

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You will bring out your maps and magnifying glass today as you want to explore and investigate. Also, you remain touchy. Anyone who gets in your way will face your ire. Ganesha suggests that you be sensitive to your loved ones.

TAURUS
Emotions will flow generously as sincerity translates in your every action and expression. Be alert and cautious today, warns Ganesha. Your luck may make you like the princess in the locked tower, and the lack of white knight in the story won't make things any better, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
You are likely to throw a small treat for your relatives. Though the rest of the day will be spent cleaning the utensils and putting the place in order, you will manage to get some time for your friends, maybe by arranging a slumber party. A day full of partying and post-party cleaning, except for the evening yoga classes.

CANCER
Ganesha is foreseeing the conversion of your romance into marriage. But you will not have mind in the career or business and you lack enthusiasm in the same. So Ganesha advises you not to take up any new work, but finish off pending work.

LEO
The stars bring out the best in the artist hidden inside you. It may not be a Picasso or a Rembrandt, but nonetheless, today, your work shall stand out as exceptional. Ganesha foresees an afternoon spent in making use of the excellent communication and oratorical skills that you possess. When at work, you shall bring with you a spirit full of energy and enthusiasm that spreads exuberance in spite of others' criticism.

VIRGO
A day to don both – those trainers and that thinking cap. Exercise those muscles and that mass of grey cells, says Ganesha. Work hard and you'll get paid rich dividends for it. A romantic tryst with your loved one promises to end the day on a high note.

LIBRA
Today, it's a straight path to success, thanks to your straightforward manner. Ganesha foresees some small things that may trouble you in a big way early on in the day. But negotiate around them, and then it's all smooth sailing from there on. On the business front, expect to roll in money from diverse sources. It's all thanks to your own abilities and efforts that you are getting this positive reception.

SCORPIO
Your confidence level will be the vanguard of your character today, says Ganesha. On the career front, you are likely to complete things that are seemingly impossible. Your skill and determination will leave people asking for more, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Like a true Archer, targets are your aim today and focus, the buzzword. On the business front, the fast buck that you expected may not materialise. Though love may portray a rosy picture for you, today you end up having a tough time managing relationship. Be patient, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
The heaps of files waiting to get disposed of may finally reach your desk. You will be prompt in dealing with pending work, and will get all the support you need from your subordinates, says Ganesha. For those engaged in business, keep your vigil, especially while dealing with your competitors. You have the potential to beat them in their own game.

AQUARIUS
Life reveals itself to you in the simplest of things today. It will dawn upon you that you have a lot going for yourself, personally and professionally. This appreciation reflects in the small considerations that you show to your loved ones. This is perfection, asserts Ganesha.

PISCES
You will be in pursuit of educational and intellectually stimulating activities today, says Ganesha. Novel business proposals are likely to crop up in the afternoon. Your magnetism is likely to net you a date later in the evening.



WHOOPI AUCTIONING OFF HER 'MANY TREASURES'

Hollywood icon Whoopi Goldberg is auctioning off her own personal 'treasures' including costumes and other memorabilia. The 70-year-old is teaming up with Julien's Auctions on *Whoopi Goldberg: The Collection*, which will also feature some of her own jewellery with the sale taking place next month.

ROBBIE GOT KICKED OUT OF MOST CLUBS

Wuthering Heights star Margot Robbie has recalled being kicked out of most of the clubs in Clapham during her wild years. The 35-year-old star lived with six friends in a four-bedroom London flat until 2016.



Nora's rare milestone

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi has achieved a rare milestone on the international entertainment circuit by becoming the only Indian actor to have performed at both a FIFA World Cup event and a Cricket World Cup ceremony. The achievement places her among a small group of artists who have bridged two of the world's largest sporting platforms through live performances.

Her first major global sporting appearance came at the FIFA World Cup 2022, where she performed at the closing ceremony. Nora was part of the official World Cup anthem *Light The Sky*, delivering a live performance that combined singing and choreography in front of a worldwide audience. Notably, she also sang in Hindi as part of the anthem, bringing an Indian cultural element to a ceremony watched by millions across continents. Her presence at the event marked a significant moment for Indian representation at one of the most-watched sporting spectacles globally.

This international moment was followed by a major appearance closer home when Nora performed at the opening ceremony of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in Mumbai. Taking the stage ahead of the tournament's kickoff, she energised the stadium with a high-impact performance, once again demonstrating her comfort with large-scale live audiences and televised global events.

Beyond the world of sports ceremonies, Nora's national visibility has continued to grow across mainstream entertainment platforms.

Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel decided to relive some of her fond memories from her college days as she visited Boston, where she went to university. As part of her visit, Ameesha strolled through some familiar places, such as Fan-Square, Newbury Street, Boston Harbour - all the places she used to visit during her student days.



Ameesha relives her Boston days

The *Gadar* actress wrote on the photo-sharing app, "BOSTON—Strolling the Boston Commons, Faneuil Hall, Copley Square, Newbury Street, Boston harbour - all the places she used to visit during her student days.

The *Gadar* actress wrote on the photo-sharing app, "BOSTON—Strolling the Boston Commons, Faneuil Hall, Copley Square, Newbury Street, Boston harbour n wharf, doing part of the Freedom Trail n hopping in n out of the Prudential centre just seems soo natural!! Something I did as a student for 4 years whilst studying at Tufts University! The past student in me has melted in 2 the present girl! And I can't seem to feel the Difference!! These streets n areas make me feel like I belong here! BOSTON — willll always always have my heart (sic)," followed by a red heart emoji."

Before this, Ameesha shared another glimpse of her Boston trip, along with the caption, "BOSTON —back to my city where I studied n went to University !! Reliving my student days feels surreal."

For the unaware, Ameesha completed her schooling at Cathedral and John Connon School in Mumbai. After this, she went on to attend the Tufts University in Boston, where she initially studied bio-genetic engineering for two years before switching her major to economics.

Language no barrier to tell a good story: Chandra Mani

Bhubaneswar: When Bihar-based producer Chandra Mani decided to step into feature filmmaking, he chose to begin his journey far from home — in Odisha. His debut production, *Bara Badhu*, an Odia film directed by Beeswaranjan, is set to release February 13, bringing with it a story rooted in rural life yet resonant with contemporary realities.

The film also promises a fresh and engaging narrative centered on themes of marriage and employment.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Mani, who brings over a decade of experience in the advertising industry, shared that he chose to begin his cinematic journey with an Odia project after being deeply impressed by the story narrated by director Beeswaranjan, with whom he had previously collaborated on several advertisements.

"I was drawn to the story and decided to back the project when I learned it was inspired by real events from Odisha," Mani said.

Explaining his decision to

support a regional film, he added, "Language no barrier to tell

a good story. A powerful narrative carries a universal theme that can resonate with audiences everywhere."

Chandra Mani also emphasised the need for originality in the Odia film industry to thrive in today's competitive landscape. "Today's audiences are smart. They can easily distinguish between original content and 'copy-paste' cinema," he noted.

The producer further revealed plans to release *Bara Badhu* in other states. He also shared that he is currently in discussions with

several talented filmmakers and actors for future collaborations.

The ensemble cast of the movie comprises Sailendra Samantaray, Sivani Sangita, Subhasis Sharma, Jayashree Sarangi, Hara Rath, Suryamayee Mohapatra, Suwendu Das and Bhaswati Basu.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



BODY-SHAMING

Nikki calls out Prince Narula

Mumbai: Actress Nikki Tamboli, who is currently seen in the reality show *The 50*, has strongly called out reality TV show star Prince Narula over an alleged body-shaming remark, questioning his conduct as a "so-called husband, father and public figure."

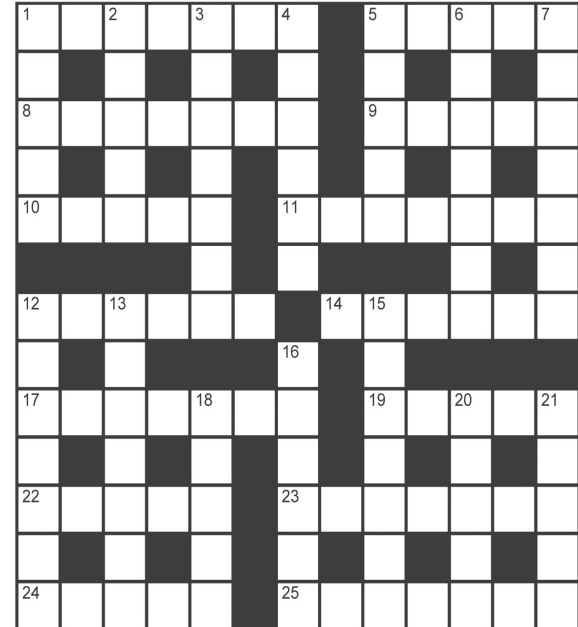
It was during an episode of *The 50*, when Prince reportedly commented on Nikki's appearance. She now has shared the clip on X, formerly called Twitter, and said that mocking someone behind their back isn't power.

She wrote on X: "So-called husband, father, public figure. If someone spoke about your daughter's body like this, would you laugh too? This isn't strategy. This isn't a game. This is body-shaming done quietly - the coward's way."

Nikki added: "Cameras don't cancel character. Influence doesn't excuse disrespect. Mocking someone behind their back isn't power. If you have something to say, say it to the face. Behind-the-back mocking isn't strength - it's fear pretending to be confidence. And influence without responsibility? That's not leadership. That's failure. That's weakness with an audience."

FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Bewitch
 - 5 Exercise unit (3,2)
 - 8 Chopper's spot
 - 9 Cuban dance
 - 10 Scrub
 - 11 Salv
 - 12 Tractable
 - 14 Sheen
 - 17 Salad ingredient
 - 19 Bridges
 - 22 Exploits
 - 23 Simple wind instrument
 - 24 Brief tussle (3-2)
 - 25 Holds on to
 - Down**
 - 1 Community spirit
 - 2 Quartet member
 - 3 Garments
 - 4 Ennui
 - 5 Shoulder motion
 - 6 Teapot resident?
 - 7 Gab
 - 12 Separates
 - 13 Spelling bee, e.g.
 - 15 Social climber
 - 16 Pergola
 - 18 Oomph
 - 20 Cover story?
 - 21 Some trumpeters

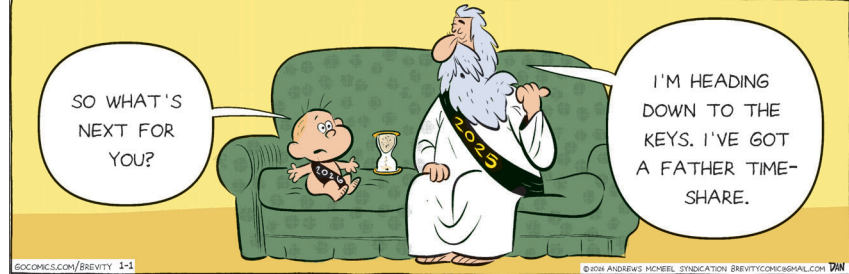
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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| D | | | B | A | | O | H | | R | | |
| Y | E | T | | A | | R | O | S | T | R | U |
| | | | I | L | S | | | O | A | | |
| G | A | M | B | L | E | S | A | L | O | O | N |
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SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

INDIA'S DECARBONISATION GAMBLE



In a world where trade wars are fought on carbon intensity, India's steel industry must transform not just to grow—but to survive

tionism remains strong, and future access will hinge on India's ability to demonstrate credible low-carbon steel pathways. Without this, India risks being locked out of premium markets, even as competitors like Europe and China accelerate hydrogen-based steelmaking. These shifts mean India's steelmakers are no longer competing only on volume—they are competing on carbon intensity.

India's scrap recycling ecosystem remains underdeveloped, despite its critical role in decarbonisation. The ferrous scrap recycling market, valued at \$14.3 million in 2024, is projected to reach \$19.4 million by 2033, growing at just 3.5% annually—far below what is needed to support India's steel expansion. The sector faces structural challenges. The 18% GST on scrap transactions has disrupted local collection, particularly in northern India, where volumes are highest. Infrastructure gaps mean scrap is often manually segregated, lowering quality and efficiency. Limited domestic supply forces reliance on imports, exposing producers to global price volatility.

Globally, 85% of scrap steel is already recycled, leaving little room for growth. India cannot rely solely on scrap to meet its decarbonisation targets. Instead, it must combine recycling with hydrogen-based steelmaking and renewable-powered electric arc furnaces (EAFs).

Certain states such as Punjab & Haryana (industrial dismantling hubs), UP (large scrap markets in Kanpur & Ghaziabad),

Maharashtra (construction & automotive scrap from Mumbai & Pune), and Tamil Nadu (industrial flows from Chennai) are emerging as leaders. Yet the sector remains largely informal. Reforming GST, investing in advanced processing, and formalising scrap markets are essential if India is to bridge the gap between growth and sustainability. Scrap recycling is essential, but it is not a silver bullet. India must pursue a dual strategy—maximising scrap use while simultaneously investing in hydrogen-based steelmaking and renewable-powered EAFs. Only then can the country bridge the gap between growth and sustainability.

Hydrogen-based steelmaking could cut emissions by 97%, while renewable-powered EAFs could reduce them by 88%. Yet progress has been slow. Only a handful of large-scale green hydrogen projects have been sanctioned so far, despite the enormous scope for industrial application. High costs, limited electrolyser manufacturing capacity, and infrastructure gaps—such as inadequate pipelines and storage facilities—continue to stall momentum. Europe and China are already building hydrogen hubs, leaving India at risk of falling behind.

India's renewable energy ambitions—500GW by 2030—are critical to powering green steel. Yet challenges in land acquisition, transmission, and execution of power purchase agreements slow progress. Unless renewable deployment ac-

celerates, India's steel industry will remain shackled to coal.

India's Green Steel Taxonomy, launched last year, is a commendable start but lacks the rigour of EU frameworks. Scope 3 emissions—upstream mining and downstream use—remain excluded, underestimating true carbon footprints. Investors and regulators increasingly demand full transparency. Without mandatory targets, shorter review cycles, and financial incentives akin to EU subsidies, India risks falling behind.

The EU updates benchmarks annually, while India reviews thresholds every three years. This slower pace risks locking India into outdated standards. Moreover, voluntary adoption dilutes impact. Mandatory compliance, coupled with carbon pricing and subsidies, is essential to accelerate transformation.

To secure its place in the global low-carbon steel economy, India must: i) mandate Scope 3 emissions reporting to align with EU and US standards; ii) introduce carbon pricing and subsidies for hydrogen-based steelmaking and carbon capture technologies; iii) accelerate renewable energy deployment to meet the 500GW target by 2030; iv) negotiate trade terms that reward decarbonisation, not penalize it; and v) structure the scrap market with tax reforms and advanced recycling infrastructure.

These measures are not optional—they are survival strategies in a trade regime where carbon intensity defines competitiveness. India's steel story is no longer just about growth—it is about survival in a trade regime where carbon is currency.

The crossroads is clear - India can either cling to coal and risk exclusion, or embrace hydrogen, renewables, and global standards to lead the future of steel. The gamble is immense, but so is the opportunity. In a world where trade wars are fought on carbon intensity, India's steel industry must transform not just to grow—but to survive.

The writer is a technocrat and a policy specialist.



Charudutta Panigrahi

UNLESS RENEWABLE DEPLOYMENT ACCELERATES, INDIA'S STEEL INDUSTRY WILL REMAIN SHACKLED TO COAL



Taniguchi Tomohiko

WHETHER AN AGING JAPAN CAN TRANSFORM ITSELF IN SHORT ORDER UNDER A MAVERICK PRIME MINISTER REMAINS UNCERTAIN



THE MOTHER

Takaichi on Top

Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae has just scored an unprecedented victory in the country's general election. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which she leads, won 316 seats in the 465-member House of Representatives (the Diet's lower house), up sharply from 198. The combined strength of two parties that had merged hastily – despite their fundamentally opposing platforms – in an effort to bring Takaichi down fell from 167 seats to just 49. The LDP, which celebrated its 70th anniversary last year, has never looked more robust.

Only moments after Takaichi became the LDP's president last October, the party's coalition partner of a quarter-century, Komeito, abruptly defected. With that, there was no guarantee that she could secure a majority in the lower house to become prime minister. Then, after she dissolved the chamber and called a general election in order to obtain a stronger mandate, Komeito, backed by disciplined religious voters, quickly merged with the largest opposition force, the liberal Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.

Takaichi survived the first shock by forming a new coalition with a smaller party closer to her own policy line. She crushed the second challenge by setting the period for election campaigning to an unprecedentedly brief 16 days, leaving the new opposition alliance scant time to build name recognition.

The prime minister is herself something of a newcomer, having risen to the party presidency in a political culture that long assumed that a politician, and certainly a national leader, must be male. Rather than relying on the usual social circles that fostered the careers of her senior colleagues, she nurtured her ambitions on her own.

Casting herself as the lead actor, she wrote the script and directed the plot to stage an election in which a maverick heroine clears one obstacle after another, growing stronger each time, before finally reaching an apparently invincible position. Voters seemed captivated by the narrative. Even seasoned commentators failed to foresee how many first-time voters would turn out.

Takaichi now plans to overhaul the way Japan drafts its national budget. During the campaign, she repeatedly stressed that she needed political capital precisely for that purpose. For decades, the country has relied on a two-step process: a modest initial budget at the start of the fiscal year, followed by a supplementary budget six months later to cover shortfalls. Takaichi wants to abolish this practice and rely on a single budget at the start of the year. With the end of routine supplementary budgets, the fiscal stance would shift away from the austerity regime that has shaped the economy for three decades.

Japan has no time, she warned throughout the campaign. Whether the challenge is to reduce dependence on China for critical minerals, build advanced crop factories to strengthen food self-sufficiency, or update military platforms to match the technologies revealed in Ukraine to be essential to warfighting, Japan must act or risk losing the opportunity to do so in the future. A country that stops addressing its challenges, she argued, has no future. Voters appear to have embraced that ambitious vision.

Even so, this is only the beginning. Unlike the lower house, the Diet's upper house cannot be dissolved by the prime minister. Its next regular election is not due until 2028. If the LDP, now still a minority faction there, can strengthen its position as decisively as it has in the lower house, it could secure the two-thirds majorities in both chambers that are required to initiate constitutional change, a cause which Takaichi inherited from her mentor, the late Abe Shinz. To win any subsequent national referendum on constitutional reform, the government will need strong backing from both houses.

Japan's constitution has never been amended, an extraordinary exception among democracies. A clause renouncing the possession of the means of war has long functioned as a convenient fiction. Takaichi wants to correct this, and she has made explicit recognition of the constitutionality of Japan's armed forces central to the LDP's identity. But achieving that goal will require at least three more years of sustained commitment.

Whether an aging Japan can transform itself in short order under a maverick prime minister remains uncertain. Yet some economists argue that the demographic clock may not be as unforgiving as often assumed. If female and elderly labor-force participation were each to rise by ten percentage points, and if the productivity gains expected from artificial intelligence are added to the equation, Japan could offset much of its demographic drag without relying heavily on immigration. While this possibility (still debated) does not eliminate the urgency of reform, it does suggest that the country retains more room for maneuver than is commonly believed.

For now, Takaichi is wagering that voters are ready for a more assertive course. If she can convert electoral capital into sustained structural change, her victory may mark the start of a new political cycle in Japan. If not, it will be remembered as a spectacular but fleeting moment. We will soon find out which future will prevail.

The writer, a former special adviser to Prime Minister Abe Shinz, is Chairman of Nippon Kaigi (Japan Conference), a conservative lobbying organization.

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WISDOM CORNER

He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger

CONFUCIUS

The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself

LAO TZU

The mind is the root from which all things grow if you can understand the mind, everything else is included

BODHIDHARMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1809: British naturalist Charles Darwin, who developed the theory of evolution by natural selection, was born.

1818: Chile's independence from Spain declared. Although the decisive victory over the Spanish did not come until April at the Battle of Maipú, Chile formally declared independence from Spain on this day in 1818, the first anniversary of Chile's victory at Chacabuco.

1912: Puyi, the last emperor of China, abdicated at the end of the Chinese Revolution.



Pratigyan Das

AN AVERAGE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS SPENDS AROUND 2.2 HOURS DAILY ONLINE, DOUBLE THE RECOMMENDED LIMIT

Recently, three minor sisters jumped from the ninth floor of their apartment building in Ghaziabad, UP, allegedly after their parents objected to their gaming addiction. The deaths of these minors have again brought attention to the risks linked to digital challenges. The Economic Survey 2025-26 has also flagged the rapid rise of digital addiction, particularly among children in India. Various studies also claim that while 90% of children between 14 and 16 years in India have access to smartphones, with three hours or more spent daily on social media, an average child under the age of five years spends around 2.2 hours daily online, double the recommended limit.

Why is onscreen time among children on the rise? Structural changes in the family: The decline of joint family system in India due to various socio-economic causes including urbanization and education among women, has given rise to nuclear families. In an urban nuclear family set up, with both parents usually working, child rearing has been taken over by household

Credibility crisis

Sir, The Lok Sabha witnessed sharp turmoil after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi displayed a book titled Four Stars of Destiny, written by former Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane and published by Penguin Random House, and sought a debate on its alleged references to the 2020 Galwan clash between Indian and Chinese forces. Citing the unpublished book, Gandhi accused the government of mishandling the Chinese incursions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The controversy deepened when Speaker Om Birla disallowed the discussion, stating that the book had not been officially published. If the publisher and the former Army chief are correct in distancing themselves from the book or its contents, serious doubts arise over the authenticity of the material presented in the Parliament. Citing a possibly forged or misrepresented publication to advance grave national security allegations undermines legislative credibility. More alarmingly, it reflects a dangerous slide towards unverified claims, manufactured narratives and political spectacle replacing responsible democratic scrutiny..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Prosperity & preservation

Sir, The Turtle Trails initiative announced in the Union Budget is a double-edged sword for India's 7500 km coastline while it aims to boost coastal tourism we must ask at what cost to the Olive Ridley sea turtles? Nationally, these turtles are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act yet they face a survival rate of just 0.1%. From Odisha's Gahirmatha to the shores of Maharashtra and Karnataka the threat is universal photopollution. Artificial light disorients hatchlings leading them away from the ocean toward certain death. True conservation isn't found in neon lit promenades but in community led ecotourism. We must pivot from mass tourism to scientific tourism utilizing geo-tagging to track migrations and offer direct financial incentives to fishing communities to adopt turtle safe nets.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

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

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Kerala approves Women’s Policy 2026 to boost gender justice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 11: The Kerala cabinet Wednesday approved the Women’s Policy 2026 aimed at ensuring comprehensive gender justice and transforming the state into a fully women-centric society.

The cabinet meet, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, gave a nod to the new policy which is a revised version of the women’s policy 2009 in tune with contemporary needs to shape “Nava Kerala” into a women-centric state.

The policy has been formulated by giving priority to various sectors in line with various contemporary needs, including women’s safety, labour rights, legal protection, tribal communities and coastal regions, it said.

In a statement, Health Minister Veena George said the draft was prepared by an 11-member Gender Council under the leadership of the Women and Child Development Department.

The core objective of the policy is to end discrimination faced by women irrespective of caste, religion or gender, and to ensure equal participation in all spheres of society, she said.

George said the policy proposes to ensure equal representation of women in governance, legislative bodies and high-level decision-making committees,

and to implement gender justice in employment, education and health sectors.

“It also aims to promote gender-friendly and democratic spaces in families, educational institutions, cultural spheres and public spaces,” she said.

In the education sector, a special gender protocol will be formulated for institutions and lessons on gender equality will be included in the school curriculum in accordance with the new policy.

Measures such as strengthening self-defence and sports training for girls, establishing creches and breastfeeding centres in higher education institutions, and making campuses gender-friendly through staff training have been proposed under the policy.

The policy also envisages complete eradication of the dowry system within five years, she said adding that innovative programmes will be introduced to equip women with skills in emerging technologies.

Healthcare institutions from primary health centres to medical colleges will be made women-friendly, and special measures will be taken for elderly women in view of the state’s changing demographic profile.

Special health and education packages will also be implemented in Dalit, tribal and coastal areas, George detailed.

Kerala to conduct study on digital addiction among children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 11: Kerala General Education and Labour Minister V Sivan-kutty Wednesday said a detailed study would be conducted on digital addiction among children, describing it as one of the most widely discussed issues of the present time.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that at a time when artificial intelligence and other sectors are undergoing explosive changes globally, the state needs to examine whether the issue (digital addiction) requires serious study and, if necessary, legislative measures.

He said continuous complaints received by the Education Department and certain incidents indicate that the time to address the issue seriously has already arrived.

The matter was also discussed by the Curriculum Committee, he added.

Based on these discussions, it has been decided to constitute a five-member expert committee under the chairpersonship of General Education Secretary K Vasuki.

The members of the committee are Dr Arun B Nair of Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, N S Sreekanth, Professor of Computer Science, Kannur University; Dr Biju K of the Department of Education, Central University of Tamil Nadu and Prof Baby Shari P A of the University of Calicut.

The study will be coordinated by the SCERT and the committee has been directed to submit its report within three months, the minister said.

Cong’s solo move sharpens TMC-BJP binary

Senior leaders across party lines agreed that the breakdown of the Left-Congress understanding has effectively collapsed the space for a ‘third pole’ in Bengal politics.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 11: The Congress’ decision to go solo in the West Bengal Assembly polls has narrowed the opposition space, reinforced the state’s entrenched TMC-BJP binary and shifted the focus from alliance arithmetic to vote consolidation in an increasingly two-cornered battle.

Senior leaders across party lines agreed that the breakdown of the Left-Congress understanding has effectively collapsed the space for a “third pole” in Bengal politics.

“This election will now be fought almost entirely on the TMC-versus-BJP axis. Breaking that binary without a Left-Congress alliance will be extremely difficult, but our leadership believes the party has nothing left to lose,” a senior Congress leader said, requesting anonymity.

For the first time since 2006,



the Congress will contest all 294 assembly seats on its own.

Party insiders said the move reflects organisational fatigue from repeated alliances and a strategic recalibration shaped by Bengal’s altered political arithmetic and national considerations.

The decision, taken at a recent meeting of the Congress’ central leadership with senior West Bengal leaders, formally ends the party’s electoral partnership with the Left that spanned the 2016 and 2021 As-

sembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, without yielding any meaningful revival for either side.

The fallout of the break-up between the Left and the Congress is expected to accelerate polarisation, with the BJP emerging as the principal beneficiary of consolidated anti-incumbency votes and the TMC trying to tighten its grip over the state’s nearly 30 per cent minority electorate.

While Congress leaders like Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury fa-

Construction of Babri-style mosque begins in Bengal

Kabir, who recently floated Janata Unnayan Party, announced that the mosque at Rejinagar in Beldanga would be completed within two years and would cost around ₹50-55 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rejinagar, Feb 11: Suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir Wednesday began the construction of the much-hyped mosque, – modelled on Ayodhya’s Babri Masjid – in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district.

Kabir, who recently floated the Janata Unnayan Party (JUP) following his ouster from the Trinamool Congress, announced that the mosque at Rejinagar in Beldanga would be completed within two years and would cost around ₹50-55 crore.

The mosque is being built on an 11-acre plot and will have the capacity to accommodate about 12,000 people to offer Namaz.

Amid the excitement of religious leaders and a few thousand residents from in and around Beldanga, construction workers began the brick-laying ceremony for the structure at around noon, with Kabir stating that the building of the mosque remained on course despite resistance from multiple quarters.

Many supporters were seen carrying bricks on their heads as a gesture of participation in the construction.

“To those who are opposing, I would say step aside. People are free to follow their own religions and build temples, churches, or whatever they wish. I will not oppose anyone in the name of Islam. My effort is for Islam to please Allah and perform my devotion, it is not about imposing anything,” the JUP chief said.

“There’s no force on earth which can stop the construction of this mosque. By the grace of God, we will finish its construction within two years. It will be built at a cost of ₹50-55 crore,” he added.



Kabir, however, announced that he would, for now, keep the scheduled ‘Babri Yatra’ – a 235-km rally from Nadia’s Palashi to Itahar in Uttar Dinajpur district – on hold in the wake of the ongoing board exams.

Instead, the leader announced that he will hold a 22-km march Thursday from Palashi to Beldanga.

“I have been informed by Malda police that the Babri Yatra would inconvenience the examinees of Madhyamik exams. I have, hence, decided to postpone that event which was supposed to be held with a convoy of 100 cars. Instead, I will hold a march on foot from Palashi to Beldanga, the site of the under-construction mosque, with 50,000 people,” he said.

Kabir laid the foundation stone for a mosque, modelled on Ayodhya’s Babri Masjid, December 6 last year. The move, timed with the anniversary of the demolition of the 16th-century structure by a right-wing mob in December 1992, triggered sharp political reactions across West Bengal. Kabir reportedly raised over ₹2.85 crore

in donations within the first two days.

The TMC MLA from Bharatpur was suspended by his party for allegedly carrying out anti-party activities shortly after he announced the building of the mosque’s replica, following which he floated his own outfit.

Kabir also kicked up a political storm in the state after he announced that his party would take on both the TMC and the BJP in the upcoming state polls by contesting in 135 out of 294 Assembly seats.

Kabir has, so far held preliminary seat sharing talks with multiple opposition parties, including the CPI(M) and Asaduddin Owasi’s AIMIM, but is yet to formally stitch an alliance with any of them. The BJP has referred to the JUP as the TMC’s “B-team”, a claim the latter has rejected.

Responding to the day’s development, BJP leader Dilip Ghosh said the construction was aimed at “consolidating Muslim vote bank” but would have little impact on Bengal’s voters.

“Humayun Kabir is building the mosque for the same reason

Mamata Banerjee is constructing temples across the state, which is to consolidate voters along communal lines. That will have no impact on the electorate because people require development,” he alleged.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said Tuesday, that the Babri Masjid would never be rebuilt till ‘Qayamat’ (Day of Judgment).

Kabir, meanwhile, finds himself embroiled in a fresh controversy after the state police Tuesday attached properties worth around ₹11 crore belonging to a few of his relatives in connection with a long-standing drug trafficking case.

Alleging vendetta on part of the TMC government, Kabir announced from the construction site of the mosque that he would lay siege to the office of SP Murshidabad February 14.

“This is the TMC’s style of payback since I have now politically taken it. I will move court. But before that, I will gherao the Murshidabad SP’s office Saturday with one lakh people. I have enough evidence to prove that my relatives are being framed,” he declared.

Altogether 14 properties, including land, houses and commercial establishments in areas such as Naldahari in Murshidabad district’s Laigola, 15 bank accounts and vehicles are being attached as part of the legal process, Superintendent of Police Dhritiman Sarkar told reporters. The process to attach the assets of Shariful Islam, the father-in-law of Kabir’s daughter, was initiated after allegations were made that the properties were acquired through the narcotics trade over the past several years, he said.

Kerala puts ageing at centre of policy



The policy assumes special significance as the elderly population in the state is steadily increasing and currently constitutes 16.5 per cent of the total population--the highest proportion in the country and the fastest growing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 11: The Kerala Cabinet Wednesday approved a new elderly policy--likely the first by any Indian state--setting out an inclusive, equality-driven framework to safeguard the dignity and welfare of older citizens.

The policy assumes special significance as the elderly population in the state is steadily increasing and currently constitutes 16.5 per cent of the total population--the highest proportion in the country and the fastest growing. This figure is expected to reach 23 per cent of the population by 2036.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Higher Education, R Bindu, said the policy would promote active and healthy ageing and ensure the social and mental wellbeing of the elderly in the state.

“The policy will strengthen integrated care facilities with the support of local self-governments, health workers and non-governmental organisations,” Bindu said at a press conference here.

The policy envisages ensuring solidarity between generations, as well as equality, inclusiveness and justice, to enable a better quality of life for the elderly.

The key takeaways from the policy include a lifelong learning programme and a lifelong health monitoring and manage-

ment system.

It seeks to view ageing not as a stage of weakness, but as a phase of continued growth, contribution and self-realisation, and to ensure the sustained contribution of the elderly to society.

The policy also ensures insurance coverage for elderly workers in the unorganised sector, the establishment of social care centres, and the provision of training for caregivers of the elderly, especially those caring for aged persons with special conditions.

The new policy also mandates elderly-friendly facilities in all buildings, including homes and public spaces. It further aims to strengthen existing laws for the protection of the elderly in order to prevent atrocities against them.

The policy also stresses the need to improve digital literacy among the elderly and to train them in new technological advancements to make their lives easier. It additionally proposes technology training sessions and internship programmes for the elderly.

The expertise of the elderly in their respective fields will be utilised to ensure their social and financial security, Bindu said.

“The policy also promises to bring elderly care into the mainstream of administration and policy-making. It further aims to locally incorporate global role model programmes. We will also initiate studies in geriatrics and provide training in caregiving for age-related special conditions,” the Minister added.

All essential services for the elderly will be provided at their doorsteps, and a social network to provide care and assistance to elderly persons living alone will be expanded across the state.

Kerala already has a wide-spread, well-trained and extensive pain and palliative care network, and the services of this network will also be integrated to enhance elderly care.

MENSTRUAL HEALTH AWARENESS DRIVE

BENGAL HONOURS ‘PADWOMAN’ PRITI MINJ

For the past 10 years, Minj has been working tirelessly to break taboos, ignorance and social barriers surrounding menstruation in tea garden areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 11: The West Bengal government honoured ‘Padwoman’ Priti Minj, in recognition of her decade-long work in spreading menstrual health awareness among adolescent girls and young

women in remote tea garden areas of the Doars region, an official said Wednesday.

Minister Bulu Chik Baraik handed over a certificate on behalf of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to Minj, a tribal, at her residence in Odlabari of Jalpaiguri district Tuesday.

For the past 10 years, Minj has been working tirelessly to break taboos, ignorance and social barriers surrounding menstruation in tea garden areas. Going door-to-door across labour lines, she has been counselling girls and women on menstrual hygiene, stressing the importance of safe practices and encouraging the use of sanitary napkins.



“Despite social and economic challenges, she remained steadfast in her mission. Her work has significantly improved awareness and hy-

giene practices among thousands of girls,” a senior state government official said.

Over the years, Minj’s efforts have led to thousands of adolescent girls and young women adopting sanitary napkins, contributing not only to better health outcomes but also to enhanced confidence and self-esteem. Her sustained campaign earned her the moniker ‘Padwoman’ in the region.

Baraik, the Backward Class Welfare and Tribal development minister, said, “Women like Priti are the real strength of society. The movement she has built around menstrual health awareness in remote tea garden areas is exemplary and can serve as a model for other parts of the state.”

An emotional Minj thanked the chief minister for the recognition.

“I never started this work expecting awards or recognition. I only wanted my sisters to stay healthy and take care of their bodies without shame or fear. This recognition from the chief minister has increased my responsibility,” she said.

News of her selfless work had reached the state administrative headquarters at ‘Nabanna’, prompting the special recognition, another official at the state secretariat said.

Minj has previously been honoured by several voluntary organisations and social groups.

of the day uote

Technology is a powerful instrument of empowerment and inclusion, capable of bridging the gap between hope and opportunity. AI will play a central role in advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047. Earlier phases of educational technology focused on expanding access to learning content but the next phase must prioritise improving learning outcomes

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ujjain has been transformed into a hub of global spiritual tourism through the Mahakal Lok, and it is now preparing for Simhastha 2028

More than 10 lakh beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the initiative. In the first phase, 10,18,390 women and trans women will receive the assistance

POST OF THE DAY

The middle class is being sandwiched between the rich class and the poor class. The middle class is caught between rising costs and rising taxes. For the middle class, this Budget had one message. Carry on as you were. In Parliament, I pointed out that there was no revision in income tax slabs and no increase in standard deduction, despite stagnant salaries and inflation at 6.8%. I urged the Finance Minister to correct this in this Budget itself by raising the standard deduction from RS 75,000 to RS 1.5 lakh for the salaried class. Meanwhile, household costs keep climbing. Education 8%. Healthcare 9%, rent 7%, food 6%, transport 5%. For the first time in years, personal income tax collections are higher than corporate tax. Individuals paid around RS 11 lakh crore, corporates about RS 9.8 lakh crore. Either give tax relief, or give investment savings & incentives so the middle class can save more and build wealth.

Businessman shot dead

Dehradun: A 42-year-old businessman was shot dead allegedly by two scooter-borne assailants in broad daylight here Wednesday, police said, adding that the wife of the deceased has alleged her mother-in-law's role in the incident. Preliminary investigations revealed that the deceased, Arjun Sharma, owner of Amardeep Gas Agency, had a family dispute and his mother, Bina Sharma, had sought protection from the Uttarakhand High Court, citing a threat to her life from the deceased. Dehradun City Superintendent of Police Pramod Kumar said that the incident occurred at around 10.30 am outside a temple in the Tibetan Market, when Arjun Sharma, a resident of Indira Nagar in the Vasant Vihar area, was about to get into his car to go home after coming out of the stadium after playing tennis as usual. Kumar said that two assailants on a scooter opened fire on Sharma. He was taken to Doon Hospital, where he was declared dead.



Elephants graze at a tea garden, on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam



A consensus will be evolved to further chalk out a pro-industry action plan for the overall industrial development in the state after marathon discussions with international industrial giants

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

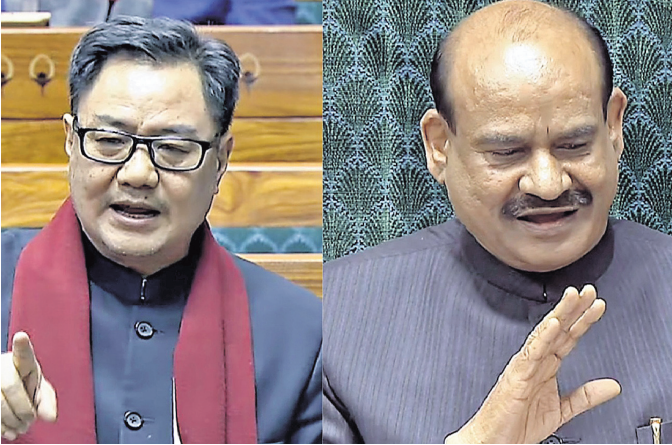
Cong MPs abused Birla in his chamber: Rijiju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju Wednesday claimed that 20 to 25 Congress MPs had abused Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in his chamber and they were not stopped by senior leaders K C Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who were present there.

The parliamentary affairs minister said that Birla was very hurt. The Lok Sabha speaker is a very lenient, else he could have taken strong action, he said. "Some members went to his chamber and abused (Birla). When 20-25 Congress MPs went to the speaker's chamber, I also went there. I just can't utter the kind of abuses they have hurled at the speaker," Rijiju told reporters in the Parliament House complex. He claimed that Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior Congress leaders were present in the chamber when the incident happened. "They were encouraging (the Congress MPs). Had our MPs misbehaved with anyone, our leader would stop them. But their leaders were egging on the MPs to quarrel," he alleged. Rijiju claimed the Congress MPs did not obey even the Speaker's rulings. "Then Rahul Gandhi said he does not need anyone's permission to speak (in Lok Sabha). He will speak as he pleases, irrespective of rules. This is on record," the minister told reporters.

"You have to take permis-



sion from the chair. Unless the chair gives permission, no member can speak. Even the prime minister speaks with the permission of the chair," he pointed out.

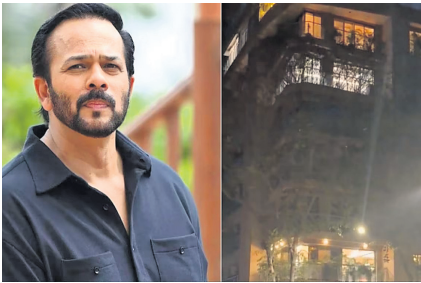
About Rahul Gandhi's insistence on speaking on the unpublished memoir of General M M Naravane (retired) in the Lok Sabha, Rijiju said conversations between the prime minister and the defence minister, the army chief and the defence minister or between the army chief and his junior officers can't be discussed in public. "If everything is to be discussed in public, how can you maintain the security for the nation?" he wondered. "The entire country can see how an MP is trying to use a very sensitive matter related to the country's security as an instrument to drive political mileage." "Gandhi should understand that he is an honourable mem-

ber of Parliament. He owes a certain responsibility to the people of this country. You have the obligation to maintain the decorum of the House and also think about the interest of the nation," he said.

The minister said it was difficult to make Rahul Gandhi understand the issues. The Lok Sabha has been witnessing disruptions since February 2, after Congress leader Rahul 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.

FIRING AT ROHIT SHETTY'S HOME MEANT TO CREATE TERROR: COPS

The accused involved in the firing at film-maker Rohit Shetty's residence here wanted to create terror in the city, police told a court Wednesday while invoking the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) in the case



Rafale, Su-30, Tejas to be part of 'Vayu Shakti' at Pokharan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: The Indian Air Force will demonstrate its full spectrum of combat and firepower capabilities during Exercise 'Vayu Shakti' at the Pokharan range close to the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan February 27, which will also highlight the success of Operation Sindoor and the IAF's ability to "rapidly punish the enemy" and dominate the operational environment.

More than 120 air assets, comprising 77 fighter jets, which include Rafale, Su-30MKI, MiG-29, LCA Tejas, Jaguar, Mirage-2000; Apache, Chinook and LCH Prachand, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), among helicopters, and eight transport aircraft will be part of the exercise, with C-295 making its debut in the drill, according to IAF officials. "C-295 will be part of this exercise for the first time, and it will showcase its night operation capabilities. Also, among 277 weapons overall, surface-to-air guided weapons such as Akash, SpyDer,



will be showcased. There will be integrated and joint operation with the Indian Army too, with their M-777 (howitzer), L-70 and troops of Special Forces taking part in the exercise, which will run for about 2 hours and 35 minutes," Wg Cdr Ajit B Wasane said.

At a curtain-raiser press conference here, he made a PowerPoint presentation on it and said, 'Vayu Shakti', which will take place at Pokharan Air to Ground range in a "near-realistic warfare scenario", will also highlight the successful role of the IAF during Operation Sindoor. India launched Operation Sindoor May 7 last year to destroy terror infrastructure at nine places in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the April 22 Pahal-gam terror attack.

CBSE to implement on screen marking for Class XII board exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will implement on-screen marking (OSM) for evaluation of Class XII answer books from this year, according to officials.

However, evaluation of class 10 answer books will continue in physical mode as before, they said.

"In its continuous effort to enhance efficiency and transparency, the board has decided to introduce On-Screen Marking (OSM) for the evaluation of class 12 answer books beginning with the 2026 examinations. Evaluation of Class X answer books will continue in physical mode as before in 2026," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

The official explained the move will improve coordination and reduce manual intervention, besides eliminating totalling errors.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EARTH DAM DIVISION, CHITRAKONDA DISTRICT : MALKANGIRI
 E-mail ID : executiveengineereddckd@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.SE-EDD-CKD-03/2025-26
 1. Type of Works : River Bank Flood Protection Work, 2. Total No. of Works : One (01) No., 3. Estimated Cost : Rs.98.63 Lakh, 4. Period of Completion : Six (6) Calendar Months, 5. Class of Contractor : 'B' Class

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability and submission of Bids-online From To | Opening of Tender |
|--|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Superintending Engineer, Earth Dam Division, Chitrakonda | SE-EDD-CKD-03/2025-26 | 16.02.2026 10.00 A.M. upto 5.00 P.M. | 05.03.2026 At 10.30 A.M. on wards at O/o S.E., Earth Dam Division, Chitrakonda |

 Date of opening of the Tender / Bid : 05.03.2026 at 10.30 A.M.
 Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Earth Dam Division, Chitrakonda, Malkangiri (O)
 OIPR-32001/32019/1/25-26/0001

No.8001/58/2526
Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. FE&CC-DFQ(T) KJR-05/2025-26
 No.50 dated. 10.02.2026
 e-mail ID : dfo.keonjhar@odisha.gov.in

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. No. of the work | : 16 Nos. RCC Check dam 09 Nos Earthen Garded Bund 08 Nos Water bodies |
| 2. Eastimated cost | : From Rs.6.44 lakh to Rs.39.30 Lakh |
| 3. Period of completion | : 30 days |
| 4. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal | : From 10.00 Hour of 12.02.2026 to 17.00 Hour of 20.02.2026 |
| 5. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal | : 17.00 Hour of 20.02.2026 |
| 6. Date of opening of Bid from Portal | : 10.00 Hour of 21.02.2026 |
| 7. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid | : Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, Keonjhar |

 Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"
 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Keonjhar Division
 OIPR-8001/8042/1/25-26/0001

ଉତ୍କଳା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଉତ୍କଳା
E-Procurement Notice
 No. : 192/NAC Dt.05.02.2026
 Bid Identification No. UDNLN-03/2025-26
 No.13001/187/2526 : Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, time of copletion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app>

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of the Work | : As mentioned in DTGN |
| 2. No. of works | : 06 nos. |
| 3. Estimated Cost | : As per Work List |
| 4. Period of Completion | : As per DTGN |
| 5. Date and Time of Bidding | : 10.00 A.M. of 06.02.2026 |
| 6. Last date and time for receipt | : 18.02.2026 upto 3.30 P.M. |
| 7. Bids received online shall be opened on | : 18.02.2026 from 04.00 P.M. onwards |
| 8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid | : Executive Officer, Udala NAC |

 Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app>
 Sd./- Executive Officer Udala NAC, Udala
 OIPR-13001/13162/1/25-26/0002

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, ITDA, KAPTIPADA, UDALA e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No.ITDAKPD-05/2025-26
 No.218/ITDA, Dt.02.02.26
 No.19001/29/2526: The Project Administrator, ITDA, Kaptipada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in online mode for Construction of the Work detailed below.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Nature of the Work | : Const. of Hostel Building |
| 2. Total No. of Work | : 01 (One) |
| 3. Class of Contractor | : 'B' & 'A' Class |
| 4. Period of Completion | : Fourteen Calendar Months |
| 5. Cost of the Project | : 2,68,32,061/- |
| 6. Availability of Bid | : 10.00 AM of 13.02.2026 to 5.00 P.M. of 01.03.26 |
| 7. Date of Opening of the Tender | : 11.00 AM on 02.03.26 |

 The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. The details will be available in the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 13.02.2026 to 5.00 PM of 01.03.26.
 Sd./- Project Administrator ITDA, Kaptipada, Udala
 OIPR-19001/19010/1/25-26/0001

No.13001/170/2526
OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
 Udit Nagar, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundargarh (Odisha) Pin-769012
 Website : www.rmc.nic.in, Emailid : rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com
 No.1807 Date: 07.02.2026
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR UNDERTAKING THE ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) PROGRAMME OF DOGS UNDER JURISDICTION OF ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION"
 Detail technical specifications, along with terms & conditions etc. may be seen from the Website of Rourkela Municipal Corporation i.e. www.rmc.nic.in. Date of issue of tender documents from dtd. 07.02.2026.
 The last date for receipt of sealed tender is till P.M. through Speed Post/ Regd. Post /Courier/ or by hand in the office address of the undersigned.
 Sd./- Commissioner Rourkela Municipal Corporation
 OIPR-13001/13131/1/25-26/0036

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank REGIONAL OFFICE, CUTTACK Shreeji Complex, Cuttack Town, Unit No. 17, Machhua Bazar, Behind Pantaloons, Cuttack - 753001 DEMAND NOTICE Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

| Branch / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) | (A) Loan/Limit Sanctioned / (B) Date of NPA / (C) Date of Demand Notice | Total Liabilities due on Specified Date | Description of the immovable property mortgaged to the Bank |
|---|---|--|---|
| GOPINATHPUR BRANCH (1) Shri Shakti Ranjan Sahoo (Borrower), S/o: Late Upendra Nath Sahoo, (2) Shri Dipti Ranjan Sahoo (Borrower), S/o: Late Upendra Nath Sahoo, (3) Smt Padmabati Sahoo (Legal Heir of Mortgagor Late Upendra Nath Sahoo), W/o: Late Upendra Nath Sahoo, (4) Smt Pramila Sahoo (Legal Heir of Mortgagor Late Upendra Nath Sahoo), D/o: Late Upendra Nath Sahoo, (5) Smt Janaki Sahoo (Legal Heir of Mortgagor Late Upendra Nath Sahoo), D/o: Late Upendra Nath Sahoo, all are address At Madhyashasan, Nuagan, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha- 754111. | (A)Rs.5,00,000/- / (B) 01.01.2026 / (C) 10.02.2026 | Rs.1,09,836.10 as on 10.02.2026 with further interest and incidental expenses and cost | All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Late Upendra Nath Sahoo consisting of Plot No.74 in Khata No. 67at Mouza - Haladiapada, P.S : Biridi, P.S No.14, Tahashil No.14, having Area : A0.62dec., Kissam - Gharabari within the Registration Subdistrict - Jagatsinghpur and District - Jagatsinghpur, Bounded by: North - Krishna Chandra Sahoo, South - Road, East - Rabindra Nath Sahoo, West - Upendra Nath Sahoo / Mortgager . |

You, the above Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) have committed default in repayment of loan as mentioned in above table with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The Bank had issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-performing Asset. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharged the entire liabilities as on date with further interest thereon in the above referred to us as Secured Creditor, within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which we shall be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above security interest Act-2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the Secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said security interest Act-2002 is an offence. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above security interest Act 2002 and / or any other law in force. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the Act and / or other law in force, Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequences. In case the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub section(2), the Secured Creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely, (a) take of possession of secured asses of the borrower(s) including the right to transfer by way to lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset. (b) Take over the management of the business of the borrower(s) including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the borrower is held as security for the debt provided further that where the management of whole of the business of part of the business is severable, that secured creditor shall be take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act .

Date: 11.02.2026, Place : Cuttack Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

international

of the day quote

I will present to the president our perceptions of the principles in the negotiations

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

We seek positive relationships with our neighbouring countries and with friends around the world. India is our nearest neighbour, and it will remain a priority. Our goal is not to create conflict but to build partnerships for development and peace. Mutual respect and trust are essential

SHAFIQUR RAHMAN | JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI CHIEF, BANGLADESH

The first Labour peer of Indian origin, Lord Desai's remarkable journey was defined by a restless curiosity and an unshakable commitment to advancing human understanding

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

SHORT TAKES

Cyclone Gezani hits Madagascar, kills 20

Antananarivo (Madagascar): At least 20 people are dead after Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall in Madagascar's main port city and collapsed houses on the Indian Ocean island, authorities said Wednesday. Wind speeds exceeded 195 kph (121 mph), and Madagascar's weather service issued red alerts for several regions warning of possible floods and landslides as Gezani moved across the large island of 31 million people, many of whom live in poverty and have inadequate shelter from storms. Madagascar is especially vulnerable to cyclones blowing in off the Indian Ocean and was battered by another deadly cyclone less than two weeks ago.

Greek, Turkish leaders to hold talks in Ankara

Ankara: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is visiting Türkiye Wednesday as part of an effort to sustain dialogue at a time when tensions between the two long-time rivals are rising. Mitsotakis, who is expected to be accompanied by a delegation of senior ministers, will meet President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the so-called High-Level Cooperation Council - a fence-mending initiative that was launched to improve ties between the two NATO allies. Greece and Türkiye remain at odds over a series of issues, including maritime boundaries, Cyprus, and drilling rights in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean seas.

US Energy Secy visits Venezuela

Caracas: The United States government Wednesday further asserted its self-appointed role in turning around Venezuela's dilapidated oil industry with the arrival of Energy Secretary Chris Wright to the South American country for a firsthand assessment. Wright's visit comes as the administration of US President Donald Trump continues to lift sanctions to allow foreign companies to operate in Venezuela and help rebuild the nation's most important industry. It follows last month's enactment of a Venezuelan law that opened the nation's oil sector to private investment, reversing a tenet of the self-proclaimed socialist movement that has ruled the country for more than two decades.



This malicious or irresponsible use of drones affects the protection of critical infrastructure, also our external borders, ports, transport hubs and public spaces

HENNA VIRKKUNEN | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

WORLD'S BUSIEST AIRPORT

Dubai International Airport maintained its crown as the world's busiest airport last year as officials said Wednesday that a record 95.2 million passengers transited through its terminals, part of the emirate's continued economic boom



Russia, facing labour crunch, pivots to India for workers

REUTERS

Moscow, Feb 11: A group of weary-looking Indian men carrying sports bags queued at passport control at a busy Moscow airport one recent evening after flying over 2,700 miles - and via Uzbekistan - to get work.

"I have a contract for one year. In the rubbish disposal business. The money is good," said Ajit, one of the men, speaking in English.

Faced with what the authorities say is an immediate shortage of at least 2.3 million workers, a shortfall exacerbated by the strain of Russia's war in Ukraine and one that Russia's

traditional source of foreign labour - Central Asians - is not able to fill, Moscow is turning to a new supplier: India.

INDIAN INFLUX HELPS RUSSIA MAKE UP LABOUR SHORTFALL

In 2021, a year before Russia sent its troops into Ukraine, some 5,000 work permits were approved for Indian nationals. Last year, almost 72,000 permits were okayed for Indians - nearly a third of the total annual quota for migrant workers on visas.

"Currently, expatriate employees from India are the most popular," said Alexei Filipenkov, director of a company that brings in Indian workers.

He said workers from ex-Soviet Central Asia, who do not need



Russia needs at least 2.3 million workers

Migrant labour crucial to its war economy

Russia using fewer workers from Central Asia

Thousands of Indian workers being flown in instead

visas, had stopped coming in sufficient numbers. Official figures

show they still made up the majority of some 2.3 million legal

Gunman who fired shots in Thai school detained

REUTERS

Bangkok, Feb 11: A gunman who used a firearm stolen from a police officer to wound a teacher and a girl at a school in southern Thailand's Hat Yai district Wednesday has been detained, authorities said.

The 17-year-old suspect entered Patongprathankiriwat School in Songkhla Province's Hat Yai earlier in the day, appearing agitated, the provincial government said in a statement.

The suspect has a sister at the school, police commander Teerasak Chaiyotha said, but a motive has yet to be determined.

A female teacher was critically injured and had undergone surgery and was now in an intensive care unit, while a teen girl was shot in the waist and was now in stable condition, he added.

In a photograph shared by police, the suspect, barefoot and wearing shorts and a T-shirt, is shown pinned to the ground by armed officers.

He had earlier attacked a police officer and stolen his firearm, provincial governor Rattasart Chidchoo said, adding that the suspect had a history of substance abuse and was discharged from a psychiatric hospital in December.

In a video obtained by Reuters, armed police officers storm the three-storey school building as gunfire rings out.

Iran commemorates 1979 revolution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Feb 11: Iran marked the 47th anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution Wednesday as the country's theocracy remains under pressure, both from US President Donald Trump, who suggested sending another aircraft carrier group to the Middle East, and a public angrily denouncing Tehran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests.

The commemoration represented a spit-screen view of life in Iran, with state television showing hundreds of thousands of people across the country attending pro-government rallies, which included the burning of American flags and cries of "Death to America!" The night before, as government-sponsored fireworks lit the dark sky, witnesses heard shouts from people's homes in the Iranian capital, Tehran, of "Death to the dictator!"

Meanwhile, President Masoud Pezeshkian got on stage at Azadi Square in Tehran and insisted that Iran is willing to negotiate over its nuclear programme as fledgling nuclear talks with America hang in the balance.

Whether the talks succeed remains an open question - and Mideast nations fear their collapse could plunge the region into another regional war. A top Iranian security official travelled to Qatar Wednesday after earlier visiting Oman, which has mediated this latest round of negotiations. Just before the official's arrival, Qatar's ruling emir received a phone call from Trump.

In his speech at the anniversary ceremony, Pezeshkian also insisted that his nation was "not seeking nuclear weapons... and is ready for any kind of verification." However, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog - the International Atomic Energy Agency - has been unable for months to inspect and verify Iran's nuclear stockpile.

"The high wall of mistrust that the United States and Europe have created through their past statements and actions does not allow these talks to reach a conclusion," Pezeshkian said.

Yet moments later, he added, "At the same time, we are engaging with full determination in dialogue aimed at peace and stability in the region alongside our neighbouring countries."

Except Trump, nobody stated India's refusal to buy Russian oil: Lavrov



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Feb 11: Except US President Donald Trump, nobody else has declared that India will stop buying Russian oil, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the country's parliament Wednesday.

Lavrov's comments came two days after Russia accused the US of attempting to prevent India and other countries from buying Russian oil, saying Washington was using a wide range of "coercive" measures, including tariffs, sanctions and direct prohibitions. Responding to a lawmaker in the State Duma (Lower House) Wednesday, Lavrov said, "You mentioned that Donald Trump announced India's agreement to no longer purchase Russian oil. I have not heard such a statement from anyone else, including Prime Minister Modi and other Indian leaders."

Lavrov noted that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, setting the trend for India's chairmanship of BRICS, told the first meeting of sherpas in New Delhi that energy security will be one of the top items of the BRICS summit, expected to be

attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Speaking during the Government Hour of the State Duma, which hears cabinet ministers who report about the performance of their ministries, Lavrov said, President Putin's state visit to India in December 2025 had further enriched relations between Moscow and New Delhi.

"In particular, a substantial package of joint documents was signed during President Putin's state visit to India last December. This visit enriched Russian-Indian relations, creating a special, privileged strategic partnership," Lavrov underscored. A new meeting between the two countries' leaders is expected to take place on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, which will be held this year under the Indian chairmanship, Lavrov said.

Russia is ready to go as far in relations with India as New Delhi would desire, he said, adding, the sky is the limit.

India formally assumed January 1, 2026, the chairmanship of BRICS, a 10-member bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with five new members.

Earlier, accusing the US of using "unfair methods" to suppress competitors by imposing sanctions on Russian oil companies, Lavrov said in an interview with TV BRICS Monday, "(The US) is attempting to control our trade, investment cooperation, and military-technical ties with major strategic partners, such as India and other BRICS members."



A worshiper cleans a sacred figure statue ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations, welcoming the Year of the Horse, at the Amurva Bhumi temple, in Jakarta, Indonesia

REUTERS

Shooter opens fire at Canadian high school

REUTERS

Vancouver, Feb 11: Ten people including the shooter are dead after an assailant opened fire at a high school in western Canada Tuesday in one of the country's deadliest mass casualty events in recent history.

The attack brought to Canada the type of mass shooting more common in the neighboring United States, and was carried out by a shooter described as female, police said.

Six people were found dead inside a high school in the town of Tumbler Ridge, in British Columbia, two more people were found dead at a residence believed to be connected to the incident, and another person died on the way to hospital, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

At least two other people



were hospitalized with serious or life-threatening wounds, and as many as 25 people were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

Police did not say how many of the victims may have been minors. Parents gathered in a local community center as they waited to learn the fate of their children.

"It was a situation that you really never want to face again ... the sight of what I saw was devastating, many parents just waiting for the news on wheth-

foreign workers not requiring a visa last year, however.

But a weaker rouble, tougher migration laws, and increasingly sharp anti-immigrant rhetoric from Russian politicians have eroded their numbers and encouraged Moscow to boost visa quotas for workers from elsewhere.

The choice of India for unskilled labour reflects strong defence and economic ties between Moscow and New Delhi.

India has been buying discounted Russian oil that Moscow - due to Western sanctions - cannot easily sell elsewhere, although that may now be in question.

President Vladimir Putin

and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed a deal in December to make it easier for Indians to work in Russia. Denis Manturov, Russia's first deputy prime minister, said at the time that Russia could accept an "unlimited number" of Indian workers.

At least 800,000 people were needed in manufacturing, and another 1.5 million in the service and construction sectors, he said. US pressure on India to halt its purchases of Russian oil - something President Donald Trump has linked to a trade deal between the United States and India announced this month - could yet dampen Moscow's appetite for Indian workers.

B'desh gears up for crucial general polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Feb 11: Bangladesh will hold its crucial parliamentary elections Thursday, 18 months after an interim government took charge following the collapse of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year-old regime in massive nationwide protests.

The Election Commission has made elaborate security arrangements, deploying nearly one million security personnel - the largest-ever in the country's electoral history. The 13th Parliamentary elections are being held simultaneously along with a referendum on a complex 84-point reform package.

The contest is mainly between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of Hasina's now disbanded Awami League. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' interim government last year disbanded the Awami League and barred it from contesting the polls.

The voting will begin simultaneously in 299 parliamentary constituencies across the country from 7:30 am and will continue until 4:30 pm. Voting in one constituency has been cancelled due to the death of a candidate.

A total of 1,755 candidates from 50 political parties and 273 independents are contesting in the election. The BNP has fielded the highest number of 291 candidates. There are 83 female candidates.

"All of you should exercise your respective voting rights consciously..." Chief Adviser Yunus said in a message Wednesday. Yunus, who has promised to quickly transfer power to the elected government, urged the political parties, candidates and other concerned parties to maintain restraint, tolerance and democratic behaviour on the polling day.

"The countrymen, through this national election, will elect people's representatives, who are competent, responsible and respectful of the people's aspirations," he said.

Mentioning that a free, fair, impartial and acceptable election is the foundation of a democratic state, he said the present interim government is fully committed to achieving this goal ultimately.

of the day

quote

India's quick-commerce ecosystem is moving from scale-first growth to efficiency and intelligence-led expansion

ANUPAMA BHIMRAJKA

VP (MARKETING), FOUNDIT

India is rapidly emerging as one of the most important and dynamic automation markets in Asia Pacific

POI TOONG TANG

VP (SALES), ASIA PACIFIC, TERADYNE ROBOTICS

In a country where connectivity is powering opportunity at every level, trust has become our most valuable digital asset

RISHIT JHUNJHUNWALA

CEO, TRUECALLER

Q3 RESULTS

Patanjali Foods profit surges 60%

New Delhi: Patanjali Foods Ltd, which is mainly into edible oils, Wednesday reported a 60 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 593.44 crore for December quarter FY26 on higher income. Its net profit stood at Rs 370.88 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 10,541.12 crore in the quarter from Rs 9,020.38 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. Demand for edible oil has remained strong over the past few quarters even as other consumer goods have faced a slowdown, as it is a staple for cooking in the world's most populous country. "Driven by disciplined execution of our business strategies over recent quarters, the Company achieved its strongest financial performance to date across multiple metrics, even amid a dynamic operating environment," CEO Sanjeev Asthana said.

M&M PAT surges

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd Wednesday reported a 38.54 jump in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 5,021.47 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025 propelled mainly by strong performance of the auto and farm sector. The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 3,624.48 crore a year ago, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the third quarter stood at Rs 51,579.95 crore as compared to Rs 41,464.98 crore in the year-ago period, it added. This is the first time M&M has crossed Rs 50,000 crore revenue on a consolidated basis. Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 41,464.98 crore as compared to Rs 37,096.65 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said.

LG Electronics drops

Mumbai: LG Electronics India reported a near 62% drop in third-quarter profit Wednesday, hit by weaker performance in its home appliances and air solutions business amid soft demand for cooling appliances in Asia's third-largest economy. The Indian unit of South Korea's LG Electronics posted a standalone profit of Rs 896.7 million (\$9.89 million) for the quarter ended December 31, down from Rs 2.33 billion a year earlier. India remains one of LG Electronics' key overseas markets, contributing 4.3% to its 2024 global revenue and an outsized share of profits, supported by strong margins, broad segment reach and an extensive distribution network, JP Morgan analysts said.



Tax payers' confidence are equally important. Changes that affect cashflow or certain matters must be accompanied by safeguards. The honest tax payers must feel protected, not anxious

HD DEVEGOWDA | FORMER PRIME MINISTER

LTIMINDTREE REBRANDS AS LTM LIMITED

IT services firm LTIMindtree Wednesday said that it has rebranded itself as 'LTM Limited', marking a significant shift in its corporate identity years after the high-profile merger of L&T Infotech and Mind-tree. The company, a part of the Larsen & Toubro Group, said the new brand reflects its evolution into a global technology powerhouse and its readiness for the next phase of growth in the digital era



INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

\$500bn import push raises deficit risk

RAISING US IMPORTS IMPLIES POLICY PUSH ON CORPORATE SOURCING

REUTERS

New Delhi, Feb 11: India's stated intention to buy \$500 billion of US goods over five years under a trade deal is drawing scepticism, with economists warning it could distort commercial procurement and sharply reshape New Delhi's trade balance.

US President Donald Trump last week said he will slash tariffs on Indian goods to 18% from 50%, sparking relief in India. But he asked New Delhi to more than double its annual imports of US goods in return. Bilateral trade was \$132 billion in 2024-25, with a roughly \$41 billion surplus in India's favour.

Trade experts and economists questioned whether \$100 billion a year in imports was feasible without an explicit policy push that steers companies towards American suppliers. "The math doesn't add up," said Madhavi Arora, an econo-



mist at Emkay Global, calling the target more "aspirational than realistic".

A joint statement issued by the two nations said India intends to buy \$500 billion of US goods - language that stops short of a binding commitment.

But Trump has shown little patience with countries that

fall short, including a late-January move to raise tariffs on some South Korean goods back to 25% from 15% after saying Seoul failed to legislate an earlier deal.

India aims to step up procurement of oil, gas, coking coal and aircraft from the US, both nations said in the

The markets seem to be treating the \$500 billion purchase intention with a degree of skepticism

DHIRAJ NIM | ECONOMIST, ANZ

Bilateral trade was \$132bn in 2024-25, with a roughly \$41bn surplus in India's favour

joint statement.

Arora cautioned such targets can imply a government nudge to private airline and corporate sourcing decisions, which may be inefficient.

While India has cited large Boeing orders as part of the plan, some analysts say firms could still favour Airbus if commercial terms are better.

Indian markets steadied after staging an initial relief rally, but economists said

Shares flat after three-day rally

Benchmarks had risen nearly 1.2% in the last three sessions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 11: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed on a flat note in a choppy session on Wednesday as gains in PSU banks and auto shares were offset by losses in IT stocks.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 40.28 points, or 0.05 per cent, to close at 84,233.64. During the day, it hit a high of 84,487.34 and a low of 84,081.25.

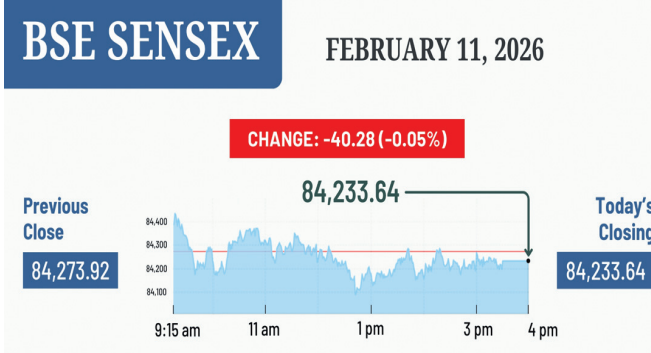
The NSE Nifty inched up 18.70 points, or 0.07 per cent, to settle at 25,953.85.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Eternal, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, Titan, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

On the other hand, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, IndiGo, Trent, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Hindustan Unilever, and Bharat Electronics Ltd were among the gainers.

"Domestic equities may enter a brief consolidation phase following this week's strong rally driven by the US-India trade deal. Market attention has shifted back to mixed Q3 results, upcoming monthly inflation data, and finer details of the trade agreement, which is reportedly nearing finalisation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

A total of 2,316 stocks de-



| | |
|----------|---------|
| SBIN | +3.40 % |
| MARUTI | +1.70 % |
| INDIGO | +1.06 % |
| TRENT | +0.88 % |
| RELIANCE | +0.69 % |

TOP GAINERS

| | |
|----------|---------|
| TCS | -2.51 % |
| INFOSYS | -1.75 % |
| HCL TECH | -1.34 % |
| ETERNAL | -1.04 % |
| ITC | -0.98 % |

TOP LOSERS

clined, while 1,913 advanced and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE.

BSE MidCap Select Index rose 0.18 per cent, while Small-Cap Select Index ended on a flat note. Among sectoral indices, Focussed IT declined the most by 1.74 per cent, Information Technology by 1.73 per cent, Services by 0.16 per cent, Private Banks Index by 0.13 per cent, FMCG and Industrials by 0.04 per cent each.

On the other hand, Healthcare, Auto, PSU Bank, Oil & Gas, Realty, Utilities, Consumer Discretionary, Telecommunication, Metal and Consumer Durables were among the gainers.

"The Nifty extended its winning streak to a fourth consecutive session, eking out a modest

18 point gain to finish at 25,953. All sectoral indices closed positive except IT and private banks, with Healthcare, Auto, PSU Banks, and Pharma posting the strongest gains," Nandish Shah -Deputy Vice President, HDFC Securities, said.

In the latest MSCI rejig, India's weight in the MSCI Standard Index remained unchanged at 14.1 per cent, while the number of Indian companies in the index increased to 165 from 164.

Brent Crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.44 per cent to \$69.78 per barrel. On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 208.17 points to close at 84,273.92, while the 50-share NSE Nifty rose 67.85 points to finish at 25,935.15.

AVIATION CORNER

Grounded Jet Airways to sell 3 aircraft frames, 6 engines

New Delhi: Grounded Jet Airways has executed an agreement for the sale of three aircraft frames and six engines to a Malta-based entity for \$46 million. Jet Airways flew for 25 years before stopping operations in April 2019 due to debt woes and is currently undergoing a liquidation process. In a filing to the BSE Wednesday, the airline said it has executed the sale and purchase agreement and related documents for three aircraft frames and six engines. The total value of the deal with Malta-based Ace Aviation is \$46 million, which translates to over Rs 417 crore at current exchange rates. All three frames are of wide-body Boeing 777 planes. The once storied Jet Airways shuttered operations in April 2019, following financial headwinds and subsequently, lenders referred the ailing airline for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Under the insolvency resolution process, the winning bidder was unable to implement the resolution plan due to multiple issues, and after long-drawn legal proceedings, the Supreme Court, in November 2024, ordered the liquidation of the carrier.



Akasa Air co-founder Iyer resigns



New Delhi: Akasa Air's Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer Praveen Iyer has resigned, marking the second high-level exit in four months at the over three-year-old airline. After a five-year journey, Iyer has decided to move on to begin the next chapter of his life. He will partner closely with the leadership team to ensure a smooth and structured transition through April 30, 2026, the airline said in a statement. Iyer is the second Co-Founder after Neelu Khatri to leave the airline, which started flying from August 7, 2022. Khatri stepped down in October 2025. Iyer is also part of the airline's Executive Committee. Now, Akasa Air has four Co-Founders -- Aditya Ghosh, Anand Srinivasan, Belson Coutinho and Bhavin Joshi. Vinay Dube is the Founder and CEO of the airline. Srinivasan, who is currently the Chief Information Officer, will take over as the Chief Commercial Officer. The airline has initiated the search for a Chief Information Officer. With Srinivasan moving into the new role, the airline's IT function will report to Chief Financial Officer Ankur Goel.

Swaps shut the door on RBI's rate cuts

GROWTH-INFLATION OUTLOOK LIFTS LONGER TENORS

REUTERS

Mumbai, Feb 11: India's overnight indexed swaps signal that the central bank's rate-cut cycle has likely run its course, anchoring short-term rates, while longer-tenor rates are being pulled higher on expectations of firmer inflation and robust growth.

The one-year Overnight Indexed Swap (OIS) is currently at 5.50%, 25 basis points above the Reserve Bank of India's repo rate, indicating that markets have priced out further rate cuts and are starting to factor in the possibility of a hike over the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, longer-tenor swaps have firmed. The most actively traded 5-year, which is sensitive to inflation and growth expectations, has risen by 23 bps since January to 6.15%.

OIS rates are the closest gauge of interest rate expectations.

The move comes in the backdrop of RBI raising its immedi-

ate GDP growth and inflation forecasts.

Inflation, while currently benign at 1.3% year-on-year in December and seen averaging around 2.1% in the fiscal year through March, is projected to accelerate in the next financial year.

On growth, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has highlighted continued capex support and said that recently inked trade agreements with European Union and US should lift exports and strengthen economic momentum.

The upcoming release of inflation and growth data under a new series this month could prompt a reassessment of the expectations.

Inflation, while currently benign at 1.3% year-on-year in December and seen averaging around 2.1% in the fiscal year through March, is projected to accelerate in the next financial year

NEAR CONSENSUS CALL

The intersection of a nearly exhausted rate-cut cycle, robust domestic growth, and rising inflation expectations is prompting analysts to recommend "steeper" trades.

These positions capitalize on the widening gap between the short and longer portions of the curve. They are further supported by expectations that the RBI will continue to provide liquidity support, which act to anchor short-term swaps.

Analysts at Goldman Sachs, Nomura and Citi are all recommending positioning for a steeper curve.



BOf, East Coast Railway sign MoU for salary, pension accounts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Bank of India and East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar, for opening government salary savings and pension accounts for permanent employees of the East Coast Railway.

The salary account offers several benefits, including free personal accidental (death) insurance cover of Rs 130 lakh, free term insurance cover of Rs 12 lakh, permanent total disability cover up to Rs 130 lakh, permanent partial disability cover up to Rs 65 lakh, air accidental

(death) insurance cover of Rs 200 lakh, and a child higher education (graduation) benefit up to Rs 10 lakh.

The event was attended by Sanjay Kumar (IRPS), Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PC-PO), Anjan Ray (IRPS), Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) and Suresh Ku Behera (IRPS), Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (Dy CPO) from East Coast Railway. From Bank of India, Vikash Krishna, General Manager, FGMO Bhubaneswar, Bijoy Ku Malik, Zonal Manager (ZM), Bhubaneswar Zone, and Ashok Ku Jena, Assistant General Manager (AGM), FGMO Bhubaneswar were present.



T20 WORLD CUP

India to take on minnows Namibia

Abhishek's health causes worry for hosts ahead of lopsided clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: Abhishek Sharma's stomach infection poses a bigger threat to India than their World Cup opponents Namibia.

After a stuttering batting performance on a tacky Wankhede track in the opener against the USA, the Indian batting line-up would like to go all guns blazing on a Feroz Shah Kotla track that could be called a belter for quality teams.

At the receiving end would be Namibia, who are not expected to cause much trouble to the dominant defending champions in their second group A game of the T20 showpiece here Thursday.

When it comes to quality, the defending champions are light years ahead of the African team which hardly looked up to scratch against fellow Associate nation the Netherlands at this very ground.

To be fair to India, the match against Namibia is more of an extended warm up tie where they would like to bat first and let the line-up get a good hit in the middle.

The gulf in quality is such that Namibia's bowling line-up could be sent on a leather-hunt every day of the week by any of the middle level Indian state teams plying their trade in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

For India, Abhishek's stomach infection and viral fever are concerning. He was discharged Wednesday after two days of hospitalisation but it won't be advisable to put him on the park without allowing him to



sufficiently recuperate before the big game against Pakistan Sunday.

In that high-voltage show-down, Abhishek's presence would be an intimidating factor for the opposition.

The Namibia match could be a God-sent opportunity for an out-of-form Sanju Samson to get into run-scoring mode after a string of failures that saw him lose his place to Ishan Kishan, who is going through a purple patch.

"Sanju is feeling well again, understanding where he fits into the scheme of things now as an injury replacement," assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate said at pre-match press conference. "He's a solid guy, he's good around the group, he's training well and that's what we expect from everyone in the team."

For India, Abhishek's stomach infection and viral fever are concerning. He was discharged Wednesday after two days of hospitalisation but it won't be advisable to put him on the park without allowing him to

ABSOLUTE CINEMA: PROTEAS SURVIVE DOUBLE SUPER OVER DRAMA VS AFGHAN

South Africa defeated Afghanistan after two Super Overs in a thrilling Group D match of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday. Sent in to bat, South Africa rode on a 114-run partnership between Quinton de Kock (59) and Ryan Rickelton (61) to post a competitive 187 for 6. In reply, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed a 42-ball 84 to lay the foundation, but Afghanistan were bowled out for exactly 187 in 19.4 overs, forcing the match into its first Super Over. Afghanistan scored 17 for no loss with Azmatullah Omarzai striking two fours and a six off Lungi Ngidi. South Africa matched the total, with Tristan Stubbs hitting a six off the final ball to take the contest into a second Super Over. Batting first in the second Super Over, South Africa scored 23, powered by David Miller's 16. Rahmanullah Gurbaz clobbered three sixes but Afghanistan fell short of the target, scoring 19-2 to hand South Africa a dramatic victory.



Australia start campaign with win



Australia began their T20 World Cup campaign with a thumping 67-run victory over Ireland here Wednesday. Riding on Marcus Stoinis' 45 and 37 each by Matthew Renshaw and Josh Inglis, Australia posted 182 for six after deciding to bat first. Pacer Nathan Ellis (4/12) and spinner Adam Zampa (4/23) then shared eight wickets between them to bowl out Ireland in 16.5 overs.

West Indies beat Eng

Spinners reigned supreme as West Indies beat England by 30 runs in their T20 World Cup match Wednesday. Spinners Gudakesh Motie and Roston Chase took three and two wickets respectively as West Indies bowled England out for 166 in 19 overs, after setting a target of 197. Sam Curran top-scored for England with 43 not out while Jacob Bethal and Phil Salt chipped in with 33 and 30 respectively. Earlier, Sherfane Rutherford struck a scintillating 76 not out to help West Indies post 196 for 6.



| TODAY'S CLASHES | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Sri Lanka Vs Oman | |
| Time- 11:00 am | | |
| | Nepal vs Italy | |
| Time- 3:00 pm | | |
| | India vs Namibia | |
| Time- 7:00 pm | | |

Late goals spoil campaign opener

Hosts India go down 1-3 to in-form Belgium in Rourkela

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Feb 11: India let in two goals in the final quarter to suffer a 1-3 defeat to Belgium in their Rourkela leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 match here Wednesday.

Nelson Onana (23rd minute), Thomas Crols (53rd) and Arno Van Dessel (57th) scored for Belgium while Shilanand Lakra (29th) was the goal-scorer for India. The two sides were locked 1-1 at the half time as well as at the end of the third quarter, before Belgium pumped in two goals in the final 15 minutes.

It was an extremely competitive first quarter with both sides hardly making any mistakes at the back.

Belgium earned an early penalty corner in the 4th minute. However, Alexander Hendrickx's drag-flick was stopped heroically by India's first rusher Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Four minutes later, India too got their first penalty corner but the home side couldn't capitalise on the occasion.

While Belgium were having more possession, India did well to hold their ground and launch quick counter-attacks in search of goal-scoring opportunities.

The game opened up in the second quarter. Belgium were



awarded a penalty corner in the 21st minute but Indian goalkeeper Pawan made a brilliant acrobatic save to deny Alexander Hendrickx a goal.

In the 23rd minute, Belgium found the opening goal as they did well to make an interception to win possession in a dangerous position. Thomas Crols passed the ball to Onana who found the net with a simple finish.

India stepped up their attack and made some crucial circle entries in the following minutes. In the 29th minute, the hosts made another attack and won a penalty corner. Am-

it Rohidas's hit was initially stopped by the first rusher, but Shilanand Lakra did well to quickly pounce on the ball and slot it into the net to score the equaliser.

Belgium continued to dictate possession in the third quarter. However, India were resilient with their defending and maintained their composure at the back.

In the 53rd minute, India broke into another strong counter-attack as Nilakanta Sharma played a brilliant pass to Karthi Selvam but the forward couldn't take a shot on

goal in time and was stopped by the Belgian backline.

Seconds later on the other end of the field, Belgium launched an attack from the left flank as Lucas Balthazar played the perfect pass into the circle from the baseline to Thomas Crols, who struck the ball into the bottom right corner to take the lead for the visitors.

In the 57th minute, it was Thomas Crols again in the spotlight as he set up the ball for Arno Van Dessel who did well to sneak the ball into the net and seal the victory for Belgium.

ASIAN SHOOTING C'SHIP

Anish wins bronze in 25m rapid-fire pistol

India continues to dominate medal tally with 41 gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

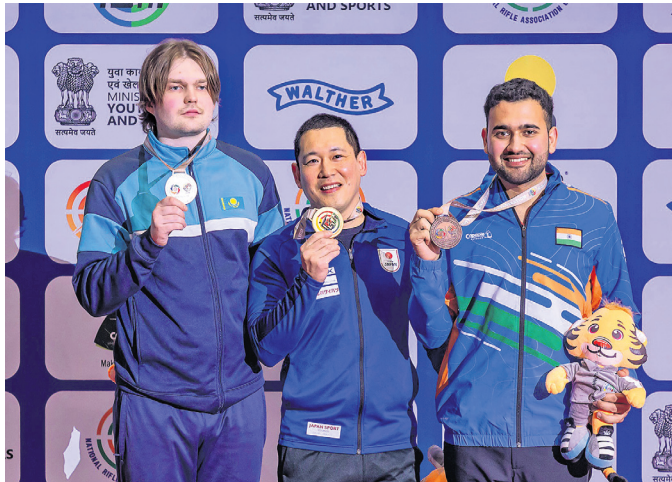
New Delhi, Feb 11: World Championship silver medalist Anish Bhanwala clinched bronze in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol competition, even as Kazakhstan dominated day eight of the Asian Shooting Championship with four gold medals here Wednesday.

This was Anish's third Asian Championship medal. Adrian Karmakar in the 50m rifle prone junior men's event and the junior men's 25m RFP team also won gold on the day, taking India's table-topping medal tally to 41 gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze, with two more days of competitions left.

Anish and Adarsh Singh took the seventh and eighth qualifying spots with scores of 574 and 573 respectively, ensuring two Indians in the RFP final. Former champion Nikita Chiryukin of Kazakhstan topped the qualifiers with a 582 and led a trio of his mates into the decider.

Japanese Dai Yoshioka, a two-time Olympian and a world cup gold medalist and Ha Minh Thanh, a double Asian Games medalist also went through along with Ha's teammate Vu Tien Nam.

In the final consisting of eight series of five rapid-fire shots, Yoshioka, Anish and Chiryukin



were fastest off the blocks as Vu and Kazakh Artemiy Kabakov became the first two to be eliminated after the third series.

As long-time team-mate Adarsh bowed out after the fourth series with 11 hits to his name, Anish found himself in joint lead with Yoshioka and Nikita after the sixth series with 21 hits. However, he got two hits in the seventh as the Japanese struck five and Chiryukin four, settling for bronze, the same result he had achieved three years ago at the Changwon Asian Championships.

Yoshioka went on to close with another perfect five to upgrade his Changwon performance by one, finishing on a world and Asian record score of 31. Chiryukin won silver with 28 hits, while Anish ended on 23 hits.

Earlier in the first event of the day, Islam Satpayev, the

talented Kazakh rifle shooter who won a bronze at the Paris Olympics in the mixed team event, shone bright on the day winning a couple of gold in the non-Olympic 50m rifle prone men's competitions.

He won the individual event with a score of 622.5 and the team gold in alliance with teammates Nikita Shakhtorin (622.5, individual silver) and Konstantin Malinovsky (615.0).

India won a bronze through Babu Singh Panwar (621.3) in the individual men's event and a silver in the team event when Babu combined with Samarvir Singh (618.2) and Sartaj Singh Tiwana (614.4).

In the junior men's rifle prone, India's Karmakar won gold with a tally of 621.7 over 60 shots. The Kazakhs took silver and bronze through Oleg Noskov (620.6) and Tamerlan Kabulov (617.3).

SHORT TAKES

Golfers start strong

Riyadh: Indian golfers Diksha Dagar and Avani Prashanth were off to a good start, carding 3-under 69s in the opening round of the PIF Saudi Ladies International here. They were tied 21st and five shots behind Korea's Hye-Jin Choi (64) as some players were yet to finish the round. Lying second was Japan's Chizzy Iwai (65). Three other Indians are playing in the 120-player field at the tournament which carried a huge prize purse of USD 5 million. Aditi Ashok picked a birdie on her closing hole -- the ninth to be 1-under 71 for the day and was T-70, while Pranavi Hirs carded 1-over 73 and was T-86 and Hitaashee Bakshi was even par with five more holes to play. Diksha, the top Indian on the LET Order of Merit in 2025, birdied the third, 12th and the 18th for a clean card. Avani birdied the opening hole and even though she gave back that shot on the fourth she picked up momentum again with birdies on the fifth and eighth. She turned in 2-under. On the back, birdies on the 12th and the 15th brought her near the Top-10, but a closing bogey on the 18th pulled her back and she finished at 3-under 69.

Neeraj gets extension

New Delhi: The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved an extension of javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra's training in South Africa till April, while green-lighting customised international exposure and coaching for athletes in taekwondo and Karate ahead of this year's Asian Games. In its 168th meeting here Wednesday, the MOC also sanctioned financial assistance for rising squash star Anahat Singh's strength and conditioning coach, and foreign exposure camps for para-athletes Varun Bhati and Sandeep Chaudhary. Chopra, a two-time Olympic medal-winner, began his pre-season training in his preferred South African base of Potchefstroom in January and the ministry had initially given the go ahead for a 32-day camp. He will now be training in Pretoria before starting his competitive season with the Doha Diamond League in May. Overall, proposals to the tune of Rs 1.70 crore from various athletes were approved in Wednesday's meeting.

PREMIER LEAGUE

West Ham end United's streak, Chelsea blow two goal cushion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 11: Manchester United's winning run couldn't go on forever. But a dramatic late equaliser from Benjamin Sesko rescued a 1-1 draw at West Ham in the Premier League and kept the momentum going under coach Michael Carrick.

Sesko struck in the 96th minute at the London Stadium Tuesday to keep United in fourth place ahead of Chelsea, which also dropped points in a 2-2 draw against Leeds.

Chelsea blows it

While United battled to salvage a point, Chelsea blew a two-goal lead at home to draw with Leeds as Liam Rosenior dropped points for the first time since taking over at Stamford Bridge. Lukas Nmecha and Noah Okafor sealed the comeback for Leeds.

Joao Pedro and Cole Palmer from the penalty spot seemed to put Rosenior on course for

a fifth-straight league win. But Chelsea was stunned by two goals in the space of six minutes from in-form Leeds and had to settle for a point.

Tottenham is on the slide

Thomas Frank was fired by Tottenham Wednesday after only eight months in charge and with his team just five points above the relegation zone in the Premier League.

Despite leading Spurs to the round of 16 in the Champions League, Frank has overseen a desperate domestic campaign. A 2-1 loss to Newcastle Tuesday was greeted by boos from the home fans and left Spurs still without a league win in 2026. Spurs' last league win was December 28 and defeat at home to Newcastle extended a ruinous run to one win in 11 in England's top flight. Spurs dropped to 16th in the standings Tuesday and two places above the relegation zone.

Quad God Malinin flips reality, skates into history

American figure skater Ilia Malinin delivered his best performance of the Milano Cortina Games Tuesday, landing two quadruple jumps and even throwing in a backflip in an electrifying men's short programme to take the lead. Malinin posted 108.16 points, more than five clear of Japan's Yuma Kagiyama (103.07), with France's Adam Siao Him Fa third on 102.55. Malinin, the heavy favourite for the men's title, did not showcase his full repertoire in his two outings during the team event but still did enough to help the United States grab gold Sunday. He looked far closer to his peak Tuesday, feeding off a loud contingent of American fans as he flaunted the technical arsenal that has helped draw new attention to the sport. "I want to call it Olympic pressure," he told reporters. "Going out there the first time, hitting that Olympic ice and feeling the atmosphere. I didn't expect it to be so much, and it took me a little while to understand what really happened, but now that I understand it, I took a different approach today," he said. "Really just take things nice and calm, nice and slow, just relaxed, and really just pushed the autopilot button and let it cruise." Many present at the Milano Ice Skating Arena were buzzing in anticipation that Malinin would unleash a quadruple Axel - a four-and-a-half-rotation jump that only he has landed in competition - as it was published on his list of planned elements. But he told reporters that he never intended to attempt the jump Tuesday, saying he forgot to change the list ahead of time.



Norwegian biathlete confesses to cheating on girlfriend on live TV

A post-race interview with the bronze medal winner in the men's Olympic biathlon competition on Tuesday took an unexpected turn when he revealed in a live broadcast that he had been unfaithful to his girlfriend. Sturla Holm Laegreid, one of Norway's top biathletes, finished third in the 20-kilometer individual race, but was full of remorse when he spoke to Norwegian broadcaster NRK at the Milan Cortina Games. "Six months ago I met the love of my life. The world's most beautiful, sweetest person. And three months ago I made the biggest mistake of my life and cheated on her," Laegreid said, fighting back tears. He said he told his partner a week ago about what had happened. "I'm sure many people now see me in a different light, but I only have eyes for her," he said. "I'm not quite sure what I'm trying to say by saying this now, but sport has taken a back seat in recent days. I wish I could share this with her."

