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Bhubaneswar | Saturday | 01, February 2025 | Volume- 01 | ISSUE - 12 | Price : Rs.7.00



## CM reviews preparations at Barabati Stadium ahead of India-England ODI match



Cuttack, 31/1 (photonewstimes): Odisha CM reviews preparations at Barabati Stadium ahead of India-England ODI match

Cuttack: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi visited the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack today to assess the final preparations and security arrangements ahead of the One Day International (ODI) cricket match between India and England, scheduled for February 9.

The Chief Minister expressed pride in hosting the match at Barabati, calling it a significant moment for Odisha. He added that this match will be a great opportunity for

the state as it will be the first one under the new government. He also mentioned that everything is moving forward smoothly and as planned after reviewing the arrangements at the stadium.

As part of the lead-up to the match, the Chief Minister also unveiled a special theme song for the event, further adding to the excitement surrounding the match.

The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) has announced the dates for the online and offline sale of tickets for the ODI match.

The OCA will sell around 4,000 tickets online on February 2. The

redemption of online tickets will be done from February 7 to 9, said the OCA. The redemption centres for online tickets will be opened at Cambridge School in Cuttack and KIIT in Bhubaneswar.

The redemption of the online tickets will be done from 10 am to 4 pm on February 7 and 8, and from 7 am to 12 noon on February 9.

According to the cricket association, the tickets will be sold to the general public at the counters of Barabati Stadium from 9 am to 6 pm on February 5 and 6. The people can purchase up to two tickets each by producing their valid ID cards.

## Take a look at India's Economic Outlook

New Delhi, 30/1 (photonewstimes): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey document in Lok Sabha in Parliament on Friday, January 31.

India's FY26 GDP growth is expected in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent amid global uncertainty. The survey expects inflation to be under control while consumption could remain stable. It also expects rural demand to gain traction going forward.

The Economic Survey of 2024-25 has come within a short span of six months from the last one, which was presented in July 2024 after the General Election. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey document for 2023-2024 in Parliament on Monday, July 22, 2024.

India's real GDP is expected to grow 6.4 per cent in FY25 (as per first advance estimates of national income) and remains close to the decadal average.

The agriculture sector remains strong, consistently operating well above trend levels. The industrial sector has also found its footing above the pre-pandemic trajectory. The robust growth rate in



recent years has brought the services sector to its trend levels, according to the survey.

The survey noted that retail headline inflation softened from 5.4% in FY24 to 4.9% in April-December 2024 due to various government initiatives and monetary policy measures.

India's gross foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows revived in FY25, increasing from \$47.2 billion in the first eight months of FY24 to \$55.6 billion in the same period of FY25, a YoY growth of 17.9 per cent.

The survey also focused on "deregulation" as a key for "Viksit Bharat," the Economic Survey 2025 exhorts assessing India's medium-term growth outlook in the context of new global realities, such as geo-economic fragmentation (GEF) and China's manufacturing prowess and strategic dominance.

The survey underscored that India's growth plans for the next decade require a large investment in infrastructure.

According to the economic

is a carbon tariff on imports of carbon-intensive goods.

Economic Survey LIVE: According to the survey, the government may raise taxes on salaried employees over labour reduction if AI eventually results in job cuts.

The survey cited an IMF paper stating that governments may be forced to tax the incremental profit of corporations that use AI to replace labour.

According to the economic data report, the rising participation of rural women into workforce has fueled the increase in female labour force for FY2023-24.

"Female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has been rising for seven years, i.e., from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 41.7 per cent in 2023-24, driven mainly by the rising participation of rural women," said the report.

Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes — The three most price-sensitive vegetables

According to the survey, the prices of tomatoes, onions, and potatoes are hitting the Indian consumer's wallets hard.

The average food inflation rate in FY25 (April-December) was 6.5 per cent

"Uneven monsoon-induced supply disruptions in certain regions caused price pressures, mainly in tomatoes and onions, contributing to higher inflation rates in vegetables and overall food inflation," said the survey report.

## Gold prices to decline, silver to rise in 2025: Economic Survey

New Delhi, 31/1 (photonewstimes): Gold prices are expected to decline in 2025 while silver prices may increase, according to Economic Survey 2024-25 tabled in Parliament on Friday. Citing the World Bank's Commodity Markets Outlook for October 2024, the economic survey highlighted that commodity prices are projected to decrease 5.1 per cent in 2025 and 1.7 per cent in 2026. The projected declines are led by oil prices but tempered by price increases for natural gas and a stable outlook for metals and agricultural raw materials. Among precious metals, gold prices are expected to decrease while silver prices may increase. Prices for metals and minerals are expected to decline, primarily due to a decrease in iron ore and zinc prices, the economic survey said. "In general, the downward trend movement in prices of commodities imported by India is a positive for the domestic inflation outlook," it added.

## 9 Dead In Truck-Van Collision

Ferozepur, 31/1 (photonewstimes): Nine people were killed and many injured in a collision between a pick-up van and a canter truck in this Punjab district on Friday, police said. The van was carrying more than 20 people, mainly those working as waiters, who were going to attend a function in Jalalabad. The accident took place at around 8 am near a village in the Guruharsahi sub-division, police said.

At least nine people suffered injuries and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, they added. Ferozepur's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Saumya Mishra said soon after the accident, teams from the "Sadak Suraksha Force" (SSF) reached the spot and launched a rescue operation.

Police said while some reports had

earlier claimed that the accident could have been caused due to low visibility because of fog, they are still investigating the reason behind it.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Deepshikha Sharma said some of the critically-injured people were referred to the Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot, while a few others were admitted at the civil hospital in Jalalabad. "Five ambulances were sent to the spot immediately after the incident," the DC said, adding that the administration will bear the treatment cost of the injured. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and many other leaders from various political parties expressed grief over the accident. "News of a major accident due to a collision between a canter and a pick-up vehicle came from Ferozepur this morning. The news of the tragic death of waiters going to a wedding ceremony has been received and some people are said to be injured.

## e-Detection system at toll gates to check insurance compliance from today

Cuttack, 31/1 (photonewstimes): The e-Detection system at all 22 toll gates across Odisha will start monitoring motor vehicle insurance compliance from February 1 (Saturday).

Vehicles without valid insurance will be automatically detected, and an e-challan will be issued. The State Transport Authority (STA), Odisha, has completed all necessary preparations to implement this system.



As per Section 146 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, every motor vehicle must have valid insurance. Violation of this rule will attract penalties under Section 196, including a fine of Rs 2,000 or imprisonment for up to three months, or both.

Repeat offenders will face Rs 4,000 as fine or up to three months of

imprisonment, or both, said the STA today.

Many private or commercial vehicles in Odisha operate without any valid insurance. As a result, the families of road accident victims are being deprived of the compensation. Taking this into consideration, the state government has decided to use e-Detection to identify the violators, added

the STA. Previously, the e-Detection system at toll gates was used to track violations related to permits, fitness certificates and tax compliance. Now, insurance violations will also be detected through this automated process. Additionally, modern enforcement techniques will be further integrated to enhance road safety, said the STA.

New Delhi, 31/1 (photonewstimes): The Bharatiya Janata Party spent Rs 1,737.68 crore for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, according to the expenditure report submitted by the party to the Election Commission of India. Of the total amount, Rs 884.45 crore was spent on general party propaganda, while Rs 853.23 crore was allocated for candidate-related expenses.

Around Rs 611.50 crore was spent on media advertisements that included advertisements in print and electronic media, bulk SMS campaigns, and promotional content across cable, websites,



and TV channels. The party also spent Rs 55.75 crore on publicity materials such as posters, banners, hoardings, and flags to bolster its election outreach.

Additionally, the BJP's expenditure on public meetings, processions, and rallies - including arrangements for stages, audio setups, barricades, and vehicles - stood at Rs

19.84 crore.

Campaign-related travel expenses formed another significant portion of the party's budget.

The travel expenditure of star campaigners

authorised by the party's central headquarters amounted to Rs 168.92 crore, while Rs 2.53 crore was spent on the travel of other party leaders.

The BJP, which secured a third consecutive term in the general elections, heavily relied on mass outreach and publicity campaigns, as evident from its spending patterns.

Additionally, the gross receipts from the date of announcement of state elections to the date of their completion were Arunachal Pradesh Rs 5,552.57 crore, Sikkim Rs 5,552.41 crore and Odisha Rs 5,555.65 crore.

## Rishab Shetty's Power-Packed Lineup Unveiled

New Delhi: Rishab Shetty, known for his dynamic skills as a writer, director, and actor, especially with the blockbuster Kantara in 2022, has an exciting lineup of upcoming films. After winning the National Award for Best Actor, fans are eagerly awaiting his return to the screen.

**Kantara : Chapter 1**  
Bringing the much-awaited prequel to Kantara, Rishab is set to create a stir with Kantara: Chapter



1. The film promises to be a grand spectacle that will elevate the standards of Indian cinema. The makers unveiled the first look of Rishab Shetty, which caused a sensation as audiences witnessed his incredible transformation. Additionally, Rishab has trained in various martial arts, including Kalaripayattu, for the film. The film will be released on 2nd October 2025.

**Jai Hanuman**  
Rishab Shetty will play the lead in Jai Hanuman, director Prasanth Varma's sequel to his blockbuster Hanuman. The first look of the film, presented by Prasanth Varma, Mythri Movie Makers, and PVCU, was released, featuring Rishab in a powerful depiction of Hanuman—seated with an idol of Sri Ram held reverently in his hand.

**The Pride Of Bharat: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**  
Rishab Shetty is set to portray the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Sandeep Singh's historical epic The Pride of Bharat: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The first poster showcases Rishab in a commanding avatar, wielding a sword. The film is scheduled to release on January 21, 2027.

## Nargis Fakhri's sister arrested for killing ex-boyfriend, his friend

Rockstar actress Nargis Fakhri's sister Aliya Fakhri has been arrested for murdering her former 35-year-old -boyfriend Edward Jacobs, and his friend Anastasia Ettienne, according to media reports. As per the Queens District Attorney of New York, Aliya, 43, at 6.20 AM reached the garage, where Jacobs and Ettienne were sleeping. She shouted out loud "You're all going to die today," before setting fire to the two-story garage.

According to reports, Ettienne, who was alerted by the fire, ran downstairs to check before going back up to wake Jacobs. The fire covered the building and the two weren't couldn't escape and died of smoke inhalation and thermal injuries.

As per media reports, Jacobs had broken up with Aliya around a year ago, but she still attempted to pursue him. The New York Post quoted Jacobs' mother, "Like any other person that is being rejected, he was letting her know like 'I'm done with you.'" Nargis is yet to make a comment on the incident. The actress' mother, however, denied the claims, saying: "I don't think she would be killing someone. She was a person who was caring for everybody. She tried to help everybody," according to multiple news outlets. Nargis' sister faces a maximum of life in prison if convicted and has to return to court on December 9.

Nargis came to prominence in India with the 2011 romantic drama film Rockstar starring Ranbir Kapoor. She subsequently played a war correspondent in the political thriller Madras Cafe, Main Tera Hero, Dishoom, Azhar, Banjo and Housefull 3. She will next be seen in Hari Hara Veera Mallu: Part 1 – Sword vs Spirit, an upcoming Indian Telugu-language historical action adventure film directed by Krish Jagarlamudi and A. M. Jyothi Krishna. Set in the 17th century Mughal Empire, the film depicts the life of legendary outlaw Veera Mallu, played by Pawan Kalyan. It also stars Bobby Deol, Nidhi Agerwal, and Nora Fatehi.

She will also be seen in the fifth installment of the Housefull franchise, starring Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Suniel Shetty and Jackie Shroff to name a few.

## Jason Momoa confirms role in DC's Supergirl, transitions from Aquaman to Lobo

Jason Momoa is set to portray Lobo, an alien bounty hunter, in Supergirl: Woman Of Tomorrow. The movie marks a fresh chapter in the DC Universe, featuring Milly Alcock as Supergirl. Hollywood actor Jason Momoa is set to take on a new role in the DC Universe as the character Lobo in the upcoming film, Supergirl: Woman Of Tomorrow. Momoa is known for his portrayal of Aquaman in the DC Extended Universe. Jason

Momoa confirmed his association with the film on Instagram. The actor shared an interview excerpt, indicating his eagerness to embrace the character. "They called", he wrote, while announcing the project. The film will introduce Milly Alcock as Supergirl, focusing on the story of Kara Zor-El, Superman's cousin. Other cast members include Matthias Schoenaerts as the villain Krem of the Yellow Hill and Eve Ridley as Ruthye Mary



Knolle. Lobo, a popular anti-hero in the DC Universe, is known for his violent and irreverent persona. Originating from the planet Czarnia, he is the last of his kind after destroying his own race. Created by Roger Slifer and Keith Giffen, Lobo first appeared in Omega Men 3 in 1983. Supergirl: Woman Of Tomorrow is a part of James Gunn and Peter Safran's rebooted DC Universe, following the anticipated Superman film

starring David Corenswet and Rachel Brosnahan. Momoa's portrayal of Aquaman began with a cameo in Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and continued with leading roles in Justice League and Aquaman. However, his latest film Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom did not perform well at the box office

## Rakul Preet Singh's Mere Husband Ki Biwi Poster Sparks Buzz Among Netizens

New Delhi: Rakul Preet Singh, known for her charm and screen presence, has once again captured the attention of her fans with the poster reveal of her upcoming film Mere Husband Ki Biwi. The actress, who has been eagerly awaited back on the commercial film scene, looks stunning in the poster alongside co-star Arjun Kapoor. Sitting gracefully on a horse in a beautiful dress, Rakul exudes elegance, sparking excitement among fans and critics alike.



However, the poster also sparked a flurry of reactions online, particularly around the portrayal of her co-star Bhumi Pednekar. Netizens have noticed that Bhumi seems to be notably absent from the poster, with some jokingly questioning, "Rakul has cut off Bhumi from the poster???? Is it a real thing?"

## Dimple Kapadia is the happiest granny as Twinkle and Rinke's kids drown her in cuddles during vacation

Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna are making sure to spend some quality time with their family as they ring in New Year's Eve. Several pictures from their vacation in Goa have now surfaced on Reddit, where the two were seen goofing around with their extended family members. In the first picture posted by a Reddit user, Twinkle's mother Dimple Kapadia



was seen with her grandchildren, Arav (who is Akshay and Twinkle's son) and Naomika (daughter of Samir Saran and Dimple's youngest daughter Rinke). Dimple stunned in a printed maxi dress with untied hair and a pair of sunglasses. A second

picture saw Akshay in a fun mood. He wore a light blue shirt and white khaki pants. The last picture saw Twinkle pose with Naomika. Twinkle looked gorgeous in a white top that was paired with a printed shirt. Twinkle celebrated her 51st birthday on December 29. Akshay posted a fun video of Twinkle relaxing on a chair at their home and edited it with another clip of her breaking into a dance.

## 5 iconic films that returned to cinemas in 2024, from Tumbbad to Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein

2024 was an exciting year for movie buffs as many iconic Bollywood films returned to theaters. These re-releases gave fans a chance to watch their favourite movies on the big screen again and allowed a new generation to experience these classics for the first time. From the emotional drama of Karan Arjun to the gripping tale of Tumbbad, here are some memorable films that made their way back to cinemas this year.

**Karan Arjun**  
The Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Karan Arjun returned to theaters globally on November 22. Directed by

Rakesh Roshan, the movie is remembered for its gripping storyline and memorable performances. Rakesh Roshan shared his thoughts ahead of the re-release, calling it an "experiment" to see if the film's reincarnation theme still resonates with audiences. "I'm curious to see whether today's generation believes in such a story or not. If they like the film, it will mean that the generation hasn't changed," Roshan told newsmen.

**Tumbbad**  
The visually stunning horror-thriller Tumbbad shattered its previous box office records during its re-release on September 13. Directed by Rahi



Anil Barve and co-produced by Sohum Shah, the movie even surpassed classics like Sholay and Mughal-e-Azam in opening-day collections. Tumbbad originally released in 2018, and its success led producer Sohum Shah to announce Tumbbad 2. Fans were thrilled to revisit the eerie tale of greed and curses,

making it one of the most talked-about re-releases of the year. **Jab We Met**  
The romantic drama Jab We Met, starring Kareena Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor, was re-released on Valentine's Day 2024. Known for its iconic characters Geet and Aditya, the film brought lovebirds to theaters once again. The



songs, including Mauja Hi Mauja and Tum Se Hi, were as magical as ever, making the experience a nostalgic trip for fans. **Gangs of Wasseypur**  
Gangs of Wasseypur, the crime drama directed by Anurag Kashyap, returned to cinemas on August 30, 12 years after its original release. The two-part film, which

stars Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Richa Chadha, recounts the story of a coal mafia spanning three generations. Recalling the film's journey, Nawazuddin had earlier told ANI, "I never thought Gangs of Wasseypur would become a cult film. But watching it at Cannes, I felt the magic of Anurag's creation." **Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein**

The romantic drama Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein, featuring R. Madhavan and Dia Mirza, was another nostalgic trip for fans. Originally released in 2001, the film's re-release saw it gaining even more love.

## Jolie relieved but exhausted after divorce settlement with Brad



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt filed for divorce in 2016. The couple reached a settlement and Jolie's lawyer expressed her relief. Settlement documents are yet to be filed in court. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt filed for divorce in 2016.

Hollywood actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt reached a divorce settlement eight years after filing for divorce. Her attorney, James Simon, told The Associated Press she is relieved and exhausted after fighting one of the longest divorces in the history of Hollywood. The documents regarding their settlement are yet to be submitted in court.

In a statement, Simon said, "More than eight years ago, Angelina filed for divorce from Mr Pitt. She and the children left all of the properties they had shared with Mr Pitt, and since that time she has focused on finding peace and healing for their family. This is just one part of a long ongoing process that started eight years ago. Frankly, Angelina is exhausted, but she is relieved this one part is over." Details regarding the settlement have been kept under wraps. The couple hired a private judge to handle the case. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt were one of the most popular couples in Hollywood. They were together for 12 years and have six children together. In 2016, Jolie filed for divorce after an abusive episode on a private jet from Europe. She claimed that Pitt was abusive towards her and their children. Though a judge granted them divorce and declared them single in 2019, the splitting of assets and child custody were to be settled separately.

Bhubaneswar, Saturday, February 01, 2025

# No opening ceremony for CT; Rohit need not go to Pakistan

**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** The will-he-or-won't-he question has been answered. Rohit Sharma can well stay in Dubai, the Indian team's base in the Champions Trophy - there is no need for him to cross over to Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) have cancelled their planned opening ceremony or captains photo-up ahead of the eight-nation championship. He would have been needed there, otherwise. "An opening ceremony was never announced either by the ICC or the PCB," said a source well-versed with the development. The PCB did not comment on the matter but did not deny the fact that there won't be an official opening ceremony or captains' photo-

op prior to the Champions Trophy, an ICC event they are hosting for the first time in close to 30 years.

There has been an intense sense of anticipation on whether Rohit will cross the Wagah, the first time a current Indian cricketer would have stepped into the Pakistani soil since 2008. It will no longer be needed. The authorities cite recent instances to hammer home the contention that no opening ceremony was planned. "The last opening ceremony with all the participating players taking part was held in Dhaka in 2011 (World Cup). Never after," said a source.

The diplomatic dynamic between India and Pakistan cannot be overlooked in this matter. The Indian government has been vetoing the cricket team's visit to Pakistan. It can only be a



conjecture if it has opposed the captain's trip to Karachi, where an opening ceremony was reportedly planned. Whether the Indian government has opposed Rohit's journey or not, the latest development sits with

its policy.

To emphasise the point, the organisers state that no photo-shoot was held before the last Twenty20 World Cup, held in the West Indies and the US in June 2024. "Nor was there a combined press

conference before the tournament started," it was pointed out. It may not be out of place to mention that all 10 captains were called for a press conference in Ahmedabad, before the start of the 2023 World Cup.

The organisers explain that an opening ceremony or an official gathering of the captains is not possible because of different dates of arrival of the teams in Pakistan. The England team, currently in India, is apparently reaching Lahore on February 18, almost a week after playing the last ODI, in Ahmedabad on February 12. It is being said that the England team is taking a break after the ongoing white ball series.

Australia will be reaching Pakistan on February 19, five days after finishing their two-Test series in Sri Lanka on February 14. England and Australia, both in the same group, are slated to play in Lahore on February 22. "Both the sides have taken a break en-route to Lahore," the source said. "Because the two sides will arrive either a day before or on the day of the opening

match (February 19) all captains will not be available in the lead-up to the tournament. As such, no captains' photo-shoot or joint-press conference will be held," the source said, confirming that the India captain will not be officially required to be in Pakistan. It has, however, emerged that the PCB will go ahead with a few pre-event ceremonies. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the renovated Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on February 7 while President Asif Ali Zardari will do the same at the National Stadium in Karachi on February 11. Locally, the PCB will hold an opening ceremony at the Lahore Fort on February 16. Top PCB officials will be there anyway. Some ICC officials are expected to be present. The Champions Trophy starts on February 19 and will run till March 9 with India playing all their games in Dubai.

## Du Plessis secures crucial win for playoffs-chasing JSK

**New Delhi:** Joburg Super Kings secured a crucial victory over table-toppers Paarl Royals that boosted their playoffs chances. On a tricky surface, skipper Faf du Plessis led from the front with his 87 that helped wrap up the clinical chase with over two overs to spare.

Du Plessis got adequate support first from Devon Conway, with whom he put on a 54-run stand. He then added 76 with Leus de Plooy for the second wicket. Through both partnerships, du Plessis played the aggressor's role and got the bulk of the runs while one end was held tight.



In contrast, Paarl Royals struggled to get any momentum going with the bat. They lost four wickets inside the

PowerPlay and were left in dire straits after the top-order was blown away. At 69/5, both Donovan Ferreira and

Lutho Sipamla had justified the decision to bowl first. The Royals' recovery came through a counterattack from

Dinesh Karthik at the backend of the innings. The wicketkeeper got his maiden SA20 fifty and put on a 58-run stand with Bjorn Fortuin which pushed the Royals towards a respectable total.

However, after the duo were dismissed in quick succession, the innings meandered along giving the Super Kings a comfortable target to chase down.

**Brief Scores:** Paarl Royals 150/9 (Dinesh Karthik 53; Lutho Sipamla 3-19) lost to Joburg Super Kings 151/3 in 17.5 ov (Faf Du Plessis 87) by 7 wickets

## Jacob Duffy added to NZ squad for ODI tri-series in Pakistan



**New Delhi, (ENS):** New Zealand have added fast bowler Jacob Duffy to their squad for the ODI tri-series in Pakistan which precedes the marquee Champions Trophy next month. The 30-year-old fast bowler, who is a reserve player for the Champions Trophy, will serve as cover for Lockie Ferguson, who is currently playing for the Desert Vipers at the ILT20, a tournament that runs till February 10.

Duffy impressed in the recent T20I series against Sri Lanka, claiming 12 wickets from five white-ball games and picked up the Player of the Series award for the T20I leg. He will depart for Pakistan on Monday with the rest of the ODI squad. New Zealand are scheduled to play two ODIs at the Gaddafi Stadium

in Lahore, against Pakistan (February 8) and South Africa (February 10), and potentially the final in Karachi (February 14) if they qualify. They then have an official Champions Trophy warm-up game against Bangladesh on February 16 in Karachi before heading into the first game of the ICC event on November 19 against the tournament hosts Pakistan.

New Zealand squad for the tri-Series: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy

## 4th T20I: India Beat England By 15 Runs

**Pune, 31/1 (photonewstimes):** India beat England by 15 runs in Pune and thus confirmed a series win for themselves, taking an unassailable 3-1 lead. Harshit Rana took three wickets and there was some controversy around him replacing Shivam Dube as concussion sub. India's spinners wrestled momentum back in the hosts' favour after Ben Duckett and Phil Salt got England off to a flying start in their chase of 182. The pair blasted 62 runs in the powerplay before Duckett fell off the last ball of the sixth over to Ravi Bishnoi. Salt fell in the very next over to Axar Patel after which Bishnoi got the big wicket of Jos Buttler. The momentum has thus swung back in India's favour. Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube smashed half-centuries and helped India recover from being five wickets down for 79 runs to 181/9 in 20 overs. Pandya smashed his way past fifty in 27 balls and finally fell on 53 off 30 to Jamie Overton. Pandya and Shivam Dube have powered an extraordinary fightback from India going into the death overs. India had found themselves in a hole just 12 balls into this match already with Saqib Mahmood dismissing Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma with his first two balls of the match itself and then sending back Suryakumar Yadav in the same over. He thus started his tour with a stunning triple-wicket maiden. Jos Buttler won the toss and England are bowling first, thus making this the first match of this series in which India are batting first. India have brought back Arshdeep Singh and Rinku Singh in place of Mohammed Shami and Dhruv Jurel and

included Shivam Dube for the first time in the series in place of Washington Sundar. England have got better and better at dealing with India in the series, culminating in them winning the third T20I and staying alive. India's batters have been underperforming, as have England's, but the hosts will need them to fire if they are to pull away from the



visitors again.

Harry Brook fell to Varun Chakravarthy right after crossing the milestone and then dismissed Brydon Carse in the same over to help India nose ahead in what has been a see-saw fourth T20I in Pune. Ben Duckett and Phil Salt earlier blasted an opening partnership of 62 runs in the powerplay of before the former fell to Ravi Bishnoi off the last ball of the sixth over. This was followed by Axar dismissing Salt and Bishnoi getting the big wicket of Jos Buttler. England are chasing a target of 182.

India were put to bat first by Jos Buttler, who won the toss for the first time in this series and fast-bowling all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube them from sinking to an embarrassing total by blazing half-centuries and getting the hosts to a score of 181/9. India had lost three wickets in the second over of

their innings and reeling at 79/5 in the 11th over. Pandya and Dube put up a partnership of 87 runs off just 45 balls for the sixth wicket. The former eventually fell on 53 off 34 balls while Dube finished unbeaten on 50 off 30 balls. Rinku Singh and Abhishek Sharma had earlier chosen attack as the best form of defence for India as they powered India past the 50-run mark in the eighth over. Saqib Mahmood, bowling for the first time on this tour, started off with two wickets off his very first two balls and then went on to pick another one in the same over in the fourth T20I between India and England in Pune. He thus got a rare triple-wicket maiden and it left India with a deep hole to climb out of just 12 balls into the match.

Saqib dismissed Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma with his first two balls of the tour itself and Suryakumar fell off the last ball. Jos Buttler won the toss at last, having lost it all three times before today in this series, and England are bowling first. India have brought back Rinku Singh and Arshdeep Singh for Dhruv Jurel and Mohammed Shami respectively and added Shivam Dube to provide some firepower in the middle order in place of Washington Sundar.

This series has been a battle between India's spinners and England's pacers, with batters on both sides blowing hot and cold. India won the first battle emphatically, then just about managed to keep England out in the second thanks to Tilak Varma. In the third, though, even a five-wicket haul from Varun Chakravarthy was not enough for them to avoid defeat. England seem to have got increasingly better at winning in these conditions in their own way as the series progressed and so India would know that they have their task cut out as far as keeping their lead goes for the rest of this series.

## NSC forms fact-finding committee for BPL payment

**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** The National Sports Council on Thursday announced that they have formed a three-member fact-finding committee to investigate the payment issues in the ongoing season of the Bangladesh Premier League.

The tournament has been marred by unprecedented non-payment issues, with franchises like Durbar Rajshahi and Chittagong Kings failing to clear their players' dues on time. The financial irregularities have raised serious concerns about the league's credibility and management, tarnishing the reputation of both the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and BPL. The controversy has also



cast a shadow over Bangladesh's standing in global cricket, as such issues deter top international players from participating in future editions. In response to growing criticism and extensive media reports on the crisis, the National Sports Council (NSC) has stepped in to investigate. The NSC stressed that failure to honour contractual agreements not only affects players

financially but also brings reputational damage to the league and the country's cricketing structure. To address the situation, the council has formed a Fact-Finding Committee, which will examine the payment disputes and irregularities surrounding BPL 2025.

## The Nobel Prizes will be announced against a backdrop of wars, famine and artificial intelligence

STAVANGER, (photonestimes): Wars, a refugee crisis, famine and artificial intelligence could all be recognized when Nobel Prize announcements begin next week under a shroud of violence. The prize week coincides with the October 7 anniversary of the Hamas-led attacks on Israel, which began a year of bloodshed and war across the Middle East.

The literature and science prizes could be immune. But the Peace Prize, which recognizes efforts to end conflict, will be awarded in an atmosphere of ratcheting international violence - if awarded at all.

"I look at the world and see so much conflict, hostility and confrontation, I wonder if

this is the year the Nobel Peace Prize should be withheld," said Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

As well as events roiling the Middle East, Smith cites the war in Sudan and risk of famine there, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and his institute's research showing that global military spending is increasing at its fastest pace since World War II.

"It could go to some groups which are making heroic efforts but are marginalized," Smith said. "But the trend is in the wrong direction. Perhaps it would be right to draw attention to that by withholding the peace prize this year."

Withholding the Nobel

Peace is not new. It has been suspended 19 times in the past, including during the world wars. The last time it was not awarded was in 1972.

However, Henrik Urdal, director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo, says withdrawal would be a mistake in 2024, saying the prize is "arguably more important as a way to promote and recognize important work for peace." Civil grassroot groups, and international organizations with missions to mitigate violence in the Middle East could be recognized.

Nominees are kept secret for 50 years, but qualified nominators often publicize their picks.

## 'We don't want to die here': Sierra Leone migrants trapped in Lebanon

Freetown, (photonestimes): When an Israeli air strike killed her employer and destroyed nearly everything she owned in southern Lebanon, it also crushed Fatima Samuella Tholley's hopes of returning home to Sierra Leone to escape the spiralling violence. With a change of clothes stuffed into a plastic bag, the 27-year-old housekeeper told newsmen that she and her cousin made their way to the capital Beirut in an ambulance. Bewildered and terrified, the pair were thrust into the chaos of the bombarded city -- unfamiliar to them apart from the airport where they had arrived months before. "We don't know today if we will live or not, only God knows," Fatima told newsmen via video call, breaking down in tears.

"I have nothing... no passport, no documents," she said. The cousins have spent days sheltering in the cramped storage room of an empty apartment, which they said was offered to them by a man they had met on their journey.

With no access to TV news and unable to communicate in French or Arabic, they could only watch from their window as the city was pounded by strikes. The spike in violence in Lebanon since mid-

September has killed more than 1,000 people and forced hundreds of thousands more to flee their homes, as Israel bombards Hezbollah strongholds around the country.

The situation for the country's migrant workers is particularly precarious, as their legal status is often tied to their employer under the "kafala" sponsorship system governing foreign labour.

Rights groups say the system allows for numerous abuses including the withholding of wages and the confiscation of official documents -- which provide workers their only lifeline out of the country.

"When we came here, our madams received our passports, they seized everything until we finished our contract" said 29-year-old Mariatu Musa Tholley, who also works as a housekeeper. "Now [the bombing] burned everything, even our madams... only we survived". Sierra Leone is working to establish how many of its citizens are currently in Lebanon, with the aim of providing emergency travel certificates to those without passports, Kai S. Brima from the foreign affairs ministry told newsmen. Residents check the destruction in the aftermath of

an Israeli strike on the neighbourhood of Mreijeh in Beirut's southern suburbs on October 4, 2024. The poor west African country has a significant Lebanese community dating back over a century, which is heavily involved in business and trade. Scores of migrants travel to Lebanon every year, with the aim of paying remittances to support families back home. "We don't know anything, any information", Mariatu said. Fatima and Mariatu said they had each earned \$150 per month, working from 6:00 am until midnight seven days a week. They said they were rarely allowed out of the house. Patricia Antwin, 27, came to Lebanon as a housekeeper to support her family in December 2021. She said she fled her first employer after suffering sexual harassment, leaving her passport behind. When an airstrike hit the home of her second employer in a southern village, Patricia was left stranded. Patricia said a passing driver saw her crying in the street and offered to take her to Beirut. Like Fatima and Mariatu, she has no money or formal documentation. "I only came with two clothes in my plastic bag", she said.

## Investigators recover plane black boxes from Washington air collision

Washington, (ENS): Investigators on Thursday recovered the black boxes from a passenger plane whose mid-air collision with a military helicopter over Washington's Potomac River killed 67 people, as rescuers pulled victims' bodies from the freezing water.

US President Donald Trump launched a political attack blaming diversity and inclusion policies championed by his Democratic predecessors for causing the incident.

Trump's politicization of the tragedy came as the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said it had recovered the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder from the Bombardier jet operated by an American Airlines subsidiary that smashed into an Army Black Hawk helicopter late Wednesday. "The recorders are at the NTSB labs for evaluation," the agency said in a statement to newsmen. In this image provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, wreckage is seen in the Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 in Washington. No survivors in US plane-helicopter crash, 28 bodies pulled from

Potomac River. According to a New York Times report, staffing was thin in the control tower at Reagan National Airport, where the airliner was about to land when



the collision occurred.

One controller, rather than the usual two, was handling both plane and helicopter traffic, the Times quoted a preliminary Federal Aviation Administration report as saying.

A fireball erupted in the night sky and

both aircraft tumbled into the icy Potomac, leaving rescue crews with the grim, difficult task of searching for bodies in the dark and cold.



Over 40 bodies had been recovered as of Thursday evening, according to US media reports.

Trump, who took office 10 days ago, turned a press conference on the disaster into a platform for his crusade against diversity, equity and inclusion or DEI --

a series of often decades-old measures meant to combat racism and sexism across the United States.

Accusing his Democratic predecessors Joe Biden and Barack Obama of having kept good employees out of the aviation agency in pursuit of DEI, he claimed: "They actually came out with a directive: 'too white.' And we want the people that are competent."

The passenger plane was carrying 64 people and the Black Hawk had three aboard.

The collision -- the first major crash in the United States since 2009 when 49 people were killed near Buffalo, New York -- occurred as American Eagle Flight 5342 from Wichita, Kansas came in to land.

Reagan National is a major airport located a short distance from downtown Washington, the White House and the Pentagon. The airspace is extremely busy, with civilian and military aircraft a constant presence. Trump opened his White House press conference by speaking of the nation's anguish. However, he then launched into an extended broadside against DEI,

aiming directly at Biden's openly gay transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg. "He's run it right into the ground with his diversity," Trump said.

The message was hammered home as Trump's vice president, JD Vance, and new defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, took turns at the podium to repeat -- without evidence -- the hard-right theory that diversity measures keep capable Americans out of responsible jobs.

Asked again by reporters whether he was blaming workplace diversity for the crash, Trump answered: "It could have been." Buttigieg responded on X, calling Trump "despicable."

"As families grieve, Trump should be leading, not lying," he said.

Democratic Senator Chris Murphy posted that Trump's comments "blaming the FAA's hiring of women and black people for the crash -- was disgusting." "He's in charge. This happened on his watch," Murphy said. Trump doubled down, however, later issuing an official memo directing the government to investigate "deterioration in hiring standards" under Biden and "replacement" of anyone unqualified.

## "Poor Thing": Row Over Sonia Gandhi's Remarks On President's Speech

New Delhi, (photonestimes): The Budget Session began with a fresh controversy this morning after Congress MP Sonia Gandhi called President Droupadi Murmu a "poor thing" while commenting on her address to the Parliament. The phrase followed Mrs Gandhi's concern that the 66-year-old looked exhausted after her long customary speech, with the BJP denouncing it as a "derogatory comment" and demanding an apology. President Murmu addressed a joint sitting of the Parliament this morning to mark the beginning of the Budget Session.

After her customary speech, Mrs Gandhi - a senior politician who once served as Congress chief - was asked reporters asked her for her comment outside the Parliament.

"The President was getting very tired by the end. She could hardly speak, poor thing," Mrs Gandhi replied, flanked by her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, both MPs. "Boring? No

comments? Repeating the same thing again and again?" Rahul Gandhi



could be heard helping his mother with her comments. The BJP condemned Mrs Gandhi's remark with party chief JP Nadda saying that it is "deeply disrespectful" and underscores the opposition's disregard for the dignity of the highest constitutional office.

"Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. While the President was highlighting the government's achievements, the opposition - driven by its feudal mindset - chose instead to mock the empowerment of backward classes and

women, a transformation brought about under Prime Minister Modi's

leadership," said Mr Nadda. The deliberate usage of such words - "poor thing" - shows the elitist, anti-poor, and anti-tribal nature of the Congress Party, he said, demanding that the opposition party issued an unconditional apology.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju also demanded an apology and said Ms Murmu has worked extensively for the country. "I condemn the comments made by Sonia Gandhi and other opposition leaders. Our President, a tribal woman, is not weak. Droupadi Murmu has worked extensively for

the country and society, they cannot even imagine. They should

and that is not accepted by Congress's zamindaari mindset. That's why they are opposing her speech," said Mr Majumdar. The BJP has accused the Congress of being feudal several times in the past, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi even recalling an image of Indira Gandhi from her Gujarat visit, which showed her holding a hanky near her nose due to foul smells. He hinted at her being an elitist while calling it the "fragrance of humanity". President Murmu, during her address earlier in the day, said the government has worked towards lifting the economy out of "policy paralysis" despite challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic and global conflicts. She also said that the third term of the Modi government is seeing work being done at thrice the pace of previous regimes. The President praised the government's efforts in the aviation and railway sectors and said it is working towards modernisation in the agriculture sector and aims to make it self-reliant.

BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar added that the Congress's feudal mindset can't digest the fact that an Adivasi lady had become the President of the country. "It was a derogatory comment. Leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should not pass such comments, especially on the President. Droupadi Murmu belongs to an Adivasi family and now she is the number one citizen of our country

## S Jaishankar's "Conduct Policies Out Of Syllabus"

New Delhi, (photonestimes): Emphasising strong India-US bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday described US President Donald Trump as an "American nationalist".

Speaking at an interactive session at Delhi University's Hansraj College, S Jaishankar highlighted the evolving nature of global diplomacy and India's approach to it.

"I recently attended his (Trump's) oath-taking ceremony and we received good treatment. I believe he is an American nationalist," S Jaishankar said in response to a question about whether Trump is India's friend or enemy.

He acknowledged that Trump's policies could bring significant changes to global affairs but asserted that India's foreign policy would continue to be guided by national interest.

"Yes, he (Trump) will change a lot of things, maybe some things will be out of syllabus, but we have to conduct foreign policies out of syllabus in the interest of the country," he said, adding, "There may be some issues where we differ, but there will be many areas where things will be in our shed." S Jaishankar also stressed the strong personal ties between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump, saying, "Our relationship with the US is strong and Modi has a good personal relationship with Trump." During the session, S Jaishankar spoke about India's growing global influence and changing perceptions about the country.



"Even non-Indians now say they are Indians, they think it will help them get a seat on a plane somewhere," he said.

Reflecting on his career, S Jaishankar shared insights into his transition from academia and diplomacy to politics.

"I never thought I would become a bureaucrat. My entry into politics happened by accident, or call it fortune, or call it Modi. He (PM Modi) pursued me in a manner that nobody could say no," he said. He highlighted that Indians living abroad still rely on their homeland for support and said, "Jo bhi desh ke baahar jate hain, woh hamaare paas hee aate hain. Baahar hum hee rakhwale hain (Those who leave the country turn to us only. We are their caretakers outside)."