

leisure



HUDSON WEARS SBYASACHI AT CRITICS CHOICE AWARDS

Hollywood star Kate Hudson, known for films such as *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Almost Famous* and *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*, was spotted wearing jewelry designed by popular Indian couturier Sabyasachi Mukherjee at the Critics Choice Awards 2025.

MADELYN CLINE JOINS DEPP, PENÉLOPE IN DAY DRINKER

Actress Madelyn Cline, known for appearing in popular series *Outer Banks*, has joined the cast of *Day Drinker*, an upcoming action thriller starring Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz. The movie, which hails from Hollywood studio Lionsgate, will be helmed by Marc Webb.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
The artist in you seeks expression today. Thus, you could decide to paint your house in attractive colours, or repair a piece of old furniture in modern style. You may become sentimental about a forgotten matchbox collection, and decide to replenish it. Ganesh is in full agreement with all such activities that give you fulfilment.

TAURUS
A good day for money and love (you need more?). A quality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win yourself hearts, smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leader in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
There are indications that your aggressive spirit and antagonistic trait will come to the fore today, says Ganesh. This may have a negative effect, but today you can even get away with murder! You will, in fact, get much-awaited good news at the workplace. At home, you will be at your playful and imaginative best.

CANCER
The health of a kin may cause anxiety, says Ganesh. Your lack of enthusiasm will influence you on family matters. So you will have to focus on family members. New ties and contacts are in the offing. Over-all, a hectic and profit-able day.

LEO
You will be in the mood to express your thoughts and opinions unabashedly today. You will try your utmost to make gains in your profession. You will be able to clear off your debts. You should make the most of this beneficial time to end your financial troubles, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Perhaps, your artistic talents will shine out today, says Ganesh. You will be very happy with your personal belongings, which you have preserved for years. Later in the day, you may beautify your house by adding furniture and artefacts at appropriate places.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will like to do something special in a subject that interests you. Past incidents or memories will flash in your mind today. Today you will be able to tell what is in your heart and mind to a special person. Ganesh wishes you a happy and joyous day.

SCORPIO
It's time for soiree and merry making with family, predicts Ganesh. You never know, you may even bump into someone special today, who may become an integral part of your life in future. Your friends are your extended family, call them over for the celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh foresees a gradual weakening in your position. You are most likely to bring troubles upon yourself as the day progresses. Good economic gains are expected if you change the hub of your activities.

CAPRICORN
Nothing in the world can be as comforting as the support of your family members, and you will have that in plenty today, especially if you're setting out to refurbish your house, says Ganesh. With their support, you can win the world and achieve the impossible, but since everything comes with a price tag – even happiness – get ready to pay for a fat bill; the support of your loved ones won't come cheap.

AQUARIUS
Fame and fortune woo you today! And along with recognitions and rewards, you receive encouragement to do even better. Your bosses are pleased, but feel that you haven't really given your 100%. Head on your shoulders and feet on the ground, says Ganesh, is the best policy.

PISCES
For professionals as well as businessmen, today promises to be a progressive day. For those looking for new opportunities, interesting positions may be offered. You will have harmonious relations with your family, friends and co-workers. A progressive period for you begins from today, says Ganesh.

Samantha's delightful rendezvous



MUMBAI: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently met TV personality Uorfi Javed at a restaurant in Mumbai, marking a special in-person meeting after an online friendship. Both took to their Instagram stories to share the delightful moment. Uorfi posted a picture of them together on her Instagram stories, writing, "Blurry but (rose emoji). Fav girls @samantharuthprabhuffl @kreshabajaj." Samantha reshared the post and wrote, "@urf7i Finally I meet you (heart emoji)." For the unversed, the two have always supported each other online, with Samantha frequently sharing Uorfi's unique outfits on her Instagram stories.

In a heartwarming video message earlier this year, Uorfi spoke about their friendship, saying, "Hi Samantha, I am your biggest fan. You are such a girl's girl, and even though we've never met, I know how supportive you are. You're one of the nicest people I've never met." Samantha's close friend, designer Kresha Bajaj, was also present during their meeting. On the professional front, Samantha was last seen in the Prime Video series *Citadel: Honey Bunny* with Varun Dhanwan. She is currently working on *Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom* with Raj & DK. Meanwhile, Uorfi's recent appearance was on the Prime Video reality show *Follow Kar Lo Yaar*.

AGENCIES



SALMAN SHARES POST BREAK-UP TIPS

MUMBAI: Superstar Salman Khan has shared his advice on how to move on from a breakup and said that "Go to the room, cry, then forget about it and come out and say 'what's up, how's it going'." During a chat with his nephew Arhaan Khan on his podcast *Dumb Biryani*, Salman shared his pearls of wisdom to the Gen-Zs on love, career and family. "Me as an uncle giving my nephew advice. So I guess that if it's for you then it is for the younger generation. I think you should just go after something. If you want to do something, don't look here and there and just go for it." He went on to say: "If your leg is hurting, head is hurting, haven't slept.. just go for it man." Then came the advice on breakups. "Girlfriend broke up and went away, it's okay, go. Bye bye. When you have to take out a bandaid how do you do it, you pull it out. Go to the room, cry, then forget about it and come out and say 'what's up, how's it going'," he shared.

IANS

SHRADDHA'S post triggers buzz



MUMBAI: Shraddha Kapoor has once again caught fans' attention with her latest Instagram post. While it may seem like a casual selfie moment, her caption has sparked curiosity, leaving many wondering if there's a deeper meaning behind her words.

Taking to Instagram, the *Chhichhore* actress shared two contrasting pictures of herself. In the first, she holds the camera from above, striking a classic selfie pose. In the second, she angles the camera differently while spending time with her furry friends. For the caption, she wrote, "Angle badlo,

rang nahi" (Change the angle not the color). While some saw it as just playful wordplay, others speculated that she might be throwing shade at someone who frequently changes their stance but not their true nature. Last month, Shraddha gave a great idea for a Valentine's gift. She took to her Instagram handle, and posted a video, suggesting a Valentine's Day gift idea. Basking in the success of *Street 2*, Shraddha will reportedly star in the upcoming installment of the popular *Dhoom* franchise. She is likely to share the screen with her *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar* co-star Ranbir Kapoor in her next. However, an official announcement is still awaited.

AGENCIES

Special screening of Naali Cha: The Taste of Life held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: A special screening of *Naali Cha: The Taste of Life*, a new web series directed by Snehasis Das was held at Odissi Research Centre here Sunday. The six episodes web series will be available at *The Naked Eye* YouTube channel Sunday onwards for public.

The web series, set in rural Odisha where tradition and simplicity have long defined everyday life, a quiet revolution is unfolding. The arrival of smart phones and widespread access to social media has brought changes into the fabric of village life, both visible and subtle. The story follows the lives of several villagers as they navigate the



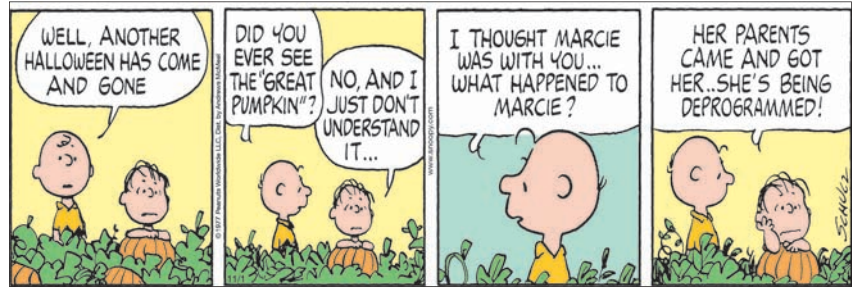
intersection of their day to day life in this digital age.

The web series stars Abhisek Giri, Anubha Sourya Gargi Mohanty, Somesh Mohanty, Himanshu, Shruti Subhashree, Dharitri Khandual, Prasanna Manjari Das, Pranab Prasanna Rath, Bhokraj Nayak and others in key roles.

Talking with **Orissa POST**, Das said that the core of the story is set in rural area, where life goes for a toss when changes start to occur and how it affects the environment of the village.

Das, whose work often focuses on important social and environmental issues, said that he wanted to make something similar to *Malgudi Days* and decided to make a web series.

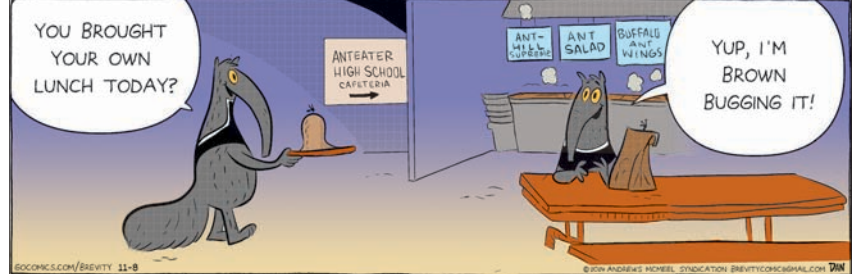
PEANUTS



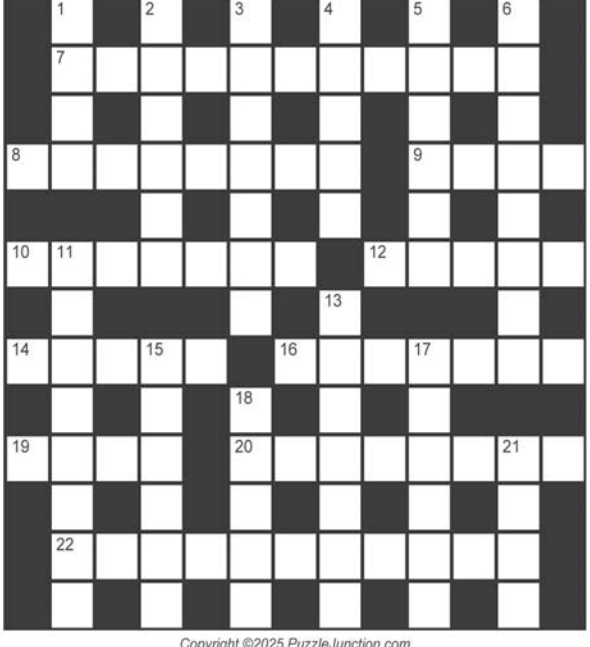
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



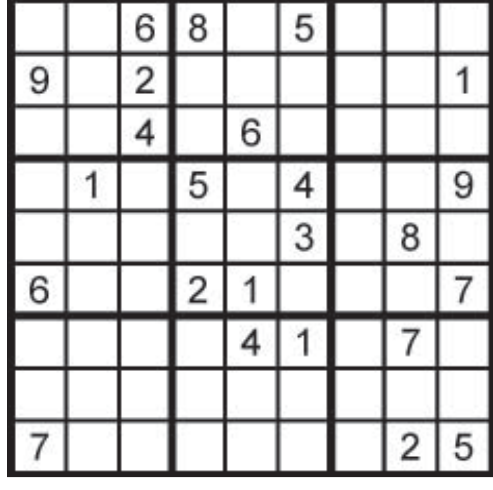
FUN post CROSSWORD



Across
7 Absolute zero, e.g.
8 Road test (5,3)
9 Eyebrow shape
10 Give to in marriage
12 Road construction barrier
14 Logic
16 Birthmark, maybe?
19 Yarn spinner
20 Creamy coffee order
22 Assistance (7,4)
Down
1 Antares, for one
2 Damage
3 Author's chore, at times
4 Spa feature
5 Anxious or nauseated
6 Relief provider (3,5)
11 Vision
13 Cause of sneezing, possibly
15 Saunter
17 How-to book
18 Bypass
21 Scotch's partner

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

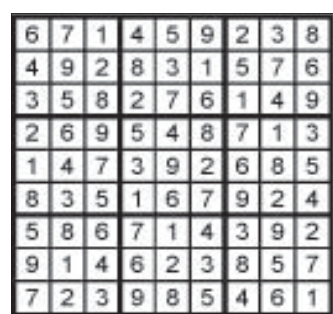


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artistes from *Ame Natua*, Rourkela perform 'Simarekha' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



downtown

CRICKET FEVER GRIPS FANS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 9: Thousands of fans who stood in queues for long hours to get a ticket for the One Day International (ODI) cricket match between India and England a couple of days ago, started flocking to the venue, Barabati Stadium, here early Sunday morning to witness the much awaited tie.

Before entering into the stadium, many of the cricket enthusiasts gathered outside well before the designated time. As the day progressed, jersey vendors and merchandise sellers filled the area, offering cricket gears and team-related items.

Fans were also seen waving Indian flags and displaying posters supporting Team India. The excitement was palpable as the crowd rallied behind their team, preparing for an intense day of cricket.



Brahmananda Acharya from Kabisurjanagar in Ganjam district was seen spreading message of peace and compassion outside the stadium. Wearing a yellow T-shirt, cap, and draped in vines and flowers, Acharya encouraged fans to embrace peace

and love. His efforts to raise awareness evoked enthusiasm as fans eagerly joined in, thanks to his unique approach.



Many fans showcased patriotism by painting the national flag on their faces. Ranjan Choudhury, a local artist was busy painting faces, encouraging fans to support India. He charged ₹20 for the artwork.

Among the crowd was cricket enthusiast Orchid from London who had painted the Indian flag on his face to cheer for Team India during the match. Orchid, who came to watch his first cricket match in a stadium, was all excited and extended best wishes to the Indian team, hopeful for a strong performance.



Samaranjan Mohanty, a cricket merchandise collector from VSS Nagar in Bhubaneswar, displayed his collection outside the stadium. He showcased over 1,000 tickets from various stadiums where Team India had played, along with currencies from different countries. The collection, displayed under the name "Mo Sangrahalaya (My Museum)", fascinated cricket fans who eagerly examined the items and remembered the past matches.

Groups of fans were seen frantically buying posters featuring Team India players and their favourite cricketers. They cheered for the team by displaying posters with images of stars like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and other popular players.



Abinash Sahu and Rajkishore Maharana from Dhenkanal sold posters with personalised designs, featuring player images, inspirational slogans, and well-wishes. The posters were priced between ₹100-300. Through these posters, fans continued to show their support and excitement for the Indian team and their favorite players.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi greets Kosali poet Haldhar Nag and Sambalpuri singer Jitendra Haripal on the sidelines of the match at Barabati Stadium



Rising crimes in Khurda: Residents to approach CM



PRABHATA PANIGRAHI, OP

Khurda, Feb 9: With law and order situation in and around the district headquarters town here fast deteriorating, local residents are now planning to approach Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and higher authorities for redressal on account of the alleged failure of the police to contain the rising crime graph.

Sources said there has been a surge in robberies across police station areas including Sadar, Baghamari, and Begunia. Several incidents of armed robberies have occurred during daytime, with criminals also targeting homes at night.

Over the past eight months, six families in these areas have lost valuables worth over ₹60 lakh to robberies and burglaries. The miscreants have managed to evade police surveillance as no arrests have been made in connection with these cases.

In one such incident, Rina Behera, a bank employee, was

robbed at gunpoint by two men while she was returning home with a substantial sum of money collected from customers. The incident occurred June 6, 2024 near Gudum road. The robbers made off with ₹1.7 lakh cash, a laptop, and a biometric machine from Behera. A case (No. 140/24) was filed with Sadar Police Station. However, no arrests have been made so far in connection with the case.

Other cases of robberies in the area were reported from Barapada and Panasbas villages where valuables worth lakhs of rupees had been burgled from the houses of the residents. Despite several complaints, police action has been sluggish, the alleged.

The police inaction has led to resentment and frustration among residents. Technical issues have allegedly been cited by police officials as the reason for their inability to catch the suspects. Several victims of these robberies have expressed concerns in public, demanding action.

Expressing his frustration, Pradeep Sahu, one of the victims, said despite repeated complaints, the police have not taken effective steps to nab the criminals.

Though the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) has assured of taking steps to bring the culprits to justice, the victims are not satisfied with the progress of the cases so far.

Dhau Kalinga Mahotsav concludes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: The three-day 21st Dhau Kalinga Mahotsav concluded Sunday with brilliant classical dance

performances by eminent artistes from across the country.

The event was organised by the Department of Odia Language, Literature & Culture, government of Odisha and Orissa Dance Academy, in association with Art Vision.

The first programme on the concluding evening was a fusion of Odissi, Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Mohiniyattam presented jointly by Orissa Dance Academy, Khanak Institute of Performing Arts, Pavitra Art Visual Institute and International Academy of Mohiniyattam. The presentation began with Ganesh Vandana followed by Sri Krishna Sharanam Namah - the journey of Krishna's life.

The last programme in the evening was Mayurbhanj Chhau by Mayur Art Centre, Bhubaneswar. The dancers presented Sumbha - Nisumbha Badha. The dance was choreographed by Guru Achintya Kumar Behera.

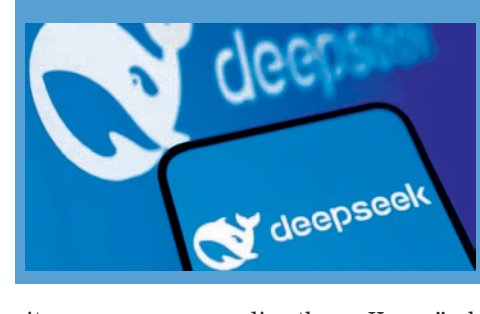
DeepSeek gives different answers about kimchi's origin

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, Feb 9: The Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) model DeepSeek provided different answers to sensitive questions depending on the language - for example, defining kimchi's origin as Korea when asked in Korean, but claiming it is Chinese when asked in Chinese, Seoul's spy agency said Sunday.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) said it has also found the AI service provides its advertisers with unlimited access to users' personal data and such information is subject to submission to the Chinese government upon its request under Chinese law, reports Yonhap news agency.

The NIS released its assessment of the technological verification of DeepSeek amid growing controversy over security concerns surrounding the service, which has prompted South Korean authorities to block access to the site.



Seoul's spy agency found that DeepSeek collects users' keyboard input patterns, which could potentially be used to identify individuals and user data it collects, like chat records, could be sent to certain servers in China

When the NIS asked where kimchi originates, DeepSeek responded, "It is a signature Korean food imbued with its culture and history," according to the agency.

But when asked the same question in Chinese, it said, "The origin is not Korea, but China," and "It is related to

Korea," when asked in English, the NIS said.

On a question in Korean about China's Northeast Project, a history initiative criticised by South Korea as distorting regional history, DeepSeek pointed to "various perspectives" among neighbouring countries due to historical differences.

However, in English or Chinese, it said the project is a "legitimate initiative for revitalising

DeepSeek also collects users' keyboard input patterns, which could potentially be used to identify individuals and user data it collects, like chat records, could be sent to certain servers in China.

It is designed to store all user inputs, share user data with advertisers without restrictions and there is no clear limit on how long the data can be stored, raising concerns about user privacy, the NIS said.

The agency also pointed out that DeepSeek's terms of service indicate that users' personal information and input data can potentially be accessed by the Chinese government.

The NIS has sent notices to all government agencies in South Korea calling for caution regarding security when using generative AI tools, such as DeepSeek.

Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar... Lijjat Papad Ho Harbar...

Karram Kurram... Kurram Kurram... Lijjat PAPAD

Website : www.lijjat.com Email : enquiry@lijjat.com

Jena urges PM for new railway division

BHUBANESWAR: Strongly opposing the recent Union Cabinet decision to operationalise the South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone by bifurcating the Waltair Division, senior Congress leader and former Union minister Srikant Jena Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to create a railway division in Odisha and integrate four districts presently under the South Eastern Railway (SER). In a letter to the Prime Minister, the Congress leader expressed concern over Waltair division merging its core area with SCoR. "This decision reflects a state-centric approach to railway restructuring, prioritising the interests of Andhra Pradesh at the cost of Odisha," Jena, also a member of the steering committee of Odisha Congress said in the letter.

CM: DD Med College to be No 1 in state

People of Keonjhar district will get world-class healthcare, says Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Feb 9: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday said Dharanidhar Medical College will soon become fully functional and become the No. 1 medical college in the state. The CM said this while addressing the closing ceremony of the two-day 74th State Annual Conference of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) at the college auditorium here.

The CM reached the DD Medical College auditorium at 11am where he first garlanded the statue of freedom fighter Dharanidhar before joining the conference.

During the event, the IMA members stood up to take an oath of providing quality healthcare to the people. A two-minute silence was observed for the departed IMA members.

In his address, Majhi said doctors are the protectors of life and are regarded as "second to



God". Majhi noted that while Keonjhar is rich in minerals and natural resources, it lags in healthcare. He expressed concern over the high number of mining-related accidents and pollution-induced illnesses in the district. Despite having a medical college, he said it is not fully functional.

According to sources, four OPDs have so far been made functional at the DD Medical College.

The CM called for collective efforts to make it the state's Number 1 institution. He said

all efforts will be made to open a trauma care centre and referring of patients to Cuttack will be stopped. He also expressed disappointment non-execution of his direction to this effect.

Majhi pointed out that the medical college was built using the district's own mineral fund and had not received any government funds. However, he assured that future improvements would be made through government grants. He vowed that Dharanidhar Medical College would soon become fully functional. Exuding confidence that Odi-

₹50K-cr investment in healthcare sector

CM Mohan Charan Majhi announced that the state has proposed an investment of ₹50,000 crore in the healthcare sector as part of the Utkarsh Odisha initiative. This is part of a broader ₹13-lakh crore investment plan. The investment is expected to generate 25,000 new jobs. The CM emphasised that while a significant portion of the state Budget is allocated to healthcare, lack of awareness continues to make people vulnerable to various diseases. He stressed that Odisha's vision for development cannot be achieved without improving healthcare infrastructure. Highlighting Ayushman Bharat scheme, which covers 60 crore people across India, Majhi said the programme will enhance healthcare services for the people of Odisha. The government has allocated ₹21,000 crore for health sector in 2024-25 fiscal.

sha will become the Number 1 state in the country, Majhi urged IMA to strengthen hospitals and serve those in need. He departed for Cuttack's Barabati Stadium at 12:30pm to watch the India-England ODI.

Rice mills violating pollution norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Feb 9: Bargarh district, known as the rice bowl of Odisha, has seen a surge in number of operational rice mills. However, some mills continue to violate the pollution control regulations as mandated by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Several mills have reportedly failed to implement proper smoke exhaust systems and waste management remains inadequate.

In response, the SPCB's Sambalpur regional office issued show-cause notices last month to five rice mill owners of the district. The notices warned of legal action against the mills in case they fail to provide satisfactory explanation within the stipulated time.

One such notice (Letter No. 336), dated January 31, 2025, was issued to Lath Industries in Jhankarpali, Bargarh. The notice states that the mill's pollution control permit is valid until March 31, but certain conditions set at the time of approval have been violated. An SPCB inspection team vis-



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

ited the mill December 11 last year and found that both smoke emission and waste disposal practices were non-compliant.

Additionally, rice husk waste was being dumped on open fields without proper containment measures, the notice mentioned. The notice also observed that no water was being sprayed to prevent the ash emanating from the mill from spreading. These findings have sparked concerns regarding the enforcement of norms by the SPCB.

The notice states that waste was being discharged from the mill without proper treatment. A directive has been issued requiring a clarification within 15 days of the notice. If no clarification is received within 21

days, legal action will be taken, the notice warned.

Similarly, the SPCB regional office, Sambalpur issued a notice (Letter No. 41), January 2 to Ghanteshwari Rice Mill at Bhurshipali under Attabira block. Additionally, show-cause notices were also issued to Shrikrishna Foods at Dhanger under Bargarh block (Letter No. 280, dated January 27); Shri Mahalaxmi Rice Industries at Barpali (Letter No. 38, dated January 20); and Shyamji Foods at Dhanger under Bargarh block (Letter No. 277, dated January 27).

Issuing such notices to rice mills and other industrial establishments is not new for the SPCB. Every year such notices are issued by the pollution regulator on discovery of norm violation.

However, despite repeated notices, the pollution board has not been taking further action against the rule violators. Since action remains limited to issuing notices, questions have been raised about the effectiveness of the pollution board's role in enforcing regulations.

Studio owner killed over past enmity



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Road, Feb. 9: A 30-year-old man was brutally murdered over suspected past enmity inside his studio at Sobar area under Jajpur Road police limits in Jajpur district late Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Deepak Kumar Sahu, son of Dharanidhar Sahu, under ward no-7 of Vyasaganar Municipality.

Police recovered his body from a pool of blood inside his studio and sent it for post-mortem. A forensic team and sniffer

dogs were also pressed into service for investigation after Deepak's elder brother Pradeep lodged a complaint at Jajpur Road police station alleging murder. Prima facie, it appears to be a murder over long-standing enmity, police said.

The victim had deep wounds on his head and body. The exact motive behind the killing remains unclear, sparking widespread speculation among locals.

According to the victim's family, Deepak had an ongoing land dispute with some persons in the area. He went to sleep at his studio after having dinner at home Saturday night. His mother tried calling him over phone Sunday morning that went unanswered. Apprehending something amiss, she went to the studio, found the door open, and the body of her son lying in a pool of blood. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and informed the police.

Woman burnt alive as shop catches fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, Feb 9: A woman was burnt alive after fire broke out at her puja supplies shop in Baktharpur under Pattamundai Model Police Station limits in Kendrapara district, Sunday morning. The deceased was identified as Kamala Sahu, 47.

Sources said all items in the shop were reduced to ashes.

The incident occurred when she lit up incense sticks before the deity at her shop around 8:30am. According to locals, the sparks of the incense stick accidentally fell onto a petrol bottle stored inside the shop, causing the blaze.

Kamala reportedly ran inside to retrieve some items after the fire broke out but was unable to escape as the flames spread

rapidly. Witnesses said the shop stocked with flammable materials like ghee, dry coconut, and oil, was quickly engulfed in flames. Efforts by locals to contain the blaze failed. Later, Fire department personnel reached the spot and brought the inferno under control. However, by then, Kamala had been burned.

Police sent her body for post-mortem and launched an investigation after registration of a case.

Locals alleged that Kamala had been illegally storing and selling petrol bottles along with puja materials. Additional District Magistrate Nilu Mohapatra assured that the victim's family would receive government assistance and stated that action would be taken against the illegal sale of petrol.



New Edition

8th Edition

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025

New Format

To beat exam stress!

PM Modi's candid conversation with students

- Expert Advice to ace exams
- A lively, engaging format

LIVE ON

10TH FEB | 11:00 AM

cbc 21101/13/0002/2425

national



The people of Delhi endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees, With this historic victory, Delhi will now stride forward firmly towards a "Viksit Bharat"

PRESIDENT MURMU TO VISIT MAHA KUMBH MELA TODAY

President Droupadi Murmu will visit the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj Today and take a holy dip at the Sangam, her office said.



of the day note

It is unfortunate that despite such a situation, the Indian government has not yet deemed it appropriate to make any statement on global platforms, or put pressure on Bangladesh

When the economic situation of farmers improves, the country's situation improves. After all, farmers are the providers and they should not look to anyone or depend on anyone for help because farmers with their strong hands possess political strength and economic capability

Maha Kumbh is not a crowd of people, it is a unique confluence of devotees. This is not just a Mela of Sanatan culture, it is a great festival of resolve

Panel urges security assessment for Indian missions

In its report, the Committee on External Affairs has also noted that India currently lacks resident missions in 42 countries

gaps, particularly in countries where India has significant economic or strategic interests or a large diaspora presence".



has made a slew of other recommendations including on the security of Indian missions abroad in view of the geopolitical situation and other factors.

infrastructure of the Indian missions, it added. The recommendations assume salience given the situation in countries like Bangladesh as also in parts of West Asia, and with New Delhi flagging in the last several months the issue of space being provided to anti-India activities in Canada that has affected the bilateral ties.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS ASSUME SALIENCE GIVEN THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES LIKE BANGLADESH AS ALSO IN PARTS OF WEST ASIA, AND WITH NEW DELHI FLAGGING IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE ISSUE OF SPACE BEING PROVIDED TO ANTI-INDIA ACTIVITIES IN CANADA THAT HAS AFFECTED THE BILATERAL TIES

New Delhi, Feb 9: A parliamentary panel has recommended that the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) should conduct a "comprehensive security assessment" of all missions and posts of India taking into account the geopolitical situation, potential threats and vulnerabilities in host countries.

While acknowledging the challenges involved in establishing new missions, the committee recommended "accelerating efforts to bridge these

"The committee have also been informed about ongoing efforts to operationalise missions in other strategic locations such as Fukuoka (Japan), Kazan (Russia) and Yekaterinburg (Russia) and future plans for opening five missions in Europe and Latin America and Caribbean regions," it said.

The parliamentary panel

panel that the safety and security of Indian missions and posts is "continuously reviewed". The committee has recommended that "the ministry should conduct a comprehensive security assessment of all missions/posts taking into account the geopolitical situation, potential threats and vulnerabilities in host countries", the report said.

Adequate resources should also be allocated for the protection of physical and digital

LG ASKS HER TO CONTINUE TILL FORMATION OF NEW GOVT

ATISHI RESIGNS AS CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Feb 9: Delhi Chief Minister Atishi handed over her resignation to Lt Governor VK Saxena Sunday, a day after her Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced a crushing defeat in the Assembly polls.

Atishi, who retained her Kalkaji seat, handed over her resignation to Saxena at Raj Niwas, officials said.

The LG's office said that Saxena has asked the outgoing CM to continue on the post till formation of a new government.

The BJP is expected to stake claim to power next week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from a foreign visit, party leaders said.

"Hon'ble Lt Governor, Shri VK Saxena today received the resignation of Hon'ble CM, Ms Atishi. He asked her to continue in her position till the formation of the new government," Raj Niwas, Delhi posted from its official X handle.

The LG dissolved the Delhi Assembly effective from Saturday, February 8.

A notification by the Assembly secretariat issued a day before read, "In exercise of the power conferred upon me by sub-section (2)(b) of section 6 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, I, Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, hereby dissolve the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from February 8, 2025."

Kejriwal meets newly elected AAP MLAs

A day after AAP was ousted from power in Delhi, party supremo Arvind Kejriwal met its 22 newly elected MLAs at his Ferozshah Road residence here Sunday and asked them to work for the people. Addressing reporters after the meeting, outgoing chief minister Atishi, who is among the 22 AAP leaders who weathered the BJP storm, said the party will play the role of a constructive Opposition and ensure that the saffron party delivers on its promises.

Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 Assembly seats. The AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held February 5.

Atishi took oath as chief minister in September last year after AAP convenor and her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post amid corruption allegations against him.

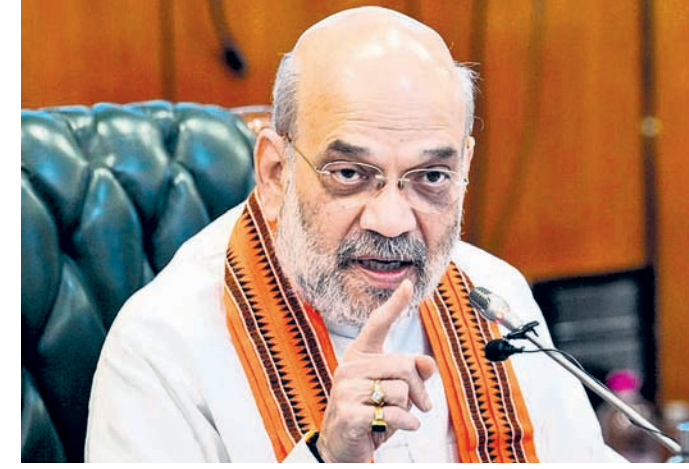
AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar Sunday said the party will play the role of a "constructive Opposition" in Delhi.

"We accept the people's mandate with all humility. AAP is a party which understands, recognises and works on its mistakes. We will definitely look into the reason our vote share has reduced," she said.

"We will play the role of a constructive Opposition and will make sure that we will hold the BJP accountable to the promises they have made for the people of Delhi," she added.

Amit Shah vows to eradicate Maoism

SHAH'S REACTION COMES AFTER THE SECURITY FORCES KILLED 31 NAXALS IN CHHATTISGARH



The home minister said in the direction of making India Naxal-free, the security forces have achieved a big success in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

New Delhi, Feb 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Sunday that Naxals will be eradicated by March 31, 2026 and no citizen of the country has to lose his life due to it.

I also reiterate my resolve that before 31 March, 2026, we will completely eradicate Naxalism from the country so that no citizen of the country has to lose his life due to it

Shah said this after the security forces killed 31 Naxals in Chhattisgarh.

"I also reiterate my resolve that before 31 March, 2026, we will completely eradicate Naxalism from the country so that no citizen of the country has to lose his life due to it," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi.

Shah said the security forces have also lost two of its brave soldiers "in the effort to end an anti-human Naxalism" and the country will always be indebted to these heroes.

"I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers," he said.

POST OF THE DAY

#DelhiElectionResults 5 things BJP should do immediately in Delhi

SHORT TAKES

Fire at Maha Kumbh tent, no casualties

Mahakumbh Nagar: A fire broke out in a 'kalpvasi' tent in Sector 19 of here at the Maha Kumbh Sunday due to a leak in a gas cylinder, officials said. Firefighters managed to extinguish the blaze within 10 minutes and no casualties were reported.

Fire breaks out in slum, 1 dead

Kolkata: One person died in a blaze that gutted at least 30 shanties in Narkeldanga area of the metropolis, a fire brigade official said Sunday. Seventeen fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames, which were first spotted around 10 pm Saturday, he said.

Delhi murder victim Walkar's father dies

Mumbai: Vikas Walkar, the father of Shraddha Walkar whose brutal murder in 2022 had caused a nationwide sensation, died Sunday at his residence in Vasai city of Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said.

'Beef biryani' on lunch menu triggers row in AMU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Aligarh, Feb 9: A notice to serve 'beef biryani' for lunch Sunday at the Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall in Aligarh Muslim University has triggered a row after it went viral on social media.

The notice, purportedly issued by two "authorized" individuals, read, "Sunday's lunch menu has been changed, and beef biryani will be served instead of chicken biryani as per demand."

Following an uproar in the university over the notice, the AMU administration clarified that it contained a "typing error" and assured that those responsible had been issued a show-cause notice.

matter escalated, it distanced itself from it, calling it an "unintentional mistake".

"The matter was brought to our attention. We found that the notice was regarding food menu. However, it contained a clear typing error. The notice was immediately withdrawn as it had no official signatures, raising doubts about its authenticity."

"Our provost has issued a show-cause notice to the two senior students responsible (for issuing the notice). We are taking this issue seriously to ensure strict adherence to university regulations," she said.

Reacting to the incident, BJP leader and AMU alumnus Nishit Sharma criticised the university's handling of the matter.

SNIPPETS

Medical aid to Dallewal stopped as doctors unable to find veins

CHANDIGARH: Two prominent farmer bodies Sunday claimed that medical aid to fasting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been stopped for the past six days as doctors are unable to find his veins for administering intravenous drip.



Maha Kumbh: 3 killed, 10 hurt as mini truck collides with SUV


SURAT: As many as 150 students of three government residential schools located within one campus in Gujarat's Surat district suffered from a viral infection and 18 of them, all girls, were hospitalised with fever, officials said Sunday.

SATNA (MP): Three persons were killed and ten others injured when a mini truck carrying people to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh collided with an SUV in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district Sunday, police said.




of the day **quote**

Let the weapons be silenced everywhere and let the cry of the people asking for peace be heard



POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

For Pakistan's stability and security, it is imperative to bridge the growing gap between the military and the public



IMRAN KHAN | JAILED FORMER PREMIER, PAKISTAN

We're in such uncharted waters that anyone who claims to know what in the hell is going on is just lying



KATHLEEN BURK | EXPERT, US-UK RELATIONS

SHORT TAKES

SL Navy arrests 14 Indian fishermen

Colombo: Sri Lankan authorities have arrested 14 Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly venturing into the territorial waters of the island nation, the Navy said Sunday. The arrests took place during a special operation conducted in the sea area north of Mannar Saturday, the Sri Lankan Navy said in a statement. "The Sri Lanka Navy seized 2 Indian fishing boats and apprehended 14 Indian fishermen while they were poaching in Sri Lankan waters," it said. The Navy continues to conduct regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing boats, taking into account the impact of those practices on the livelihood of local fishermen, the statement said.

Chinese cargo ship runs aground

Moscow: The governor of Russia's Pacific island region of Sakhalin has declared an emergency after a Chinese cargo ship ran aground off its southwest coast. There was no danger to the crew of the An Yang 2, which is carrying coal and heavy fuel oil, Gov Valery Limarenko said in a post on Telegram Sunday. Russia's emergency ministry said 20 crew were aboard. Limarenko said that no fuel spillage was recorded, but local authorities had to be prepared for any scenario. Bad weather has prevented access by rescue teams to the bulk carrier, which is stranded in shallow waters off Sakhalin's Nevelsky district, he added. Regional authorities said they were preparing to pump fuel out of the damaged vessel. Earlier this year, hundreds of volunteers in southwestern Russia spent weeks trying to contain a massive fuel oil spill from two storm-stricken tankers in the Kerch Strait near Crimea.

7.6 magnitude quake shakes Caribbean

Mexico City: A magnitude-7.6 earthquake shook the Caribbean Sea southwest of the Cayman Islands Saturday, according to the US Geological Survey, and some islands and countries urged people near the coastline to move inland in case of a tsunami. The quake struck at 6:23 pm local time in the middle of the sea and had a depth of 10 kilometers, the USGS said. Its epicenter was located 130 miles (209 kilometers) south-southwest of George Town in the Cayman Islands. The US National Tsunami Warning Center said there is no tsunami alert for the US mainland but issued a tsunami advisory for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

RAHMAN'S RESIDENCE DEMOLITION

India's remarks unexpected, unwarranted: Bangladesh

Violence has erupted in Bangladesh since last Wednesday night over a live online address by Hasina, with mobs targeting her supporters, vandalising their homes and businesses across the country



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Feb 9: Asserting that the demolition of the residence of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the country's internal matter, the interim government on Sunday said India's remarks on the incident was "unexpected and unwarranted".

Thousands of protesters on Wednesday last set fire to the 32 Dhanmondi residence of Rahman in Dhaka. Rahman had spearheaded the country's autonomy movement and independence struggle from this residence, which was later transformed into a memorial. This historic residence was where Rahman proclaimed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971.

India Thursday voiced anguish over the destruction of the historic residence and said the "act of vandalism" should be strongly condemned.

"It is regrettable that the historic residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a symbol of the heroic resistance of the people of Bangladesh against the forces of occupation and oppression, was destroyed

Bangladesh does not officially comment on the internal affairs of any state, and it expects the same level of conduct from others

MOHAMMAD RAFIQU ALAM | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

on February 5. All those who value the freedom struggle that nurtured Bangla identity and pride are aware of the importance of this residence for the national consciousness of Bangladesh," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said.

Reacting to India's remarks, Bangladesh foreign ministry Sunday said the incident at Dhanmondi pertains to the country's internal affairs, state-run BSS news agency reported.

"A statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs on this matter, issued on February 6, 2025, has come to the attention of the interim government. Such remarks from India's foreign ministry on Bangladesh's internal affairs are unexpected and unwarranted," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Rafiqul Alam was quoted as saying by BSS. "Bangladesh does not official-

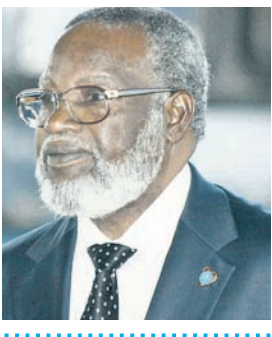


Every day people are dying. This war is so bad in Ukraine. I want to end this damn thing

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

NAMIBIA'S 'FOUNDING FATHER' NO MORE

Sam Nujoma, the activist and guerrilla leader who became Namibia's first democratically elected president after it won its independence from apartheid South Africa, died aged 95 Saturday. Nujoma rose to head the thinly populated southern African country March 21, 1990 and was formally recognised as "Founding Father of the Namibian Nation" through a 2005 act of parliament



Nadia Ramirez, 7, stands with her mom during the 'Stop The Attacks on Immigrants' protest in Chicago, Saturday PTI PHOTO

Israeli military withdraws from Gaza's key corridor

Netzarim Corridor had cut off Gaza's north from south

REUTERS

Cairo, Feb 9: The Israeli military has withdrawn from an area of Gaza known as the Netzarim corridor that bisects the enclave, Hamas said Sunday, a move that was expected under the ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

An Israeli security source, requesting anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly, confirmed the Israeli military was withdrawing from its positions in central Gaza.

Israeli forces had already reduced their presence there. Hamas celebrated the withdrawal as a victory and the Hamas-run police force deployed to the area to manage the flow of Palestinians crossing through. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Reuters footage showed what appeared to be Israeli military vehicles moving away from the coast and towards the Israeli border.

Since the early months of the war Israeli forces had oc-



REUTERS

cupied the roughly 4 mile-long corridor south of Gaza City that stretches from the Israeli border to the Mediterranean Sea.

The corridor cut off Gaza's northern communities, including its largest metropolitan area, from the south.

Thousands of Palestinians have streamed through the corridor in recent weeks, returning to their homes in the north from southern Gaza where they had sought shelter from the war.

Some who crossed over have described their shock after seeing the destruction of communities and discovering what they said were human remains in areas where Israeli forces had withdrawn.

Much of northern Gaza has become a wasteland following Israel's devastating campaign. After finding their homes destroyed, some Gazans have gone back to the south, while others have set up tents where their homes once stood.

Kim vows to further develop N-forces as US, Japan, SK meet

REUTERS

Seoul, Feb 9: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un criticised trilateral military cooperation among the United States, Japan and South Korea for raising tensions in the region and vowed countermeasures, including the further development of nuclear forces.

Kim said US deployments of nuclear strategic assets, war exercises and military cooperation with Japan and South Korea were inviting military imbalance in the region and raising a grave challenge to the security environment, state media KCNA reported Sunday.

"The DPRK does not want unnecessary tension of the regional situation but will take sustained countermeasures to ensure the regional military balance," Kim said during a visit to the defence ministry on Saturday to commemorate the founding day of its Army.

DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

US President Donald Trump, after a meeting Friday with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, said he would have relations with North Korea, as they expressed concern over its nuclear program.

But during the visit, Kim "clarified once again the unshakable policy of more highly developing the nuclear forces," according to the report.

On Russia's war with Ukraine, Kim said: "The army and people of the DPRK will invariably support and encourage the just cause of the Russian army and people to defend their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity in keeping with the spirit of the treaty on the comprehensive strategic partnership between the DPRK and Russia."

Last month, South Korea said it suspected North Korea of preparing to send more troops to Russia, in addition to about 11,000 soldiers who had been dispatched for the three-year-long war.

Baltic states switch to EU power grid, ending Soviet ties

The move comes a day after Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania severed decades-old energy ties to Russia and Belarus

REUTERS

Vilnius, Feb 9: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania said Sunday they had successfully synchronised their electricity systems to the European continental power grid, one day after severing decades-old energy ties to Russia and Belarus.

Planned for many years, the complex switch away from the grid of their former Soviet



imperial overlord is designed to integrate the three Baltic nations more closely with the European Union and to boost the region's energy security.

"We did it," Latvian Presi-

dent Edgars Rinkevics said in a post on social media X.

After disconnecting Saturday from the IPS/UPS network, established by the Soviet Union in the 1950s and now run by

Russia, the Baltic nations cut cross-border high-voltage transmission lines in eastern Latvia, some 100 metres from the Russian border, handing out pieces of chopped wire to enthusiastic bystanders as keep-sakes.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, herself an Estonian, earlier this week called the switch "a victory for freedom and European unity".

The Baltic Sea region is on high alert after power cable, telecom links and gas pipeline outages between the Baltics and Sweden or Finland. All were be-

A victory for freedom and European unity

KAJA KALLAS | FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, EU

UK shadow mins join protest against China's mega embassy plan

Shadow ministers are members of the opposition who scrutinise the work of the government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 9: UK shadow ministers and fellow Opposition Conservative Party parliamentarians were among hundreds of protesters who descended upon the proposed site of China's so-called mega embassy in east London.

Shadow justice secretary Robert Jenrick, shadow security minister Tom Tugendhat and former Tory leader Ian Duncan Smith joined groups representing Hong Kongers, Uyghurs and Tibetans at the site of the historic Royal Mint Court near

the Tower of London Saturday. According to UK media reports, the protesters wanted to register their opposition against a much-larger new embassy which they fear could be used as a "spy hub" if it is allowed permission to go ahead as one of China's largest diplomatic missions in Europe.

"We do not want this great historical building behind us — in the shadow of the Tower of London — to become a mega embassy of the Chinese Community Party," Jenrick told the gathering.

"This is the wrong site. It is the wrong process and it is wrong for the national security of our country," said the former housing minister.

The Metropolitan Police clashed with the protesters, who had gathered in large numbers to demonstrate the site's disruptive potential as a massive em-



bassy with offices and homes, with slogans such as "Stand with Hong Kong" and "Mega Embassy, Mega No" ringing out. China bought the 20,000 square metres of land at Royal Mint Court in 2018 for GBP 225 million and submitted plans to the local Tower Hamlets Council to turn the site into a much larger London embassy than

its current location at Portland Place, near Baker Street.

The council had first rejected a planning application to develop the site in 2022 before it was resubmitted last year, which it had again refused at an extraordinary meeting of the Strategic Development Committee in December last year.

Its rejection is due to con-

cerns over the impact on resident and tourist safety, heritage, police resources and highway safety given the "congested nature of the area".

However, the final decision now rests with Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner after a "call-in" by her Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as the ultimate decision maker.

"The Council has been notified by the Metropolitan Police that it has formally removed its objection to the planning application as it feels there is sufficient space for future protests to be accommodated without significantly impacting the adjacent road network," a Tower Hamlets

We do not want this great historical building behind us — in the shadow of the Tower of London — to become a mega embassy of the Chinese Community Party

ROBERT JENRICK | SHADOW JUSTICE SECRETARY

Council spokesperson said.

"The process now being followed is that a public inquiry will be held in front of a Planning Inspector from February 11-18. Following the inquiry, the Inspector will recommend to the Secretary of State whether permission should be granted or not. The Secretary of State will then make the final decision," the spokesperson added.

The MCLG Secretary of State can "call in" planning ap-

plications where they consider there may be issues of national significance, having regard to published government policy.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is believed to have raised the issue directly with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Business



The employability of India's graduates has shot up from 33.95 per cent in 2013 to 54.81 per cent in 2024 driven by various skill-building initiatives launched by the government
MANSUKH MANDAVIRA | UNION MINISTER

9 IPOs TO HIT MARKET

Nine new initial public offerings (IPOs) are scheduled to open for subscription next week, with three mainboards -- Ajax Engineering, Hexaware Technologies, and Quality Power -- and six SMEs to hit the market.



of the day quote

There are some states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana which say they should get back the amount of taxes they have paid. There can't be more petty thinking than this. There cannot also be anything more unfortunate than this

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE MINISTER

The growing power requirements of Indian Railways are likely to be met with clean and reliable nuclear power, for which the Power Ministry has been approached

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAYS MINISTER

We are continuously raising money, but it will be linked to disbursements. We may raise up to ₹30,000 crore this quarter, depending on the requirement

RAJKIRAN RAI G | NABFID MD AND CEO

FPIs' incessant selling continues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The exodus of FPIs from the Indian equity markets continued unabated, as they withdrew over ₹7,300 crore (about 840 million) in the first week of this month due to global trade tensions, with the US imposing tariffs on countries such as Canada, Mexico, and China.

This came following an outflow of ₹78,027 crore in the entire January. Before that, they invested ₹15,446 crore in December, data with the depositories showed.

Going forward, experts believe that market sentiment will likely take cues from global macroeconomic developments, domestic policy measures, and currency movements.

According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) offloaded shares worth ₹7,342 crore from Indian equities so far this month (till February 7).

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said that a key driver of the outflow was global trade tensions, as the United States imposed tariffs on countries including Canada, Mexico, and China, heightening fears of a potential trade war.

This uncertainty triggered a risk-averse sentiment among global investors, prompting capital flight from emerging markets like India.



Further exacerbating the situation, the Indian rupee depreciated sharply, breaching ₹87 per US dollar mark for the first time. A weaker rupee erodes returns for foreign investors, making Indian assets relatively less attractive and adding to the pressure on FPIs, Srivastava added.

"The strength in the dollar index and the high US bond yields continue to force the FPIs to sell. Going forward, FPIs are likely to reduce their selling since the dollar index and US bond yields are indicating a softening trend," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

He further said that the sentiments in the Indian market would slowly improve in response to the Budget announcement and the rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Going forward, experts believe that market sentiment will likely take cues from global macroeconomic developments, domestic policy measures, and currency movements

The victory of the BJP in the Delhi elections is likely to positively impact the market in the short run. However, the medium to long-term trend in the market will depend on the recovery in GDP growth and earnings recovery, he added.

"Given the volatile, subtle, and unpredictable market events, India still stands grounded well with the gov-

ernment taking all rightful measures to make it ready to face the global economic challenges that lies ahead," Manoj Purohit, Partner & Leader, FS Tax, Tax & Regulatory Services, BDO India, said.

On the other hand, FPIs were buyers in the debt market. They put in ₹1,215 crore into debt general limit and ₹277 crore in debt voluntary retention route.

The overall trend indicates a cautious approach by foreign investors, who scaled back investments in Indian equities significantly in 2024, with net inflows of just ₹427 crore.

This contrasts sharply with the extraordinary ₹1.71 lakh crore net inflows in 2023, driven by optimism over India's strong economic fundamentals. In comparison, 2022 saw a net outflow of ₹1.21 lakh crore amid aggressive rate hikes by global central banks.

Markets to track inflation data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Investors would track a host of macroeconomic data announcements scheduled this week, including inflation numbers, and also monitor global market trends, and trading activity of foreign institutional investors, analysts said.

The ongoing quarterly earnings announcements and the rupee-dollar trend would also influence the markets.

"This week is set to be dynamic for global and Indian markets, driven by key macroeconomic data releases and corporate earnings. Market sentiment will be shaped by inflation figures, industrial production data, and major earnings announcements," Master Trust Group Director Puneet Singhania said.

On Wednesday, the US inflation data for January will be in focus. Later in the day, Fed Chair Jerome Powell's testimony will be closely watched for insights into interest rate expectations, Singhania said.

"For India, inflation and industrial production data will be released February 12," he said. On Thursday, the UK's GDP growth data will be released and on Friday the US retail sales data for January will provide insights into consumer spending, Singhania said.

Corporate earnings will also drive market sentiment. Major companies reporting earnings



include Eicher Motors, Grasim Industries, Vodafone Idea, Steel Authority of India, he added.

The BJP Saturday trounced the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and returned to power in the city after more than 26 years, extending its saffron imprint and dealing a body blow to the Arvind Kejriwal-led party whose top leadership crumbled or barely made it.

"The sentiments in the Indian market are slowly improving in response to an excellent Budget and the rate cut by the MPC. The victory of the BJP in the Delhi elections is a major achievement for the ruling dispensation. This is likely to positively impact the market in the short run. However, the medium to long-term trend in the market will depend on the recovery in GDP growth and earnings recovery," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 354.23 points, or 0.45 per cent, and the Nifty went up by 77.8 points, or 0.33 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

Maruti Suzuki to boost charging infra

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India aims to bolster charging infrastructure in the country before it drives in e VITARA with plans to establish the model as a primary vehicle in a household, according to a senior company executive. The auto major also plans to boost after-sales support, bring in a leasing model and more finance options to encourage customers to buy the model. "One of the major concerns for the customer is the adequacy of the public infrastructure in terms of the chargers. So we are planning to have a fast charger at a frequency of 10 kilometers in the top 100 cities," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee told PTI in an interaction.

Bajaj Auto to ride into e-rickshaw

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto is gearing up to enter the domestic e-rickshaw segment by the end of this fiscal to tap a 'sizeable opportunity' in a fast-growing but highly unorganised market, according to a top company official. The company expects to get regulatory clearances towards the end of the ongoing quarter for its e-rickshaw that will enable it to enter the segment which is about 45,000 units a month, Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma told analysts. "By the end of this financial year, we also intend to launch a modern 'e-rick', which will set an absolutely new standard in the segment and bring a very high level of satisfaction to both owners and passengers," he said.

OYO PAT rises nearly 6 times

New Delhi: Travel tech unicorn OYO recorded a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹166 crore in the third quarter ended December, up nearly six times from ₹25 crore in the year-ago period, sources said. The company's revenue in the third quarter rose to ₹1,695 crore, growing almost 31 per cent from ₹1,296 crore a year earlier, marking a turnaround from the flat topline growth seen in FY24. According to documents accessed by PTI, the company achieved an adjusted EBITDA of ₹249 crore in the October-December period of FY25, registering a 22 per cent increase from ₹205 crore a year ago.

SEBI proposes stricter rules for listed firms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed new rules to improve corporate governance at listed companies.

These proposals focus on revising the format of the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report (ASCR), setting eligibility criteria for appointing auditors, and introducing monetary limits for approvals of Related Party Transactions (RPTs).

The SEBI aims to ensure that listed companies follow strict compliance and maintain transparency in their operations.

In a consultation paper, the regulator has suggested changes to make the ASCR more detailed.

The new format will provide clearer confirmation of whether a company is following securities laws.

Additionally, the SEBI has proposed making ASCR a mandatory part of the annual report, which would enhance accountability.

For auditor appointments, it has suggested incorporating provisions from the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014, into the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulations.

This will ensure that statutory auditors have the necessary qualifications and experience suited to a company's size and complexity.

The SEBI has also proposed that audit committees should carefully evaluate the qualifications of signing partners before



appointing them. To improve transparency in auditor appointments, it has recommended that key details about the selection or re-appointment of statutory and secretarial auditors should be disclosed to the audit committee, board of directors, and shareholders. It has also suggested introducing a standard format for such disclosures.

The SEBI has further proposed monetary limits for RPTs conducted by subsidiaries of listed companies.

It has suggested two approval thresholds for these transactions.

For subsidiaries with a financial track record, the approval threshold will be the lower of either 10 per cent of turnover or a monetary limit -- ₹1,000 crore for main-board companies and ₹50 crore for SMEs.

For subsidiaries without a financial track record, the threshold will be based on 10 per cent of the subsidiary's net worth or the same monetary limits.

If the subsidiary has a negative net worth, share capital plus securities premium will be considered instead.

India's pharma exports to reach \$350 billion by 2047: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 9: India's pharmaceutical exports are projected to double from approximately \$27 billion in 2023 to reach \$65 billion by 2030, and can further grow to an estimated \$350 billion by 2047, according to a new report.

While India is the largest supplier of generic drugs globally, accounting for one in five generic drugs sold worldwide, the nation currently ranks 11th in terms of export value.

By innovating and diversifying its export basket to include specialty generics, biosimilars, and innovative products, the report emphasizes how India can potentially secure a position among the top five nations in export value by 2047, according to the report by Bain & Company in collaboration with the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA) and Pharmexcil.

"India has long been the pharmacy of the world. Now we want to change the narrative to 'India as the healthcare custodian of the world'. The government is fully committed to achieving this goal by fostering innovation, boosting R&D, and ensuring seamless regulatory processes," said Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.

By strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and government, we will continue to build a globally competitive sector that



While India is the largest supplier of generic drugs globally, accounting for one in five generic drugs sold worldwide, the nation currently ranks 11th in terms of export value

drives growth and contributes to healthcare worldwide," the minister added.

According to Sriram Shrinivasan, Partner, Bain & Company, the transition from volume-based to value-led growth is essential for Indian pharma to secure its rightful place in the global market.

"Innovation, including the shift towards specialty generics, biosimilars, and novel products, will be the key to India's pharmaceutical future. With the right focus on quality, regulation, access to global markets,

talent, and entrepreneurial innovation," he mentioned.

India's API export market is projected to grow from \$5 billion currently to \$80-90 billion by 2047. While Indian players currently hold less than 5 per cent of the global biosimilars market, green shoots are visible, driven by increasing R&D investments, an expanded pipeline of 40+ products and planned capacity addition over the next 3-4 years.

Indian biosimilar exports, currently valued at \$0.8 billion, are projected to grow 5x to \$4.2 billion by 2030, capturing 4 per cent of the global market, and reach \$30-35 billion by 2047, the report said.

India's pharma exports at 70 per cent and valued at \$19 billion, are projected to grow to \$180-190 billion by 2047.

"India can become one of the leaders in pharma exports, but needs strategic interventions," said Dr. Viranchi Shah, National President at IDMA.

Meta likely to lay off 3,000 employees, says leaked memo

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 9: Tech giant Meta is expected to lay off around 3,000 employees, which is about 5 per cent of its total workforce, as per a leaked internal memo, a report said Sunday.

According to the report, the memo, posted by Janelle Gale, Meta's Vice President of Human Resources, was shared on the company's internal workplace forum.

The memo states that affected employees will receive an email Monday morning inform-

ing them about their job status. For some international employees, the layoff process will begin on Sunday at 2.30 am IST.

In the US, employees will be notified at 6.30 pm IST Monday. Within an hour of receiving the email, they will lose access to company systems. The email will also provide details about severance packages.

Gale acknowledged the difficulty of the situation, especially for teams losing a manager or colleague.

She mentioned that Meta offices will remain open, but employees who prefer



to work remotely on Monday can do so.

Since Meta follows a hybrid work model, requiring employees to be in the office three days a week, working from home on Monday will still count as an in-person workday.

The company has not disclosed the names of the employees being laid off.

Some of these roles may be refilled in the future, but there is no set timeline.

Employees whose managers are laid off will be assigned new reporting heads.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg

had previously hinted at job cuts, stating that the company was raising performance standards.

Typically, Meta phases out low performers over a year, but this time, the layoffs are happening on a much larger scale based on recent performance reviews.

Meanwhile, Amazon recently laid off dozens of employees, while Salesforce cut about 1,000 jobs earlier this year.

The trend of job cuts in the tech industry continues as companies focus on efficiency and cost-cutting.

SHORT TAKES

Dhamne wins maiden Pro ITF singles title

New Delhi: Promising Indian youngster Manas Dhamne Sunday clinched his maiden ITF singles title with a come-from-behind win over Italy's Lorenzo Carboni in the summit clash of the M15 tournament in Monastir, Tunisia. Dhamne, who trains in Italy under renowned coach Riccardo Piatti, overcame the first-set deficit to come out a 2-6 6-0 6-2 winner against Carboni, who had reached the junior French Open semifinals last year. The 17-year-old had entered the main draw as a qualifier, thus winning eight matches on the trot in as many days.

Military, paramilitary rangers in charge

Lahore: The Pakistan government has given its go-ahead for using the military and paramilitary rangers to shore up security for the forthcoming ICC Champions Trophy in the country. According to media reports, the federal cabinet okayed plans to have top security for the mega-event and gave approval to use military and rangers for this purpose. The government has already earmarked over 10,000 policemen including elite commando units to provide security at the grounds and team hotels in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi when the tournament begins February 19 in Karachi.

Madrid derby ends in draw

Madrid: Kylian Mbappé scored in his first capital derby against Atletico Madrid as Real Madrid fought back for a 1-1 draw and kept its slim lead of the Spanish league Saturday. Next up for Mbappé and Madrid is a trip to Manchester City Tuesday for the first leg of their Champions League knockout round playoff. Julián Alvarez put Atletico ahead from the penalty spot in the 35th minute. Mbappé equalized in the 50th for the hosts, which stayed one point ahead of Atletico in the standings.

HITMAN SHOW

The skipper's century comes as a much-needed relief for cricket fans before Champions Trophy



India's Ravindra Jadeja, center, celebrates with Virat Kohli, left, and Harshid Rana after taking the wicket of England's Ben Duckett during the Second One Day International (ODI) cricket match of a series between India and England, at Barabati Stadium, in Cuttack, Odisha, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Feb 9: Under pressure with questions over form and mounting retirement speculations, skipper Rohit Sharma silenced it all with a vintage 32nd century, firing India to a dominant four-wicket series-clinching victory over England in the second ODI, here Sunday.

Opting to bat on a belter, England were bowled out for 304 in 49.5 overs with left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (3/35) continuing his stranglehold over the visitors.

The 37-year-old Indian skipper made the chase a lopsided affair, returning to his World Cup 2023 best with impeccable timing and

effortless strokeplay en route to his 90-ball 119 -- his century No 32 in ODIs that came just in time ahead of the Champions Trophy in less than two weeks.

His 90-ball masterclass, studded with seven sixes and 12 fours, set the tone as India cruised to the target in 44.3 overs to take an unbeatable 2.0 lead going into the final ODI in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Shubman Gill also made a fluent 60 off 52 balls (9x4, 1x6) but it felt overshadowed in comparison to Rohit in their solid opening partnership of 136 runs -- their sixth century-plus stand together.

Back after missing out the Nagpur ODI because of a swollen

knee, star batter Virat Kohli (5) fell cheaply edging a Adil Rashid leg-break. Rashid has now got Kohli four times in ODIs.

Rohit then had a fruitful 70-run stand with Shreyas Iyer (44) before he was dismissed off a full toss with Rashid taking a fine backward running catch.

Iyer soon departed following a runout, while KL Rahul (10) and Hardik Pandya (10) also fell cheaply.

But there was hardly any run-rate pressure and Axar Patel (41 not out) held his ground as he along with Ravindra Jadeja (11 not out) completed the formalities with 33 balls to spare.

Rohit's knock also saw him surpass (10,987) Rahul Dravid's

10,889 runs to enter the top-10 ODI run-scorers' list. He now requires 13 runs to complete 11,000 ODI runs.

His pull shots had precision, his cuts carried flair, and there were no mishits. He even unleashed a cool reverse sweep off Rashid, pure dominance written in his innings.

He signalled his intent early, charging down to Gus Atkinson for a four before flicking a six over mid-wicket with ease that had the Rohit-esque flair.

Against Saqib Mahmood, he opened the bat face to loft a stunning six over cover as he seemed to have got his mojo back.

A 35-minute floodlight failure when Rohit was on 29 couldn't

It was good and really enjoyed being out there, scoring some runs for the team. It was an important game with the series on the line but I broke it down to pieces about how I wanted to bat

ROHIT SHARMA | CAPTAIN

disrupt his rhythm. Resuming with the same intensity, he glanced Mahmood for a fine boundary and then took charge of Mark Wood's 140-plus deliveries with disdain. Luck also played its part -- on 36, he survived

an LBW call against Wood on the umpire's call, with the ball clipping the top of leg stump.

The very next delivery, he responded in style, launching an over-pitched delivery over mid-on for a six as he raced to a 30-ball fifty.

Against Rashid, he was equally assured, cutting and sweeping the leg-spinner for boundaries.

He brought up his three figures in 76 balls, spanking Rashid over long-off -- his first in 14 innings.

This was also his second fastest hundred. His fastest was a 63-ball hundred against Afghanistan in the 2023 World Cup. Earlier, left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja continued his stranglehold over English batters with brilliant figures of 3/35 as India bowled out the visitors for a sub-par 304 after opting to bat.

On a belter, Jadeja's crucial breakthroughs came against the run of play as he dismissed an aggressive Ben Duckett (65 off 56 balls) and a well-set Joe Root (69 off 72 balls), preventing England from building on their strong start.

England laid a solid foundation with contributions from Duckett, Root, and skipper Jos Buttler (34 off 35 balls).

At 200/3 in 35 overs, England seemed on course for a 330-plus



BRIEF SCORES

England: 304 all out in 49.5 overs (Ben Duckett 65, Joe Root 69, Liam Livingstone 41; Ravindra Jadeja 3/35) lost to **India:** 308/6 in 44.3 overs (Rohit Sharma 119, Shubman Gill 60, Shreyas Iyer 44; Jamie Overton 2/27) by 4 wickets

BLAZING TO GLORY

Odisha sprinters bag more golds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Feb 9: Top sprinter Animesh Kujur picked up his second gold in the 38th edition of National Games as he anchored Odisha to men's 4x100m relay gold Sunday, adding to the yellow metal he had pocketed in the 100m dash with a meet record-equalling time in a top-class field here Saturday.

Another Games record fell when the Odisha men's 4x100m relay team of Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Animesh Kujur, D Mrutyam Jayram and Amiya Kumar Mallick clocked 39.47 seconds to win the gold. The earlier Games



After winning the 100m dash Saturday, the rising sprinter Animesh Kujur anchors Odisha to men's 4x100m relay gold

In the men's 400m, the 18-year-old Bapi Hansda of Odisha won the gold in the absence of the country's top quarter-milers, clocking a personal best of 46.82 seconds

record was in the name of Services team which had clocked 39.94s in 2011.

Tamil Nadu (40.08s) and Kerala (40.73s) took the silver and bronze respectively.

Former national record holder and 2015 edition gold medalist Siddhanth Thingalaya, representing Maharashtra, did not finish the final race.

In the men's 400m the 18-year-old Bapi Hansda of Odisha won the gold in the absence of the country's top quarter-milers, clocking a personal best of 46.82 seconds. His earlier best time was 46.90s he had clocked while winning the 400m race during the U-20 Fed-

eration Cup National Championships in 2024. Vikrant Panchal (46.92s) of Haryana and Manu TS (47.08s) of Kerala won the silver and bronze respectively. In the women's corresponding race, 2023 Asian Championships silver medalist Aishwarya Mishra of Maharashtra bettered her Games record to clinch the gold. She clocked 51.12 seconds, bettering the 52.50s she had clocked in 2022.

Vithya Ramraj of Tamil Nadu, who was defending the gold medal, finished second with a time of 54.43s while Devyaniba Zala (54.44s) of Gujarat took the bronze.

Paris Olympian Kiran Pahal and another top quarter-miler Rupal Chaudhary had pulled out of the heat races Saturday, taking some of the heat of the women's 400m competition.

Out of the 10 gold medals on offer on the day, Maharashtra and Odisha won two each, while Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, West Bengal and Karnataka pocketed one each.

Odisha FC to host Punjab FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: Play-offs contenders Odisha FC and Punjab FC will look to avoid consecutive losses as they face off in their Indian Super League match here Monday.

The Juggernauts will pursue recovering from their 2-1 setback to FC Goa in their previous match, whereas Punjab FC will have their sights set on a league double over the opponents, since they had clinched a 2-1 win in the reverse fixture last September.

A win here could mark the first time that Punjab FC defeats an opponent twice in the same season. Odisha FC have been on a turbulent ride of late, losing and drawing thrice each in their previous seven matches, struggling for consistency. They have netted 12 times in these seven games, and in the entirety of the season, the team has struck the woodwork on 13 instances -- the most by any side.

The hosts will bank on Diego Mauricio to produce the heroics upfront, as he is one strike



away from completing 10 goals for the fourth time in his ISL career.

In their most recent away game, Punjab FC was dealt a 0-3 loss by the Mohun Bagan Super Giant. If they are unable to score again, it will be only the second time when they fail to find the back of the net in consecutive games in the ISL.

Both these sides are out of the top-six positions presently. Odisha FC are seventh in the standings with 25 points from 19 games due to six victories and seven draws, trailing sixth-placed Bengaluru FC by three points (28).

Gukesh takes on Caruana in QF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamburg, Feb 9: World champion D Gukesh will take on Fabiano Caruana of the United States in the two-game quarterfinal after the latter picked the Indian in a unique format typical of Freestyle Chess Grand Slam.

Finishing eighth among 10 participants, Gukesh just about made it to the knockout stage edging out Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia and Levon Aronian of United States, the last two finishers in the round-robin stage that was played under rapid-chess rules.

As per the tournament rules, the top three have the right to decide their opponents in the quarterfinal and Firozja picked Vincent Keymer of Germany as his opponent. Sindarov surprised everyone by going for Hikaru Nakamura of the United States -- a formidable name in chess 960 -- while Caruana opted for Gukesh, leaving out Norwegian Magnus Carlsen and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan to battle it out.

SHUTTTLER SINDHU PULLS OUT DUE TO INJURY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu has pulled out of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships in China due to a hamstring issue, dealing a huge blow to the country's chances of improving the colour of their medal in the prestigious edition.

The tournament is set to be played in Qingdao from February 11-16 with the Indian shuttlers currently undergoing training at a camp in Guwahati. Besides Sindhu, the other leading players in the camp are Lakshya Sen, and HS Prannoy, along with the formidable doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty.

Sindhu was a part of the squad that won bronze in the previous edition of the tourna-

ASIA MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



ment. "It is with a heavy heart that I share I won't be travelling with the team for BAMTC 2025. While training on the 4th (February) in Guwahati, I felt a twinge in my hamstring. Despite my efforts to push through with heavy taping for our country, an MRI has revealed that

my recovery will take slightly longer than I initially expected," said the 29-year-old Sindhu in a post on X. Sindhu has grappled with injuries since winning her maiden women's singles gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

However, the star shuttler sustained a left foot stress fracture injury during the Games, which kept her out of all remaining tournaments in 2022, including the World Championships and the World Tour Finals.

India are placed in a tough Group D alongside runners-up South Korea and Macau. They will begin their campaign against Macau February 12, which will be followed by a tough outing against South Korea February 13.

England women's team arrive in City

FIH PRO LEAGUE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: The England women's hockey team arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Odisha Sunday ahead of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 India leg matches.

The World No 7 side will face the hosts India and current World No 1 Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 India leg, scheduled to take place in Bhubaneswar from February 15 to 25.

With one win and three losses so far, England have made a rocky start to their FIH Pro League campaign and will be hoping to turn things around despite facing challenging opponents.



Forward Darcy Bourne shared her excitement upon arriving in India saying, "We are very excited to be in India especially after the Hockey India League, expecting the atmosphere to be really big. This is my first time in India, but the buzz around hockey here is nothing like I have ever seen so I am extremely excited."

Despite struggling at the World Cups recently, England

is the current Commonwealth champions after the gold medal win in 2022. With big names in the squad this year, England is one of the teams to watch out for.

Head coach David Ralph too echoed the excitement and stated, we are expecting the matches to be very challenging but we are excited. It is going to be wonderful for the girls to play in front of the In-

dian crowd. In hockey, this is one of the best things you can experience."

Currently, China lead the chart with 13 points in seven matches followed by Netherlands, Australia, Belgium and Argentina, respectively to complete the top 5. Indian women's team will begin their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 campaign against England February 15.