HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

Bhumi's concern

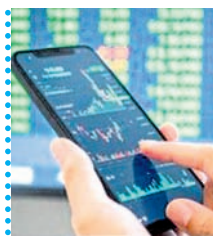
As Bhakshak marks two years, Bhumi Pednekar says the film feels more heartbreaking, reflecting grim realities of the society

LEISURE | P2

Takaichi's commitment

Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi renews a pledge Monday to cut a sales tax on food, after a historic election win

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Markets rise

Sensex and Nifty extend their gains for the second straight session Monday as US trade deal boosts sentiment

BUSINESS | P11

India-Pak match on

Pak government has withdrawn its decision to boycott the T20 World Cup match against India, a top government source said

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 310 | www.orissapost.com BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 10, 2026 12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Scolded by parents, four girls end lives

Aurangabad: Four girls allegedly died by suicide together after their parents scolded them for mingling with boys at a place in Bihar's Aurangabad district, a senior police officer said on Monday. Five girls, aged between 10 and 14 years, had reportedly consumed some poisonous substance on January 29 in a Dalit settlement in Haspura police station area, and only one of them survived. They were cremated on the same day without a postmortem examination, and the police have begun an investigation after the local media reported it. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

No, not my daily horoscope. Before I start my day, I read about Trump's mood

Minor Tibetan girl raped in Gajapati

PNN & AGENCIES

Paralakhemundi, Feb 9: A seven-year-old Tibet-origin girl was allegedly raped by her 17-year 'brother' in Gajapati district, police said Monday.

The incident took place in a village under Mohana police station limits Sunday, and the accused was apprehended. The survivor's family is one of the thousands that had fled from Tibet along with their spiritual leader in the 1960s and settled in the district. The accused who lives in the same area but belonging to another community allegedly raped the minor inside her home, while she was alone. Her parents had gone to attend a social function leaving there, police said.

The mother of the girl filed a police complaint against the boy, after the victim narrated the incident. "We have registered a case against the boy under various sections of the BNS and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and launched an investigation" Gajapati Superintendent of Police Jatindra Panda said.

He said that medical tests of both the accused and the victim have been conducted.

Sources said the accused had been living with the girl's parents, for several years as their foster son. The couple had taken responsibility for his upbringing and education expenses.

District Child Protection Officer Arun Kumar Tripathy confirmed that both the victim and the accused were handled according to juvenile justice procedures. He said the girl's welfare remains the priority, with authorities ensuring she is under parental care and protection.

Meanwhile, Odisha Congress president Bhakta Charan Das said, "The sexual assault on a Tibetan minor exposes a disturbing collapse of law & order under the BJP government. Such disgraceful crimes tarnish the state's global image and wound our collective conscience."

Oppn to move motion for Birla's removal

Amid the ongoing Budget Session, the Opposition has signalled it will move a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, accusing him of procedural bias for limiting Opposition participation, especially by denying Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi opportunities to speak. The proposed move reflects deepening political friction and distrust between the Opposition and the Speaker over parliamentary conduct as Birla had also faced similar situation in the past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Opposition Monday decided to move a resolution to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office for disallowing Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi from speaking in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

Sources said the resolution is being moved under Article 94-C of the Constitution. The notice is being given for moving a resolution against the Speaker for his removal, for disallowing the LoP from speaking in the House on the motion of thanks, for not initiating action against BJP MP Nishikand Dubey, for making unsubstantiated charges against women MPs of the Congress and suspension of eight opposition MPs, the sources said.

They said a resolution in this regard would soon be moved in the Lok Sabha and signatures of MPs are being procured.

The resolution is likely to have signatures of 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and getting the signatures of various Opposition MPs is under process.

Sources said the decision to move the resolution was taken at a meeting of Opposition leaders held in the chamber of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge this morning.

The TMC also attended the meeting besides other parties, including the left, DMK, SP, RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) and RSP.

This will be the fourth such notice against the sitting Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The first such resolution was moved against MV Malavankar, which was defeated. Later, a resolution was moved against then Speaker Hukum Singh, which could not be taken up due to lack of numbers in the House.

Later another similar resolution, the third one, was moved against then Speaker Balram Jakhar, which was also defeated.

Separately, women Congress MPs have written to Speaker Om Birla over the "unsubstantiated allegations" made by him against Congress women MPs.

FIR over circulation of Narvane's book

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Delhi Police has registered an FIR over the circulation of an unpublished book of former Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane on social media, an official statement said Monday.

"The Delhi Police has taken cognisance of information circulating on social media platforms and online news forums claiming that a pre-print copy of a book titled Four Stars of Destiny is being circulated without mandatory clearance from competent authorities," the statement said.

"Upon verification, it was found that a PDF copy of a typeset book with the same title and apparently prepared by M/s Penguin Random House India Pvt Ltd is available on certain websites and, also, some online marketing platforms have displayed the finished book cover as if it is available for purchase," it read.

The police said a case has been registered with the Special Cell in order to carry out a thorough investigation into this purported leak or breach of a yet-to-be-approved publication and an investigation is being taken up.

10001/31/2526

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

for Emergency Healthcare
428 New 108 Ambulances
at a cost of ₹ 111 Crore

Launch of 250 Ambulances in 2nd phase
by
Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister
in august presence of

Dr. Mukesh Mahaling
Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs and Electronics & IT

Smt.Aparajita Sarangi
MP, Bhubaneswar

Shri Babu Singh
MLA, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar

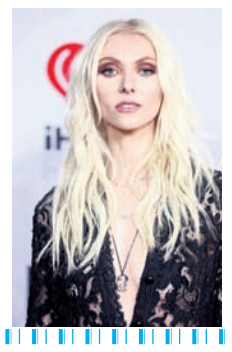
10 February 2026 | 11.00 AM | Kalinga Stadium

Dial Toll free No- 108 for ambulance
- Free Emergency Ambulance Service for Accident Victims, Natural Disaster-Affected Persons, Pregnant Women, and those Patients who are Suffering from Serious Illnesses.
- Dial Toll-Free Number 108 to Avail the Ambulance Service to go to Government Hospitals.

OIPR-10001/10084/2/25-26/0001

Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Odisha
facebook.com/HFWOdisha
@HFWOdisha
http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/

leisure

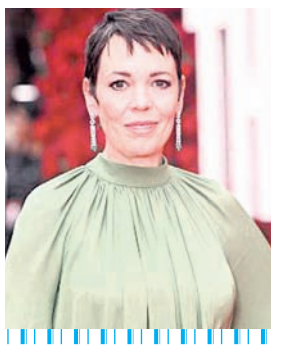


TAYLOR MOMSEN RULES OUT ACTING COMEBACK

Musician Taylor Momsen has said she has no plans to return to acting after stepping away from the profession following her roles in *Gossip Girl* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, according to *People*

COLMAN ADDRESSES GENDER IDENTITY

Hollywood actress Olivia Colman is mulling over her gender. The actress feels as though she is non-binary. The 52-year-old actress explained that she has never been comfortable with traditional gender roles and describes herself as a "gay man" to her husband of 25 years Ed Sinclair



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesha says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS

There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesha assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications.

GEMINI

You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha says that it will be a day of challenge. You will be tempted to plunge into a new venture. But there is no need for haste or anxiety in this regard. Pending work will be completed. Business deals and transactions will end on happy note. Translocation due to business or domestic reasons is possible.

LEO

You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

Ganesha says beware of overspending today. Those of you having close ties abroad may find them beneficial. Ganesha says you should always remain optimistic.

SCORPIO

Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS

Brace yourselves; the day has a lot of uncertainties today. First being financial. You may have to shell out money for unexpected expenses. But, this may also teach you to be economically independent. Always look at the brighter side, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesha. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around.

AQUARIUS

Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today. Dilemmas dissolved and problems resolved, you shall spend a quiet, romantic evening with your sweetheart, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES

The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects. A picnic or a short journey with your partner is very much on the cards, says Ganesha.

Bhumi's concern

Mumbai: As the crime thriller *Bhakshak* completes two years since its release, actress Bhumi Pednekkar says the film feels even more heartbreaking today, as the grim realities it highlighted continue to dominate headlines across the world.

Bhumi took to Instagram, where she wrote: "Two years ago, *Bhakshak* travelled across borders, messages poured in from every corner of the world, not because people just watched it, but because people felt it. I was overwhelmed then. I'm heartbroken today. Because the truth is, this story is still so relevant. Sexual violence on women and children is becoming the basic thread of us".

Bhumi pointed out that recent global developments have once again exposed how unsafe the world continues to be for children. Her remarks come at a time when international cases such as the Jeffrey Epstein scandal continue to resurface in public discourse.

"The last few weeks have reminded us how unsafe the world can be for children. No child should have to grow up hyper-aware of danger. That burden belongs to us not them," she added.

"Children deserve freedom. To play. To dress as they choose. To be protected, accepted, and held by society when they have no one. Some films end when the credits roll. Some refuse to let us look away."

IANS

Ayesha on darker side of fame

Mumbai: Ayesha Khan, who has been earning praise for her song *Shararat* from Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar*, recently opened up about the darker side of fame, highlighting issues such as online judgement, AI misuse, and lack of consent in paparazzi culture.

In a recent interview, Ayesha said that being in the public eye often makes one feel exposed and vulnerable. "You're like an open book. Everybody has an opinion about you," she shared, adding that constant scrutiny can sometimes feel overwhelming. She admitted wishing there were moments when public attention could simply be switched off, while urging people to be mindful of the emotional impact of their words.

The actress also expressed concern over the growing misuse of artificial intelligence. Calling it disturbing, she revealed that AI-generated content has been used to create fake and misleading visuals of her. She recalled having to explain to her mother that a morphed video circulating online was not real, pointing out how convincing such content can appear.

Addressing paparazzi culture, Ayesha stressed the importance of consent and criticised the practice of capturing and sharing uncomfortable moments. She questioned the ethics behind such behaviour, while acknowledging that some photographers do respect boundaries.

Despite these challenges, Ayesha said she chooses to focus on the positive aspects of her journey and appreciates those who show empathy and respect.

AGENCIES

Shilpa reveals mantra for flawless physique

Mumbai: Actress Shilpa Shetty continues to shell fitness goals even at 50, all thanks to her strict fitness regime and clean diet.

One of the secrets of Shilpa's picture-perfect physique is yoga, which is an integral part of the fitness routine of the *Dhadkan* actress.

Through her latest Instagram post, Shilpa gave a glimpse of herself performing the variations of Vyaghrasana to her InstaFam. Listing the benefits of the asana, Shilpa penned the caption, "Benefits of this variation of Vyaghrasana:

- Improves balance and enhances coordination between the mind and body.
- Strengthens the lower back, glutes, hamstrings and core muscles.
- Supports hip mobility (sic)". However, she advised fellow fitness junkies to avoid this practice in case they are experiencing back pain and/or knee issues.

Shilpa's feed is a hub of such motivational videos. In January, Shilpa gave a sneak peek into her mobility exercises.

She took to her official Instagram account and dropped a video of her gym session. She was seen working on her mobility with some difficult floor exercises. She stressed that high mobility on a daily basis is a major factor in improving the quality of life as it helps reduce stiffness in the body, enhances flexibility and also provides healthy joints.

IANS

Sara, Ranveer top IMDb list

Mumbai: Since the release of Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar* in December last year, the film's cast has witnessed a massive surge in popularity. Actors Ranveer Singh, Sara Arjun, and Akshaye Khanna, along with director Aditya Dhar, have entered IMDb's popular Indian celebrities list, with all four featuring in the top ten.

This week, Sara Arjun leads the list at number one, followed closely by Ranveer Singh at number two. Her rise comes after *Dhurandhar* began streaming on Netflix from January 30, following its theatrical release December 5. Sara had also beaten stars like Prabhas and Vijay at the beginning of January to reach the top of the list. Aditya Dhar stands at number six, while Akshaye Khanna is ranked seventh.

Other cast members have also made an impact, with R Madhavan at seventeen, Arjun Rampal at twenty-one, Sanjay Dutt at thirty-five and Rakesh Bedi at sixty-four. In total, eight members of the film's team have entered the top 100 list.

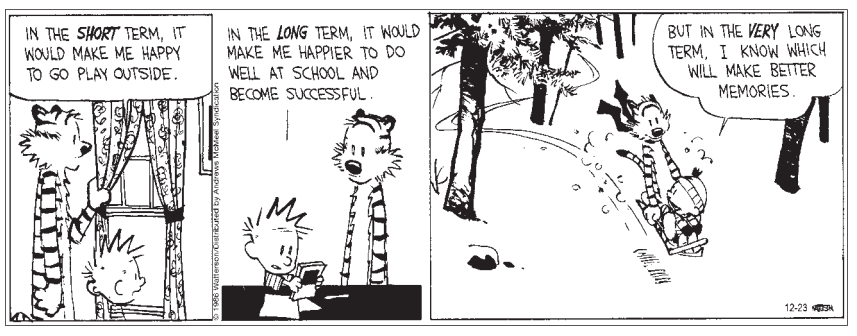
Meanwhile, Sunny Deol is at number three after *Border 2*, Zoya Afroz ranks fourth, and Samara Tijori is fifth. Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai hold eighth and tenth positions.

Produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, *Dhurandhar* is a spy-action film inspired by events that earned ₹1300 crore worldwide.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS

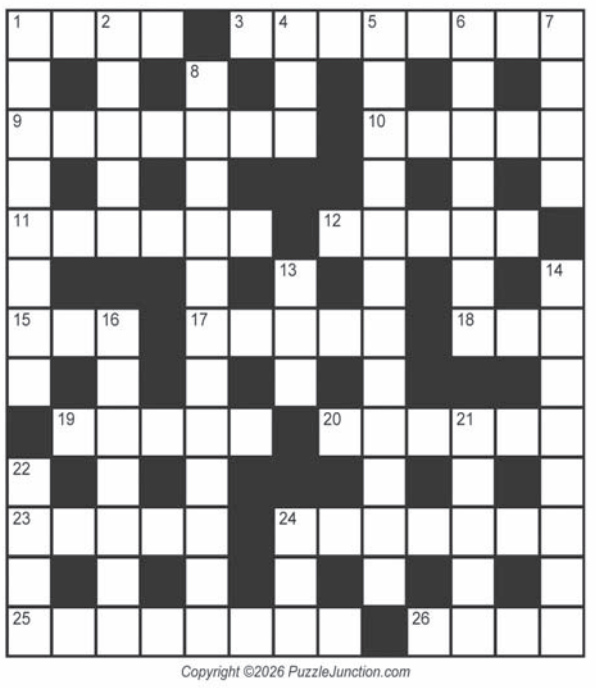
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2026 PuzzleJunction.com

Across
1 Mouselike animal
3 Enlightening
9 Chinese herb
10 Highly skilled
11 Shanghai
12 Blender setting
15 Hanoi holiday
17 Male duck
18 Starter's need
19 Whimsical
20 Mum
23 Safari sight
24 Backache
25 Semisoft pale-yellow cheese
26 Lawyers' charges

Down
1 Drifters
2 Like notebook paper
4 Archaeological site
5 Theatre offerings (7,5)
6 Titanic's undoing
7 Fence part
8 Indiscretions
13 Water holder
14 Oily
16 White ant
21 Fill with joy
22 Baby buggy
24 Tell a whopper

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

1				4		2		
3	7							
5				3		8		9
				7			9	3
			3	1			5	2
9					2			4
	1	5		8				6
	2			9	1	4	7	
	9	7			6	3		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

2	6	9	7	1	4	3	8	5
4	1	3	2	8	5	7	9	6
7	8	5	6	9	3	4	2	1
6	2	7	3	5	1	9	4	8
5	4	8	9	7	6	2	1	3
3	9	1	8	4	2	6	5	7
1	7	6	4	2	8	5	3	9
9	5	2	1	3	7	8	6	4
8	3	4	5	6	9	1	7	2

HERE . NOW
OrissaPOST
www.orissapost.com
BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 10, 2026

18 KIDS ILL AFTER HAVING ICE-CREAM

Bhubaneswar: At least 18 children were admitted to hospital after having ice-cream in Cuttack district Monday, police said. The incident took place at Kumusar village within Banki police station limits in the district. The kids ate the ice-creams after attending a religious festival. Soon after consuming it, they complained of uneasiness, irritation in the mouth and other symptoms, triggering panic among villagers, police said. Some parents also reported health issues after having the ice-cream, police said, adding that they reached the spot after receiving information from locals. They were rushed to the Banki sub-divisional hospital, where they were treated and later discharged. The ice-cream vendor has been detained.

PETALS & PERSEVERANCE: Sunflowers being tended to by women workers at OUAT farm, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Monday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

94% GRIEVANCES RESOLVED: CMO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: Of the 14,054 complaints received during the last 16 hearings at the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell, 13,169 — about 94 per cent — have so far been resolved, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, as CM Mohan Charan Majhi conducted the 17th round of public grievance hearings at Unit-II here Monday.

Accompanied by five senior ministers and senior officers from various departments, the CM personally listened to grievances raised by citizens.

As is customary, the CM began the programme by meeting differently-abled persons outside the grievance cell, patiently listening to their problems and issuing on-the-spot instructions to officials for immediate redressal.

"Out of 32 differently-abled complainants, financial assistance was sanctioned for those suffering from critical illnesses. Brajakishore Bandha of Bhadrak was granted ₹1 lakh, while Kartik C of Jajpur received ₹1.50 lakh for medical treatment. The CM also directed departments to take prompt action on other medical assistance requests," the CMO said.

In another case, Tilotama Pandey from Patnagarh, suffering from kidney and neurological ailments, was assured medical support along with travel expenses. The CM personally interacted with all complainants suffering from serious ailments and instructed officials to ensure compassionate and time-bound solutions.

Subsequently, complaints registered inside the grievance cell were taken up and reviewed.

SC terms digital arrests dacoity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi, Feb 9: The Supreme Court on Monday termed the siphoning of over ₹54,000 crore through digital arrests so far as nothing short of "robbery or dacoity" and directed the Centre to formulate a standard operating procedure (SoP) to tackle such offences.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and NV Anjaria, noted that the money lost to digital fraud exceeds the annual budgets of several small states.

"These offences may occur due to either collusion or negligence on the part of bank officials. This necessitates prompt action by the RBI and banks," the bench observed, according to this agency.

The top court pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India has already framed an SoP requiring banks to temporarily block debit cards to prevent cyber-enabled fraud. It directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to examine the RBI's SoP, along with similar protocols or decisions taken by the Department of Telecom (DoT), and prepare a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) within four weeks to effectively address such crimes.

The bench also instructed the CBI to identify cases involving

digital arrests and directed the Gujarat and Delhi governments to grant sanction to the agency to proceed with investigations in these matters.

Further, the Supreme Court asked the RBI, DoT, and other stakeholders to hold a joint meeting and develop a framework for compensating victims of digital arrest scams. Emphasising the need for a "pragmatic and liberal approach" in awarding compensation, the court posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks and asked authorities to submit fresh status reports before the next date.

Earlier, on December 16 last year, the bench had asked the Centre to consider suggestions made by the amicus curiae on ensuring compensation for victims, while expressing concern over the massive sums siphoned out of the country by cybercriminals.

CRPF JAWAN DIES BY SUICIDE AT CAMP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Feb 9: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan shot himself dead allegedly from his service revolver at a CRPF camp in Mathakamjharan under Lathikata police limits in Sundargarh district Monday morning, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Subhash Prasad, 56, a native of Nandgaon in Uttar Pradesh's Padia district. Police have registered a case-2/26 of unnatural death and launched an investigation.

The incident occurred at the Mathakamjharan camp. Prasad was on duty when the incident took place. He was rushed to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH), where doctors pronounced him dead.

After a postmortem conducted around 2 p.m., the body was handed over to the CRPF. In the evening, it was sent to Ranchi, from where it is to be airlifted to Uttar Pradesh, sources said.

According to officials, the camp was inaugurated in October last year under Lathikata police limits as part of anti-Maoist operations along the Odisha-Jharkhand border, in coordination with the CRPF. Prasad had been posted at the camp since its opening.

While the exact cause of death is yet to be ascertained, preliminary information suggests possible personal or family-related stress, police said. An investigation is underway.

10001/35/2526

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଜାତୀୟ କୃମିନାଶକ ଦିବସ
୧୦ ଫେବୃଆରୀ ୨୦୨୬

କୃମି ମୁକ୍ତ ଶିଶୁ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି
ରୋଗ ମୁକ୍ତ ଶିଶୁ

ଆପଣ ଜାଣନ୍ତି କି ଯେଉଁମାନେ କୃମି ଦ୍ୱାରା ସଂକ୍ରମିତ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ
- ପୁଷ୍ଟିହୀନତା ଓ ରକ୍ତହୀନତା ଯୋଗୁଁ ସର୍ବଦା କ୍ଳାନ୍ତ ଅନୁଭବ କରନ୍ତି।
- ତାଙ୍କର ଶାରୀରିକ, ମାନସିକ ଓ ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ବିକାଶ ବାଧାପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହୁଏ।

କୃମି ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣର ଉପାୟ ଅତି ସହଜ

୧ ରୁ ୧୯ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସର ସମସ୍ତ ଶିଶୁ ତଥା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଙ୍ଗନୱାଡ଼ି ଓ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ବିନାମୂଲ୍ୟରେ କୃମିନାଶକ ଔଷଧ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଦିଆଯିବ। ଅଣପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ଓ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯାଉନଥିବା ପିଲାମାନେ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଜନନକ୍ଷମ ମହିଳାମାନେ (୨୦ରୁ ୨୪ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସ) ଅଙ୍ଗନୱାଡ଼ି କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଔଷଧ ଖାଇବେ।

ଏହି ଦିନ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ଓ ପ୍ରସୂତି ମହିଳା କୃମିନାଶକ ଔଷଧ ଖାଇବେ ନାହିଁ।

ଯେଉଁ ପିଲାମାନେ ଜାତୀୟ କୃମିନାଶକ ଦିବସରେ ଔଷଧ ଖାଇନଥିବେ, ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ୧୭ ଫେବୃଆରୀ ୨୦୨୬ ଦିନ ଔଷଧ ଦିଆଯିବ।

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

facebook.com/HFWOdisha
@HFWOdisha
http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/

OIPR-10001/10003/2/25-26/0018

10001/34/2526

ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣ କୁଷ୍ଠ ସଚେତନତା ଅଭିଯାନ
୩୦ ଜାନୁଆରୀ - ୧୩ ଫେବୃଆରୀ ୨୦୨୬

'ଭେଦଭାବ ସମାପ୍ତ କରି ସମ୍ମାନର ସହ ବଞ୍ଚିବା'

- ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନରେ ଆଶା ଓ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀ ନିଜ ନିଜ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ କୁଷ୍ଠରୋଗ ବିଷୟରେ ସଚେତନ କରିବେ
- ବଧିରା/ତମ୍ବାଳିଆ ଛଉ, ତେଲିଆ/ ଚିକ୍କଣ/ପାଉଁସିଆ ଚର୍ମ, ହାତ/ ପାଦ ବଧିରା କିମ୍ବା ଦୁର୍ବଳ ହେବା, ମୁହଁ ଏବଂ କାନରେ ଗୁଳି ବାହାରିବା ଆଦି କୁଷ୍ଠର ଲକ୍ଷଣ ହୋଇପାରେ
- କୁଷ୍ଠରୋଗର ଚିହ୍ନଟ, ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଏବଂ ପୁନଃକ୍ଷମ ଅସ୍ତ୍ରୋପଚାର ସରକାରୀ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରେ ବିନାମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ
- ପୁନଃକ୍ଷମ ଅସ୍ତ୍ରୋପଚାର କରାଯାଇଥିବା ରୋଗୀଙ୍କୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ୧୨,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପାରିଶ୍ରମିକ ଭରଣା ତଥା ଗସ୍ତ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ବାବଦକୁ ୧,୫୦୦ଟଙ୍କା ଦିଆଯାଉଛି

କୁଷ୍ଠ ରୋଗର ଲକ୍ଷଣ

ଇଷତ୍ ସଫା / ତମ୍ବାଳିଆ ବଧିରା ଛଉ
କାନରେ ଗୁଳି ଗୁଳି ବାହାରିବା
ହାତ / ପାଦ ବଧିରା ଲାଗିବା/ଦୁର୍ବଳ ଲାଗିବା
ଆଙ୍ଗୁଳି ବଙ୍କା ହେବା କିମ୍ବା ଝୁଲି ପଡିବା
ପାଦରେ ବଧିରା ଘା' ହେବା
ଆଖି ପତା ବନ୍ଦ ନହେବା
ମୁହଁର ଚମ ତେଲିଆ/ ମୋଟା ଦେଖାଯିବା

କୁଷ୍ଠରୋଗର ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଥିଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀ କିମ୍ବା ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରାନ୍ତୁ।

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

facebook.com/HFWOdisha
@HFWOdisha
http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/

OIPR-10001/10003/2/25-26/0017

28-year-old man killed by girlfriend's live-in partner

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: A 28-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his girlfriend's live-in partner in Niladri Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police limits here late Sunday night, police said Monday.

The deceased was identified as Satyabrata Pradhan of Hasinapur in Brahmagiri. Based on a complaint lodged by his brother Rajesh, Chandrasekharpur police registered a murder case (124/26) and launched an investigation.

Police have detained the woman for questioning, while the prime accused, Dinabandhu Nayak, is absconding. Senior officers and a forensic team visited the spot and seized blood samples and a knife believed to have been used in the crime.

According to police, Dinabandhu and the woman, both from Erasama in Jagatsinghpur district, had been in a relationship since their school days. After moving to Bhubaneswar for work, they had been living together in Niladri Vihar Sector-II for about eight months.

The woman later came in contact with Satyabrata through Instagram and the two developed a relationship. On Sunday night, Satyabrata was visiting her to celebrate Chocolate Day when Dinabandhu arrived unexpectedly. Enraged on seeing them together, he allegedly stabbed Satyabrata with a kitchen knife.

The deceased was identified as Satyabrata Pradhan of Hasinapur in Brahmagiri. Based on a complaint lodged by his brother Rajesh, Chandrasekharpur police registered a murder case

The injured man was rushed to Capital Hospital by the woman and Dinabandhu, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The woman later informed the car owner about the incident. While returning after retrieving the vehicle, the driver — allegedly under the influence of alcohol — lost control, and the car veered off a bridge near Sishu Bhawan Square.

Capital police reached the accident site, recovered the damaged vehicle, and detained the car owner and driver for questioning.

6-lane NH-55, 4-lane state highways soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: If things go well, National Highway (NH) 55 connecting Sambalpur and Cuttack will be widened to six lanes, while all state highways will be expanded to four lanes, as Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Monday directed officers to fast-track measures for the mega initiative.

Reviewing various ongoing and proposed development projects of the Works department at Lok Seva Bhawan here, Harichandan directed officials to significantly speed up execution to meet Odisha's long-term infrastructure goals.

Emphasising the vision of the Prime Minister for Odisha's development and the state's resolve to build a 'Viksit Odisha' by 2036, Harichandan said that rapid implementation of road and infrastructure projects is essential. He instructed senior officers and engineers to leverage modern software, technology and professional expertise to improve efficiency and project delivery.

He stated that the overall development of the state cannot be achieved by focusing only on major cities. Instead, strong and seamless connectivity across all regions must be ensured.

Drawing parallels with the Bhubaneswar city expansion plan, Harichandan stressed the need to prepare a proposal for the construction of an outer ring road for Cuttack city.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening east–west connectivity in Odisha, he discussed with officers regarding a survey to expand the Sambalpur-Cuttack NH-55 into six lanes. Additionally, the minister directed officials to take fast-track steps to upgrade all state highways to four lanes, and to initiate surveys and submit detailed reports to the government at the earliest.

In the presence of Works department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh and OBCC Managing Director Anupam Saha, the meeting reviewed several key road projects, including Jayadev Vihar–Nandankanan Road and the Left Parallel Road, Pataragadia–Daruthenga Road, proposed Kelucharan–Phulnakhara Road, Palasuni to Garage Square Road, Acharya Vihar–Kalinga Hospital Road, Kaimatia Square-Gothapatna Road, Gohiria to Chhatabar via Madanpur Road and AIIMS access road.

The review also included major NH projects such as widening of the Konark–Puri–Satapada Road, new alignment for the Pipli–Konark Road, Cuttack–Kandarpur Road and Kandarpur–Balikuda Road and construction of Jeypore bypass and Bolangir bypass.

The minister reiterated that timely completion of these projects would play a crucial role in boosting connectivity, economic growth and balanced regional development across Odisha.

Mass deworming, Vitamin A campaign to roll out today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: In a major push to improve child nutrition, curb anaemia and prevent intestinal worm infections, the state government will roll out National Deworming Day (NDD) February 10 alongside the Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) programme across the state.

The Health and Family Welfare department, with technical support from Unicef, will implement the drive, targeting over 1.7 crore beneficiaries in one of the state's largest public health campaigns.

As part of an integrated disease-prevention strategy, the campaign will run alongside the Lymphatic Filariasis–Mass Drug Administration (LF-MDA) programme in select districts to curb transmission and eliminate the disease.

The LF-MDA drive will cover seven implementation units across five districts—Bargarh, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Jajpur—where children up to 12 years will also receive deworming medication under the combined campaign.

Under the programme, Albendazole tablets will be administered to more than 1.59 crore children aged 1–19 years, along with over 19 lakh women of reproductive age (20–24 years) across all 30 districts of Odisha.

The biannual Vitamin A Supplementation programme will reach an estimated 32 lakh children aged 9 to 60 months, aimed at boosting immunity and reducing child mortality and morbidity.

Speaking on the occasion, Director of Family Welfare Shakti Prakash Mishra said National Deworming Day is a critical public health intervention that protects children from parasitic infections and helps address anaemia among young women. "Regular deworming supports better nutrition, healthier growth and improved school participation, contributing to long-term development," he said. Nutrition Specialist at Unicef Odisha Sourav Bhattacharjee highlighted the benefits of integration, noting that combining deworming with Vitamin A supplementation allows families to access multiple essential health services through a single platform.

The large-scale campaign will be conducted through government, government-aided and private schools, as well as Anganwadi centres.

Absence of public toilets hits hygiene at Palasuni

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: The Palasuni square is considered one of the busiest junctions in the City as it witnesses huge footfall everyday due to its market area, bus and auto stands. Despite effectively being the entry point to the Capital City of Bhubaneswar and one of the busiest areas, the residents have informed that the place lacks a public toilet, compromising on the sanitation and cleanliness of the place.

The locals informed that due to the lack of public toilet, the local shopkeepers, auto drivers along with the passengers are urinating in open. Women in particular are having a hard time to find a toilet in the area.

"Due to the lack of public toilet here, we are forced to urinate in public. There is a public toilet at Rasulgarh square but it is far away from here and we cannot risk leaving our shop to travel that much distance to relieve ourselves," said a local shopkeeper. "A public toilet was supposed to build here but the work didn't commence due to a reported land issue. This place also witnesses a lot of Passengers who board buses and auto rickshaws here; they also face the similar issue. A public toilet is much needed here," said an auto driver.

"Since the last six years, we have been demanding to set up a public toilet here. Neither the civic body nor the government has addressed the issue. A shop has been erected in the place dedicated for the construction of public toilet," said a social worker Narayana Prusty.

When asked about the land issue concerning the construction of public toilet, the local corporator of ward number 18, Biplab Behera said, "We have passed the tender. The BMC is planning to construct the Public toilet soon."

"The land belongs to water resource department. We have written to them and waiting for their nod. Once we get the clearance, the construction will commence," said City Engineer Narad Chandra Rath.

Meanwhile, BMC Additional Commissioner Kailash Chandra Das has informed, "We have a proposal for Palasuni and in March this year, a public toilet will be built there, which can be accessible by the people".

RDWU hosts training for visually impaired

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: A two-day training programme on "Capacity Building and Leadership for Persons with Blindness and Low Vision" was held Monday at Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU), aimed at empowering persons with visual impairment through skill development, awareness and leadership training.

The programme was organised by the Blind People's Association (BPA) in collaboration with the Ravenshaw Bhinna Khyama Student Union and RDWU, with support from the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department.

The training featured a series of expert-led sessions by eminent resource persons from the Blind People's Association. Bhushan Punani delivered an informative session on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

Naveen urges CM to act on paddy procurement crisis

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: Expressing grave concern over hardships faced by farmers during the ongoing paddy procurement process, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik Monday alleged widespread exploitation and administrative lapses, urging Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take immediate corrective steps to ease farmers' distress.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Patnaik said the Kharif paddy procurement process has become a severe ordeal for farmers, blaming administrative apathy and the BJP government's failure to honour promises made in its 2024 election manifesto.

He recalled that the BJP had pledged to raise the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and abolish deductions (katni-chatni) altogether.

However, Patnaik alleged that mandis across the state have become centres of harassment, with farmers facing arbitrary deductions of 5–7 kg per quintal on grounds of moisture content and quality.

He said the practice, reported in several districts, reflects alleged collusion between millers and local officials, depriving farmers of the rightful returns on their labour.

Questioning the government's commitment, the former chief minister asked when the BJP would fulfil its electoral promises and deliver justice to farmers. Patnaik also criticised the government's decision to cap the ₹800 per quintal input subsidy at 150 quintals per farmer, calling it a violation of assurances made to all farmers. He said the ceiling unfairly penalises higher-producing cultivators and contradicts the BJP's own resolution document, while questioning the rollback of the promised ₹3,100 per quintal subsidy on the entire produce.

Highlighting operational lapses, Patnaik said the slow pace of paddy procurement has forced farmers to stay awake at night to guard their produce from dew and theft.

He cited the lack of basic mandi facilities, a failing token system and delayed payments as factors pushing farmers toward protest. The Leader of Opposition said the BJP's manifesto promise of DBT payments within 48 hours of procurement remains largely unmet, with many farmers waiting over a week. "Is this not a failure to honour electoral promises?" he asked.

Patnaik alleged that deductions, the 150-quintal ceiling and delays in procurement and payment have created an abnormal situation, pushing farmers into the clutches of unscrupulous traders and millers. Urging immediate intervention, the Leader of Opposition asked the Chief Minister to deploy special squads at mandis to curb illegal deductions, act against erring millers and officials, & withdraw the 150-quintal subsidy ceiling.

CTUs call nationwide strike February 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: Leaders of major Central Trade Unions (CTUs) Monday announced a nationwide general strike February 12, protesting the Centre's new labour codes. The decision was shared at a joint press conference in the City.

Addressing the media, union representatives alleged that replacing 29 labour laws with four new codes has diluted workers' rights and protections. They claimed the changes favour employers, weaken job security and exclude a large section of the workforce from legal safeguards, threatening livelihoods and dignity. Union leaders accused the government of prioritising corporate interests under the "Ease of Doing Business" framework, alleging the labour reforms are designed to boost profits at workers' expense. They also criticised the Labour Shakti Policy 2025, saying redefining labour as a 'dharma' undermines its status as a constitutional right.

The unions also flagged concerns affecting farmers and rural workers, alleging the government has failed to ensure MSP while opening domestic markets to foreign agricultural products.

PHW revisits CT Road's lost global charm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Feb 9: Once a magnet for backpackers, hippies and globe-trotters from across the Western world, Chakratirtha Road—popularly known as CT Road—came alive again Sunday as over 20 participants of the Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) revisited its rich yet fading legacy as an international tourism hotspot.

The walk, part of the 18th edition of the Puri Heritage Walks, was curated by heritage researcher Prasanta Kumar Mishra under the theme "International Tourism Trail: CT Road." The initiative traced how, during the 1960s and 1970s, the bustling stretch of Puri evolved into a favourite haunt for foreign tourists seeking spirituality, simplicity and cultural immersion.

Starting near Hotel Bay View, the group walked to Honey Bee Café, where Mishra recounted how foreign travellers began arriving in Puri in the early 1960s, opting for affordable lodgings along CT Road. The calm seaside ambience and informal hospitality made the stretch a magnet for visitors, generating livelihoods for local residents and entrepreneurs.

Initiative traced how, during the 1960s and 1970s, the bustling stretch of Puri evolved into a favourite haunt for foreign tourists seeking spirituality, simplicity and cultural immersion

Drawing from personal anecdotes, Mishra shared memories of cultural exchanges with international guests over meals. He noted that the hippie wave of the 1970s brought a surge of tourists from Spain, Italy, Japan and other Western nations.

As many visitors were unfamiliar with Odia cuisine, they introduced local cooks to global recipes, leaving a culinary imprint that endures. Mishra cited examples such as Japanese omu rice evolving locally into "Om Rice," while spaghetti, pasta, burgers and toasts gradually found a place in Puri's café menus.

Participants also learned how open-air eateries like Bamboo Restaurant and Shambhu Restaurant once thrived by serving foreign guests. Anecdotes included stories of foreign women who married locals and later opened popular eateries along the stretch, with PHW coordinator Kumar Aurojyoti adding his lived recollections to the discussion.

The walk also covered a Kashmiri handicrafts shop once popular with foreign tourists, Harris Café and several heritage landmarks, including the historic Madhupur Kothi—the former beachside palace of the Madhupur queen.

At Z Hotel, participants reflected on its nearly century-old legacy in Puri's hospitality history before ending at Pink House Restaurant, where the original café structure still stands as a reminder of a bygone era.

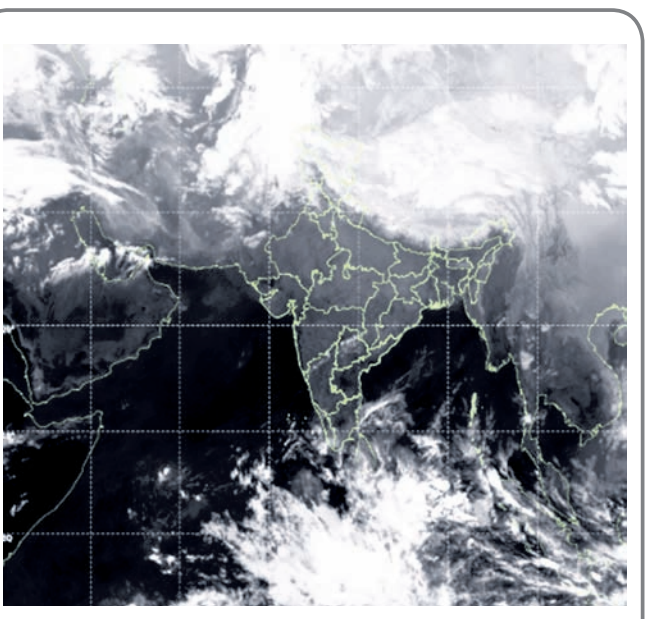
As the PHW edition centred on international tourism, participants also attended the Odisha–Japan Festival at Talabania, enjoying Japanese performances, authentic cuisine and cross-cultural interactions.

While the walk revived memories of CT Road's cosmopolitan past, participants voiced concern over its declining global appeal, citing congestion, unplanned urban growth and a shift toward mass domestic tourism that has diluted its distinctive character.

Among those who joined the walk were PHW co-coordinator Ashoka Manjari Nayak, programme director Biswaranjan Dehury and several heritage enthusiasts.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY INDEX	VARIATION	BOURSES INDEX	VARIATION	COMMODITIES INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR 90.76	▲ 0.04	SENSEX 84065.75	▲ 485.35	GOLD ₹158,479	▲ ₹3028
EURO 107.81	▲ 0.75	NIFTY 25867.30	▲ 173.60	SILVER ₹263,139	▲ ₹13247



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.3°	29.2°
Min Temp	14.1°	13.6°
Humidity	68%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Dry weather likely to prevail

3 migrant workers from Ganjam tortured in TN

DIGAPAHANDI POLICE RUSH TEAM TO THE SOUTHERN STATE FOR RESCUE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Feb 9: Three migrant workers from Ganjam district were allegedly detained illegally and tortured at a private company in Tamil Nadu, prompting Digapahandi police to rush a team to the southern state for their rescue.

The workers were identified as B Budu Reddy (32), son of B Tabat Reddy; B Purna Reddy (30), son of B Ganesh Reddy; and S Dhoba Dora (31), son of S Duryodhan Dora. All of them hail from Lakshmi Narayanpur village under B Turubudi panchayat in Digapahandi block. They had travelled to Nagapattinam district in Tamil Nadu around 15 days back along with a labour contractor after being promised work at a biscuit factory.

As no work was provided, the trio decided to return home and reached the nearest railway station. At that point, another labour contractor allegedly lured them back to a company assuring employment. According to the complaint, the company owner confined the workers in a room, seized their mobile phones and forced them to work like bonded labour.

The workers alleged that they were denied food for three consecutive days and had access to a mobile phone for only a few minutes each evening, preventing them from speaking to family members. When they demanded wages, they were reportedly assaulted and subjected to physical torture at the instance of the company owner.

Dhoba Dora managed to inform his family about the ordeal over the phone Friday, prompting his father Duryodhan, along with Purna Reddy's wife Mukta Reddy and mother Sumitra Reddy, to lodge a complaint at Digapahandi police station Saturday.

Based on the complaint, a case (44/26) was registered, and IIC-cum-DSP Prashant Kumar Patra briefed Berhampur Superintendent of Police Dr Saravana Vivek M. The SP contacted his Tamil Nadu counterpart and sought assistance.

Following the SP's directions, a police team led by SI Mahaprasad Mohanty left for Tamil Nadu Monday morning to rescue the workers. The matter has also been brought to the notice of the district administration and labour authorities.

Hash oil manufacturing unit busted, 4 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Feb 9: Police Monday busted an illegal cannabis oil manufacturing unit at Badapadar village under the Chitrakonda police limits in Malkangiri district and arrested four persons including two inter-state smugglers in this connection.

Chitrakonda police seized about 2 liters of cannabis oil from the site. The seized oil is estimated to be worth about Rs 25 lakh in the market, Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Vinodh Patil H said.

Patil said police in the district have seized cannabis oil worth about Rs 7.5 crore over the past four months, which he described as the highest such seizure in India to date.

Of the four arrested, two are suspected interstate traffickers involved in the illegal cannabis oil trade, police said.

To curb drug trafficking, the Malkangiri police have launched a helpline — 9438916972 — and appealed people to share information and assist in dismantling the cannabis oil network.

Police also seized processing equipment from the spot, including iron-made machinery fitted with cylindrical processing containers, pressure cookers, compressors, pipes, cylinders, gas burners and plastic drums.

AP incursions force admin to push Raipahad development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Feb 9: The Koraput district administration and Nandapur block officials have intensified development efforts in the disputed Raipahad village under Golur panchayat following reports that leaders from Andhra Pradesh visited Raipahad and nearby Gandiguda villages and allegedly attempted to persuade residents to integrate with the neighboring state.

The move comes a day after district and block officials inspected Raipahad to assess the ground situation. In response, the state and Zilla Parishad development departments have initiated steps to resolve long-pending issues and extend welfare benefits to local residents.

Ten families have been included under the Antyodaya housing scheme. To create a cluster-based settlement and a unified village identity, the Nandapur tehsil administration Monday identified land for the construction of 10 houses at a single location. Additionally, 12 hectares of nearby forest-category hill land have been earmarked for shade-tree plantation and coffee cultivation.

"All families will be provided homestead land titles and land pattas for coffee plantation in the coming days," Nandapur Tehsildar Debabrata Moharana said.

Block Development Officer Durga Prasad Dora said construction of a concrete road to Raipahad village has been initiated by the Sunabeda R&B division. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department has repaired the defunct spring-based water supply system, while the panchayat administration has restored solar-powered streetlights.

Construction of houses under the housing scheme will begin Tuesday, officials said.

Land identified for coffee cultivation will be developed under the Nandapur watershed project using funds from the VB-G RAM G Scheme.

Dora said applications related to Aadhaar, ration cards, labour cards, social security pensions and housing schemes will be processed during the upcoming panchayat-level public hearing at the Golur panchayat office.

Local intelligentsia urged the administration to show similar commitment towards development of other border villages in the Nandapur block.

Vedanta Lanjigarh holds cancer awareness drive

Lanjigarh: Vedanta Aluminium recently conducted a two-day cancer awareness campaign across communities surrounding its Lanjigarh alumina refinery, reinforcing its commitment to accessible and patient-friendly cancer care in rural Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The initiative reached more than 500 people, including frontline health workers, students and community members, and focused on cancer prevention, early detection and treatment pathways. A key outreach activity was held in Kankeri village, where residents interacted directly with doctors to better understand cancer symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and recovery. The campaign was inaugurated at the Lanjigarh block office with awareness sessions for Anganwadi workers and ASHAs, equipping them with critical knowledge to support early identification and referral within their communities. Specialised sessions led by medical experts were also conducted for students and local residents, ensuring information was tailored to different age groups and needs.The initiative extended to educational institutions such as SSD School and Banipanga Girls' High School. Speaking on the initiative, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO – Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "We firmly believe that access to quality healthcare is a catalyst for socio-economic progress. At Vedanta Lanjigarh, we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the well-being of the communities around us. Through targeted interventions in cancer care, we strive to elevate the collective health standards in Kalahandi, contributing to the holistic development of the region." Vedanta continues to strengthen healthcare access through high-quality patient care at the Lanjigarh hospital and advanced cancer care support at the BMC facility in Chhattisgarh, ensuring long-term community well-being remains central to its operations.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Sambalpur, Near Sarlakani Chowk, Sambalpur - 768006 (Odisha)

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of **Bank of India,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub- section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the said rules. The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of India, Jeypore Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & other expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.**

JEYPORE BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Legal Heir Mrs. Arati Nayak, Ansujeet Nayak, Anshika Nayak (Minor) of Borrower/Mortgagor: Late Sanjeev Kumar Nayak, S/o- Manoj Kumar Nayak, All are At: NKT Road, Jeypore, Koraput-766017	₹13,74,440/- as on 06.11.2025 + interest & expenses thereon	06.11.2025 / 04.02.2026	EQM of Land & Building situated at Khata No.: 1142/509, Plot No.: 793/1305, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, Mouza: Bikram Nagar,Tahasil: Jeypore, Dist.: Koraput. The property stands in the name of **Sanjeev Kumar Nayak,** Bounded by East: House of Chandra Prabhu Patnaik, West: House of Chamber of Commerce, North: Kia Bandha, South: NKT Road

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 09.02.2026 **Authorised Officer, Bank of India**

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION OF PARKING STAND

Auction Catalogue No. SDCM-KUR-PKNG
Station & Location : Brahmapur-2 Wheeler (Outside Platform-4, towards Palasa end).
Auction Start Date & Time : 19.02.2026 at 1530 hrs.
Auction End Date & Time : 19.02.2026 at 1600 hrs.
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the **www.ireps.gov.in** and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ Khurda Road
PR-1098/Q/25-26

UCO BANK
Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **UCO Bank, Puri Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank, Puri Branch** for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

PURI BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrowers	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Rakesh Chandra Sahoo, 2) Mrs. Lili Sahu, Both are At: Sahajanpur, Chapamanik, Brahmagiri, Puri - 752011	₹ 17,91,042/- as on 29.05.2025 + further interest & other charges thereon	02.07.2025 / 07.02.2026	All that part & parcel of immovable property situated at Khata No.: 521/6021, Plot No.: 998/10796, Area: Ac. 0.028 Dec., Mouza: Balukhanda, PS: Puri Sadar, PS No.: 151, Dist.: Puri, Property in the name of **Mr. Rakesh Chandra Sahoo,** Bounded by North: Road & Sub Plot No.: LP-23, South: Sub Plot No.: LP-25, East: 20ft. wide Road, West: Revenue Plot No.: 985

Place : Bhubaneswar **Authorised Officer**
Date : 09.02.2026 **UCO Bank**

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30hrs. : **SL. No.; Tender No.; Description of Work; Tender Value & Earnest Money** respectively: **1) E-KGP-EAST-06-2026;** Panskura : Increasing CSL of the Lines having short CSL at Panskura Station & Panskura Yard : Removal of Pasraha 75 kmph on UP Line, 110 kmph in DN & MID line, including correction of layout at Panskura east outer yard and Panskura-Raghunathbari to Kharagpur; ₹ 14,94,33,189.40; ₹ 8,97,200.00; **(2); E-KGP-EAST-07-2026;** 1) Deulti Yard : Improvement of defective layout for removal of Pasraha - 110 KMPH. 2) Fuleswar Yard: Improvement of defective layout on UP Main Line for removal of Pasraha -110 KMPH Improvement of Drainage system 3) Andul Yard: Removal of Pasraha 110 kmph by Yard remodeling. Also improvement of Drainage system; ₹ 14,89,25,994.38; ₹ 8,94,600.00. **(3); E-KGP-EAST-08-2026;** Execution of work 1) Shalimar: Devlopment of 2(two) lines for loading /unloading and engine reversal to deal parcel traffic at PTR Siding of Shalimar 2) Santragachi Connectivity of Hospital Siding Line No-2,5 & 6 with WCD Yard along with extension of Shunting Neck. under the jurisdiction of DEN/East/Kharagpur; ₹ 12,05,15,268.18; ₹ 7,52,600.00. **(4); E-KGP-EAST-09-2026;** 1) Uluberia (ULB)- Increasing of CSL of DN Main, Middle Line & UP Main Line and connectivity of Tower Wagon Shed with EMU Stabling line with Signal 2) Bagnan (BZN) Increasing of CSL of UP Main Line & UP Loop Line 3) Bhogpur (BOP) Increasing of CSL of CSL of the UP Main and common Loop line, under the jurisdiction of DEN/EAST/ Kharagpur; ₹ 12,22,06,984.90; ₹ 7,61,000.00; **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 to 4); **Date of opening :** 05/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 1 & 2) & 10/03/ 2026 (for Sl. No. 3 & 4); **Completion period of the work :** 15 Months (for Sl. No. 1 to 4); **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 1 to 2 from 19.02.2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 05/03/2026; **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 3 to 4 from 24.02.2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 10/03/2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-1162)**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office : Cuttack
2nd Floor, Chalachitra Bhawan, Buxibazar, Cuttack, Odisha-753001

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under sub section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA, Cuttack Main Branch** for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

CUTTACK MAIN BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Borrower: M/s. Shree Durga Petro Chemicals / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Prativa Puhan, W/o- Harihar Puhan, **2) Mr. Saroj Kumar Puhan,** S/o- Hari Har Puhan, **3) Mr. Niraj Kumar Puhan,** S/o- Hari Har Puhan, All are At: Ultra lane, New Tarola, PO/PS: Jagatpur, Cuttack-754021	All that part and parcel of the property Land and Building in the name of **Mr. Harihar Puhan, Prop.: M/s. Shree Durga Petro Chemicals,** situated at Dist.: Cuttack, Mouza: Khaira, P.S.: Jagatpur, Tahasil: Choudwar, Khata No.: 448, Revenue Plot No.: 1916 (P), IDCO Plot No.: 89/A, Area: Ac.0.125dec., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 88,South: 89/B, East: Plot No.: 90, West: Road	24.06.2025 / 03.02.2026	**₹24,39,362.48 as on 04.12.2025** and with further interest thereon from 05.12.2025 at the contractual rate plus cost, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Cuttack, Date: 09.02.2026 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI **Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar**

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to our **"E-Auction Sale Notice"** published in the **"Orissa Post" on 08.02.2026,** all references to **SARFAESI Act** are omitted as the same were mentioned inadvertently. All other facts remain unchanged.

Place: Bhubaneswar Authorised Officer
Date: 10.02.2026 Bank of India

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, GUDARI
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଗୁଡାରୀ
Dist- Rayagada, Pin Code-765026,
e-Mail ID: gudarin.hud@gmail.com, gudarinac.hud@gmail.com
No.138/2026 Date:05.02.26

"e"-TENDER NOTICE
Bid Identification No. GUD-NAC-05/2025-26

No.13001/58/2526: Bid documents consisting of 11 (Eleven) No. of Civil Work with their Estimated Cost (Work Value) Cost of Tender Paper, E.M.D., Time of Completion, Class of Contractors, Additional Performance Security Deposit and the set of Terms and Conditions applicable for the contract and other required necessary documents can be seen in the Government Website (i.e., http://tendersodisha.gov.in).

1	Name of the Work	Civil Works as mentioned in the website.
2	No. of the Work	11 (Eleven) No.
3	Estimated Costs	As mentioned in the DTCN
4	Period of Completion	As mentioned against the work in the NIT/DTCN.
5	Date & Time of Availability of Bid documents on the Portal	From Dated: 06.02.2026, 11.30 A.M. hrs To Dated: 24.02.2026, 05.30 P.M. hrs
6	Bids received online to be opened on	Dated 25.02.2026, 11.30 P.M. hrs
7	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid	The Executive Officer, Gudari NAC, Gudari

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-13001/13184/1/25-26/0001 **Sd./- Executive Officer, Gudari NAC**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ee_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Works
Identification Online Tender 27/RWD/BDK-II/2025-26, Dtd.05.02.2026

No.25001/51/2526:1. Name of the Work : Building Works as per Annexure, 2. Total Number of Works: 13 Nos., 3. Approximate Estimated Cost: Rs.10.32 Lakhs-46.10 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: As Per Annexure, 5. Period of Completion:As Per Annexure, 6. Type of Tender: Single Cover. 7.Other details: The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	27	11.02.2026 At 12.30 P.M.	17.02.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.	16.02.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.	17.02.2026 at 4.00 P.M.

8. **Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**
9. Any other changes/ Corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-25001/25090/1/25-26/0001 **Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Bhadrak**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)
1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001

DEMAND NOTICE
(Under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002)

Demand Notice u/s.13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is issued by **Bank of Baroda** as Secured Creditor against the following Borrowers of the Branch.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower	NPA Date / 13(2) Date / Notice Return Reason	Limit (₹)	Rate of Interest	Total Dues
1.	**DEBAGARH BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Maa Hardware Store, Prop.: Mrs. Rupali Bhanja,** Plot No.: 1200, MS Khata No.: 259, Bhitiria Sahi, Dist.: Deogarh, Odisha, PIN-768108 **/ Guarantors: 1) Mr. Rajnikanta Bhanja,** S/o: Late Dhanurjaya Bhanja, **2) Mr. Narendra Bhanja,** S/o: Late Dhanurjaya Bhanja, **3) Mr. Sukadeb Bhanja,** S/o: Mr. Rajnikanta Bhanja, **4) Mr. Lahesh Bhanja,** S/o: Mr. Rajnikanta Bhanja, **5) Mr. Balaram Bhanja,** S/o: Mr. Narendra Bhanja, **6) Mr. Mana Bhanja,** S/o: Mr. Narendra Bhanja All are At: Babu Sahi, Ward No.: 11, PO: Deogarh, Dist.: Deogarh, Odisha, PIN-768108.	28.06.2025 / 09.12.2025 / Addressee Refused	Working Capital : ₹45,00,000/-	13.15%	₹ 47,72,773.39 with further interest there on at contractual rate plus costs ,charges and expenses from **08.12.2025** till the date of payment

Description of Mortgaged property: Equitable Mortgage of Land, situated at Mouza: Deogarh, PO: Deogarh, PS: Deogarh, Tahasil: Deogarh, Dist.: Deogarh, vide No.: 151, Khata No.: 100, **1)** Plot No.: 173, Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, **2)** Plot No.: 174, Area: Ac. 0.20 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, **Total Area: Ac. 0.280 Dec.,** standing in the name of **Mr. Rajanikanta Bhanja,** S/o: Late Mr. Dhanurjaya Bhanja and **Mr. Narendra Bhanja,** S/o: Late Dhanurjaya Bhanja, **Bounded For Plot No.: 173-** North: Road, South: Narendra Bhanja, East: Road and West: Self, **Bounded For Plot No.: 174-** North: Road, South: Narendra Bhanja, East: Self and West: Karunakar Kunwar

You have committed default in repayment of loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by registered post but it has been returned with the reason mentioned above. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within **60 days** from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise Right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured asset given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We hereby give you a notice that in terms of sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, you are barred from transferring the secured asset mentioned above by way of sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction / inviting quotations / tender / private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 09.02.2026 **Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda**

What you are not able to do today, you will achieve tomorrow. Persevere and you shall conquer.

THE MOTHER

Battle Over Book

An unseemly controversy has been created over an unpublished book penned by former Army Chief General MM Naravane. It has already rocked the Parliament with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh objecting to Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi's attempt to raise it in the House violating rules that stipulate contents of an unpublished book cannot be discussed in the Lok Sabha. But neither the Speaker nor the government is correct in stonewalling a debate on the specious plea of House rules, when the government is guilty of withholding permission for the publication of the book for far too long. Interestingly, the book is already in circulation on social media platforms on .pdf format. However this resistance by the government to allow publication of the book itself suggests all is not well with it and it is oversensitive about discussion of defence policies, strategic decisions and military manoeuvres that may strengthen democratic institutions with new lights shed by top professionals rather than weaken them. Withholding any information about armed forces and how politicians deal with related issues from the tax payer of a democratic nation can never be defended.

When the chiefs of India's armed forces—the Army, Air Force and Navy— fold their uniforms and retire, they have every right like any other citizen of the country to share their experiences and perspectives in the form of books. Such works often take the form of accounts of military decisions, strategy, war memories, leadership principles and national security experiences. It would be diabolical to claim such memoirs can ever be security risks. These books form a treasure trove of historical information and insight into strategy and also for public discourse. Of course, they need to go through several security restrictions and government regulations to ensure no military or strategic secrets are divulged for the benefit of enemies of the country. At the same time, it would be childish to suggest that top military officials are so naïve as not to know the rules of the game.

Against this backdrop, the political storm unleashed by excerpts from the unpublished book of Naravane has raised serious concerns for the health of democracy and military accountability, apart from free speech, in the country. The former Army Chief has purportedly shared, among many other experiences, in his unpublished book given to a reputed publisher details of a high-altitude confrontation between Indian and Chinese forces. He has graphically portrayed how he awaited clearance from the top – the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister – for action against an intruding Chinese force. Immediate response was needed to stop the intruders, but the Defence Minister sat on the matter for far too long and then told the Army Chief that the PM's message to him was to act in whatever manner he thought fit. Naravane felt terribly let down and "alone", as the LoP said quoting from excerpts of the unpublished book published by a media outlet.

There is no doubt the clearance processes are vital for preserving military secrets. All the same the government is wrong to maintain prolonged silence and opaque delays for the publication of the book. If it thinks Naravane's book contains too sensitive material to be published, it should say so. No official word till date only strengthens the suspicion that the government has something very big that it desires to hide. Question arises whether there is any conspiracy at work to suppress weakness on the part of politicians who have no qualms in claiming credit for successful military operations, relegating the actual heroes on the battlefield to the background, while refusing to take the blame in case any military manoeuvre goes wrong.

The tendency to make political capital of the heroic exploits of the country's armed forces has become too pronounced in the past decade. Such blatant misuse of the military for political gain by the powers that be was not seen earlier. On the contrary, the political establishment does not show the same courage or leadership to share the blame for any failure in the battlefield.

Several senior officers associated with the Indian Army— former chiefs or senior commanders— have written or dictated books based on war experiences and leadership. General VP Malik's book provides a detailed account of the 1999 Kargil War. Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon has written about recent cross-border operations against Pakistan. Other books focusing on adventure, struggle and military life are also available, revealing soldiers' personal experiences. These works typically describe military decisions, battlefield strategies, difficult leadership choices and the hardships faced by soldiers. The IAF's top leadership has also shared its experiences. Former Air Chief PC Lal and others have books to their credit focusing on Air Force history and personal missions. Numerous writings based on the biographies, war memories and leadership values of senior pilots and commanders are also available as books.

All these suggest authentic, inside stories of the defence establishments and war time experiences are welcome both for public knowledge and understanding defence policies. One more book does more good and no harm but this unpublished book seems it could badly puncture falsely bloated egos of currently powerful people.

WISDOM CORNER

A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others.

AYN RAND

What makes us human, I think, is an ability to ask questions, a consequence of our sophisticated spoken language.

JANE GOODALL

Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1763:** The Treaty of Paris was signed, ending territorial conflicts between France and Britain in the Seven Years' War, the North American phase of which was called the French and Indian War.
- **1837:** Russian author Aleksandr Pushkin was killed in a duel defending his wife's honour.
- **1962:** US airman Francis Gary Powers, who was the captured pilot of the U-2 plane that had been downed by the Soviet Union in 1960 and who was later convicted of espionage, was exchanged for jailed Soviet informant Rudolf Abel.
- **1964:** An aircraft carrier collides with a destroyer in Australia, killing 82. Destroyer HMAS Voyager sailed under aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourn's bow, was cut in half and sank.
- **1964:** Bob Dylan's album "The Times They Are A-Changin'" is released. The title track is one of Dylan's best-known songs.
- **1996:** Deep Blue becomes the first computer to win a chess game against a reigning world champion. Despite his defeat in the first game, Russian world champion Garry Kasparov proceeded to win the match by 4-2 games.
- **2009:** Two satellites collide in space. Both the US satellite "Iridium 33" and the Russian "Kosmos 2251" were destroyed in the accident.

FOCUS INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

WALKING INTO A TRAP

Jagdish Rattanani

COMPROMISES FOR SHORT TERM INEVITABLY BRING DISASTER FOR LONG TERM

Whichever way you spin this, it should be clear that the nation has bowed to the diktats of the US in return for a trade agreement that eases punitive tariffs on India but also barters away the nation's long term interests and compromises the much-vaunted strategic autonomy that has been the centrepiece of Indian policy framework for long. It is true that not every detail of what was called the "interim agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade" between the two nations is known. But what is known, including the circumstances surrounding the deal, the manner of its announcement, the language of the joint statement and the connected White House executive order, indicate that India has shifted some long-held positions and to that extent this is not a deal between two equals.

The US high handedness stretched to simple courtesies like the timing of the release of the agreed statement. Trump announced the broad agreement on his social media platform 'Truth Social' on Feb. 2, days ahead of the official release by both nations, on Feb. 6/7. The Indian government announcement of the joint statement on PIB is time stamped Feb. 7, 4.20 am IST, an unconventional hour that presented as a US-led announcement working to US time zones. If Nehru told us famously that "when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom," then we may say that the deal marks a literal and metaphorical reversal of that dawn of independence and idealism, because as India slept, the US closed a deal that snatches away India's right to decide its goals, its preferences, its trade partners and to that extent its independence.

It would be appropriate for the government not to oversell the deal. Prudence would be to leave room for some backtracking in the light of evolving public opinion

A tighter embrace with the US on onerous terms, particularly but not limited to the food and the agri sector, carries the risk of a longer-term ecosystem change that may well be irreversible and forces India on a path that will make many in the country very uncomfortable. The RSS and its groups will also not be comfortable with what has transpired as can be seen from the statement of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, an RSS affiliate, that there should be no route open for genetically modified (GM) related products to enter the country. The Trumpian style of forced deal making and the US' ways of the Wild West may pass with time, but the implications of this trade deal will continue to exact a price on India long after. Compromises for short term inevitably bring disaster for long term.

As farmer groups raise voices of protest against the opening of the agri sector to US imports, the nation has been assured that the interests of India's farmers and MSME sector will remain protected, and that no GM crops will enter India as part of the deal. But consider that the 'no-GM' imports claim holds by a thin thread – for example, dried distillers' grains, or DDGs for animal feed, which feature in the first bullet of the trade agreement as announced, come mostly from GM crop.

DDGs, a by-product of ethanol production from corn, add nutritional value in animal feed but can it be claimed that the GM "quality" is erased after the heavy processing that the corn goes through as ethanol is extracted? There is no consensus that the transgenic nature is eliminated in the processing. Further, if this is not a red line for India, having given in now, then how long can India hold out on other points, say dairy on which the US has been pushing much like it has on DDGs?

Do note that India's position against milk imports (which is not part of this deal) is seen by the US as a Foreign Trade Barrier. In the Indian view, dairy must only be from animals that are not given blood meals or feeds containing internal organs or tissue of ruminant or porcine, but the US holds that this view lacks a "discernible animal health or human health justification." The pressure on dairy from the US will not go away but will likely increase over time, now that India has opened a window. In this light, the statement in the trade agreement that "India also agrees to address long-standing non-tariff barriers to the trade in US food and agricultural products" indicates the nature of the trap that India has walked into.

Equally problematic is the statement that within six months India must determine "with a view towards a positive outcome … whether US-developed or international standards, including testing requirements, are acceptable for the purposes of US exports entering the Indian market in identified sectors." The executive order issued by Trump lowering tariffs on India also puts in place a committee that "shall monitor whether India resumes directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil," with the threat of punitive duties coming back if it is determined that India has not stopped or has resumed buying Russian oil.

None of this should keep India comfortable. The government has of course gone on the aggressive in defending the deal, but it is unlikely that the nation will accept these terms in toto. It would be appropriate for the government not to oversell the deal. Prudence would be to leave room for some backtracking in the light of evolving public opinion.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR.

©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Trump has condemned Europe to success

Sławomir Sierakowski

THE EU HAS PROVEN OVER AND OVER THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF REFORMING ITSELF, DESPITE RESISTANCE FROM ENEMIES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS

The EU was created as an antidote to power politics. But to survive, it must become a superpower, contradicting the very principle on which it was founded. The reason is US President Donald Trump, who is forcing it to transform itself almost against its will.

The EU does not need to turn its back on the US; but it must recognize that it can rely only on itself, and that means acquiring hard (military) power. Although Trump's time in office is limited, Trumpism could endure. Despite his transactional approach and rapidly fluctuating positions, Trump may represent a more lasting doctrine. After all, many of his first-term policies – from tariffs to his confrontational stance toward China – survived his defeat in 2020, and he was hardly the first US president to demand greater contributions from other NATO members.

Moreover, the Republican Party is now fully under Trump's control, having ousted or forced out anyone who did not embrace the MAGA movement. Trump has also subjugated the US financial, legal, and tech elite, and developed a deep bench of potential successors. Safe in his position, he can now focus on establishing a dynasty and securing his legacy, including through territorial expansion.

Although Trump did step back from his threat to use force in pursuing a US takeover of Greenland, that crisis is not over. He dropped his demand for US sovereignty over the island only after Europe signaled a willingness to respond – finally – with something other than appeasement. The European Parliament suspended work on a trade agreement with the US. Many EU leaders called for the bloc's anti-coercion mechanism to be used, while most refused to join Trump's bizarre pay-to-play Board of Peace.

As long as EU's most serious problems were Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and Russian President Vladimir Putin, it could more or less accept the status quo. But the emergence of another Putin in Washington leaves the EU in a completely different position.

Fortunately, the EU has all assets it needs to be one of three or four superpowers. Its common market surpasses any other economy in size, and it can match anyone in terms of its alliances and soft power. While Western Europe is reckoning with anaemic GDP growth, Central and Eastern European economies are developing rapidly. No US state has grown as fast as Poland in the last 25 years.

Yes, the EU lags behind the US and China in terms of innovation and access to raw materials, but they face difficult challenges, too. China is struggling with inauspicious demographics and very low consumption. US power is being hollowed out from within through the Trump administration's war on scientific research, higher education, immigration, rule of law, and international institutions. And Russia has pretty much nothing going for it, other than a fully committed war economy.

There are good reasons why Ukraine and a dozen other countries dream of joining the EU. Taking inspiration from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's statement the night after Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022: half a billion people are here; a huge industrial base is here; one-sixth of the world's GDP is here; and allies are here.

In other words, Europe has massive latent power, and it is beginning to do more to unlock its potential. In the short and medium term, it must fight for time and resolve the "Ukrainian question," just as the West resolved the "Eastern European question" in the 1990s. Trump has already shifted this problem to Europe by refusing to finance the Ukrainian army and state. Five years ago, it would have seemed absurdly optimistic to predict that the EU would be able to issue joint debt, buy weapons, and make key decisions without unanimity. No one could have guessed that Sweden and Finland would finally abandon their neutrality and join NATO, significantly strengthening the alliance's European pillar.

Yet all that has happened, and more. European defense companies are now growing much faster than their American counterparts. The fastest-growing European company today is the German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall. If the million-strong Ukrainian army – as battle-hardened and innovative as any in the world – remains on Europe's side and does not fall into Russian hands, Europe will have everything it needs to be a military superpower in the age of drone warfare.

The EU has proven over and over that it is capable of reforming itself, despite resistance from enemies within and outside its borders. To paraphrase Zelensky again: Europe does not need a free ride; it needs arms.

The writer is founder of the Krytyka Polityczna movement.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: **edit@orissapost.com**

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Landmark ruling

Sir, The Supreme Court ruling that a woman cannot be compelled to continue her pregnancy against her will underscores the importance of women's reproductive autonomy. Pregnancy is a personal matter and the pregnant woman has the right to choose between continuation or termination of pregnancy. Pregnancy in cases such as minor girls, disabled women, rape survivors, fetal abnormalities, miscarriage and so on requires termination. In a society, where the birth of an illegitimate child or the pregnancy of an unwed woman causes social and personal problems, abortion is the best choice. While the unethical aspect of terminating a life in womb is a matter of debate, there is little doubt about the righteousness of the cause. In some cases pregnancy poses serious threat to a woman's life and abortion in such a situation is justified. A woman has the right to protect her body and her life and others have no right to pressurise her to do something against her will. Her physical and emotional well being is paramount.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Drug menace

Sir, Drugs are the worst of all vices that plague humanity. Even in India, we hear arrest of drug peddlers and confiscation of drugs in many parts of the country. Drugs play havoc with the life of youngsters and even students fall victim to this menace. One of the reasons for free flow of drugs in India is that the punishment for drug trafficking is not that severe though it leaves the users with the tag of social stigma and at times, results even in the death of the users. Many countries including Singapore and Saudi Arabia have made it law that those who are caught with drugs / drug trafficking, irrespective of their nationality, will be immediately executed and they follow this regulation scrupulously. If India also wants to get rid of drug trafficking and people falling into this death trap, capital punishment without provisions to make an appeal, should be made law. No mercy should be shown to them. This is the only way to make India a drug-free nation.

Tharcius S. Fernando, CHENNAI

Thanya Nathan to become Kerala's first judge with visual disability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 9: When the Supreme Court last year allowed persons with disabilities to enter the judicial service, 24-year-old Thanya Nathan saw a new opportunity open up.

Inspired by the judgment, the law graduate with a visual disability from Mangad in Kannur district decided to prepare for the judicial service examination.

Now, she has topped the Civil Judge (Junior Division) examination under the persons with disabilities category and is set to become Kerala's first judge with a visual disability.

Speaking to PTI as she awaits her appointment letter, Nathan said she is ready to face the challenges of the profession.

"I know it will be a challenging career. But technology has advanced to a stage where most judicial work can be handled using assistive tools such as screen readers and dictation software," she said.

Blind since birth, Nathan began her education at a special school in Dharmadom, studied up to Class 10 at Parassinikadavu High School, and completed her higher secondary education at Morazha Government Higher Secondary School.

She decided to pursue law while studying plus two. With the support of her family, she cleared the entrance examination and went on to top the LLB course at Kannur University, where she was the only student with a visual disability in the college.

"The staff were not used to teaching students with disabilities, but they made an effort to understand my needs and support me, which helped me overcome the gap," she said.

FROM BRAILLE TO BENCH

After enrolling as an advocate, Nathan began practising under lawyer KG Sunilkumar in Thaliparamba, Kannur.

It was during this period that the Supreme Court judgment delivered by Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan in 2025 was pronounced.

"That judgment inspired me to apply when the notification for the examination was issued," she said.

Nathan said she prepared for the examination on her own, making notes using Braille scripts.

For the interview, she sought guidance from a lawyer in Thiruvananthapuram.

"The interview panel asked how I planned to work with my disability. I explained my approach, and I believe my answers convinced them," she said.

Sunilkumar described her as sharp and methodical.

"After the shift from the IPC to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, even experienced lawyers get confused. But if you ask Thanya, she can recall sections instantly. She handles e-documents with ease and has appeared in court several times," he said.

The Kerala High Court has forwarded the selection list to the state government, which will issue the appointment order. Nathan said infrastructure accessibility would be the biggest challenge ahead.

"Our systems are not fully accessible yet. I hope the government will take appropriate steps so that I can work comfortably," she said.

CMFRI achieves milestone in mangrove clam breeding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi (Kerala), Feb 9: The ICAR-CMFRI has successfully achieved induced breeding of the mangrove clam (Geloina erosa) under captive conditions.

This is expected to make a significant scientific milestone for community managed estuarine aquaculture of this threatened resource by integrating with mangrove conservation, a Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) statement said Monday.

Mangrove clams, also known as mud clams, are a vital yet dwindling resource in estuarine and mangrove ecosystems across South and Southeast Asia, it said.

Despite their dwindling availability, mangrove clams remain a valued local delicacy in many parts of the country, especially in Northern Kerala.

Called as 'Kandal Kakka' in local parlance, the species inhabits organic-rich muddy substrates in intertidal mangrove zones, it said.

Scientists of the Mariculture Division of the institute successfully induced spawning of mangrove clams and completed full embryonic and larval development under controlled conditions, recording successful spat settlement from the 18th day after spawning.

The breakthrough marks one of the very few documented instances globally of induced breeding, larval rearing and spat production of the mangrove clam, it said.

The scientists are now working to standardise larval rearing and nursery management protocols to enhance survival rates and enable large-scale seed production.

CMFRI scientists are of the view that the development of hatchery technology and grow-out farming in suitable estuarine systems could pave the way for low-input farming.

According to them, the stock of this resource can be sustainably enhanced through ranching of hatchery-produced seeds in critical mangrove ecosystems, thereby supporting the clam restoration and mangrove conservation.

Sarma 'inciting genocide' against Muslims: Gaurav

CM feigns ignorance of any 'shooting video'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 9: The political slugfest in Assam escalated Monday with Himanta Biswa Sarma upping the ante against Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi over his alleged Pakistan links and the latter accusing the chief minister of "inciting genocide" against Muslims through his videos, and demanding police action.

Meanwhile, Sarma, who is under attack for a video showing him purportedly taking aim with a rifle and firing a shot at two people, one wearing a skull cap and the other with a beard, with "point-blank shot" as the caption, expressed ignorance about the visual clip.

The video, posted by Assam BJP on its official social media handle Saturday, was deleted after a huge political backlash.

The Sarma-Gogoi confrontation has deepened the battle lines in the state ahead of the assembly polls. The elections to the 126-member Assam assembly are scheduled to be held in the next three months.

Addressing a press conference, a day after Sarma accused Gogoi of clandestinely visiting Pakistan in 2013, and claimed that it is suspected that he had undergone "some kind of training there", the Congress leader said there was nothing in the Assam Police report to prove Sarma's allegations of 'Pakistani links' against him. Gogoi also questioned why the BJP leader was 'sitting' over the report for six months if there was any evidence of his involvement in 'anti-national' activities.

As Gogoi shared details of his 2013 Pakistan visit, Sarma demanded a "transparent explanation" over the trip to Rawalpindi district, asserting that his visa "explicitly permitted travel only to Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad" and under Pakistan's immigration rules,

travel beyond visa-designated cities is not permitted without specific authorisation.

In an apparent reference to the deleted video, Gogoi alleged that "the Assam Chief Minister is inciting genocide against Muslims through his videos... Police must take suo motu cognisance of Sarma targeting a particular community, and sharing vicious social media videos." Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function at Dibrugarh later, Sarma said, "I don't know anything about any video."

He said that he was also not aware of any police case filed by AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi in Hyderabad. "If any case has been filed against me, then arrest me. I don't have any objection. I will be prepared to go to jail. I will always stick to my words. I am opposed to Bangladeshi infiltrators and will always remain so," Sarma added.

Owaisi Monday lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Police, seeking criminal action against Himanta over the now-deleted purported video shared on social media.

Talking to PTI after the press meet, Gogoi alleged that Sarma made "hate speeches" against a minority community and the matter was taken to court, referring to recent statements by the chief minister that 'Miyas' will continue facing trouble till he is in power. 'Miya' is originally a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, and the non-Bengali-speaking people generally identify them as Bangladeshi immigrants. In recent years, activists from the community have started adopting this term as a gesture of defiance.

"The chief minister did not want to reveal the SIT report. He sat over it for six months. He went page by page through it but could not find any evidence to back his allegations of my undergoing some training (in Pakistan), being an ISI agent, etc. If the findings were so important from the national security point of view, why did he wait for six months? If the help of central and international agencies was needed for the probe, why did he sit over it?" Gogoi said.

Sarma and the BJP have been attacking Gogoi over his wife's alleged connection with Pakistan's spy agency ISI, with the state government forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged interference of Pakistani national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, claimed to have links with Gogoi's British wife Elizabeth Colburn, in India's internal affairs. Revealing details of the SIT report Sunday, Sarma had alleged that Gogoi, Colburn, and Sheikh have a "deeper connection", and information from the IB was secretly provided to the neighbouring nation.

Multi-state quake mock drill held in Arunachal, Meghalaya, Mizoram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Feb 9: A multi-state mock drill on earthquake preparedness was conducted across Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram Monday in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority to enhance disaster response coordination and identify preparedness gaps, officials said.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the state disaster management department organised a table-top exercise in Itanagar based on a multi-state earthquake scenario, an official communique informed.

The exercise was aimed to create awareness, strengthen coordination among departments and agencies, and assess readiness to handle natural calamities.

NDMA senior consultant Nadeem Arshad said disasters do not recognise man-made boundaries and such exercises help strengthen disaster resilience, inter-state collaboration and effective response mechanisms.

He stressed the need to empower state and district disaster management authorities to lead response efforts at the local level and emphasised the inclusion of more casualty simulations in future mock exercises.

Arshad also underlined that the use of standard operating procedures (SOPs) during such

drills is mandatory.

Highlighting the importance of regular preparedness activities, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) secretary Dani Salu said Arunachal Pradesh has been conducting mock exercises periodically to improve response, mobilisation and inter-departmental coordination.

He also stressed the involvement of community-based organisations (CBOs), panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) and NGOs for wider participation.

The mock drill was successfully conducted in four districts of the state.

District Disaster Management Officers (DDMOs) from West Kameng, Pakke-Kessang, Papum Pare and the Itanagar Capital Region attended the meeting virtually along with representatives from key departments and emergency response agencies, including the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

New dragonfly species found thriving in Kerala farmlands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 9: Researchers have identified a new dragonfly species, Lyriothemis keralensis, found in the low-lying coastal plains of Kerala.

Commonly known as the Slender Bombardier, the insect was formally identified after more than a decade of investigation, researchers said Sunday.

After extensive research, it was finally distinguished from its close relative, Lyriothemis acigastra, which is found in Northeast India.

The breakthrough, led by a collaborative team including Dr Dattaprasad Sawant, Dr A Vivek Chandran, Renjith Jacob Mathews, and Dr Krushnamegh Kunte, was recently published in the International Journal of Odonatology. First sighted in 2013 in the Varappetty region of Kothamangalam, scientists initially believed the dragonfly was part of the Lyriothemis acigastra or Little Bloodtail odonate family, widely found in northeastern India.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
UPPER KOLAB IRRIGATION DIVISION
BORIGUMMA, DIST: KORAPUT
e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.SEUKID-04/2025-26, Dated: 06.02.2026

No.32001/47/2526: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Bid document, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1. Name of the Work	:	Civil Works
2. No. of Works	:	05 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	:	Rs.7.63 Lakhs to Rs.11.25 Lakhs
4. Period of Completion	:	Two Calendar Months
5. Date & Time of Bidding	:	From 11.00 hours of 10.02.2026 Upto 17.00 hours of 20.02.2026
6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal	:	20.02.2026 upto 17.00 hours
7. Bids received online shall be opened on	:	11.00 hours of 21.02.2026
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer Upper Kolab Irrigation Division Borigumma (K)

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation required, if any will be published in Govt. Website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Upper Kolab Irrigation Division
Borigumma (K)

OIPR-32001/32482/1/25-26/0001

ODISHA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, 751009, Email- ossc.od@nic.in, Tel No. 0674-2392833
No.443/OSSC., Date:- 09.02.2026

Quotation Call Notice

No.9001/6/2526 : Sealed quotations/tenders are invited from interested reputed Travel Agencies/Tour Operators/ Individuals for providing One (1) no. of Petrol/Diesel Driven vehicles, which shall conform to the terms and conditions (Annexure-II) for official use in Odisha Staff Selection Commission, Bhubaneswar on monthly rent basis as given below.
i. Tiago/Bolt/ Celerio or equivalent: Maximum hiring charges Rs.24,000/- per month (excluding GST) and having fuel efficiency of 17km/ltr.

1. The vehicle must be in Road Worthy condition, shall not be more than three years old from the date of initial registration and must have valid Registration Certificate, Insurance Certificate, Fitness Certificate, Pollution Certificate, valid Contract Carriage Permit, proof of up to date tax payment, GST no. etc. which are mandatory for plying of vehicle.
2. The driver of the vehicle must have a valid Driving License for driving light transport passenger vehicle and should be sufficiently experienced in driving transport passenger vehicle.
3. The Driver should be well behaved, gentle and obedient in nature.
4. A sum of Rs.5,000/- shall be deposited by the intending bidder in shape of Account Payee Bank Draft drawn in favour of the Secretary, Odisha Staff Selection Commission, Bhubaneswar and submitted along with the tender as a security deposit. After completion of tender process, the amount will be refunded to unsuccessful bidder.
5. **The monthly rate of hire charge be quoted in the general bid information which be maximum up to Rs.24,000/- (excluding fuel, lubricants & GST).**
6. The vehicle must achieve a fuel efficiency of 17 Kms. Per litre.
7. The details of the make and year of manufacture of the vehicle, registration No. mileage (Kms. Covered per litre) and name of the Driver with Driving License No. and period of validity should be specifically provided in the general bid information to be furnished with the quotation (Annexure-III).
8. **The quotation completed in all respects should reach the undersigned on or before 17.02.2026 by 2 PM and shall be opened on the same day at 04.00 PM in the presence of the bidder or their authorised representative.**
9. The application form of quotation containing General Bid Information & Terms and conditions for Hiring of vehicles etc. will be available in the Commission's Website www.ossc.gov.in which can be downloaded for application.
10. **Petrol BS VI vehicles are preferred as per Government instructions.**

By Order of the Commission
Sd./- Secretary

OIPR-9001/9005/1/25-26/0001

GARDENS LAND RIGHTS

Himanta starts form distribution to tea tribes

The launch is in line with a slew of development schemes that the state government has rolled out for the community ahead of the Assembly elections, likely to be held in March-April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh (Assam), Feb 9: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday launched the distribution of application forms for land rights to tea garden workers within estates, saying the move would "reshape the social status" of the tea tribes and ensure their welfare.

The launch is in line with a slew of development schemes that the state government has rolled out for the community ahead of the Assembly elections, likely to be held in March-April.

The BJP-led government has been focusing on adivasis and tea tribes in a bid to reach out to the siseable community ahead of the polls -- from providing one-time financial grant of Rs 5,000 each to 6 lakh members of the tea tribes to reserving government jobs to enhancing education and healthcare facilities.

Traditionally viewed as Congress' 'vote bank', the BJP has made major inroads in gaining confidence of the community, with the tea tribes playing an important role in the saffron party's victories in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the state since 2014.

The community holds sway in a number of constituencies in upper and northern Assam, with a fairly large percentage also residing in the Barak Valley.

"Today, Assam is creating history- one which will redefine land rights and reshape the social status of our tea tribes community," Sarma posted on X after the launch.

"From Dibrugarh, we began distributing application forms to our Cha Shramiks, through which they can get ownership of Tea garden line lands," he said.

The CM added that 'The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Landholdings (Amendment) Act 2025' was passed in the Assembly, "which has paved the way for ensuring land rights to our hardworking Cha Shramiks and we have hit the ground already, ~3.5 lakh families in 825 TEs stand to benefit from this".

Sarma said these lands will now be solely marked for the tea garden community and to ensure that it remains with them, restriction on sale and purchase outside the community for 20 years has been placed.

"We are taking every step for the welfare of our Tea Tribes community," the CM added.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PADAMPUR
DIST-BARGARH(ODISHA), PIN-768036
Phone No:06683-223436, email ID: nac.padampur@gmail.com
Letter No.293, Date:05.02.26

ADVERTISEMENT FOR
INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
(For Installation of Digital Hoardings within NAC,Padampur Area)

No.13001/60/2526: The NAC, Padampur hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible and experienced vendors / agencies for installation, operation, and maintenance of Digital Hoardings at different identified locations within NAC Padampur area. The selected vendors shall install Digital Hoardings at approved locations at their own cost. The Operation and maintenance of Digital Hoardings shall remain with the vendors for five years subject to renewal by another 5 years. During the contract period, The Vendors should deposit the annual rent as per location and term and condition of EOI to NAC Padampur in advance, before commencement of every financial year. The Entire cost of installation, operation, electricity, repair and maintenance (O&M) shall be borne by the vendor. The interested bidders are requested to purchase EOI document from NAC during office hour from 06.02.2026 to 19.02.2026 by deposit Rs.1000/- (Ruppes one thousand)only Non-Refundable or the same has been downloaded from NAC Website www.padampurnac.in_and_must be submitted their proposal to the Executive Officer, NAC Padampur by Speed post / Registered Post on and before Dt.21.02.2026 by 1:00 PM. Rs. 1000.00 extra in shape of DD likewise is to be submitted towards down loaded tender documents from the website. The Authority shall not be responsible for any delay in receipt of the Tender papers. Submission of the proposal through any other mode will be rejected. The proposal received after due and time will not be considered. The date and time for the opening of the technical bid in presence of the bidders or their authorized representative at the specified address as mentioned in the Bidder Data Sheet is Dt. 21-02-2026 at 4.00 p.m. The representatives of the bidders may attend the meeting with a due authorization letter on behalf of the bidder. No claim whatsoever shall be admissible for the alleged loss/ damage suffered by the bidders on account of such rejection. In case of any dispute/ambiguity arises in the documentation, the decision of the Tender calling Authority is final, binding and can not be challenged. The Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any / all proposals/ cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer,
NAC, Padampur

OIPR-13001/13118/1/25-26/0026

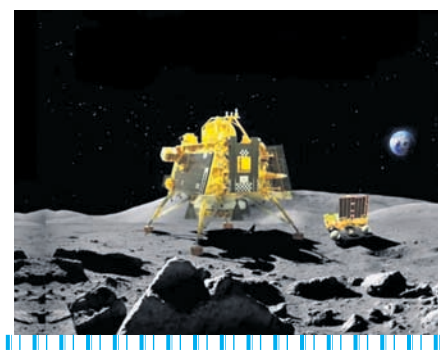
national

A person who conspired in Gandhi's assassination-you are seeking the Bharat Ratna for him. Congratulations. A time will come in this country when the BJP will give the Bharat Ratna to Godse as well

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

ISRO IDENTIFIES SITE FOR CHANDRAYAAN-4 LANDER

The Chandrayaan-4 Mission is at least two years away, but the ISRO has identified a location in the South Polar region of Moon to land its lander. The union government has approved the Chandrayaan-4 mission, designed as a lunar sample-return mission and it will be India's most complex lunar endeavour yet



Quote of the day

That spirit of sacrifice continues. I have got the opportunity to visit states like Kerala and West Bengal, where party workers are making sacrifices, without worrying about what they are going to get in return. BJP is a party that believes the nation comes first, the party comes second, and the self comes last. For our opponents, self-interest is the first and the last thing

NITIN NABIN | BJP PRESIDENT

The Governor's address is a document of the government's achievements and future action plan, which is presented through the Governor to the House and, through the House, to the people of the state. All honourable members then discuss it

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Our aim is to ensure that for every 25 sq km area in Delhi, there is at least one air quality monitoring station so that we get complete and accurate data on pollution levels and their sources

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

Workers set out to sea in a boat for fishing, at Lighthouse Beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

Tobacco baron's son ploughs Lamborghini into crowd in Kanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Feb 9: An FIR has been registered against an "unidentified person" after a speeding Lamborghini allegedly driven by a tobacco baron's son ploughed into pedestrians here, leaving at least six injured, police said Monday.

Police said the name of Shivam Mishra, son of Banshidhar Exports Pvt Ltd's owner K K Mishra, is not there in the FIR, but he is part of the investigation.

Recalling the horror, which unfolded on VIP Road in the upscale Gwaltoli area Sunday, eyewitnesses said the car first hit an autorickshaw and then crashed into a stationary motorcycle, flinging its rider nearly 10 feet into the air. An FIR was registered in the matter against an unidentified person late Sunday night, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Atul Kumar Srivastava said.

No one has been detained in connection with the incident, the DCP said in a response to a question, adding that a detailed probe is underway. Asked if the driver was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, the officer said it will be known once the probe has been completed.

According to Gwaltoli police, footage from multiple CCTV cameras installed at nearby shops, traffic intersections and residential buildings is being examined to reconstruct the sequence of events and determine the speed of the vehicle at the time of the crash.

The accused driver has been identified as Shivam Mishra.

Fresh violence in Manipur's Ukhrul as more houses burnt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Feb 9: Fresh violence broke out in Manipur's Ukhrul district Monday afternoon after armed miscreants allegedly set fire to more houses in Litan Sareikhong village, officials said.

Armed groups also fired several rounds in the air in the vicinity of the hill village, forcing residents to flee with essential belongings to safer areas in neighbouring Kangpokpi district.

Several Tangkhul villagers were also reported to have left the area. Violence first started in the area Saturday night after a Tangkhul Naga community member was allegedly assaulted by seven to eight persons at Litan village.

The matter was settled by the victim's side and the chief of Litan Sareikhong, and both parties mutually agreed to resolve the issue through customary means, with a meeting scheduled for Sunday, the officials said.

However, the meeting did not take place.

Instead, a group of villagers from nearby Sikibung allegedly launched an attack on the residence of the chief of Litan Sareikhong, they said.

The villagers also reportedly fired several rounds while passing through the vicinity of Litan police station. On Sunday night, two tribal groups engaged in intense stone pelting at the village, prompting the administration to clamp prohibitory orders.

Around midnight Monday, several houses of Tangkhul Naga community members were set on fire at Litan Sareikhong, allegedly by Kuki militants..

A few houses of those belonging to the Kuki community were also torched in a nearby area, officials said.

'DELHI WILL BECOME KHALISTAN'

Bomb threats sent to 15 schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: More than a dozen schools across the national capital received bomb threat emails Monday, prompting heavy security deployment and precautionary evacuations. Of these, eight threats were later declared hoaxes, officials said.

The threatening email carried disturbing and provocative content, claiming, "Delhi will become Khalistan. Punjab is Khalistan. In memory of Afzal Guru."

The email also alleged that a blast would take place inside Parliament February 13 at 1.11 pm, prompting heightened security alerts and coordination among multiple agencies.

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), emergency calls were received from multiple educational institutions across different parts of the city during the morning hours, following which fire tenders and bomb disposal squads were rushed to the locations.

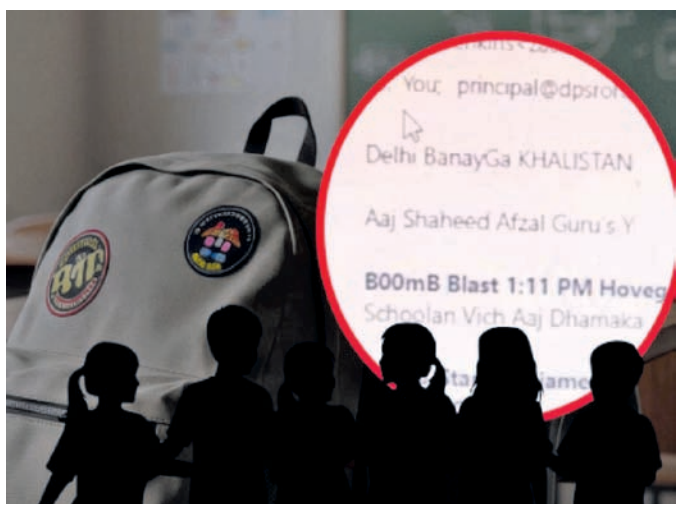
"A total of 15 schools have reported receiving bomb threats so far. Fire service teams immediately reached the premises and thorough checks are underway," a DFS official said, adding that out of the total, eight have been declared a hoax.

The schools that received the threats include Loreto Convent School in Delhi Cantonment, Cambridge School in Srinivaspuri and New Friends Colony, The Indian School in Sadiq Nagar, DTEA School in INA and Lodhi Road, Venkateshwar Global School in Rohini, CM SHRI School in Rohini and Shalimar Bagh, Aadharshila Vidyapeeth in Pitampura, Modern Public School in Shalimar Bagh, Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh, Manav Sthali School in New Rajendra Nagar, Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas in Dwarka and Bal Bharati School in Rohini, an official of the Delhi Fire Services said.

As a precautionary measure, the school premises were evacuated, and students and staff were moved to safe locations. Bomb detection and disposal squads, along with dog units, are conducting search operations at the affected schools.

Senior police officers said cyber teams have been pressed into service to trace the origin of the email, while security arrangements across sensitive locations in the capital have been reviewed.

No suspicious object has been recovered so far from any of the school premises, officials said, adding that searches were continuing and further details were awaited.



The threatening email carried disturbing and provocative content, claiming, "Delhi will become Khalistan. Punjab is Khalistan. In memory of Afzal Guru"

The email also alleged that a blast would take place inside Parliament February 13 at 1.11 pm, prompting heightened security alerts and coordination among multiple agencies

Two Bihar courts receive bomb threat

Patna: Two courts in Bihar Monday received bomb threats by email, prompting the authorities to conduct searches on their premises, in the second such instance of its kind in a month, officials said. A mail threatening to blow up the Patna Civil Court premises sent the administration into a tizzy. Police personnel, who rushed to the spot to carry out searches, were so far tight-lipped, even as judicial work was suspended for the day, putting on hold, among other things, the bail plea of Independent MP Pappu Yadav. Security was beefed up at the Bhagalpur Civil court too, following a bomb threat email received by the authorities. The entire court premises was searched thoroughly, but no suspicious object was found, officials said.

SHORT TAKES

Pandemonium in J&K Assembly

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Monday witnessed a disruption after a PDP leader accused the government of pushing the Union Territory into a debt trap by bringing in the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Para, who was joined by his party colleagues and Independent MLA Sheikh Khurshid, was countered by the National Conference, leading to heated exchange of words between the two sides. Mubarak Gul, who was holding the chair, made repeated attempts to control the situation and finally adjourning the house half-an-hour before the schedule end of the first sitting.

Terror accused Abdul stabbed to death in jail

Faridabad: A 20-year-old terror accused, Abdul Rehman, who was lodged in Neemla Jail for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to carry out an explosion in Ayodhya, was murdered by a fellow inmate following a brawl inside the prison premises Monday, police said. According to the police, the murder is allegedly the handiwork of another prisoner, Arun Chaudhary, who was recently transferred the facility from Jammu and Kashmir.

Ashok Kumar named new chief poll officer of Delhi

New Delhi: Ashok Kumar, a 2006-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, was on Monday appointed as the chief electoral officer of Delhi. The Election Commission said Kumar has to assume his new charge "immediately", and the Delhi government must send a compliance report to the Commission within a week.

Sorcerer held for raping minor girl

Kollam (Kerala): A man was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in the name of exorcism in Kerala's Kollam district Monday, police said. The accused, Rajan Babu alias Murari, a local sorcerer, had been absconding after the assault came to light Sunday evening and a search was on to nab him, they said.

SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN SENGAR'S PLEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Delhi High Court to accord an out-of-turn hearing to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar's plea challenging his conviction in the custodial death case of the Unnao rape survivor's father, and said it be decided within three months.

While refusing to entertain Sengar's plea challenging a January 19 order of the high court that had refused to suspend his 10-year jail term in the case, the apex court said if the victim's family has filed any appeal against the trial court order, that should also be heard by the high court along with the expelled BJP leader's petition.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria issued the order while hearing Sengar's plea challenging the high court's order.

During the hearing, the CJI expressed disapproval over the victim's counsel giving statements in the media about the case. "We are not sitting in an ivory tower. We know a media trial is going on outside," Justice Kant said, adding he would not tolerate any "parallel trial" outside the court.

EPS-95: 47L get less than ₹9000 pension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The total number of active member pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) receiving pension of less than Rs 9,000 is 47.04 lakh in the country, Parliament was informed Monday.

According to the dashboard of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the total number of current pensioners under the EPS-95 is 82,11,182.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha Monday, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje stated, "The total number of active member pensioners under EPS-95 receiving pension of less than Rs 9,000 is 47,04,270."

She told the House that representations have been received from various stakeholders, including trade unions and public representatives to increase the minimum pension under the scheme from the existing Rs 1,000 per month. Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is a 'Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit' social security scheme.

The corpus of the Employees' Pension Fund is made up of contribution by the employer at the rate of 8.33 per cent of wages; and 1.16 per cent contribution from central government on wages up to Rs 15,000 per month. All benefits under the scheme are paid out of this fund, she stated.

The government is providing a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month to pensioners under the EPS, 1995 through budgetary support, which is in addition to the budgetary support of 1.16 per cent of wages towards EPS to Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), she told the House.

The fund is valued annually as mandated under paragraph 32 of EPS, 1995.

The objective of the valuation is to determine the long-term viability of the fund, given the expected stream of money inflows from contributions, etc, and the outflows in terms of benefits, the minister stated.

The Government of India is committed to providing robust social security coverage through EPF Scheme, 1952, EPS-95 and EDLI Schemes being run by the EPFO, to the members of these schemes, taking into consideration the sustainability of the respective funds as well as the future liabilities thereon, she stated.

According to the dashboard of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the total number of current pensioners under the EPS-95 is 82,11,182

Punjab: Female law student shot dead, classmate critical

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 9: A first-year law student in Punjab's Tarn Taran district Monday allegedly shot dead his fellow woman student in the head inside the classroom before turning the gun on himself and pulling the trigger, as horrified classmates watched.

The weapon used in the crime appeared to be illegal, police said, adding that the accused, Prince Raj, 20, -- the son of a retired Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel -- was critically injured and undergoing treatment, while Sandeep Kaur, 19, died on the spot.

Both Prince and Sandeep were first-year law students and classmates at Mai Bhago Law College in Usma village in Tarn Taran.

A family member of Sandeep alleged that Prince had been harassing her for some time, while her mother, Harjinder Kaur, questioned how a student managed to bring a firearm into the college. Sandeep was engaged to be married, her family said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagbir Singh said Prince opened fire on Sandeep inside the classroom shortly before the class was to begin and then turned the gun on himself.

The police said an investigation was underway to determine the motive behind the killing

Both Prince Raj and the victim, Sandeep Kaur, were first-year law students

CCTV footage captured the incident, showing the sequence of events leading to the shooting

Prince was taken to Guru Nanak Dev hospital in Amritsar, where his condition was stated to be critical, police said.

Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent of Police Surendra Lamba said an investigation was underway to determine the motive behind the killing.

"Prima facie, they appear to have been friends. Possibly, the friendship turned bitter. It is all part of the investigation," he said, adding that police will question the friends and family members of the duo.

The SSP said an FIR has been registered on the complaint of the family of the deceased.

The entire incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed in the classroom.

"National interests will be the guiding factor for us in our choices for energy procurement

VIKRAM MISRI | FOREIGN SECRETARY

MORE THAN 70 KIDS FALL ILL AFTER HAVING MID-DAY MEAL

Over 70 children fell ill reportedly after having mid-day meal at a government school in Bihar's Madhepura district, officials said Monday. All of them are safe now and an investigation was launched, they said

Quote of the day

Secular and democratic forces must unite to resist this communal hatemongering and protect the pluralist soul of India

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

Some people called Amaravati a graveyard and a desert, but we will turn it into the most liveable city in three years

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

Ayurveda and yoga have played a significant role in establishing India's global identity. The state government is committed to promoting Ayurveda and encouraging its wider adoption among the people

BHAJANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

X POST OF THE DAY

Dark Side of India
80cr - Eat Free Ration
86 - Rape Cases Everyday
485 - Die Due to Road Accident Everyday
10,000 - Farmer Suicides Every Month
7.5 Cr - Below Poverty Line (Earn less than 2k pm)
5 cr - Cases pending in High courts
17 Lac - Die Due to air pollution every year
1 crime against women every 3 minutes
& Many more Counting.....
@r_n_vaghani

Cracks in Oppn ranks as Cong backs Rahul's speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Lok Sabha has been witnessing disruptions since February 2, after Gandhi was disallowed by the Chair from quoting from an article based on excerpts of former Army chief M M Naravane's "unpublished memoir", which has references to the India-China conflict of 2020

New Delhi, Feb 9: Cracks appeared in the Opposition ranks as the SP and the TMC showed willingness to participate in the debate on the Budget instead of stalling the proceedings, with the government making it clear that it cannot allow Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to have his say and not let others to speak.

As deadlock in the Lok Sabha spilled into the second week, Home Minister Amit Shah and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had a closed-door meeting with Speaker Om Birla in a possible effort to end the impasse.

The Lok Sabha has been witnessing disruptions since February 2, after Gandhi was disallowed by the Chair from quoting from an article based on excerpts of former Army chief M M Naravane's "unpublished memoir", which has references to the India-China conflict of 2020.

The Lok Sabha witnessed repeated adjournments Monday as Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi rose to make his remarks, when the Chair had called Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to initiate the discussion on the General Budget.

Congress leaders have been accusing the Speaker of being partisan and favouring the BJP-led ruling alliance and were planning a no-confidence motion against him along with a section of the Opposition.

Opposition leaders including Gandhi, Abhishek Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and T R Baalu (DMK) met the Speaker with their demands to be allowed to speak in the House and withdrawal of suspension of eight lawmakers.

Yadav, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, said the Opposition parties want the House to function.

Banerjee, the leader of the TMC in the Lok Sabha, said orderly conduct of the House was essential. Rijiju said he cannot agree to a situation where the LoP alone will speak, make accusations, then create a ruckus and not let others speak.

The Opposition is considering giving a notice for moving a resolution to remove Birla from office for disallowing Gandhi and other Opposition leaders from speaking in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address as well as for the suspension of eight MPs.

When the Lok Sabha met at 2 pm after two adjournments, Sandhya Ray, who was in the Chair, asked Tharoor to initiate the debate on the Budget.

Tharoor told the Chair that Gandhi, being the LoP, should be allowed to raise certain points before he started his speech.

Sharad Pawar hospitalised after breathing problem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Feb 9: Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar was Monday admitted to a private hospital in Pune city after he was diagnosed with chest infection, and his health condition is stable, doctors treating him said.

The 85-year-old Rajya Sabha member was brought to Ruby Hall Clinic in the afternoon from his residence in Baramati town in Pune district after he complained of difficulty in breathing and persistent cough.

He underwent a series of medical tests at the hospital and is currently under treatment in a general ward, said the doctors.

A CT (computed tomography) scan was performed on Pawar and it showed infection in his chest, Ruby Hall Clinic chief cardiologist and managing trustee Dr Parvez Grant said.

Dr Abhijit Lodha, one of the treating doctors, said, "Due to physical exertion, he developed cough and chest congestion. Various tests have been conducted, and treatment is currently underway. His condition is stable. Any modifications to the treatment will be decided once all test reports are received. His vital parameters, including oxygen saturation levels, are stable. He is in a regular room and is not in the ICU."

Immediately after arrival from Baramati, around 100 km from Pune city in western Maharashtra, the former Union minister, who lost his nephew and deputy CM Ajit Pawar in an air crash January 28, was wheeled inside the leading private hospital.

SIR: Surge in domicile certificate applications

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 9: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has received more than 19,000 applications for domicile certificates in the past one-and-a-half months, an unprecedented spike linked to the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, officials said Monday.

Cumulative figures available till February 9 show that 19,167 applications were submitted, far exceeding the usual monthly average of fewer than 200 requests, sources in the civic body said.

Officials and Trinamool Congress councillors said the demand for resident certificates has "shot up sharply" since the revision process began, as the document has emerged as a key proof of residence for voters whose names were either flagged or left out during the verification exercise.

Of the total applications received, 18,962 have already been forwarded to the Kolkata Police for field verification, officials said. Police have submitted 18,390 enquiry reports so far, based on which 16,925 domicile certificates have been issued from KMC offices, while 1,413 applications were rejected following adverse police verification reports, they added.

The civic body had opened dedicated counters at its headquarters and across borough offices following instructions from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to ensure residents do not face difficulties in securing required documentation during the revision process.

A member of the KMC mayor-in-council said the large volume of applications over such a short period has taken officials by surprise, describing the trend as "unprecedented" compared to routine demand patterns.

Applications received by the civic body are routed to the Kolkata sector collector's office and verified through police checks before a WBCS-rank officer grants final approval for issuance of the certificates.

Officials said that, at present, applications are being accepted primarily for requirements linked to the SIR exercise.

The surge comes amid heightened political activity around the electoral roll revision. Earlier, addressing a meeting of Trinamool Congress booth-level agents, Banerjee had accused the Centre and the Election Commission of bias in the SIR process and asked party workers to assist voters facing scrutiny. The officials said the push to expedite certificate issuance gathered pace after Mayor Firhad Hakim announced that the process would be streamlined and accelerated to help residents produce domicile proof during hearings conducted by election authorities.

Previously, education-related domicile certificates were issued from Kolkata's Town Hall, while councillors provided address-related residency attestations.

SHORT TAKES

Drunk ex-ACP rams car into tempo

Thane: A retired assistant police commissioner, allegedly driving in an inebriated state, rammed his speeding car into a tempo on the roadside, causing panic among locals in Navi Mumbai, officials said Monday. A case has been registered against the 58-year-old retired police officer in connection with the accident that took place at Karave village in the Seawoods West area Saturday evening, an official said. Although no one sustained serious injuries in the accident, there was panic among residents and motorists, he said.

Mauritius PM calls PM Modi

New Delhi: Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam Monday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two nations. Modi told Ramgoolam that he looked forward to welcoming him to India next week for the AI Impact Summit. "Happy to receive a phone call from my friend, Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. We reviewed progress in the wide-ranging cooperation between India and Mauritius since our memorable meeting in Varanasi last year," Modi said in a post on X.

Woman dead in building fire

Mumbai: A 63-year-old woman died and her daughter was injured after a fire broke out in their flat in a 13-storey building in Vile Parle area of Mumbai Monday, officials said. The blaze erupted on the 13th floor of Suvidha Pearl Building at 9.51 AM. At least five fire engines and other vehicles of the Mumbai Fire Brigade put out the flames after three hours.

Bihar: Four girls die by suicide after being scolded by parents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, Feb 9: Four girls allegedly died by suicide together after their parents scolded them for mingling with boys at a place in Bihar's Aurangabad district, a senior police officer said Monday.

Five girls, aged between 10 and 14 years, had reportedly consumed some poisonous substance January 29 in a Dalit settlement in Haspura police station area, and only one of them survived.

They were cremated on the same day without a postmortem examination, and the police have begun an investigation after the local media reported it.

Aurangabad Superintendent of Police Ambrish Rahul said, "According to the statement of the surviving girl, they had decided to consume a poisonous substance after being scolded by their family members for mingling with a group of boys."

Rahul said that they consumed the poison together in a field. While the four girls died, the fifth one returned home and informed her family members about the incident.

The girl had been hospitalised and is now out of danger.

Talking to PTI, Daudnagar SDPO Ashok Kumar Das said, "The investigation is still going on. Right now, we just have the statement of the surviving girl." The police have not been able to ascertain the involvement of any other person in the case, he added.

"The deceased girls were cremated January 29 itself, two days before the police received the information about the incident," a police official said. According to the family members of one of the deceased, the girls had gone out to play, and they were informed later by the villagers that their daughter was found dead in a nearby field, along with her friends.

Greek Defence Minister Nikolaos Georgios S Dendias inspects a guard of honour ahead of a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

DJB PIT DEATH

NBWs issued against two contractors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Delhi Police has issued non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against two contractors in connection with the death of a 25-year-old biker after falling into an uncovered DJB pit in the Janakpuri area, an officer said Monday.

The police have also extended judicial custody of a third accused, and sent to judicial custody a labourer, who has been accused of failing to report the fall to authorities in time.

The warrants have been issued against contractors Himanshu Gupta and Kavish Gupta, who are brothers, the officer said.

The police remand of Rajesh Kumar Prajapati, a subcontractor, was extended by one day, the officer said.

Yogesh, a labourer who was allegedly present at the spot when the biker fell into the pit, was remanded to judicial custody by the court.

Kamal Dhyani, a private bank employee, fell into a nearly 15-foot-deep pit dug by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) for a sewer work in Janakpuri in the early hours of Friday.

No roadblocks in SIR, SC sends clear message to states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: The Supreme Court Monday made it clear to the states that it will not allow anyone to create any impediment in completion of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and directed the director general of police of West Bengal to file an affidavit on the Election Commission's allegation of burning of its notices by miscreants.

Noting that West Bengal has provided a list of 8,505 Group B officers to the poll panel for the SIR exercise, the apex court also extended the deadline for scrutiny of documents submitted by affected persons by one week beyond February 14 as this process is likely to take some time and to help electoral registration officers (EROs) to take appropriate decisions.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria said it would issue whatever orders or clarifications are required in the matter.

"We will not allow anyone to create any impediment in the SIR exercise. It must be clear to the states," the CJI said while hearing a batch of petitions, including the one filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, related to the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in the eastern state.

In its additional affidavit, the EC submitted that deliberate and systematic attempts are being made to derail, paralyse and frustrate the SIR exercise in West Bengal.

Passing a slew of directions, the bench said the 8,505 Group B officers provided to the poll panel may be trained and employed in the SIR process.

It said the state must ensure that these 8,505 officers report for duty to the district electoral officer or ERO by 5 pm Tuesday.

The bench said the EC shall have the discretion to replace existing ERO or assistant electoral registration officer and employ the services of these officers subject to their suitability.

It said from the list of 8,505 officers, the EC, after scrutinising their bio-data and work experience, may also shortlist the officials equivalent to the strength of micro-observers already engaged.

The bench said these officers be imparted training for a day or so for the purpose of assisting EROs or AEROs along with micro-observers.

It said final decisions on revision of the electoral rolls will always be taken by the electoral roll officers. The top court said the manner of employment and work profile of these 8,505 officers will be decided by the poll panel.

The bench took note of the affidavit filed by the EC, which alleged violence and burning of its notices by some miscreants.

The poll panel submitted that so far, no FIR has been registered against those who are suspected to be involved in the alleged burning of notices and other unlawful activities. The counsel appearing for the state refuted the EC's claim.

The bench then issued a show-cause notice to the DGP of West Bengal to file his personal affidavit on the statements made about the violence.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, referred to the EC's affidavit and said, "A message must go that the Constitution of India applies to all states".

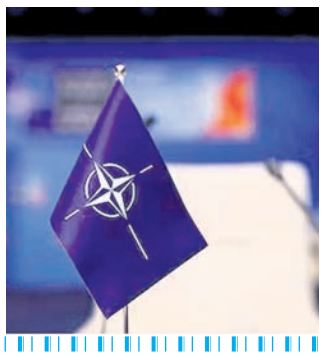
international

India's chairmanship, in my view, presents a modern, highly relevant agenda that addresses today's challenges while preparing for the future. We will actively support it

SERGEY LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

NATO EXPECTED TO LAUNCH ARCTIC SENTRY MISSION

NATO is expected to launch a mission in the coming days that could boost its surveillance and military assets in the Arctic, five sources told Reuters, following tensions between US President Donald Trump and European allies over Greenland



Quote of the day

We urge those running the Japanese government to take seriously rather than brush aside the concerns of the international community, follow the path of peaceful development rather than return to militarism

LIN JIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

The Government of Pakistan is committed to investing $1 billion in AI by 2030, which will go a long way in building an AI ecosystem in our country

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Heavily armed men, dressed in civilian clothes, arrived in four vehicles and violently took him away. We demand his immediate release

MARIA CORINA MACHADO | OPPOSITION LEADER, VENEZUELA

Takaichi secures landslide election win

ELECTION VICTORY CLEARS PATH FOR JAPAN'S TAKAICHI TO DELIVER TAX CUTS

REUTERS

Tokyo, Feb 9: Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi renewed a pledge Monday to cut a sales tax on food, after a historic election win brightened chances for stimulus measures that have rattled financial markets.

Takaichi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) romped to victory in Sunday's poll, helped by a pledge to ease household living costs by suspending for two years the tax of 8% on food, a move she has called a "long-cherished dream".

"Responsible, proactive fiscal policy is at the core of the ... policy transition," Takaichi told a news conference, promising "the earliest date possible" for the tax suspension, while ruling out fresh debt issuance to achieve it.

"We must pull Japan out of excessively tight fiscal policy and a lack of investment."

In an apparent vote of confidence in Takaichi's fiscal policy, stocks swept to all-time peaks, while super-long bonds reversed early weakness. The yen rose after a verbal warning by Japan's top currency diplomat held currency bears in check.

Earlier, investors wary of uncertainty about how Japan, labouring under the developed world's highest debt burden, would fund the proposal, had triggered a selloff in government bonds, pushing the yen towards historic lows against other currencies.

- Takaichi's ruling party delivers supermajority in Sunday vote
- Takaichi repeats pledge to suspend food tax
- Says govt will not issue fresh debt, discuss funding with others
- Focus on debate over funding, risk of market revolt

Some analysts had suggested that Takaichi's strong mandate might give her leeway to retreat from the plan, with heavy defeats at the ballot box handed to opposition parties calling for even bolder tax cuts.

CROSS-PARTY DEBATES TO DECIDE TIMETABLE, ALTERNATIVES

Takaichi said cross-party debates on social welfare and taxation would help thrash out a timetable and ways to fund the suspension, as the government considered alternatives such as non-tax revenues and cuts to existing subsidies.

The government would overhaul its approach to planning the budget, she added, so as to smooth long-term funding for corporate investment in growth areas. In television interviews the previous day as results rolled in, she had said she would move speedily to realise the pledge.

CHALLENGE IS TO HOW TO OFFSET TAX SUSPENSION

Takaichi's challenge is to find revenue to offset the tax suspension, which would cost about 5 trillion yen ($32 billion) a year, or roughly Japan's entire annual budget for education.

Her past hints at tapping non-tax revenues have drawn attention to Japan's foreign exchange reserves of $1.4 trillion, held largely as ammunition for yen intervention.

But dipping into them too deeply could fuel fears that Japan might sell part of its US Treasury holdings, a prospect in turn likely to unsettle markets and raise concern in Washington. Prolonged uncertainty over funding risks another bond market sell-off, analysts warn, with investors already sensitive to Japan's deteriorating fiscal outlook.

A sharp rise in government bond yields would increase the cost of servicing public debt that is roughly twice the size of Japan's economy.

Worries over fiscal sustainability could also trigger further yen weakness, inflating import prices and broader inflation, which would dilute benefits to households from tax cuts.

Starmer refuses to heed calls to quit over Mandelson scandal

- STARMER SIGNALS HE WILL FIGHT TO STAY ON
- SCOTTISH LABOUR LEADER CALLS ON STARMER TO GO
- COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR LATEST AIDE TO LEAVE
- CONSERVATIVES ATTACK LEADERSHIP AS LABOUR UNREST GROWS

REUTERS

London, Feb 9: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer signalled Monday he would not heed calls to quit, even by the leader of his party in Scotland, after a second aide resigned from a team in crisis over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the US.

Under pressure over the appointment of a man whose close ties to the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein have come into full focus, Starmer has attempted to change the narrative.

But a demand from Anas Sarwar, leader of the Scottish Labour Party, for him to quit and the departure of a second senior aide in as many days did little to stop the questions over his judgment and ability to govern.

The resignation of communications chief Tim Allan followed the exit of Starmer's closest aide, Morgan McSweeney, who said he took responsibility for advising on the appointment of Mandelson to Britain's top diplomatic role in the United States.

Earlier Monday, the British leader sought to raise spirits and encourage unity when he addressed staff at his Downing Street office, again expressing his regret over the appointment.

"We must prove that politics can be a force for good," he told them, praising McSweeney as "a friend" who helped change the Labour Party and win the 2024 national election with one of the largest parliamentary majorities in modern British history.

"I believe it can. I believe it is. We go forward from here. We go with confidence as we continue changing the country."

But Sarwar, speaking in Scotland where Labour has seen its support slump since the 2024 election, said it was with a heavy heart that he had to defend Scotland and call for a change of leader in the UK capital London.

"The distraction needs to end and the leadership in Downing Street has to change," he told a press conference.

In response, a Downing Street spokesperson said Starmer had "a clear five-year mandate from the British people to deliver change, and that is what he will do".

With his statement, Sarwar became the most senior Labour figure to call for Starmer's resignation, and did little to quell a febrile mood in parliament in London's Westminster.

SHORT TAKES

Scholarships for Indian students

London: King's College London Monday announced a third year of the university's special scholarship scheme for postgraduate students domiciled in India, aimed at removing cost barriers in the path of pursuing degrees leading to a positive impact on society. The Vice-Chancellor's Awards will offer 5,000 pounds in fee reductions for up to 40 students from India as they study full-time on campus at the leading London university from September 2026.

Iraq executes ex-senior officer

Baghdad: Iraq announced Monday that a high-level security officer during the rule of Saddam Hussein has been hanged for his involvement in the 1980 killing of a prominent Shiite cleric. The National Security Service said that Saadoun Sabri al-Qaisi, who held the rank of major general under Saddam and was arrested last year, was convicted of "grave crimes against humanity," including the killing of prominent Iraqi Shiite cleric Mohammed Baqir al-Sadr, members of the al-Hakim family, and other civilians.

53 dead or missing after boat capsizes

Cairo: Two babies are among at least 53 people dead or missing after an inflatable migrant boat sank off Libya, the UN migration agency said Monday, the latest tragedy on a dangerous route for those seeking a better life in Europe. The UN's International Organisation for Migration said in a statement that the boat with 55 African migrants on board departed Libya's western town of Zawiya shortly before midnight Thursday. Around six hours later, it began taking on water and capsized Friday morning north of the town of Zuwara, it said.

Tripoli building collapse kills 15

Cairo: The death toll from the collapse of residential buildings in the Lebanese city of Tripoli rose to 15 after search and rescue operations ended, Lebanon's National News Agency said Monday citing the civil defence chief. Civil defence director general Imad Khreiss said rescue teams rescued eight people from the rubble of the collapsed buildings in the northern city's Bab al-Tabbaneh neighbourhood. Officials said Sunday that two adjoining buildings had collapsed.

Indian-Canadian shot dead in shopping centre's parking lot in Toronto

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, Feb 9: A 37-year-old Indian-Canadian died after being shot by unidentified men in the parking lot of a busy shopping centre in Toronto, Canada, police said.

In a statement Sunday, the Toronto Police Service identified the victim as Chandan Kumar Raja Nandakumar of Brampton.

At approximately 3:31 pm Saturday, police responded to a call for a shooting in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre located at Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27, the statement said.

It said police officers found a man with gunshot wounds when they arrived at the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The suspect, or suspects, fled the scene in a vehicle, police said. The victim succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, they said. Nandakumar, originally from Karnataka, was an IT professional.

The shooting marks Toronto's third homicide of the year.

Images taken from the scene show a white SUV with bullet holes in the windshield and a shattered window on the driver's side, according to CTV News. It said the circumstances surrounding the shooting are not known, but officers believe it was a "targeted" incident.

"I can understand how a shooting like this, especially at a mall, can cause concern for the safety of the public," Insp. Errol Watson was quoted as saying by the CBC news.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un salutes during a visit to the Ministry of Defence for the 78th anniversary of the founding of the armed forces, in Pyongyang, North Korea REUTERSWW

China critic Jimmy Lai sentenced to 20 years in jail

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Feb 9: Hong Kong's most vocal China critic, media tycoon Jimmy Lai, was sentenced Monday to 20 years in jail, ending the city's biggest national security case that has fueled global concerns about Beijing's clampdown on freedoms in the ex-British colony.

Lai's sentence on two counts of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces and one for publishing seditious materials ends a legal saga that has lasted nearly five years.

The 78-year-old British citizen had denied all the charges against him, telling the court he was a "political prisoner" facing persecution from Beijing.

Lai, founder of the feisty and now shuttered Apple Daily newspaper, was first arrested in August 2020 and was convicted last year.

His sentence was within the harshest penalty tier for offences of a "grave nature", reflecting the fact that he was the driving force behind "persistent" foreign collusion conspiracies, the three judges said in announcing their verdict.

They cited prosecution evidence that the conspiracies had sought sanctions, blockades and other hostile acts from the US and other countries while involving a web of individuals including Apple Daily staff, activists and foreigners. Six former senior Apple Daily staffers, an activist and a paralegal were also sentenced to jail terms ranging from six to 10 years.

'EVIL DEEDS WERE BEYOND MEASURE'

The US, Britain, Australia, the European Union, Japan and Taiwan expressed concerns about the impact of the sentencing. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the sentence "unjust and tragic", saying it showed the lengths to which China would go to silence advocates of basic freedoms in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, under China's State Council, said the sentence was "a solemn and powerful declaration that whoever dares to challenge the law on safeguarding national security will be severely punished".

Hong Kong's leader John Lee said, "(Jimmy Lai) has committed numerous heinous crimes, and his evil deeds were beyond measure."

Lai's trial has drawn criticism from global leaders, opens new tab including US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, spotlighting a years-long national security crackdown in the China-ruled Asian financial hub, following mass pro-democracy protests in 2019.

Bangladesh votes in world's first Gen Z-inspired election

REUTERS

Dhaka, Feb 9: For years under former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's opposition had little presence on the streets during elections, either boycotting polls or being sidelined by mass arrests of senior leaders. Now, ahead of Thursday's vote, the roles have reversed.

Hasina's Awami League is banned, but many young people who helped oust her government in a 2024 uprising say the upcoming vote will be the Muslim-majority nation's first competitive election since 2009, when she began a 15-year-rule.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is widely expected to win, although a coalition led by the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami is putting up a strong challenge. A new party driven by Gen-Z activists under the age of 30 has aligned with Jamaat after failing to translate its anti-Hasina street mobilisation into an electoral base.

- Bangladesh faces its most competitive vote since 2009
- Ousted PM Hasina's Awami League party banned
- BNP, Jamaat in close race with big economic, geopolitical stakes
- Voters prioritise corruption, living costs and jobs with high turnout expected

BNP chief Tarique Rahman told Reuters his party, which is contesting 292 of the 300 parliamentary seats at stake, was confident of winning "enough to form a government".

Analysts say a decisive result in the February 12 vote, instead of a fractured outcome, is vital for restoring stability in the nation of 175 million after Hasina's ouster triggered months of unrest and disrupted major industries, including the garments sector in the world's second-largest exporter.

The verdict will also affect the roles of rival regional heavyweights China and India in the South Asian nation.

"Opinion polls suggest the BNP has an edge, but we must remember that a significant portion of voters are still undecided," said Parvez Karim Abbasi, executive director at Dhaka's Centre for Governance Studies.

"Several factors will shape the outcome, including how Generation Z - which makes up about a quarter of the electorate - votes, as their choices will carry considerable weight."

Across Bangladesh, black-and-white posters and banners bearing the BNP's "sheaf of paddy" symbol and Jamaat's "scales" hang from poles and trees and are pasted on roadside walls, alongside those of several independent candidates. Party shacks on street corners, draped in their emblems, blare campaign songs.

CHINA'S INFLUENCE INCREASES AS INDIA'S WANES

The election verdict will also influence the roles of China and India in Bangladesh in coming years, analysts have said. Beijing has increased its standing in Bangladesh since Hasina was seen as pro-India and fled to New Delhi after her ouster, where she remains.

While New Delhi's influence is on the wane, the BNP is seen by some analysts as being relatively more in tune with India than the Jamaat.

A Jamaat-led government might tilt closer to Pakistan, a fellow Muslim-majority nation and a long-standing rival of Hindu-majority India, analysts say. Also, Jamaat's Gen-Z ally has said "New Delhi's hegemony" in Bangladesh is one of its main concerns and its leaders met Chinese diplomats recently.

Jamaat, which calls for a society governed by Islamic principles, has said the party is not inclined towards any country.

BNP's Rahman has said if his party formed the government it would have friendly relations with any nation that "offers what is suitable for my people and my country".

business

For almost 12 years, capital investment, gross fixed capital formation, is stuck at 30 per cent of GDP. Net FDI in 2024-25 collapsed to less than 0.09 per cent. FPIs, foreign portfolio investors are pulling out. Private investment, although companies are cash rich, is stuck at 22 per cent of GDP

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

LIC MF OPENS WOMEN-CENTRIC BRANCH

LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Monday inaugurated its women-centric branch in South Delhi, becoming the first asset management company in the country to set up a branch aimed at increasing women's participation in mutual fund investing. The initiative aims to bridge the gender gap in investment participation by encouraging women to take greater ownership of their financial futures, said Ravi Kumar Jha, Managing Director & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund

Quote of the day

Global edible oil markets have entered a phase of structural volatility, driven by trade realignments, biofuel mandates and supply rigidity

SUDHAKAR DESAI | PRESIDENT, INDIAN VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

With European Union's CBAM and tariffs, quotas and other challenges, exports will remain a problem and we will have to take action

SANDEEP POUNDRIK | STEEL SECRETARY

I see it (Q4/FY'26) good because volume and demand are good. Since cost has gone up, prices are also inching up. So, Q4 is going to be better than Q3

ARUN KUMAR SHUKLA | PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR, JK LAKSHMI CEMENT

SHORT TAKES

Steel makers under lens

New Delhi: The Competition Commission is probing the alleged cartelisation by steel manufacturers and the investigation report has been shared with the parties concerned to provide their objections and suggestions in accordance with the competition law, the government said Monday. The corporate affairs ministry also informed the Lok Sabha that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) registered 54 cases related to anti-competitive practices/and received 149 merger (M&A) filings in 2025. In a written reply, Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said CCI has registered a case pertaining to the alleged cartelisation by steel manufacturers pursuant to the directions of the Madras High Court. After investigation, CCI's Director General (DG) submitted the investigation report, which has been shared with the parties with directions to file their objections/suggestions in accordance with the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002.

Maruti's despatch record

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Monday said it despatched over 5.85 lakh cars through railways last year, an year-on-year growth of 18 per cent over 2024. The auto major said its share of rail mode in outbound logistics has grown exponentially, rising from 5.1 per cent in 2016 to 26 per cent in 2025, significantly reducing carbon emissions, country's oil imports and easing road congestion. "During the year, we strengthened our green logistic efforts through two landmark events-the inauguration of India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding at our Manesar facility, and second was we dispatched vehicles by rail to Kashmir valley through the world's highest railway arch bridge over Chenab river, a first by any automobile manufacturer," Maruti Suzuki India MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said.

BoB cuts car loan rates

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) Monday announced a 30-basis-point reduction in its car loan interest rates, effective immediately. The bank's floating rate now starts from 7.6 per cent per annum, BoB said in a statement. The bank also offers an attractive fixed rate of interest on Baroda car loans, starting at 8.5 per cent per annum. The new rate beginning at 7.6 per cent is available on the purchase of a new car and is linked to a borrower's credit profile, it said. In addition to a reduced rate of interest, the bank is also offering borrowers zero prepayment/part-payment charges on floating rate car loans for individual borrowers, it said.

US TRADE PACT

India eases auto, alcohol imports

QUOTA-BASED AUTO DUTY CUTS, TARIFF REDUCTION ON ALCOHOL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: India will grant quota-based duty concessions in the automobile sector, while access to alcoholic beverages has been offered under tariff reduction and minimum import price-based formulations under the trade pact with the US, the government said Monday.

It also said that under the agreement, tariffs on $30.94 billion of India's exports will be reduced from 50 per cent to 18 per cent, while the reciprocal tariffs on another $10.03 billion will be eliminated.

"This means a substantial share of Indian goods entering the US market will now face either sharply lower tariffs or completely duty-free access, significantly improving price competitiveness," the government said.

It said that $1.36 billion of Indian agricultural exports receive zero additional US duty access. Key products include spices, tea, coffee, fruits, nuts and processed foods.

It said that sensitive sectors such as automobiles have been liberalised through a combination of quota and duty reduction mechanisms.

According to an official, India is not granting any duty concessions on electric vehicles to the US.

Medical devices have been addressed through long and staggered phasing schedules, and precious metals and other sensitive industrial products have been managed through quota-based tariff lowering.

"Alcoholic beverages have been offered under tariff reduction along with minimum import price-based formulations, consistent with India's approach in other FTAs (free trade agreements)," it added.

Listing out sectoral gains for India, it said tariffs on textile exports will be cut down from 50 per cent to 18 per cent, while silk receives nil duty access, opening enhanced opportunities in the US market valued at $113 billion.

Similarly, tariffs will be reduced to 18 per cent for the domestic gems and jewellery sector, providing preferential access to the American market valued at $61 billion.

"In addition, 0 per cent duty market access has been secured for major product categories including diamonds, platinum and coins, covering a US market of $29 billion," it said adding.

Key export categories expected to benefit include cut and polished diamonds, lab-grown synthetic diamonds, coloured gemstones, synthetic stones and articles of gold, silver, and platinum.

AGRI SECTOR

It said India maintains a trade surplus of $1.3 billion in agricultural trade with the United States, with exports of $3.4 billion and imports of $2.1 billion in 2024.

The United States will apply zero additional duty on Indian exports worth $1.36 billion.

Beneficiary products include spices; tea and coffee; copra and coconut oil; nuts such as cashew nuts and chestnuts; fruits including avocados, bananas, guavas, mangoes, kiwis, papayas, pineapples, and mushroom.

Cereals such as barley and canary seeds; bakery products; cocoa, and cocoa preparations; sesame and poppy seeds; and processed products such as fruit pulp, juices and jams will also be benefitted.

In line with India's approach in previous trade agreements, agricultural market access has been structured based on product sensitivity.

The offer is categorised into immediate duty elimination, phased elimination (up to 10 years), tariff reduction, margin of preference and tariff rate quota mechanisms.

It said highly sensitive agricultural sectors remain fully protected under a carefully crafted exemption category. These broadly include meat, poultry and dairy products; GM food products; soyameal; maize; and cereals.

For select sensitive agricultural products, the tariff reduction category has been applied to ensure that a measured level of duty protection continues.

Examples include parts of plants, olives, pyrethrum and oil cakes.

Certain highly sensitive items have been liberalised under Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs), where limited quantities are allowed at reduced duties.

Products under this category include in-shell almonds, walnuts, pistachios, and lentils, it said. It added that phased elimination of tariffs over up to ten years has been adopted for certain intermediate products used by India's food processing industry and sourced from multiple countries.

These include albumins, certain oils such as coconut oil, castor oil and cotton seed oil, and plants and parts of plants.

"Immediate duty elimination has been offered only for select non-sensitive products that are already liberalised under other FTAs," it said.

INDUSTRIAL GOODS

The agreement secures zero additional duty access for industrial exports valued at $38 billion, the government said.

India will face zero-reciprocal duty in major industrial product categories, including gems and diamonds, platinum and coins, clocks and watches, essential oils, inorganic chemicals, articles of paper, plastics and wood, and natural rubber.

On the other hand, market access for American industrial goods has been structured strictly on the basis of product sensitivity, combining immediate tariff elimination, phased reduction (up to ten years) and quota-based access.

DIGITAL TRADE

In 2024, India's digitally-delivered services exports stood at $0.28 trillion, growing at 10.3 per cent year-on-year.

India ranks 5th in exports of global digitally-delivered services and 11th in imports. While the United States holds the first rank in both exports and imports. "A structured digital trade framework between the two countries reduces regulatory uncertainty, lowers compliance friction and facilitates smoother cross-border service delivery," it said.

PSBs' profit rises to record ₹52,603cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Led by the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI), public sector banks logged a record cumulative profit of Rs 52,603 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal, reflecting an 18 per cent year-on-year growth.

All 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together made a profit of Rs 44,473 crore in the December quarter of FY25. Thus, the increase in profit in absolute terms was Rs 8,130 crore as compared to the same quarter of the previous financial year.

Market leader SBI alone contributed 40 per cent to the total earnings of Rs 52,603 crore, as per the published numbers on stock exchanges. SBI posted the highest quarterly net profit of Rs 21,028 crore in Q3 FY26, 24 per cent higher than the same period of the previous fiscal.

In percentage terms, Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank reported the highest net profit growth of 56 per cent to Rs 1,365 crore, followed by Central Bank of India with a 32 per cent rise to Rs 1,263 crore.

During the quarter, all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), except Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, and Bank of India, reported profit growth in single digits.

On an annual basis, PSBs recorded a slightly lower profit of 9 per cent to Rs 49,456 crore in the second quarter as compared to Rs 45,547 crore in the September quarter of FY25.

For the nine months ended December 2025, the aggregate profit of PSBs crossed Rs 1,45,000 crore for the first time.

RBI amends MSME lending directions

Collateral-free loan limit increased to ₹20 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 9: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday announced amendments to its lending directions for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, increasing the collateral-free loan limit for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to Rs 20 lakh in a move aimed at improving credit access for smaller businesses.

"Banks are mandated not to accept collateral security in the case of loans up to Rs 20 lakh extended to units in the MSE sector. Banks are also advised to extend collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh to all units financed under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) administered by KVIC," amended guidelines said.

Banks may, on the basis of good track record and financial position of the MSE units, increase the limit to dispense with the collateral requirement for loans up to Rs 25 lakh as per their internal policy and banks may avail the benefit of Credit Guarantee Scheme cover, where applicable, according to new norms.

However, accepting gold and silver as collateral pledged voluntarily by borrowers for loans sanctioned by the banks up to the collateral free limit, will not be construed as a violation of the mandate, it said.

The amendments have been made to the Master Direction Lending to MSME Sector, which was last updated in July 2025.

According to the RBI, the revised norms are intended to strengthen last-mile credit delivery to micro and small enterprises that often face constraints in providing collateral due to limited asset bases.

Silver surges 6%, gold up nearly 1%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Silver prices climbed more than 6 per cent to Rs 2.72 lakh per kilogram in the national capital Monday, while gold rose nearly 1 per cent to Rs 1.58 lakh per 10 grams, driven by firm global trends and a weaker US dollar.

According to local marketmen, the white metal climbed Rs 17,000, or 6.66 per cent to Rs 2,72,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), from Friday's closing level of Rs 2,55,000 per kg.

In addition, gold of 99.9 per cent purity increased Rs 1,300, or 0.83 per cent to Rs 1,58,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1,57,200 per 10 grams in the previous session.

"Gold traded higher on Monday, supported by a pullback in the US dollar and bargain buying. The dollar index is trading lower by almost 0.30 per cent at 97 level, offering support to bullion prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -- Commodities at HDFC Securities -- said.

Sensex reclaims 84k, Nifty nears 26k

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

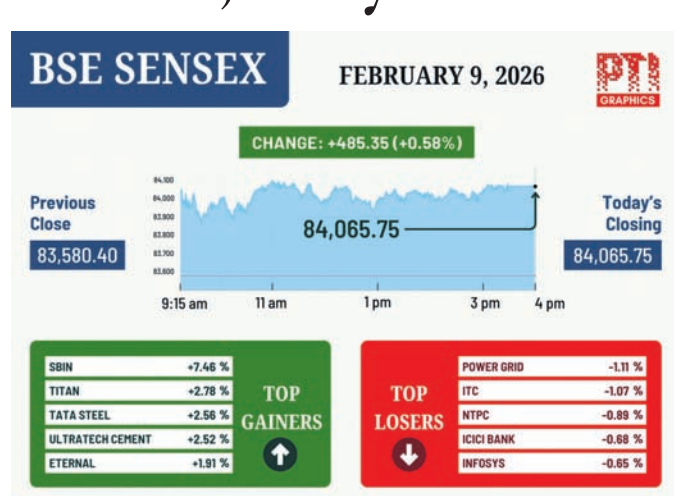
Mumbai, Feb 9: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty extended their gains for the second straight session Monday, driven by robust buying across all segments after India and the US reached a trade deal, putting an end to tariff uncertainties.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 485.35 points, or 0.58 per cent, to close at 84,065.75. During the day, the benchmark surged 734.28 points, or 0.87 per cent, to hit an intraday high of 84,314.68.

The 50-share NSE Nifty appreciated by 173.60 points, or 0.68 per cent, to settle at 25,867.30. During the session, the index climbed 228.55 points, or 0.88 per cent, to hit a high of 25,922.25.

Among the 30-share constituents, State Bank of India, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Eternal, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndiGo, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharmaceuticals, and Asian Paints were the gainers.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, NTPC, ITC, ICICI Bank,



Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki India and Axis Bank were the laggards. On the BSE, the Smallcap Select index rose 2.31 per cent, while Midcap Select index went up 1.27 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, PSU Bank climbed the most by 2.83 per cent, followed by Consumer Durables (2.76 per cent), Realty (2.64 per cent), and Commodities (2.06 per cent). While Industrials and Telecommunication rose by 1.94 per cent each, Capital Goods increased 1.89 per cent, Consumer Discretionary gained 1.73 per cent, and Metal went up by 1.54 per cent. A total of 3,110 stocks advanced, while 1,254 declined and 163 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 266.47 points to settle at 83,580.40, while the NSE Nifty climbed 50.90 points to end at 25,693.70.

The rupee witnessed a volatile trading session and settled for the day on a slightly lower note, down 1 paisa at 90.66 against the US dollar Monday.

Draft Income Tax Rules propose higher PAN limits

The new rules will give effect to the new Income Tax Act, 2025, which will be implemented from April 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Draft Income Tax Rules have proposed significantly raising transaction limits for quoting of PAN for cash deposits/withdrawal in banks, purchase of motor vehicles and property, and payment of hotel bills.

The draft also proposes raising the value of perquisites provided by employers, and making it mandatory for crypto exchanges to share information with the tax department. It also includes Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as an accepted mode of electronic payment.

The draft rules have expanded the list of Category 1 metropolitan cities to include Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad for the purpose of claiming house rent allowance (HRA). The list includes Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) will finalise rules after stakeholder consultation and will notify them by the first week of March, Finance Ministry sources said.

The Income Tax Rules are being finalised to give effect to the Income Tax Act, 2025, which will be implemented from April 1.

According to the proposed Income Tax Rule, 2026, quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) will be mandatory for making cash deposits or withdrawals aggregating to Rs 10 lakh or more in a financial year, in one or more accounts of a person.

Presently, PAN is required for cash deposits exceeding Rs 50,000 during any one day with a banking company or a cooperative bank.

In case of purchase of motor vehicles (including motor cycles), a buyer has to quote his/her PAN if the price exceeds Rs 5 lakh.

The current Income Tax Rules, 1962, do not provide for quoting of PAN for purchase of two-wheelers, while for motor vehicles it was mandatory irrespective of price.

In case of hotel/restaurant bills, payments made to convention centres or banquet halls or a person engaged in event management, PAN will be mandatory if the payment exceeds Rs 1 lakh.

The current I-T Rules specify a Rs 50,000 threshold for quoting PAN in case of hotel/restaurant bills.

In case of purchase or sale or gift or joint development agreement of any immovable property, PAN will be mandatory if the transaction cost is more than Rs 20 lakh, as against the existing limit of Rs 10 lakh.

Under the draft rules, PAN will be mandatory for starting an account-based relationship with an insurance company. Currently, payments aggregating to more than Rs 50,000 in a financial year as life insurance premium require PAN.

Sources said the intent behind rationalising the PAN quoting threshold is to capture only "relevant information" and "leveraging tech-enhancements of reporting entities" under the Income Tax Act.

The value of tax-free perquisites for official vehicles and free meals is proposed to be enhanced in view of the current market realities.

In case of free food and non-alcoholic beverages provided by the employer to an employee, the perquisite value has been fixed at Rs 200 per meal.

For motor cars, the allowance of cars below the engine capacity of 1.6 litres will be Rs 8,000/month, while for others it will be Rs 10,000/month. These would include allowance for drivers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of Rules slashed to 333 from 511; forms to 190 from 399
- PAN mandatory for annual cash deposits/withdrawals exceeding Rs 10 lakh
- No need to quote PAN for hotel bills below Rs 1 lakh
- Rs 5 lakh threshold for quoting PAN for purchase of vehicles, motorcycles
- For immovable property, quoting PAN mandatory if price exceeds Rs 20 lakh
- PAN compulsory for account-based relationship with an insurance company
- Value of tax-free perquisites, like official vehicles and free meals, raised
- Crypto exchanges to share information with tax department
- Central Bank Digital Currency to be accepted mode of electronic payment

PCB takes U-turn; India-Pak T20 WC match on: Source

Pak govt withdraws decision to boycott T20 World Cup match against India after request from Bangladesh and SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Feb 9: The Pakistan government has withdrawn its decision to boycott the T20 World Cup match against India after the country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was persuaded by Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, a top government source told PTI Monday.

The game against India is scheduled to be held in Colombo February 15.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received calls from both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and he has agreed to their request to withdraw the boycott call," the source said.

It was clear that the country would withdraw the call after Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Aminul Islam issued a statement urging Pakistan to take the field for the greater good of the game. Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi had earlier stated

that a formal announcement on the matter would be done in the next 24 hours.

Bangladesh have been ousted from the tournament for refusing to play in India citing security concerns. The trigger for Bangladesh's refusal to play in India was the release of their pacer Mustafziur Rahman from the KKR squad on BCCI's instructions.

BCB chief Islam issued a statement in Dhaka, expressing his gratitude towards Pakistan for backing his country but requested that the team show up for the high-profile game for the greater good of the sport.

ICC not to sanction Bangladesh for refusal to play T20 WC in India

"We are deeply moved by Pakistan's efforts to go above and beyond in supporting Bangladesh during this period. Long may our brotherhood flourish," Islam said in a statement.

In addition, the ICC also agreed to give the hosting rights of a global event to Bangladesh between 2028 and 2031.

It is understood that during his meeting with ICC deputy chair Imran Khawaja Sunday, Naqvi had kept a few demands, including resumption of Indo-Pak bilateral cricket and a tri-series involving Bangladesh, to offset the losses that the BCB has incurred following their shocking ouster from the global event.

While Indo-Pak bilateral cricket isn't under ICC's purview, the demand for a tri-series was summarily rejected. India haven't played any tri-nation tournament for more than a decade now. However, the ICC might consider awarding the next men's Under-19 World Cup to Bangladesh.

T20 WORLD CUP

Debutants Italy lose

Kolkata: George Munsey struck a half-century and shared a century opening stand with Michael Jones as Scotland defeated debutants Italy by 73 runs in a T20 World Cup match here Monday. Munsey hammered 84 off 54 balls while Jones contributed 37 off 30 deliveries, the duo laying the foundation with a 126-run opening partnership as Scotland posted a strong 207 for 4. In reply, Italy showed plenty of heart, with Ben Manenti clobbering a 31-ball 52 and brother Harry scoring 37. However, they were ultimately undone by inexperience and were bowled out for 134 in 16.4 overs. Italy suffered an injury blow when skipper Wayne Madsen was injured while fielding after diving to stop runs in the fourth over of Scotland's innings. The 42-year-old was in visible pain as he walked off the field, his left arm supported by a makeshift sling fashioned from his jersey.

Zimbabwe beat Oman

Colombo: Opening batter Brian Bennett made a sparkling 48 not out to help Zimbabwe beat Oman by eight wickets in their T20 World Cup match here Monday. Bennett hit seven fours during his 36-ball unbeaten knock while wicketkeeper-batter Brendan Taylor (31 retired hurt) and Tadiwanashe Marumani (21) chipped in with important contributions as Zimbabwe chased down a small target of 104 with 39 balls to spare. Zimbabwe reached 106 for 2 in 13.3 overs. Sikandar Raza got the remaining wicket for Zimbabwe after Ngarava (3/17), Muzarabani (3/16) and Evans (3/18) got three each.

Proteas thrash Canada

Ahmedabad: South Africa defeated Canada by 57 runs in their opening match of the T20 World Cup here Monday. Skipper Aiden Markram made a 32-ball 59 as South Africa posted 213 for four and then limited Canada to 156 for 8 in 20 overs. Apart from Markram, Ryan Rickelton (33), Quinton de Kock (25), Tristan Stubbs (34) and David Miller (39) also made useful contributions after being asked to take first strike. Navneet Dhaliwal (64) was the top scorer for Canada. Lungi Ngidi (4/31) was the most successful bowler for SA.

TODAY'S CLASHES

- Netherlands vs Namibia — Time- 11:00 am
- New Zealand vs UAE — Time- 3:00 pm
- Pakistan vs USA — Time- 7:00 pm

FIH MEN'S HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

Rourkela leg kicks off

The Rourkela leg marks an important opening phase of India's FIH Pro League 2025–26 campaign, with the home team aiming to begin strongly against two of the world's top-ranked sides–Belgium and Argentina

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Feb 9: The FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2025–26 Rourkela leg will get underway Tuesday at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, featuring three of the world's top men's hockey teams — hosts India, Belgium and Argentina — in a series of high-intensity international fixtures.

India, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, will take on European giants Belgium, captained by Arthur Van Doren, and South American powerhouse Argentina, led by Matias Rey, as part of the six-day leg of the prestigious annual league.

The Rourkela leg will open February 10 with Belgium facing Argentina, followed by India vs Belgium February 11 and India vs Argentina February 12. The action will resume with Argentina taking on Belgium February 13, before India

face Belgium again February 14 and conclude their home leg against Argentina February 15. All matches are scheduled to begin at 19:30 IST.

The Rourkela leg marks an important opening phase of India's FIH Pro League 2025–26 campaign, with the home team aiming to begin strongly against two of the world's top-ranked sides.

The Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, the world's largest hockey-specific venue, is expected to buzz with excitement and full stands as fans from across Odisha and beyond gather to support their teams.

All India matches of FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 Rourkela leg will be broadcast on Star Sports Khel and JioHotstar.

FIXTURES

Date	Team 1	Vs	Team 2	Local Time	IST	Venue
10.2.2026	Belgium	Vs	Argentina	19:30	19:30	Rourkela, India
11.2.2026	India	Vs	Belgium	19:30	19:30	
12.2.2026	India	Vs	Argentina	19:30	19:30	
13.2.2026	Argentina	Vs	Belgium	19:30	19:30	
14.2.2026	India	Vs	Belgium	19:30	19:30	
15.2.2026	India	Vs	Argentina	19:30	19:30	
21.2.2026	India	Vs	Spain	17:30	12:00	Hobart, Australia
22.2.2026	Australia	Vs	India	17:30	12:00	
24.2.2026	Spain	Vs	India	19:30	14:00	
25.2.2026	Australia	Vs	India	19:30	14:00	
14.6.2026	Netherlands	Vs	India	16:00	19:30	Rotterdam, Netherlands
17.6.2026	India	Vs	Germany	19:30	23:00	
18.6.2026	Germany	Vs	India	19:30	23:00	
21.6.2026	Netherlands	Vs	India	14:00	17:30	
23.6.2026	Pakistan	Vs	India	14:30	19:00	London, England
25.6.2026	England	Vs	India	19:30	12:00+1	
26.6.2026	India	Vs	Pakistan	18:00	22:30	
28.6.2026	England	Vs	India	16:00	20:30	

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Silver for Manu in 25m pistol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Olympic double bronze-medallist Manu Bhaker came agonisingly close to winning a gold, missing out by a whisker in a tense shoot-off as she clinched a silver in 25m pistol event, while fellow Indian Esha Singh claimed a bronze at the Asian Championship here Monday.

In one of the most closely-contested events of this edition of the continental championship, both gold medallist Nguyen Thuy Trang and Manu shot an identical 35 in the final, forcing a shoot-off, where the Vietnamese held sway.

In fact, the final turned out to be a battle of nerves, with former Asian air pistol champion Trang, Manu, Esha, and Olympian Rhythm Sangwan all tightly packed and in contention for the top spot. Esha started with a perfect five in the first series while Manu and Trang hit four. All three Indian shooters were trading the medal positions after each series but a perfect five in the sixth series saw the Vietnamese take a two-point lead. Manu and Esha capitalised on Trang's poor seventh series, where she managed to hit only one target, closing the gap.

Esha, who had been leading with a score of 30 at the end of the eighth series, missed all her shots in the ninth and had to settle for the bronze medal.

In the final series, Manu hit three targets while Trang managed two, bringing their totals to 35 each and forcing a nail-biting shoot-off. Earlier, Esha topped the qualification round, which comprised the 'precision' and 'duelling' stages, scoring 589, followed by Manu (584), as three Indian shooters advanced to the eight-shooter final.

The trio of Esha, Manu, and Sangwan claimed the team gold with a combined total of 1,751, followed by Chinese Taipei with 1,735 and Vietnam with 1,729.

The junior Indian team also secured the team gold in the event.

ODISHA PICKLEBALL OPEN WRAPS UP

RISHABH PAREKH, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 9: The Odisha Pickleball Open was held Sunday at the twin venues—Grand Awaas, Phulnakhara, and Lavanya Cosmos, Dhabaleswar. The sporting event drew strong participation across age groups and categories underlining the rapid growth of pickleball in the state.

The state open featured national level players battling for top spots in Odisha's pickleball domain. The event was conducted under the leadership of tournament director Soven Jena and organizer Rajanikant Das, and was graced by chief guests Ashis Garg and Sneha Garg, owners of G-Group.

The concluding events featured the women's singles, where Prasidhi Poddar claimed the gold medal in the final showdown against Sakshi Agrawal, who settled for the second spot. Sneha Garg and Subhashree Patra finished as joint bronze winners.

In the open singles, Ansuman Babu emerged champion against his doubles partner Dhyanendra Bhanjdeo who missed the gold in a thriller final set showdown. Aryanman Patnaik and Sumeet Panda were joint bronze winners.

The mixed doubles witnessed Prasidhi Poddar and Dhyanendra Bhanjdeo clinch gold in an intense battle against Sneha Garg and Ansuman Babu who took the second place in the podium, while Sumeet Panda with Sweekruti Dash and Anmol Dash with Sakshi Agrawal shared bronze. The open doubles title was secured by Roshan Mishra and Aditya Satpathy dominating their fixtures throughout the event. Anmol Das and Sunil Sahu finished runners-up. Radhamadhab Panda with Ekalavya Mahapatra and Dhyanendra Bhanjdeo with Ansuman Babu claimed joint third place.

In the 30+ doubles, Roshan Mishra and Sumeet Panda took gold defeating Subrat Sahoo and Asish Prusty in another epic finale. Ansuman Nayak with Soumya Panda alongside Lagnajeet Pattnaik with Akash Panigrahi shared joint bronze honours.

Soven Jena and Rajendra Agrawal sealed gold in the 40+ doubles against Ansuman Nayak and Satyajit Kumar, while Sunil Sahu with Santosh Jena and Laganjeet with Soumya Panda finished joint bronze winners.

In 50+ doubles, where Pradeep Singh and Udip Das bagged gold, Narottam Patra and Madhabanda Biswal took silver, and Rajanikant Das and Rama Rao completed the podium as joint bronze winners.

PREMIER LEAGUE

City secure late win at Anfield

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 9: Erling Haaland kept Manchester City's Premier League title hopes alive with a dramatic late penalty at Liverpool.

The Norwegian struck in second-half stoppage time in an explosive game at Anfield Sunday to seal a 2-1 win and cut the gap on first-place Arsenal back to six points.

City's title prospects looked in dire shape when Dominik Szoboszlai crashed a stunning long-range free kick in off the

post in the 74th minute. And even when Bernardo Silva equalized 10 minutes later, second-place City was still looking at ending the match eight points adrift.

But Haaland sent the away fans wild by firing into the bottom corner from the spot in the 93rd after Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson brought down Matheus Nunes in the box.

Even after Haaland's goal, the drama was far from over.

City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma produced a spectacular save to push Alexis Mac Allister's shot away from the top corner.

And then substitute Rayan Cherki scored from the halfway line - only for VAR to overrule it and send off Szoboszlai for a foul on Haaland before the ball crossed the line.

Ro-Ko downgraded to group B

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 9: Senior superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were on expected lines downgraded to group B of the latest annual central contract awarded by the BCCI which also abolished the prevailing A+ category carrying a retainership fee of Rs 7 crore.

CENTRAL CONTRACT

The BCCI Monday awarded central contract to 30 men and 21 women cricketers classified in group A, B and C.

Two-format skipper Shubman Gill along with senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah and premier Test all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were retained in group A.

However, the BCCI didn't mention the quantum of retainership fees for the three categories. With A+ being done away, in the earlier seasons, group A was valued at Rs 5 crore, group B at Rs 3 crore annually, and group C at Rs 1 crore.

As far as Kohli and Rohit are concerned, their retirement from Tests and T20Is effectively makes them one-format players and hence as per criteria, they couldn't have been retained in the top-most category.

Breezy, Malinin star for US as Vonn crashes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Milan, Feb 9: The crash. The gasps. The helicopter. Lindsey Vonn's frightening fall in the women's downhill at the Milan Cortina Olympics couldn't help but overshadow US teammate Breezy Johnson's feat - winning her country's first gold medal at these Games.

Johnson's victory Sunday in Cortina wasn't the Olympic comeback story everyone expected, as the focus was on Vonn going for gold despite a torn ACL. Even as Johnson sat in the leader's box on the verge of securing her first Olympic gold medal, her emotions swung from anticipation to anguish when Vonn went down.

"It was one of the most heartbreaking moments of my life," Johnson said.

Still, the 30-year-old Johnson became only the second

MILAN CORTINA OLYMPICS

American woman to win the Olympic downhill - Vonn won it in 2010 - and it came after her own injury concerns as well as a 14-month ban for violating "whereabouts" rules when it comes to testing for doping.

Sometimes, she said, "you just have to keep going because that's the only option."

Ilia Malinin, the Quad God, delivers for US

No delays this time.

The US defended its team figure skating gold medal by edging Japan Sunday.

Ilia Malinin beat rival Shun Sato in a head-to-head showdown to break a deadlock in the final session of the competition. The US ended up with 69 points while Japan finished with 68.

Malinin, nicknamed the "Quad God," landed five quadruple jumps and scored 200.03 points for his free skate. Sato followed him with three quads in his program, but he could only manage 194.86 points, leaving the Japanese with a second straight silver medal in the team event.

Four years ago, the Americans - and Japanese - were denied a medal ceremony in Beijing because of a lengthy investigation into Russian doping, which kept them from receiving their medals until the 2024 Summer Games in Paris.

Italy celebrates big haul of medals

Must be the home cooking.

Host nation Italy won six medals Sunday - five bronze and one silver - the most Italy has ever won in a single day at the Winter Olympics.

The Italy team delivered the silver medal in the mixed relay biathlon race.

Downhill skier Sofia Goggia won Italy's first bronze medal of the day, followed by Lucia Dalmasso's third place in snowboarding's parallel giant slalom. Riccardo Lorello claimed bronze in the men's speedskating 5,000 meters.

Dominik Fischnaller took bronze in men's singles luge before Italy rallied for third place in the figure skating team event. That followed Italy's Day 1 total of three medals, led by speedskater Francesca Lollobrigida's gold in the 3,000 meters.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha;Phone:(0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159