

India clinch T20I series

PUNE: India secured a 15-run victory over England in the fourth T20I at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, taking an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series. Defending 181, India bowled out England for 166, with Ravi Bishnoi and Harshit Rana taking three wickets each. England's chase was led by Harry Brook (51), but regular wickets derailed their momentum.

Opting to bat first, India got off to a disastrous start as Saqib Mahmood produced a historic triple-wicket maiden in the second over, becoming the first bowler to achieve the feat in men's T20Is. He dismissed Sanju Samson (1), Tilak Varma (0), and Suryakumar Yadav (0) in quick succession, reducing India to 12/3. Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse added further pres-

sure with disciplined spells. Abhishek Sharma and Rinku Singh attempted to steady the innings with attacking strokes, but Adil Rashid's clever variations broke the partnership. Sharma (29 off 19) fell trying to clear the boundary, and Rinku (30) perished while attempting a big shot off Carse.

At 98/5 in the 13th over, India was in trouble, but Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube launched a counter-attack. They put on a crucial 60-run stand, smashing Rashid, Carse, and Mahmood for boundaries and sixes. Pandya reached his fifty in style before falling for 53 off 30 balls. Dube continued the assault, also scoring 53, but late wickets and Overton's tight final over restricted India to 181/9. Chasing 182, England's top order struggled against India's disciplined

bowling. Skipper Jos Buttler and Phil Salt started aggressively but lost their wickets early to Arshdeep Singh and Bishnoi. England lost wickets at regular intervals, with Bishnoi and Rana exploiting the conditions well.

Harry Brook provided resistance with a well-crafted 51, countering Indian bowlers with timely boundaries. However, lack of support from the other end hampered England's chase. Rana's fiery spell in the death overs, supported by Bishnoi's consistent strikes, ensured England fell short, getting bowled out for 166.

Brief scores: India 181/9 (Hardik Pandya 53, Shivam Dube 53; Saqib Mahmood 3-35, Jamie Overton 2-32) beat **England 166/10** (Harry Brook 51, Ben Duckett 39; Ravi Bishnoi 3/28, Harshit Rana 3/33) by 15 runs

RANJI TROPHY: DAY 2

Kohli's lean patch continues as Delhi reach 334/7

NEW DELHI: Delhi's middle-order strength ensured they ended Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy match against Railways at 334/7, but the failure of star batsman Virat Kohli was a key talking point as the team wrestled through a challenging day at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground here on Friday.

After a tough start on Day 1 when they were 41/1, Delhi's innings began to show signs of recovery, thanks in large part to Ayush Badoni's blistering knock of 99 off 77 balls.

Badoni's aggressive

stroke play, including 12 fours and 3 sixes, helped steady the innings, while Sumit Mathur, who was unbeaten on 78 off 189 balls, played the anchor role. Mathur's patient approach saw him reach his half-century off 117 balls, forming a crucial partnership with Badoni.

However, the early dismissal of Delhi's top order once again raised concerns. Sanat Sangwan (30), Yash Dhull (32), and the much-anticipated Virat Kohli (6) all failed to convert their starts into substantial scores.

U19 WOMEN'S T20 WC

India storm into final

KUALA LUMPUR: Defending champions India sealed a dominant nine-wicket victory over England in the second semifinal of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 at Bayuemas Oval on Friday, booking their place in the final against South Africa.

India's bowlers were in superb form, with Parunika Sisodia (3/21) and Vaishnavi Sharma (3/23) restricting England to a modest total of 113/8. Kamalini Gunalan led the charge with the bat, scoring a composed 56* from 50 balls, as India cruised to the target with five overs and nine wickets in hand.

England, opting to bat first after winning the toss, began with a b risk start led

37/2, and the wickets kept tumbling thereafter. Aayushi Shukla's two crucial dismissals, including the top-scorer Perrin, helped India tighten their grip.

In reply, India's openers Kamalini and Gongadi Trisha set a solid foundation with a 50-run partnership in just eight overs. Trisha's dismissal brought Sanika Chalke to the crease, and the pair saw India home with ease.

Brief scores: India 117/1 (Kamalini 56*, Trisha 35) beat **England 113/8** (Perrin 45, Norgrove 30, Sisodia 3-21, Vaishnavi 3-23, Aayushi 2-21) by nine wickets



by Davina Sarah T Perrin, who top-scored with 45. However, a double strike from Parunika in the fifth over reduced England to

SL trail Australia by 518 runs

GALLE: Sri Lanka were 136 for 5 in the first innings at stumps on day three of the first Test against



Australia at the Galle International Stadium here on Friday and trail by 518 runs to the visitors' mammoth total of 654 for 6 in the first innings.

Dinesh Chandimal remained unbeaten on 63*, with Kusal Mendis yet to get off the mark when stumps were drawn.

Australia's potent bowling attack was left frustrated after the final two sessions of the day were washed out due to unexpected rain. The weather disruption provided Sri Lanka with some respite, with the surface showing signs of wear and tear, making batting increasingly challenging.

The day began under sunny skies, with 27 overs bowled before rain arrived abruptly just before lunch. With no further play possible, stumps were called over two hours early. The weather forecast suggests more rain today, but clear conditions are expected for the final day of the Test.

Marsh out of ICC Champions Trophy

SYDNEY: Australia allrounder Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of next month's ICC Men's Champions Trophy due to the worsening of a back injury he has struggled with throughout the summer. The 33-year-old has not featured in a match since a solitary appearance for Perth Scorchers in the Big Bash League earlier this month.

Cricketer Australia (CA) has denied reports claiming that Marsh is suffering from stress fractures but confirmed that his ongoing rehabilitation for a lower back complaint has only exacerbated the issue. Marsh, who had previously been in contention to captain the ODI team in Pat Cummins' absence, will now undergo a period of rest and further rehabilitation.

Asian Winter Games 2025

Participation of Indian contingent approved

NEW DELHI: The Central government has approved the participation of the Indian contingent at the 9th Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025, scheduled to be held from February 7 to 14 in Harbin, China.

The government has given clearance for participation of 88-member Indian contingent which includes 59 athletes and 29 team officials.

For the first time, full financial support is being extended under the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF)

Scheme to athletes competing in Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Short Track Speed Skating, and Speed Skating (Long Track), the official sources on Friday said.

This significant decision highlights the government's commitment to promoting winter sports and providing Indian athletes with opportunities to compete at the highest levels in Asia.

The Asian Winter Games provide a crucial platform for Indian athletes to showcase their

talent and compete with some of the best in the world, setting the stage for future global competitions. The Government's structured approach not only promotes transparency but also strengthens India's resolve to become a formidable contender in winter sports.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports extends its best wishes to all participating athletes and reaffirms its commitment to supporting the growth of winter sports in India.

Racing scene set for big step forward: Chandhok

CHENNAI: The racing scene in India is set for a major enhancement by way of bigger and more powerful vehicles in the near future, Vicky Chandhok, vice-president, Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC), said on Friday.

Speaking at the MMSC Annual Awards ceremony to honour the 2024 National Racing Championship winners here, he said: "I cannot go into specifics, but the racing scene should witness infusion of bigger and more powerful machines sometime soon."

"Parallely, MMSC is working towards making motorsports more affordable and to this end, our karting programme at the Mika International Kart-

ing Arena, is the first step in this direction," he said.

"We also thank MRF Tyres, Honda and TVS for their active involvement in our National Championships," he added.

Chief guest Arun Mammen, vice-chairman and managing director, MRF Ltd., outlined his company's involvement in motorsports over six decades and a strong presence in various championships globally. He reiterated that MRF would continue to support motorsports in India across various disciplines. The ceremony marked the conclusion of the 2024 National racing season as awards were presented to the winners at a gala function.

Economic Survey pegs GDP growth at 6.3-6.8%

NEW DELHI: India's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 6.3-6.8% year-on-year in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), as per the Economic Survey 2024-25 tabled in the Parliament on Friday ahead of the Union Budget.

The Survey tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that while there are many upsides to domestic investment, output growth and disinflation in FY26, the economy faces equally strong downsides too. "On balance of these considerations, we expect that the growth in FY26 would be between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent," the Survey said. It further said that navigating global headwinds will require strategic and prudent policy management and reinforcing the domestic fundamentals. India's GDP growth slowed down to nearly seven-quarter low of 5.4% year-on-year in the July-September quarter (Q2) of current financial year

2024-25 triggering downward revision in annual growth forecast by multiple agencies. As per the first advance estimates of national accounts, India's real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.4% in FY25.

"Looking ahead, India's economic prospects for FY26 are balanced. Headwinds to growth include elevated geopolitical and trade uncertainties and possible commodity price shocks," the Economic Survey 2024-25 said. The government's report card noted that domestically the translation of order books of private capital goods sector into sustained investment pick-up, improvements in consumer confidence, and corporate wage pick-up will be key to promoting growth. Further, it said that rural demand backed by a rebound in agricultural production, an anticipated easing of food inflation and a stable macro-economic environment provide an upside to near-term growth.

Negative impact of AI on labour

The impact of AI or artificial intelligence on labour will be felt worldwide but it can be a big issue in India considering its size and low per capita income, Economic Survey 2024-25 has warned.

"The corporate sector has to display a high degree of social responsibility. Although the impact of AI on labour will be felt across the world, the problem is magnified for India, given its size and its relatively low per capita income," it said.

The Survey said that if companies do not optimise the introduction of AI over a longer horizon and do not handle it with sensitivity, the demand for policy intervention and the demand on fiscal resources to compensate will be irresistible.

Core sector output rises

NEW DELHI: India's core sector output measured by index of eight core industries (ICI) grew 4% year-on-year in December 2024.

As per data released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday, production of coal, electricity, steel, cement, refinery products, fertilizers and crude oil recorded positive growth in December 2024.

The ICI measures the combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity.

The eight core industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Sensex zooms

MUMBAI: The equity market remained strong for the fourth consecutive session on Friday as BSE Sensex closed at 77,500.57, up 740.76 points as buying was seen in Capital Goods, Consumer Durable, and Power stocks. The economic survey yesterday was tabled projecting that the growth for the financial year 2024-25 will be 6.30 to 6.80 percent.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 258.90 points at 23,508.40.

The Sensex opened positive at 76,888.89, rising 129 points. During the day it spurted 846 points at 77,605, a day's high, before closing at 77,500.57, advancing 740.76 points from its previous close.

The Nifty registered day's high and low at

23,546.80 and 23,277.40 points respectively.

The stocks that glittered were Capital Goods

& T by 4.31 pc to Rs 3567.20, Nestle India Ltd by 4.25 pc to Rs 2313.05, IndusInd Bank by 3.66 pc



by 3.89 pc, Industrials by 3.61 pc, Consumer Durable by 2.77 pc and Power by 2.56 pc.

The Mid-cap rose by 1.76 pc and the Small-cap by 1.83 pc.

In 31 scrips, 25 advanced, while 6 declined. The gainers were L

to Rs 992.15 and Titan by 3.59 pc to Rs 3489.70.

The losers were ITC Hotel by 2.98 pc to Rs 164.65, Bharti Airtel by 0.76 pc to Rs 1627.95, Bajaj Finserv by 0.43 pc to Rs 1737.15 and Bajaj Finance by 0.17 pc to Rs 7885.55.

KRN Heat Exchanger posts growth

MUMBAI: KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration Limited, a leading manufacturer and exporter of heat exchange solutions, has reported impressive growth in its Q3 FY25 financial results. The company achieved a total income of Rs 116.36 crore, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 73.67%. EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs 15.81 crore, marking a growth of 34.76%. Additionally, net profit surged by 74.44%, reaching Rs 13.73 crore.

Santosh Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director, attributed this success to the company's strategic initiatives and focus on resource efficiency. He highlighted the company's ongoing commitment to

maintaining high-quality standards and expanding its operations, particularly through a substantial Rs 235.76 crore investment in its subsidiary, KRN HVAC Products Private Limited. This move strengthens its position in the HVAC&R sector.

Looking ahead, KRN Heat Exchanger plans to leverage the growing demand for energy-efficient and customized heat exchanger products. The company is well-positioned for continued growth, with a focus on innovation, customer satisfaction, and enhanced manufacturing processes, all while maintaining global quality standards for its reliable and durable products.

Infinix launches SMART 9HD smartphone

NASHIK: Infinix has launched its new smartphone, the SMART 9HD, priced at INR 6699. Avail-

brightness. It's powered by a MediaTek Helio G50 processor, with 64GB storage (expandable to 1TB) and up to 6GB of RAM for smooth performance. The 13MP dual rear camera and 8MP front camera ensure great photography, even in low light.

The device is equipped with a 5000mAh battery, AI charge protection, and Power Marathon for extended use, running on Android 14 Go edition for optimized perfor-



mance

Škoda Kylaq launches in India

NASHIK: Škoda Auto India's first-ever sub-4-metre SUV, the Kylaq, has officially arrived on Indian roads, marking a significant milestone for the brand. With its launch, the



Kylaq opens new horizons for Škoda in India's booming SUV market. It is the brand's first offering in the high-demand sub-4m segment and the first model in India to showcase Škoda's new modern solid design language, emphasising robustness, functionality, and authenticity.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India shares, "The Kylaq has officially arrived and is set to drive Škoda's growth trajectory in India over the coming years.

Its availability from today marks the New Era for Škoda Auto India. It combines safety, exceptional driving dynamics, and segment-leading features. Following the success of the Kushaq and Slavia, the Kylaq continues our India-focused product strategy, helping us tap into new markets and bring even more customers into the Škoda family. With its accessible pricing, we can say the Kylaq truly democratizes European technology on Indian roads."

Symphony Ltd launches hair fall control geysers

AHMEDABAD: Symphony Ltd has introduced a range of water heaters with advanced 9-layer PuroPod Technology that softens hard water, reducing hair fall and skin irritation. The new models, Symphony Spa, Sauna, and Soul, come in 10-litre, 15-litre, and 25-litre capacities.

The Symphony Spa features SmartBath technology, making it India's first AI-powered water heater with a splash-proof controller for easy operation. The company also unveiled an advertisement campaign highlighting the impact of hard water on hair.

Commenting on the

development, Achal Bakari, Chairman and Managing Director, Symphony Ltd, said, "At Symphony, we think about tomorrow, today. Guided by our 'Thinking of Tomorrow' philosophy, we developed this unique geyser after gathering consumer insights on the impact of hard water on hair and skin, as well as the inconvenience of operating geysers installed at a height. With advanced filtration to reduce water hardness and an AI-enabled, splash-proof wireless controller, our geysers ensure effortless operation—even while showering—making every bath smarter, safer, more luxurious."