

17 December 2024

Snowfall in Odisha: These areas turn into a winter wonderland as temperature drops to 3°C

Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha's Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj districts witnessed an unusual weather event on Sunday, December 16, 2024, as rare snowfall blanketed parts of the region. Temperatures dipped below three degrees Celsius, creating a winter wonderland that has drawn both locals and tourists. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier issued a yellow warning for the area, signaling an intense cold wave.
- ❖ On Sunday morning, the Koida area of Sundergarh saw a thin layer of snow covering fields and vehicles. Heavy frost was reported in Tensa, Kalta, Malda, Koida headquarters, and Kasira, marking a significant cold wave.
- ❖ In Mayurbhanj, temperatures remained below three degrees Celsius for three days, with Similipal, a well-known wildlife and trekking destination, experiencing heavy frost. The cold conditions have affected daily life, particularly for workers, students, and the elderly. Many are relying on traditional methods, like bonfires, to stay warm.

Sri Lankan President Dissanayake meets PM Modi, vows not to let the country's territory be used for anti-India activities

Key Points:

- ❖ Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said Monday that his country's territory will not be used for any activity that is detrimental to India. He was speaking after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.
- ❖ The two leaders held a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House, where Dissanayake expressed gratitude to India for helping Sri Lanka during its "unprecedented economic crisis" two years ago.

- ❖ PM Modi said India had supported Lanka through lines of credit and grants worth about USD 4 billion. PM Modi said they discussed "reconciliation and reconstruction" in the neighbouring country, and expressed hope that the Sri Lankan government will fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil minorities.
- ❖ Dissanayake, who landed in Delhi on Sunday evening, is on a state visit to India from Sunday to Tuesday. PM Modi noted that this is the first visit of President Dissanayake to India after the recently concluded presidential and parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka.



- ❖ Dissanayake also met President Droupadi Murmu. The recently elected President of Sri Lanka will participate in a business event in Delhi, and visit Bodh Gaya thereafter.
- ❖ The two sides signed pacts on avoiding double taxation as well as on capacity building and training. PM Modi said the visit has infused new pace and energy into bilateral ties, and they will work on a "futuristic vision" that will involve "investment-led growth" and physical, digital and energy connectivity.
- ❖ They also discussed the Sampur solar power project, railway connectivity within Sri Lanka, ferry and flight services between the two countries, digital identity project, and education, besides deliberating on defence pacts and the work on hydrography. Dissanayake said they need to find a "durable" and "sustainable solution" to the issue of fishermen.

- ❖ Modi flagged the importance of maritime security, cyber security and counter-terrorism among issues to be discussed through the Colombo Security Conclave mechanism. They also discussed the Ramayana Circuit and the Buddhist Circuit for tours in each other's countries.
- ❖ "The visit of President Dissanayake to India shall further strengthen the multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries," the MEA spokesperson had said on Friday.

Indian Hockey team retain Women's Junior Asia Cup title at Muscat

Key Points:

- ❖ Indian women's junior hockey team successfully defended their Women's Junior Asia Cup title in Muscat, Oman, by defeating China 3-2 in the final. India, the previous 2023 edition winner, won the 10th Women's Junior Asia Cup, 3-2 in the penalty shoot-out in the final played at Muscat on 15 December 2024. The top five finishers at the 2024 Women's Junior Asia Cup - India, China, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia qualified for the 2025 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Chile.



- ❖ The 10th Women's Junior Asia Cup was held in Muscat, Oman, from 7 to 15 December 2024. The Indian women's team emulated the Indian men's hockey team, which won the 2024 Hockey Junior Asia Cup for the fifth time in Muscat, Oman.

Five Asian Team qualify for 2025 FIH Women Junior World Cup

- ❖ The 10th Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 was also a qualifying tournament for the forthcoming 2025 FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup in Chile.
- ❖ A total of 24 teams will play in the 2025 World Cup, and five places were reserved for Asia. India, China, Japan and South Korea qualified for the World Cup as they finished as the top four teams.
- ❖ In the match to decide the 5th and sixth place, Malaysia defeated Thailand to clinch the 5th Spot and thus qualified for the 2025 World Cup.

About Women Junior Asia Cup

- ❖ The Women Junior Asia Cup for women players below 21 years of age is organised by the Asian Hockey Federation.
- ❖ The first Women Junior Asia Cup was held in 1992 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and South Korea won it.
- ❖ The tournament is also a qualification tournament for the FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup. South Korea is the most successful team in the tournament, having won it four times. China won it three times, and India won twice in the 2023 and 2024 editions.

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Edition, Year	Host	Winner	Runners-Up
1st, 1992	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	South Korea	China
2nd, 1996	Shirane, Japan	South Korea	China
3rd, 2000	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	South Korea	China
4th, 2004	Hyderabad, India	China	South Korea
5th, 2008	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	South Korea	China
6th 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	China	India
7th, 2015	Changzhou, China	China	Japan
8th, 2021	Kakamigahara, Japan	Cancelled due to Covid-19	—
9th, 2023	Kakamigahara, Japan	India	South Korea
10th, 2024	Muscat, Oman	India	China

Mumbai defeats Madhya Pradesh to win the 2024 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Key Points:

- ❖ Mumbai, led by Shreyas Iyer, defeated Madhya Pradesh to win the 2024-25 season Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In the final played at the Chinnaswamy stadium, Bengaluru, Mumbai defeated Madhya

Pradesh by 5 wickets to win their second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic championship organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and is played in the T20 format.



- ❖ The 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy was held from 23 November to -15 December 2024 across various venues in India. The final was played at the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru on 15 December 2024. Thirty-eight teams which participated in the Ranji Trophy played in this season of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which was divided into five groups.

Second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Title for Mumbai

- ❖ The victory over Madhya Pradesh in Bengaluru was the second title win for the Mumbai team. Mumbai had earlier won the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy in the 2022-23 season by defeating Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Batting first, Madhya Pradesh scored 174 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Madhya Pradesh Captain Rajat Patidar was the highest scorer for his team with an unbeaten knock of 81 runs.
- ❖ Mumbai led by a fine knock of 48 runs by Suryakumar Yadav and Ajinkya Rahane's 37 runs easily scored the run to win the title. Mumbai scored 180 runs in the 18th over to win their second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.
- ❖ Award winner Player of the Match: Suryansh Shedge (Mumbai) Player of the Tournament : Ajinkya Rahane (Mumbai)

About Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- ❖ Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a premier domestic men's senior T20 tournament. It

was initially started as the Inter-State T-20 Tournament, but it was renamed the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy by the BCCI ahead of its second edition in 2009. Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, known for his attacking batting, is the first Indian to score a century in a Test match abroad. He scored 112 runs against England in 1936. Lala Amarnath was the first Indian to score a century in a Test when he scored 118 runs against England in Bombay in 1933. Teams to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy more than once: Tamil Nadu has won the title three times in 2006/07, 2020/21, and 2021/22. Mumbai has won the title twice: 2022/23 and 2024/25. Baroda has won the title twice: 2011/12 and 2013/14.

Ex Footballer Mikheil Kavelashvili elected Georgia's President

Key Points:

- ❖ Former footballer Mikheil Kavelashvili was elected as the new President of Georgia on 14 December, 2024. Mikheil Kavelashvili, who played football for the Georgian national team and various European club teams, was elected unopposed as the President as the opposition boycotted the election.



- ❖ The pro-Russian and anti-west Mikheil Kavelashvili will replace the pro-western incumbent President Salome Zourabichvili. President Salome Zourabichvili has condemned the election of Mikheil Kavelashvili. The President of Georgia is largely a ceremonial post and has no real power. The real power is with the Prime Minister. Mikheil Kavelashvili will be sworn in as the Georgian President on 29 December 2024.

Election of Mikheil Kavelashvili

- ❖ The President of Georgia is indirectly elected. The President is elected by a 300-member electoral college consisting of members of the Georgian Parliament and the representatives of the regional governments.
- ❖ Mikheil Kavelashvili, the founder of the People's Power Party, was supported by the ruling Georgian Dream party in the presidential election.
- ❖ During the election, Mikheil Kavelashvili secured 224 out of the 225 members of the electoral college who voted in the presidential election.
- ❖ The presidential election was boycotted by the opposition, who believed that the parliamentary election in October 2024 was rigged in favour of the ruling Georgian Dream Party.

About Georgia

- ❖ Georgia is a Transcaucasian country located along the Black Sea in Europe.
- ❖ Capital: Tbilisi
- ❖ Currency: Georgian Lari
- ❖ Prime Minister: Irakli Kobakhidze

Vijay Diwas 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ On December 16, 1971, India achieved a historic victory over Pakistan, leading to the liberation of Bangladesh. This 13-day war ended with Pakistan's surrender of 93,000 soldiers and highlighted India's military strength, humanitarian values, and commitment to justice.
- ❖ Vijay Diwas, observed annually on December 16, commemorates India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ This 13-day war, triggered by the humanitarian crisis in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), ended with the surrender of 93,000 Pakistani soldiers and the liberation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.



- ❖ On this day in 1971, Lieutenant General A.A.K. Niazi of Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender in Dhaka, marking a historic moment led by Indian leaders like Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, and Lt. General Jagjit Singh Aurora.
- ❖ This victory reshaped South Asia's geopolitics, showcasing India's commitment to justice, humanity, and democratic values.

Cyclone Chido Hits Mozambique, Wrecks Havoc in Mayotte

Key Points:

- ❖ Cyclone Chido, a Category 4 storm, devastated Mayotte, flattening neighborhoods and causing extensive damage before making landfall in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province on December 15, 2024. Cyclone Chido, a Category 4 storm, caused widespread destruction in Mayotte before making landfall in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province on December 15, 2024.



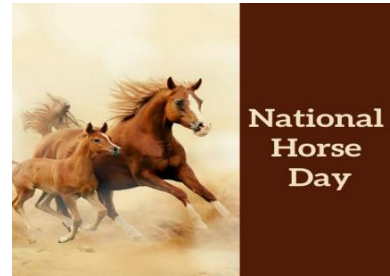
Mount Semeru Eruption in East Java**Key Points:**

- ❖ Mount Semeru erupted on 15th December, sending a thick ash column 1,000 meters into the sky. Indonesia's Center for Volcanology issued an orange aviation warning and restricted flights within 5 kilometers of the volcano. Mount Semeru, located in East Java, Indonesia, erupted on 15th December, spewing a thick column of white-to-grey ash rising up to 1,000 meters into the sky.
- ❖ This eruption prompted an aviation warning from Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation, which issued an orange Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation. Flight restrictions were placed within a 5-kilometer radius of the volcano.

**National Horse Day**

- ❖ National Horse Day is celebrated annually on December 13 in India to honor and acknowledge the importance of horses in the country's history, culture, and economy. The day is meant to highlight the significant role horses have played in India's

agriculture, transportation, sports, and military. It serves to promote awareness about horse welfare and the need to protect and preserve these majestic animals.

**Shaheen Afridi Becomes Youngest Bowler to take 100 Wickets in all 3 formats****Key Points:**

- ❖ Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi made history by becoming his country's first bowler to take 100 wickets in each format of international cricket. The left-arm pacer achieved the milestone during the first T20I against South Africa in Durban. The hosts defeated Pakistan by 11 runs in the match. In the match, Shaheen took three wickets to complete 100 T20I wickets in 74 T20s and became the first Pakistan bowler to have 100 wickets in each format of the game.



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