achieved during this time, but some progress will definitely be made. Time will tell how effectively we can create solutions, and we'll have to wait and see," he said. Najmul added that they are thankful to franchisees who could keep their commitment while adding that they are also talking with their legal team to see how they can handle the present crisis. "It is very unfortunate. The issue of cheque bouncing never even crossed my mind. One or two franchises have failed to fulfill their financial commitments, but most of them have lived up to their promises. Unfortunately, the good work of successful franchisees has been overshadowed by the failures of a few. Today, we expressed our gratitude to those who met their commitments," he said. "We already have all the paperwork regarding that and the legal papers are there and it will guide us on what we have to do," he said. Apart from Durbar Rajshahi, Chittagong Kings also managed to get media attention on the back of not paying national cricketer Parvez Hossain. It was reported that Kings opener Parvez Hossain Emon had been put through testing times as he hadn't received a single penny from the franchise until 23rd January.

Varun Chakravarthy: Bumrah of spin-bowling running riot in T20I cricket

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): A sensational Varun Chakravarthy won the player of the match award despite India losing the 3rd T20I of the 5-match series. Chakravarthy took his wicket-tally to 10 in the series as he continued his incredible rise in his second stint in the Indian team. Varun Chakravarthy grinned as he was called to receive the Player of the Match award in India's 3rd T20I against England. Rajkot marked the second instance where, despite picking up a rare 5-wicket haul in T20I cricket, Varun found himself on the wrong side of the result. In fact, he is the only player in T20I history to have lost both matches after taking a 5-wicket haul. Speaking during the post-match presentation,

Varun downplayed his individual performance. He expressed disappointment that India did not win, and refused to call his performance "sensational." With a straight face, Varun rated his outing a modest 7/2, acknowledging he "might have bowled well" but still had room for improvement. Varun is no stranger to setbacks. After a meteoric rise in the Indian Premier League, he was fast-tracked into the Indian T20I side for the 2021 World Cup. But things went disastrously for the team in the UAE, where they were knocked out in the Super 12 stage — a bitter disappointment for the

cricketing nation. The knee-jerk reaction to India's early exit saw Varun dropped from the



previously. Varun has since repaid their faith, cementing his place with a steady run of games in the T20I format. Varun has openly discussed his transformation from a side-spin bowler — an overspin bowler — a style he worked on for over two years. According to Varun, he first tested the new method in the Tamil Nadu Premier League, then in the IPL, and finally brought it into international cricket. The results speak for themselves: Varun has been devastating since his return to the Indian team. In his first stint with the national side, Varun played 6 matches, taking just 2 wickets and conceding an average of

close to 20 runs per game. In fact, he went wicketless in 4 of those matches. Since returning to the T20I side in 2024, Varun has featured in 10 matches, picking up an impressive 27 wickets. There is only one match — against Bangladesh in a bilateral series — where he failed to take a wicket. In his second stint, Varun boasts a strike rate of 8.8 and a bowling average of 10.96 — numbers usually associated with a bowler like Jasprit Bumrah, a rare talent in world cricket. Varun's ability to target the stumps has been key to his success in recent matches. England's batters, eager to be proactive, have tried various tactics — from using their feet to switching stances — but none of them has worked against the spinner.

squad. It took him three years to reinvent his bowling before making his comeback. This time, he earned the trust of head coach Gautam Gambhir and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, both of whom had worked with him

previously. Varun has since repaid their faith, cementing his place with a steady run of games in the T20I format.

close to 20 runs per game. In fact, he went wicketless in 4 of those matches.

England win 3rd t20 : Adil Rashid's middle-overs squeeze

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): A sense of Deja Vu was sandwiched between Ben Duckett's 28-ball 51 and Liam Livingstone's quick-fire 43 off 24 after England were asked to bat first again. Varun Chakravarthy, their nemesis, was at it once more, draining the momentum of the middle-order. Despite this, England managed to post a competitive 171/9 in the third T20I in Rajkot, but the question lingered - would it be enough against India's aggressive and power-packed batting line-up? It turned out to be more than enough, thanks to Adil Rashid's brilliance in the middle overs. His masterful spell not only derailed India's middle-order but also effectively crushed their chase. For the second time in his career, Varun saw a five-wicket haul go in vain as England applied the squeeze on India. This time, there was no Tilak Varma to guide them out of trouble. Rashid made sure of that, dismissing the left-hander early, thus preventing him from steering the middle-overs with the composure he had shown in Chennai.

dismissing Sanju Samson with another short delivery. Abhishek Sharma's adventurous knock was brought to an end by Brydon Carse, while Mark Wood ensured Suryakumar Yadav's trademark scoop-flick fell short of the distance the Indian captain intended for it to go. India, nevertheless, flew off the blocks quickly, having crossed 50 inside the powerplay and Tilak's six off Livingstone in the seventh over helped them sustain the momentum. The early signs suggested a smooth chase, driven by strike rotation, timely boundaries, and a calculated effort to take the game deep, like they did in the second T20I. It was anything but. Having earlier been involved in a crucial 24-run stand for the final wicket with Wood, Rashid entered the attack in the eighth over and immediately tightened the screws on India with a masterful display of leg-spin bowling. His sharp leg-breaks proved decisive, as Tilak, who had remained unbeaten in his

last four T20I innings, was bowled by a beauty that rattled the stumps. It became 68/4 at the end of the eighth over and by the time Rashid ended his spell, India were struggling at 90/5 after 14, needing 82 off the last six overs. The experienced leg spinner maintained relentless pressure, offering no loose deliveries,



which further unsettled India. Not a single boundary was scored off Rashid, and even rotating the strike proved rather difficult with the 36-year old operating cleverly and using the conditions to his advantage. At the other end, Jamie Overton was doing a good job as well, bowling his cutters and using variations to keep India in check. The mounting pressure led to Washington Sundar's dismissal, as he spooned a simple catch to a slower ball from Overton, ending his struggle (6 off 15). Hardik Pandya also found it difficult to get going, managing just 14 off 21 when Rashid completed his spell, having conceded only 13 singles and a couple. Rashid's economy and precise control effectively suffocated

India's scoring, leaving them with little room to maneuver. Rashid essayed a rather similar role in Chennai as well, where his figures of 1-14 nearly took the game away from India until Tilak's heroics turned the tide. This time, however, he had ample support. A required rate of 8.46 at the start of his spell ballooned to 13.66 by the time he finished, underscoring the immense pressure he exerted on the Indian batters, who struggled to find answers. Overton proved to be a perfect ally, finishing with impressive figures of 3 for 24 from his four overs. Together, Rashid and Overton bowled seven of the nine middle overs, conceding just 30 runs - a decisive stretch that effectively ended India's chances. "He's been brilliant. As I always say, he's the most important player for us and he always just seems to keep getting better. He's got so many different styles of bowling, he's got so much variety, he's one of his great skills. In the first couple of balls he bowls, he seems to work out exactly how he needs to bowl on that wicket, and yeah, he's an absolute trump card to have as a captain, so yeah, he's been

brilliant the last couple of games," said Butler, lavish in his praise of Rashid. "I think we practised yesterday on the square, and the wickets were beautiful and coming on really well, and there probably wasn't quite as much grass on that one. But after the first ball (of the match) not carrying through to the 'keeper, I think you could see from then it was probably not going to play as expected. So to have the runs on the board, and then see the dew not coming in as much as we thought, probably a decent toss to lose," the England captain said about the conditions. "The wicket probably played a little bit different than everyone expected, and there was a bit of hold when we were batting, but I think the revs that Dilly [Rashid] puts on it, he can spin it on most surfaces. So yeah, he bowled beautifully." The middle overs proved to be the difference in the match. England got 71 runs in this period despite losing five wickets. India, on the other hand, lost only two wickets in the 7-15 overs period, but managed only 49 runs. The 22-run gap proved challenging to close in the final overs, largely due to the difference maker Rashid.



Glimpses of Full Dress Rehearsal of Beating Retreat Ceremony at Vijay Chowk, in New Delhi. (Pic: PIB)

SC Refuses To Hear Petition In RG Kar Rape-Murder Case

New Delhi, (photonewstimes): The Supreme Court has refused to consider a petition for re-investigation of the rape-murder of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar hospital that had shocked the nation last year. The petition, filed by the parents of the doctor, has been withdrawn by their lawyer.

Appearing on behalf of the investigative agency - the Central Bureau of Investigation, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that the petition of the parents will only help the man convicted - Sanjoy Roy, a volunteer with the Kolkata Police who had a free run of the hospital.

The parents of the



doctor had sought re-investigation and additional investigation, contending that others besides Sanjoy Roy were involved. The conspirators and instigators have not been arrested and neither were those who saved and sheltered him, they had contended. The court, however, has allowed the parents to amend it and file a fresh

petition.

On January 20, a Kolkata trial court awarded convict Sanjoy Roy "life term imprisonment till death" in the case.

The body of the post-graduate trainee doctor was found in the hospital's seminar room on August 9 last year, following which the Kolkata police arrested civic volunteer Roy the

next day in connection with the crime.

The top court also said the protesting doctors who returned to work after 22.8.24 should be regularised and their action will not be considered as absence from duty.

The court, however, clarified that its direction has been issued in view of specific facts and circumstances and so this will not be considered as a precedent. "We deem it appropriate to clarify that if protesting workers had joined work post the Supreme Court order then their absence shall be regularised and not be treated as absence from duty. This is issued in peculiar facts and circumstances of the cases and is not laying down any precedent," said the bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD Shri Pradip Kumar Das expressed his gratitude for the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit, reaffirming IREDA's commitment to supporting India's green energy transition and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. He emphasized IREDA's dedication to fostering a self-reliant, sustainable future through robust financial support for renewable energy projects.

Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, Director (Finance) and other IREDA officials were also present.

Prime Minister Visits IREDA Pavilion at Make in Odisha Conclave

Bhubaneswar/ New Delhi, (ENS): The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, visited the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) pavilion at the "Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025" in Bhubaneswar today. Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director, IREDA welcomed the Prime Minister and briefed him on the company's 37-year legacy as India's largest pure-play green financing NBFC.

During the interaction, Shri Das highlighted IREDA's pivotal role in advancing renewable

energy projects to achieve India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel installed capacity target by 2030, in line with the country's Panchamrit and Viksit Bharat 2047 goals. Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi; Hon'ble Governor, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati; and other dignitaries. The pavilion themed "Responsible for Renewables," showcased IREDA's innovative approach to sustainable development and its focus on financing clean energy initiatives.

Over 57 Million Devotees Take Holy Dip At Sangam In Maha Kumbh On Mauni Amavasya

Prayagraj, (photonewstimes): On the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, more than 57.1 million devotees took a holy dip in the Triveni waters today, said an official statement from Uttar Pradesh Information Department.

The ongoing religious event has witnessed an overwhelming show of faith, with millions gathering at the Triveni Sangam to mark this auspicious day of spiritual cleansing and devotion. The number of Kalpwas, who observe month-long spiritual austerities, exceeded 1 million, adding to the spiritual fervor.

The total footfall for the ongoing Magh Mela has now surpassed 199.4 million, even as a stampede-like situation briefly occurred due to the overwhelming rush at key bathing ghats.

Earlier in the day, Members of Akhara's gathered in small numbers at Triveni Sangam to take



an 'Amrit Snan' on the occasion of 'Mauni Amavasya. Digambar Naga Baba Chidanand Puri of Panchayati Niranjani Akhara speaking to ANI after taking 'Amrit snan' said that after today's stampede-like situation in Maha Kumbh people from Niranjani Akhara are coming in small numbers to take a holy dip.

"Due to an unexpected event today, our (Akhara's) shobha yatra could not be taken out. We are now coming to take a holy dip in small numbers," Digambar Naga Baba said. This comes after a stampede-like situation arose at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in the early hours of Wednesday, resulting in several injuries. This incident occurred as

millions of devotees gathered at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers to take a holy dip on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya, which is also the day of the Second Shahi Snan. Following the incident, heavy security has been deployed at the Triveni Sangam as police pave the way for Akhara's and saints for their Amrit Snan on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya.

According to the Uttar Pradesh government, 36.1 million devotees had taken the holy dip at Triveni by 10 AM on Wednesday. Other key bathing dates during the Mahakumbh include February 3 (Basant Panchami), February 12 (Maghi Purnima), and February 26 (Maha Shivaratri).

Brothers Kill Mother's Lover In Grisly Crime, Toss Intestines In Air

Gandhinagar, (photonewstimes): The accused took out the victim's intestines, threw it into the air, and sliced it. Two brothers allegedly stabbed their mother's lover to death, sliced his intestines and tossed them in the air in a grisly crime in Gujarat earlier this week. The two siblings had a resentment towards the victim, Ratanji Thakor (53), as they believed that the victim's relationship with their mother "insulted" and "dishonoured" their dead father, officials said.

The incident took place in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district on January 26 when the victim, a mason by profession, was building a house with his fellow workers. According to the police,

the accused - Sanjay Thakor (27) and Jayesh Thakor (23) - attacked Ratanji with an iron rod in broad daylight. They then stabbed him in his stomach multiple times. During this time, the victim's intestines came out. But shockingly, the two men did not stop. The accused took out the victim's intestines, tossed them into the air, and sliced it.

Many people who witnessed the incident expressed massive disgust and shock. According to a senior official, some labourers tried to save the victim during the horrifying incident, but failed to do so. The victim, a mason by profession, had an affair with the accused's mother since many years. The two brothers disapproved of the relationship,

saying that they were facing embarrassment in the family, officials said.

According to the victim's son, Ajay, who filed an FIR against the accused, told the police that the two brothers had warned his father to stay away from their mother earlier. They even fought with the victim many times, he said. Following a dispute, the villagers also held a panchayat on the issue but did not find any solution.

The accused fled the scene on a bike after the incident.

The police traced them down through a mobile location within a few hours after the crime and arrested them. The weapons used in the murder have also been seized, officials said.

East Coast Railway Launches Campaign to Alert Selfie Takers on Railway Tracks

Bhubaneswar, (photonewstimes): East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a campaign aimed at warning teenagers and college students about the dangerous habit of taking selfies near railway tracks. This initiative comes in response to a disturbing rise in accidents where young people have tragically lost their lives while attempting to shoot short videos and take Selfies near Railway Tracks.

Taking selfies at railway stations or on tracks may seem like a fun activity in social media, but it's a deadly risk. In recent years, many accidents have been reported where students or youth were moved down by moving trains while taking selfies in unsafe locations. Many of these incidents occurred because people weren't paying attention to the dangers around

them—like moving trains, overhead electrical power equipment and crowded station areas.

To address this growing concern, Indian Railways has implemented strict regulations. Under Section 147 & 153 of Railway Act, anyone caught taking selfies near moving trains or on railway tracks could face heavy fines, legal consequences, or even jail. It's a reminder that safety always comes first, and no photo is worth risking your life for.

Safety Guidelines to Remember: No Selfies on Tracks: Never take selfies on or near railway tracks. The risk is not worth it.

Legal Consequences: Taking selfies in dangerous locations can lead to fines or even imprisonment. Think before you

click. A Call to Action for Students, Schools, and Parents:

ECoR reminds Students & Teenagers that your life is worth so much more than a social media post. Don't let a fleeting moment of fame come at the cost of your safety.

Schools & Colleges: ECoR encourages educational institutions to raise awareness about this issue. Organize awareness programs, workshops, or talks to help students understand the real dangers of taking selfies in crowded places like railway stations and Railway Tracks.

Parents are appealed to counsel their children about these dangers. Help them make smart decisions online and teach them the importance of respecting safety guidelines when out in public spaces.

Nearly 400 USAID contract workers laid off following Trump's 'stop work' order: Report

Washington, (photonewstimes): US Agency for International Development (USAID) on Tuesday laid off hundreds of workers in the wake of Trump Administration's stop-work order for foreign assistance. A USAID official with knowledge of the layoffs put the total at 390, a NPR report said. The official spoke to NPR on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on behalf of the agency. The laid-off employees are all contractors based in the US, part of a workforce of some 10,000, the official noted. "This blow to us as individuals and to the people we've served is unconscionable, but the bigger picture is much scarier," one laid-off employee told NPR. "It is a systematic dismantling of a longstanding agency in order to cause chaos. They are asking people remaining if they are loyal to Trump." This person asked to remain anonymous fearing that any future employment could be jeopardized by speaking out, NPR added.

Italy's data watchdog has questions for DeepSeek

ROME, (photonewstimes): Italy's Data Protection Agency, which briefly blocked ChatGPT in 2023, has raised questions about the use of personal data by the AI chatbot of Chinese startup DeepSeek.

"The authority, considering the potential high risk for the data of millions of people in Italy, has asked... what personal data is collected, from which sources, for which purposes," the GPDP said in a statement Tuesday.

It has also asked "what is the legal basis of the

processing (of the data), and whether it is stored on servers located in China".



The authority has also asked what kind of information was used to train DeepSeek's AI system and, if the data was scrapped from the internet, to clarify how users of the service are informed about the processing of their data.

The GPDP has addressed its concerns to Hangzhou DeepSeek Artificial

Intelligence and Beijing DeepSeek Artificial Intelligence, and given them 20 days to respond.

Based out of the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou -- sometimes known as "China's Silicon Valley" -- DeepSeek sparked panic on Wall

Street this week with its powerful new chatbot developed at a fraction of the cost of its competitors. The Italian watchdog in December fined OpenAI 15 million euros over the use of personal data by its popular ChatGPT chatbot, but the US tech firm said it would appeal.

The investigation began in March 2023 when the GPDP temporarily blocked ChatGPT in Italy over privacy concerns, becoming the first Western country to take such action.

Dutch airline KLM scraps 250 jobs in cost-cutting drive

The Hague, (photonewstimes): Dutch airline KLM said Wednesday it was shelving 250 jobs as part of cost-cutting efforts it hopes will lead to a boost in operating profit of around 450 million euros (\$469 million). The firm said it would try to avoid forced layoffs to achieve the cuts, but admitted it could not rule that out. The 250 jobs would come from "non-operational" roles, said KLM chief executive Marjan Rintel in a statement. "It is crucial for our future to structurally lower costs, which involves making painful choices," said Rintel. Other cost-cutting measures already announced by KLM include postponing the construction of a new HQ, as well as other maintenance buildings. The firm is also seeking to shelve non-core activities and bolster productivity by at least five percent, via automation, mechanisation and reducing absenteeism. KLM, allied with Air France, together posted a sharp drop in net profit for the third quarter of last year. The Franco-Dutch group reported a profit after tax of 824 million euros, down 13 percent from the same three-month period last year.