

Reward of Rs 5 cr for women U-19 team

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of Rs 5 crore for the India under-19 women's team following their outstanding victory in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2025 in Malaysia.

The team, led by captain Niki Prasad, successfully defended their title, remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament and clinching the crown with a dominant nine-wicket win over South Africa in the final.

The BCCI's announcement of the cash reward serves as a fitting recognition of the team's exceptional performance, where both batswomen and bowlers showed

immense skill and composure on the global stage.



The squad, alongside their support staff, including head coach

Nooshin Al Khadeer, has been celebrated for resilience and dom-

inant play throughout the competition. Standout performances

came from Gongadi Trisha, who finished as the highest run-scorer of the tournament with 309 runs, and also claimed the Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament awards. Trisha's all-round contributions were matched by excellent bowling displays from spinners Vaishnavi Sharma and Aayushi Shukla, who topped the wicket-takers' list with 17 and 14 wickets, respectively.

India's victory in both the inaugural ICC U-19 women's T20 World Cup in 2023 and the 2025 underscores the strength of the BCCI's age-group and grassroots cricket structure, ensuring a continuous flow of talent to the senior national team.

UP Warriorz sign Chinelle Henry

MUMBAI: UP Warriorz (UPW) have roped in West Indies all-rounder Chinelle Henry as a replacement for Australian wicketkeeper-batswoman Alyssa Healy for the upcoming edition of the TATA Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025.

Alyssa has been ruled out of the tournament due to an injury. Chinelle, who has represented the West Indies in 62 T20Is, has scored 473 runs and claimed 22 wickets in the format. She joins UPW for Rs 30 lakh. Meanwhile, Royal Chal-

lengers Bengaluru (RCB) have secured the services of Australian cricketers Heather Graham and Kim



Garth as replacements for Sophie Devine and Kate Cross, respectively. Sophie

and Kate will miss the third season of the TATA WPL due to personal reasons. Heather, an all-rounder, has played five T20Is for Australia, picking up eight wickets. Kim, who previously played for Gujarat Giants (GG) in the WPL, has featured in 59 T20Is, 56 ODIs, and four Tests for Australia, accumulating 764 runs and 49 wickets in the shortest format. Both Graham and Kim have been signed by RCB for Rs 30 lakh each. The TATA WPL 2025 is set to witness high-profile clashes as teams gear up with new additions to their squads.

Champions Trophy

India leg of trophy tour concludes

NEW DELHI: The India leg of trophy tour of the ICC Champions Trophy has concluded, with the coveted prize visiting Mumbai and Bengaluru ahead of the tournament set to begin on February 19. The upcoming edition of the eight-team, 50-over tournament will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9.

"The Trophy Tour has visited all eight participating nations during its global journey, and with the conclusion of the India leg, it will now make its final stop in Pakistan," the ICC said in a statement on

Monday. In Mumbai, the trophy visited iconic locations such as Wankhede Stadium, Shivaji Park, the Gateway of India, Carter Road, the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Bandstand, among others. It was also displayed during the 50th anniversary celebrations of Wankhede Stadium.

In Bengaluru, the trophy toured venues including Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Bengaluru Palace, Freedom Park, KR Market, Town Hall, St. Mary's Basilica, M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Church Street, and Vidyaarathi Bhavan.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal thrash Man City

LONDON: Arsenal moved to within six points of Premier League leaders Liverpool by thrashing Manchester City at Emirates Stadium. The Gunners, who knew only a victory would suffice with Liverpool opening a commanding lead at the top of the table after winning at Bournemouth, responded by overpowering the fading champions in emphatic fashion, the BBC reported.

Arsenal have played a game more than Liverpool, but this impressive victory at least means they remain within touching distance of Arne Slot's pacesetters.

City, as they had done against Chelsea eight days previously, gifted their opponents an early lead, this time inside two minutes when defender Manuel Akanji lost possession, Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard then steering in Kai Havertz's pass.

Arsenal were wondering whether they would regret Havertz's dreadful first-half miss when Erling Haaland headed City level after 55 minutes, but their lead was restored within two minutes when Thomas Partey's shot was deflected wide of keeper Stefan Ortega off John Stones.

And the points were made safe after 62 minutes as 18-year-old Myles Lewis-Skelly



fired home his first goal for Arsenal. Ortega getting a hand to his powerful shot but failing to keep it out.

As City crumbled once more in this season of turmoil, Havertz made up for his earlier miss by steering a precise left-foot finish into the far corner past Ortega with 14 minutes left.

It got even better for Arsenal as 17-year-old Ethan Nwaneri, picked out superbly by Declan Rice, bent a fabulous shot into the far corner.

Villa complete Rashford loan deal

LONDON: Aston Villa have completed the loan signing of Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford, media reports said.

The 27-year-old has joined on a deal until the end of the season, which includes an option to buy, the BBC reported.

United sources said the terms mean a minimum of 75% of Rashford's wages will be covered. Villa are not paying a loan fee.

Writing on Instagram Rashford said, "I would like to thank Manchester United and Aston Villa for making this loan deal happen."

"I was lucky to have a few clubs approach me but Aston Villa was an easy decision - I really admire

the way that Aston Villa have been playing this season, and the manager's ambitions. I just want to play football and am excited to get started. "I wish everyone at Manchester United all the best for the rest of the season."

Speaking after he was dropped for the Manchester derby in December, England international Rashford said he was "ready for a new challenge".

Villa are also close to signing Spain midfielder Marco Asensio on loan from Paris St-Germain.

On Saturday, Villa boss Unai Emery said the club "need new players" following their 2-0 defeat at relegation-threatened Wolves.

MMA fighter Swift faces controversy

WASHINGTON: An American superstar boasting hundreds of millions of social media followers, and an amateur England fighter, who works part-time as an electrician, share the same name - Taylor Swift.

Sharing a name with a global megastar might be a bonus for some, but for a rising mixed martial arts (MMA) star, it has its own problems. "Once I started fighting, there was no avoiding it. It literally gets shouted out in the arena," Swift (the MMA fighter) told CNN Sport's Don Riddell. "It gets the odd little chuckle from a few people from the crowd. At weigh-ins as well, especially at amateur (level), all the fighters are in the same room, and they get called up. As soon as mine is called, it gets a few laughs."

Manufacturing PMI surges

NEW DELHI: India's factory activities picked pace in January 2025 with the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) climbing to nearly a six-month high of 57.7 during the month on the back of strong export orders. India's manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global, had fallen to a one-year low of 56.4 in December 2024, reflecting weak factory activities during the month.

A PMI print below 50 means contraction, while above it shows expansion in activities.

The rate of expansion in manufacturing activities during January this year was the quickest since last July and outpaced its long-run average.

"Following a moderation in growth during December, Indian goods producers kicked off 2025 on a robust note. With new orders rising

at the quickest pace since last July, fuelled by the steepest upturn in exports in nearly 14 years, there was a stronger expansion in output. January data also showed a pick-up in growth of buying levels and record job creation," the private survey said



on Monday.

Cost pressures retreated to their weakest in 11 months during January this year, but selling prices rose solidly amid buoyant demand. Mean-

while, business confidence strengthened. Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said, 'India's final manufacturing PMI marked a six-month high in January. Domestic and export demand were both strong, supporting new orders growth. The employment PMI suggested robust job creation in the manufacturing industry, as the index increased to its highest level since the series was created.'

Bhandari further said, "Input cost inflation eased for a second month, relieving pressure on manufacturers to raise final output prices."

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers. It is one of the closely watched high-frequency data by economists, markets, and policymakers.

Cement industry hails budget

NEW DELHI: Hailing the Union Budget 2025-26, the cement manufacturers on Monday said the government has presented a commendable vision for India's development through strategic investments in people, economy and innovation.

The Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) said that the increased spending on large-scale housing and infrastructure projects will drive demand for construction materials allowing capacity expansion and promotion of innovation in sustainable practices.

Sensex falls

MUMBAI: The BSE Sensex on Monday slipped 319.22 points to settle at 77,186.74 on weak Asian Market.

The National Stock Ex-



change (NSE) fell 121.10 points at 23,361.05.

After a flat note on Saturday, the Sensex opened negative at 77,063.94, declining 442 points. It remained nega-

tive throughout the day. During the day it dropped 749 points at 76,756.09, a day's low, before closing at 77,186.74, sliding 319.22 points from its

previous close. The Nifty registered day's high and low at 23,381.60 and 23,222 points respectively. The stocks that dragged the market were Capital

Goods by 4.29 pc, Industrial by 3.79 pc, Power by 3.30 pc and Utilities by 2.71 pc.

The Mid-cap slid 0.89 pc, while the Small-cap by 1.77 pc.

In 31 scrips, 11 advanced, while 20 declined.

The losers were L&T by 4.64 pc to Rs 3287.25, Tata Motors by 2.64 pc to Rs 687.45, Hind Unilever by 2.62 pc to Rs 2441.40 and Asian Paints by 2.33 pc to Rs 2296.05.

The gainers were Bajaj Finance by 5.28 pc to Rs 8423.80, M & M by 2.96 pc to Rs 3171.35, Bajaj Finserv by 2.30 pc to Rs 1794.45 and Bharti Airtel by 1.76 pc to Rs 1652.05.

Reliance serves devotees at Maha Kumbh Mela

PRAYAGRAJ: As the sacred waters of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati converge at Praya-

graj, millions embark on a spiritual pilgrimage to Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for self-discovery and divine grace, the journey for many can be challenging. Recognizing this, Reliance Industries Limited has launched 'Teerth



ing. Guided by its 'We Care' philosophy, Reliance is providing the pilgrims with a wide spectrum of services - from nourishing meals and essential healthcare to safe transportation and seamless connectivity.

The flagship S1 Pro+ features Ola's latest 5.3kWh variant powered by 4680 Bharat Cell technology, de-

Ola Electric unveils Gen 3 S1 electric scooter range



BENGALURU: Ola Electric has expanded its S1 lineup with the launch of its third-generation electric scooter range, introducing eight new models across various price segments. With prices ranging from Rs. 79,999 to Rs. 1,69,999, the new portfolio aims to cater to a wide range of customers, from budget-conscious buyers to premium segment enthusiasts.

In the mass-market segment, Ola has introduced the S1 X series, with the base

living a top speed of 141 kmph and an impressive range of 320 km. A 4kWh version is also available for those seeking a balance between performance and affordability. The new Gen 3 platform brings key engineering upgrades, including a mid-drive motor, chain drive system, and an integrated Motor Control Unit, resulting in a 20% boost in power and range while reducing costs by 11%.

In the mass-market segment, Ola has introduced the S1 X series, with the base

model S1 X (2kWh) priced at Rs. 79,999, while the top-end S1 X+ is available for Rs. 1,07,999. The scooters also feature advanced safety technology, including the industry's first dual ABS system for electric two-wheelers and brake-by-wire technology, improving energy efficiency and braking performance. Ola Electric is set to roll out MoveOS 5 beta in mid-February, introducing features such as a Smartwatch App, Smart Park, and upgraded navigation through Ola Maps.

Premium Plast reports growth

MUMBAI: Premium Plast Limited (NSE: PREMIUM), a leading provider of precision plastic components, has reported strong profitability in the first half of FY25, driven by margin growth and operational efficiencies. The company's total income remained steady at Rs. 23.27 crore, while EBITDA increased by 7.74 percent year-on-year to Rs. 5.44 crore. Net profit also saw a 9.25 percent rise, reaching Rs. 2.61 crore.

The company's EBITDA margin improved to 23.39 percent, reflecting a 191 basis points increase, while the net profit margin stood at 11.20 percent, growing by 105 basis points compared to the previous year.

REC Ltd flags off mobile medical units



NASHIK: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has allocated Rs. 4.29 crore under its CSR initiative to procure and deploy four Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) across four districts in Punjab. These units, handed over to the Indian Red Cross Society, Punjab, were flagged off by Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at Raj Bhawan.

The MMUs aim to deliver essential healthcare services to underserved communities, strengthen-

ing REC Foundation's nationwide CSR efforts. During the event, the Governor praised REC's initiative for bringing medical care to those in need.

The flag-off ceremony in Chandigarh was attended by senior state officials, including K Siva Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor, and V P Singh, Principal Secretary to the Governor. Also present were S Dhillon, CEO of IRC Punjab, and REC officials Pradeep Fellows, ED (CSR), and M A Ali, Senior CPM, REC Panchkula.