

International

Former Peru President Ollanta Humala, wife sentenced to 15 years in prison

Former Peruvian President Ollanta Humala has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after being found guilty of accepting illegal campaign funds from the Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, now known as Novonor. His wife, Nadine Heredia, received an identical 15-year sentence for her involvement in the case. Humala becomes the second former Peruvian President imprisoned in connection with the Odebrecht corruption scandal and the fourth to be formally charged.

WHO member states finalize landmark pandemic agreement.

Member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have finalized a historic agreement to prepare the world for future pandemics, following negotiations that spanned over three years. The agreement calls for technology transfers to be incentivised through regulations, licensing agreements, and favourable financing conditions. Meanwhile, it includes a compromise that any transfer must be mutually agreed upon.

The draft also proposes steps such as establishing a pathogen-access and benefit-sharing system. It includes a One Health approach for pandemic prevention and the setting up of a global supply chain and logistics network. The proposal will now be considered before the World Health Assembly next month.

6th India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-6 commences in Pune.

The 6th edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-6 started at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra. Indian contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of JAT Regiment and the Indian Air Force.

The exercise will enable both sides to share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

of conducting Joint Sub-Conventional operations.

National

India to provide budgetary support to IBCA.

India and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed the Headquarters Agreement in New Delhi. The Agreement provides for India to be the host for the IBCA Headquarters and Secretariat. Under the agreement, the government of India will provide budgetary support of 150 crore rupees to IBCA for creating a corpus, building infrastructure, and meeting recurring expenditure for five years.

The International Big Cat Alliance was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023, during an event “Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger” at Mysuru. The IBCA primarily aims for the conservation of seven big cats, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.

AIIMS Delhi ranks 97th among World's Best Hospitals in 2024.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, has been named the 97th best hospital globally in the World's Best Hospitals 2024 ranking by Newsweek and Statista. Besides, AIIMS, New Delhi, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh ranked 228th in the list.

Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA consistently ranks among the top-ranked hospitals, often claiming the top spot.

Railways Minister commemorates 172nd anniversary of India's 1st train journey.

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had commemorated the 172nd anniversary of India's first train journey, recalling the historic moment when the inaugural train departed from Bori Bunder to Thane in Maharashtra on the 16th of April in 1853. The Minister also described it as a landmark day in the nation's history, marking the birth of Indian Railways.

North Karnataka's famed Gajendragad sarees get GI tag.

North Karnataka's famed 'patteda anchu' sarees (Gajendragad sarees), much sought after for their distinctive border lines, has received the coveted Geographical Indication tag recently. The traditional handloom sarees from North Karnataka's Ilkal, Betageri, Gajendragad and other parts are a huge draw among women, especially during the marriage season, and the recognition will help the skilled weavers to continue the profession.

Business and Economy

WTO forecasts slump in Global trade this year due to tariff war.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has released its Trade Forecast for 2025 and 2026. The report has predicted that global trade will fall this year as a result of tariffs by United States President Donald Trump.

The WTO said it expected trade in goods to fall by 0.2% this year, down from its expectation in October of 3.0% expansion. The decline is expected to be particularly steep in North America, where exports are forecasted to drop by 12.6 per cent.

The report contains for the first time a forecast for services trade, which is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2025, around 1 percentage point less than expected.

UNCTAD projects India's economy to grow by 6.5 % in 2025.

According to the latest UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy with a 6.5 per cent growth rate in 2025 while global growth is seen as marking a shift towards a recessionary path. India has been listed among the countries that are propelling growth with higher government expenditure and monetary policy stimulus in the report titled 'Trade and Development Foresights 2025'.

The report projected China's growth rate at 4.4 per cent, while the US economy is expected to grow at 1 per cent. The growth for the European

Union has also been projected at 1 per cent. France, Germany and Italy are all expected to record below 1 per cent growth.

Japan's economic growth rate is expected to come down to a mere 0.5 per cent.

ECB cuts interest rates to 2.25% amid slowing growth, trade tensions.

The European Central Bank, ECB has cut interest rates by 25 basis points to 2.25 percent in response to slowing growth and US President Donald Trump's tariffs. The governing council of the Frankfurt-based bank said the outlook for growth had deteriorated owing to rising trade tensions. It added that these factors may further weigh on the economic outlook for the euro area.

FM Sitharaman hails BSE's 150-year legacy, launches BSE 150 Index.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lauded the Bombay Stock Exchange's (BSE) technological advancements and its vital role in India's economic development. The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Asia's oldest stock exchange, marked a historic milestone as it celebrated its 150th anniversary. Ms. Sitharaman said BSE processes orders worth Rs 1,500 crore daily, reflecting the seamless integration of cutting-edge technology.

On this landmark occasion, Sitharaman launched the BSE 150 Index, a new benchmark index designed to track the performance of the top 150 listed companies based on market capitalization and liquidity. The new index aims to offer investors a more comprehensive view of India's rapidly evolving equity landscape. .

India's exports register growth of 5.5% to hit record 820.93 billion dollars in FY 2024-25.

India's total exports of goods and services registered a growth of 5.5 per cent, reaching a record 820.93 billion dollars during April-March 2024-25, compared to 778.13 billion dollars in the previous fiscal year, despite the uncertainties in the global market. While total imports are estimated at 915.19 billion dollars.

Merchandise exports touched 437.4 billion dollars, with non-petroleum exports rising 6 per cent year-on-year at 374.08 billion dollars in FY25. Merchandise imports were at 720.24 billion dollars during the same period. Merchandise trade deficit during this period was at around 283 billion US dollars.

JSW Steel to invest up to ₹60,000 crore in making green steel in Maharashtra

JSW Steel Ltd. is planning to invest ₹50,000-₹60,000 crore in putting up a 10 million tonne per annum green steel plant at Salav in Maharashtra, JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal said.

The brownfield plant will cater to Europe which is in the process of imposing Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Sports

ISSF: Inder Singh Suruchi and Saurabh Chaudhary win mixed Team Gold.

The Indian shooting pair of Inder Singh Suruchi and Saurabh Chaudhary have won a gold medal beating Chinese duo of Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu by 17-9 in the finals of 10 metre Air Pistol Mixed Team event at ISSF World Cup 2025 in Lima, Peru.

Sourav Kothari wins 2025 IBSF World Billiards Title.

India's Sourav Kothari has claimed The 2025 IBSF World Billiards Championship Carlow, Ireland. In an all-India summit clash, Kothari got the better of old rival Pankaj Advani 725-480 to claim the world title. This is Kothari's second world title.

The 2025 IBSF World Billiards Championship was played in a 'Timed Format' which demands both precision and strategic endurance from the participants.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates World's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit in New Delhi.

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the world's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit at the National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi. The Athlete Passport Management Unit is a specialized unit dedicated to monitoring and managing athletes' biological passports, ensuring fair play and upholding the integrity of clean sport.

The Minister called APMU a key milestone in the country's fight against doping, enabling the longitudinal tracking of Athletes Biological profiles through the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) system