



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C



KCR READY TO HIT BACK

TPN PARDHU, Hyderabad, February 15, 2025: Major political developments are on the horizon in Telangana, with former Chief Minister and BRS chief Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) preparing for a grand re-entry into active politics. KCR has outlined a well-structured plan, including a large-scale party executive meeting scheduled for February 19. Party working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has been directed to make necessary arrangements.

Three Days of Celebrations for BRS

The BRS leadership has lined up three days of key events, making them crucial for party members. KCR's birthday falls on February 17, followed by the Supreme Court's verdict on defected MLAs on February 18. The party's executive meeting is slated for February 19, with expectations of major announcements.

KCR is optimistic that the Supreme Court's verdict will favor BRS, leading to the disqualification of defected MLAs. Legal experts suggest that by-elections may become inevitable if the ruling comes against the defectors.

BRS Executive Meeting on February 19

A large-scale party meeting is scheduled to take place at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad at 1 PM on February 19, chaired by KCR. Key attendees include district party presidents, current and former MPs, MLAs, ex-corporation chairmen, Zilla Parishad chairpersons, DCCB and DCMS presidents, and party constituency in-charges.

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BRS Set for Major Political Action

BRS Braces for Three Key Days

Crucial Party Meeting on February 19

Supreme Court Verdict: A Game Changer?

KCR's Warning: "If I Strike, It Won't Be Ordinary"

Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Focus

BRS Prepares for By-elections

Congress Government Under Fire



Revanth Reddy Declares War on Modi

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has issued a strong call to action for the Youth Congress, declaring that they are prepared to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On Friday, Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy was sworn in as the new president of the Telangana State Youth Congress, and during the event, CM Revanth Reddy delivered a fiery speech outlining his government's achievements and attacking the opposition.

ity of spreading awareness about the government's welfare schemes lies with the Youth Congress. He asserted that Congress leaders did not win elections by spending money but through public support. Taking a dig at former CM KCR, he remarked, "If money could win elections, KCR would have secured 100 seats."

Addressing reports of KCR's possible re-entry into active politics, Revanth Reddy mocked his claims of making a strong comeback. "If KCR really wants to strike, he should first defeat KTR, Harish Rao, and Kavitha," he said, adding that people have already rejected the BRS due to corruption.

Youth Congress Must Lead the Charge

Revanth Reddy emphasized that governance alone is not enough and that the responsibility

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CM Revanth Bold comments on Modi, KCR

CM Accuses Modi of BC Status Manipulation

Calls Out KCR for Mishandling Caste Census

BCs Need Accurate Data for Fair Representation

BJP Blocking Caste Census, Claims Revanth Reddy

Only 3.1% Skipped Census, Says Telangana CM



TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made strong remarks at Gandhi Bhavan, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not born into the Backward Classes (BC) category but was included in it during his tenure as Gujarat's Chief Minister.

describing it as a rushed and inaccurate effort, calling it "crow's calculations." He warned that inaccurate data from the census could lead to irreparable losses for the BC community.

Revanth Reddy underscored the necessity of a caste census, accusing former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and his family of neglecting this crucial survey. He criticized KCR's handling of the caste census,

The Chief Minister also took aim at KCR's family members, including Harish Rao and K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), for not participating in the survey. He suggested that those who fail to support the caste census should face a social boycott. Revanth Reddy assured that the census

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Kishan Reddy Challenges KCR, Revanth

BJP Demands Debate on Central Funds

Kishan Reddy Slams BRS, Congress Over Governance

Telangana's Debt Crisis: BJP Blames State Govt

Legislative Council Weakened Under BRS: Kishan Reddy

Job Calendar, PRC Delayed: BJP Attacks Congress

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Union Minister Kishan Reddy has challenged former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and current CM A. Revanth Reddy for a discussion on the funds allocated by the central government. He questioned whether they were ready to acknowledge the Modi government's contributions over the past decade.

the BRS government of weakening the Legislative Council and failing to allocate even a single rupee to gram panchayats. He also took a jab at KCR, stating that while Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Ramagundam fertilizer factory, KCR remained at his farmhouse.

Kishan Reddy alleged that both BRS and Congress had mismanaged Telangana's finances, turning a surplus state into

Speaking at the Sangareddy district MLC election campaign, Kishan Reddy criticized both BRS and Congress, claiming that Telangana's governance had not changed except for the CM and party flag. He accused

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Telangana's Growth and Green Energy Push



- **Bhatti urges NABARD to boost agriculture, MSMEs.**
- **Focus on scientific farming, solar energy, and digital banking.**
- **Telangana aims for leadership in green energy.**

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Modi's Caste Debate is a Distraction: Bandi Sanjay



Modi was in OBC list under Congress rule, says Bandi.

BJP stands firm against religious-based reservations.

Rahul Gandhi's caste, religion questioned by Bandi Sanjay.

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Telangana's History Unveiled

Preserving Telangana's Heritage
Goud's Contribution Highlighted

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Chief Minister Revanath Reddy emphasized the importance of sharing Telangana's rich history and the spirit of its independence movement with the broader public. Speaking at the book launch of "Vijaya Telangana" by Devender Goud, CM Reddy highlighted the contributions of numerous individuals, including students, in the Telangana movement. CM Reddy, who was the chief guest at

the event held at Jalavihar in Hyderabad, praised Devender Goud for his significant role in the movement, noting his decision to use "TG" as a symbol of Telangana's identity. He reminisced about the movement when youth marked "TG" on bikes and in their hearts, symbolizing their commitment to the cause. The Chief Minister also acknowledged Goud's personal sacrifices, mentioning how he relinquished equal power with the CM to support Telangana's cause. Reddy expressed that the history of Telangana transcends one person, family, or political party, advocating for a London-style museum to preserve and show-



case this history. Additionally, CM Reddy clarified the recent governmental decision to officially change the state's abbreviation from TS to TG, crediting Devender Goud for initiating this change during the movement. The event not only served to launch the book but also to reinforce the cultural and historical significance of Telangana's struggle for identity and recognition.

BRS to Launch Protests for Irrigation Projects



*** Harish Rao Calls for Action**
*** Neglect of Irrigation Projects Alleged**
*** Farmers Struggle Without Water**
*** Demand for Immediate Completion**

Harish Rao pointed out that two years ago, on February 21, 2022, the then Chief Minister KCR laid the foundation stone for these projects in Narayan Khed. However, despite being in power for 14 months, the Congress government has not made any significant efforts to complete them. As a result, farmers in Narayan Khed, Andol, Sangareddy, and Zaheerabad constituencies have been left struggling without irrigation water.

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Former minister and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao has called on the people and leaders of Sangareddy district to prepare for a struggle to ensure the completion of the Sangameshwara and Basaveshwara Lift Irrigation Projects. He accused the Congress government of neglecting these crucial projects, which were launched to provide irrigation water to four lakh acres of farmland.

He emphasized that the BRS party, under the direction of KCR, will organize protests in the affected areas to demand the immediate completion of these projects. The failure to provide irrigation facilities has severely impacted agricultural productivity, and farmers are growing increasingly frustrated with the government's inaction.

During a meeting held at his residence in Kokapet on Friday, Harish Rao discussed the matter with key leaders from Sangareddy district, including MLAs Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Chinta Prabhakar, and Manik Rao, former MLAs Bhupal Reddy, DCMS Chairman Shiva Kumar, former ZP Chairman Jaipal Reddy, and several other prominent figures. The discussion focused on the lack of progress in the irrigation projects since the Congress government took office.

Harish Rao urged party members and the public to stand together and put pressure on the government to fulfill its responsibility. He reaffirmed the BRS party's commitment to fighting for the completion of these projects, stressing that access to irrigation water is crucial for the prosperity of the region's farmers.

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KCR READY TO HIT BACK

Discussions will center around BRS's silver jubilee celebrations, membership registration, and the party's journey over the past 25 years. Additionally, an action plan for upcoming by-elections will be finalized. BRS is also expected to launch a campaign highlighting the Congress government's failures.

KCR's Challenge to the Congress

KCR's recent remarks at the Mahabubnagar workers' meeting have stirred political discussions. He strongly criticized the Congress government for misleading the people and failing in governance. His statement, "If I hit, it will not be normal," has become a talking point, signaling his readiness for aggressive political action. He also urged party members to be prepared for protests against the government's negligence, under the leadership of senior BRS leader Harish Rao.

25 Years of BRS: A Strategic Revival

Founded in 1999, the BRS (formerly TRS) will complete 25 years on April 27. The party aims to use this milestone to remind the public of its journey from a movement for statehood to a ruling party. The leadership plans to showcase its achievements, including 14 years of agitation for Telangana's formation and 10 years of governance.

Re-Entry Confirmation on February 19?

Party insiders believe that KCR is likely to make an official announcement about his re-entry into active politics during the executive meeting. If confirmed, BRS ranks are expected to celebrate this as a turning point for the party.

With just a few days left, all eyes are on KCR's next move. Will February 19 mark the beginning of a new political strategy for BRS? The answer will unfold soon.

Kishan Reddy Challenges KCR, Revanath

a debt-ridden one. He slammed Congress for failing to implement its election promises, including the job calendar. He also criticized the delay in announcing the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) despite the Centre's approval.

Predicting Congress's downfall in future elections, Kishan Reddy asserted that the party would face defeat in Telangana, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh. He claimed that only a "double-engine government" (BJP at both state and central levels) could ensure Telangana's progress.

Revanth Reddy Declares War on Modi

Congress' Welfare Initiatives

Revanth Reddy listed his government's key initiatives, including:

- Free bus travel for women in RTCs
- Gas cylinders at ₹500
- Farm loan waivers up to ₹2 lakh
- Creation of 50,000 government jobs in the first year

NDA Neglecting Telangana

The CM accused the Modi government of ignoring Telangana's needs and questioned why the state has been deprived of central funds. He also challenged Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to clarify the status of the Regional Ring Road project.

Despite these efforts, he criticized opposition forces for spreading false propaganda.

Declaring his government's long-term vision, Revanath Reddy asserted, "Congress will remain in power in Telangana for another 20 years."

CM Revanath Bold comments on Modi, KCR

was inclusive, stating that only 3.1 percent of the population had not participated.

justice for backward communities.

Defending the transparency of the Telangana caste census, Reddy dismissed opposition claims of misinformation. He pointed out that the survey also included a minority census under the 4 percent reservation for the BC-E category.

He further accused Modi and the BJP of conspiring to prevent a nationwide caste census, recalling that Rahul Gandhi had challenged Modi on this issue in Parliament. According to Reddy, official figures from a caste census could provide a legal basis for increasing BC reservations, potentially strengthening arguments in the Supreme Court. He urged for the completion of the second phase of the census to achieve this goal.

Expressing his unwavering commitment to the caste census, Reddy stated, "I don't care if I am the last Reddy CM. I have taken responsibility as a disciplined Chief Minister to fulfill the promise made by our leader." He insisted that the survey was not for political gain but to ensure accurate representation and

Revanth Reddy's remarks have intensified the political debate surrounding the caste census, with opposition parties expected to respond to his claims.

Modi's Caste Debate is a Distraction: Bandi Sanjay

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 : Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay strongly criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanath Reddy for his comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's caste. He alleged that Revanath Reddy is attempting to divert public attention from the 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in Telangana by raising Modi's caste issue.

Bandi Sanjay also questioned the caste and religion of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking whether people were aware that his grandfather's name was Feroze Jehangir Gandhi. He asserted that in Hinduism, caste is inherited from the father and suggested that if there is a debate on caste or religious changes, it should start from 10 Janpath, the residence of the Gandhi family.

Taking to social media platform 'X,' Bandi Sanjay stated that Revanath Reddy's claims are baseless. He pointed out that Modi was included in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list in 1994 when the Congress was in power in Gujarat, a fact that Revanath Reddy allegedly ignored.

The minister emphasized that the BJP is committed to blocking religious-based reservations and reaffirmed the party's stance against Muslim reservations. He concluded by stating that Revanath Reddy's efforts to shift focus from BC reservations would not succeed.

Telangana's Growth and Green Energy Push

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Telangana is among the fastest-growing states in India, with a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of ₹15.02 lakh crore and a growth rate of 14.4%. The state's per capita income has reached ₹3.56 lakh, said Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu at the release of the NABARD State Focus Paper on Friday. Emphasizing inclusive development, he urged NABARD to support farmers, MSMEs, and rural infrastructure. He highlighted the rise in groundwater levels and record paddy production, crediting NABARD's efforts. He called for greater

loan assistance to the agricultural sector and strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Mr. Bhatti stressed the need for scientific farming, which was neglected in the last decade, and urged NABARD to promote modern techniques like greenhouse, polyhouse, drip, and sprinkler irrigation. He also advocated for expanding organic farming through IKPs and enhancing cold storage facilities for crops like mango, turmeric, and chillies. To reduce dependence on edible oil imports, he called for expanding palm oil cultivation, taking inspiration from

Malaysia. He also encouraged Alphonso mango cultivation, similar to Maharashtra's export model. On green energy, he highlighted Telangana's push for solar-powered agricultural pump sets, aiming to replace 29 lakh electric pumps over time. He urged NABARD's support in making Telangana a leader in renewable energy. He also stressed digital banking expansion in rural areas, citing Kenya's M-Pesa as an example. Supporting SHG women in solar energy entrepreneurship would further boost Telangana's economic growth, he added.

Focus on Horticulture in Telangana

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :At the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister Tummala reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to the welfare of farmers and handloom workers during a free budget meeting. Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that farmers are crucial to the state's economy, with significant budget allocations planned for agriculture. He assured that the investment assistance under the six guarantees would continue to be a priority. The ministers also focused on promoting horticultural crops, noting their potential for higher economic returns. They directed officials to expand the area

under horticultural cultivation, including flowers, vegetables, and oilseeds, and to provide subsidized water-saving technologies like drip and sprinkler systems to farmers. Support for the handloom sector was also discussed, with plans to continue providing yarn and electricity subsidies. The ministers advocated for the development of textile parks to bolster this industry. The meeting saw participation from key officials such as Special Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department Raghunandan Rao, and others, indicating a concerted effort towards enhancing agricultural and handloom sectors in Telangana.

CM Revanath Reddy Reviews Tourism Plans

- Boosting Tourism & Employment
- Strategic Coordination for Growth
- Incentives for Rural Tourism

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Chief Minister A. Revanath Reddy has emphasized that tourism initiatives in Telangana should not only generate revenue but also create employment opportunities for the youth. He stressed the need to integrate the state's rich history with modern developments to attract visitors. During a review meeting with top officials, the Chief Minister noted that despite Telangana's vast tourism potential, progress in the sector has been slow due to the absence of strategic planning. He directed officials to coordinate with departments such as Forest, IT, Electricity, Medical, and Sports while finalizing the tourism policy to ensure seamless implementation. Revanath Reddy suggested of-

fering incentives to investors in semi-urban and rural tourism projects. He proposed introducing boat houses in the Nagarjuna Sagar backwaters and promoting Telangana as a destination for weddings. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of temple tourism and tiger sanctuaries, urging officials to improve attractions like Bhadrachalam, Ramappa Temple, and Bogatha Waterfalls. The CM inquired about the delayed Bhuvanagiri Fort Rope-way project and instructed officials to expedite tenders while preserving historical structures. He also emphasized adventure tourism and facilitating travel for medical tourists. The budget allocation for tourism will be increased to support these initiatives. Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, CM's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy's Leadership



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Former Minister Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of making irresponsible statements instead of focusing on governance. He questioned whether Revanth Reddy had matured as a leader despite holding the Chief Minister's post.

Harish Rao condemned Revanth Reddy's remark that former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has no right to live in Telangana society. He challenged Revanth to ask the people of his constituency, Kodangal, or his hometown, Kondareddy Palli, about who truly has the right to be in Telangana. He alleged that the Chief Minister was resorting to

personal attacks to stay in the headlines, rather than addressing critical governance issues.

According to Harish Rao, KCR remains deeply respected for his role in achieving Telangana statehood, and no amount of criticism can diminish his place in the hearts of the people. He accused Revanth Reddy of using inflammatory language to divert attention from governance failures and struggles within his own party. He further criticized the CM's stance on the caste census, claiming that even Congress leaders were unconvinced of its accuracy.

Harish Rao warned that Revanth Reddy's approach to politics would lead to a backlash from the people. He accused him of degrading the dignity of the Chief Minister's office and attempting to create division in a peaceful Telangana. He asserted that such rhetoric would ultimately lead to Revanth Reddy's political downfall.

He urged the Chief Minister to focus on governance rather than making controversial statements and suggested that the people of Telangana would give him a fitting response in the upcoming elections.

Caste Clash: Reddy vs. Rao on Modi's BC Status



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Medak MP Ragunandan Rao has sharply responded to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's caste status. CM Revanth Reddy had claimed that Modi is not originally from a Backward Class (BC) community but was legally converted to one, asserting that Modi's caste was added to the BC list after he became Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2002.

Ragunandan Rao questioned Revanth Reddy's audacity to comment on Modi's caste, highlighting the disparity in BC representation within their respective cabinets. He pointed out that there are only two BCs in Revanth Reddy's cabinet compared to 17 in Modi's at the central level. Rao demanded Revanth Reddy reveal the caste of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, challenging the Congress party's stance on caste politics.

This exchange underscores the ongoing political tug-of-war over caste-based representation in India, where political leaders often use caste affiliations to appeal to voters.

Kaushik Lambasts CM Revanth Over Caste Census Comments

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 : Huzurabad MLA Kaushik Reddy has fiercely criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, branding him as a "thief" involved in the vote-for-note case. This comes after CM Revanth Reddy suggested boycotting BRS leaders KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao if they did not participate in the caste census survey.

Kaushik Reddy questioned the propriety of Revanth Reddy's comments, especially regarding KCR, whom he described as on the "verge of death for Telangana," challenging his respect for the elder statesman who facilitated the state's creation. He accused Revanth Reddy of lacking "shame, dignity, or honor" for his disrespectful remarks.

Kaushik Reddy also attacked the integrity of the caste census, alleging it was riddled with errors and that Revanth Reddy was doing injustice to the Backward Classes. He called for Revanth Reddy to withdraw his statements about the BRS leaders and suggested that the Chief Minister should face social boycott for his actions and remarks.



Etala Rajender Slams Revanth Reddy Over Remarks on PM Modi

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :BJP leader Etala Rajender strongly criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Responding to Revanth's remarks, Etala stated that Modi is a leader trusted and admired across India, from Asetu to Himachal.

Etala emphasized that Modi's journey from poverty has given him a deep understanding of the struggles of the common people. Comparing Revanth's statements



to past remarks made by KCR, he pointed out that KCR initially mocked Modi but later changed his stance. Now, he claims, Revanth does the same—praising Modi in Delhi while attacking him in Telangana. He accused Revanth of being inconsistent, saying, "Revanth calls Modi his elder brother in Delhi and speaks about centralization, but back home, he boasts differently." He further stated that Modi transcends caste politics and is a leader who has elevated India's global standing. "Even world leaders, including the U.S. President, respect Modi,"

he added. Taking a dig at Revanth, Etala remarked that criticizing Modi is like spitting on the sun. "Modi has no personal agenda—his only goal is to serve the people of India," he asserted. He warned that just as KCR faced political consequences for his stance on Modi, Revanth, too, would realize the repercussions of his words. Etala concluded by advising Revanth Reddy to respect senior leaders and avoid unnecessary criticism of the Prime Minister.

Complete caste census conducted in the state: Deputy CM Bhatti

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 : Telangana Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka said that a complete caste census was conducted in the state. Deputy CM Bhatti is giving a power point presentation on the latest caste census and SC classification at Gandhi Bhavan. Steps have been taken for the SC classification that has been awaited for decades. He reminded that it was the Congress party that took revolutionary decisions in this country. Rahul Gandhi assured the people of Telangana that a caste census would be conducted as soon as our government is formed.

Rahul Gandhi said that the caste census was conducted as promised. While the decision was taken in the Legislative Council on February 04, 2024, the decision was taken in the Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2024. The GO was released on October 10, 2024 and the survey was announced in the Assembly. Bhatti Vikramarka read out the resolution of the Legislative Assembly. He said that the changes were due to the laws brought by the Congress party.



Villagers Celebrate KCR's Pre-Birthday in Crop Fields



TPN , Correspondent, TELANGANA, Feb 15 :In a unique tribute, villagers of Mukhara (K) celebrated former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) birthday in advance by showering flowers on his photo in the middle of crop fields. They expressed their desire for his return to power, stating that KCR's leadership ensured welfare schemes and development across all sectors. Holding placards highlighting schemes introduced under his governance, villagers

played traditional drums and Baja Bhajantri, emphasizing that KCR's return as Chief Minister would once again empower farmers. They credited his administration for making farmers "kings" through initiatives like Rythu Bandhu and Mission Kakatiya. Sarpanch Gadge Meenakshi, MPTC Gadge Subhash, along with farmers and women, participated in the celebrations, demonstrating strong support for KCR's leadership.

Kidnapping Incident at Girls' School Sparks Outrage



TPN , Correspondent, Kamareddy, Feb 15 :Chaos erupted at the Social Welfare Girls' School in Borlam village, Banswada mandal, after a kidnapping attempt. Class 8 student Susitha was misled by her cousin, Sanjay Bhargav, who tricked her into leaving on a bike under the pretense of her father's ill health.

When the bike got punctured at Mondri Sadak, locals became suspicious and alerted her brother. Sensing something was wrong, they handed Sanjay over to Chitaka Badi police. Parents blamed hostel staff negligence, demanding stricter supervision to prevent such incidents in the future.

RS Praveen Criticizes Revanth Reddy Over Education Policies

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 15 :BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has once again slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of lacking understanding of the education sector. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, he alleged that the Congress government is systematically dismantling the state's education system, just as it has done with other sectors.

He pointed out that during KCR's tenure, the demand for Gurukul schools was high, with three students competing for a single seat. However, under Revanth Reddy's administration, he claimed that even 80,000 applications were not received for 40,000 available seats in the fifth-class entrance examination.



Praveen Kumar further alleged a conspiracy to abolish Pratibha schools, institutions that had produced numerous engineers and doctors under the previous government. He also criticized the government for failing to pay fees for SC students in medical colleges.

Highlighting the case of Nandini, a student from the Rajaka community who won a gold medal in badminton at the National Games, he questioned why the state government had not announced any reward for her. He demanded immediate recognition and a compensation of ₹1 crore for her achievement.

Additionally, he condemned the alleged harassment of students in a Gurukul school in Nagarkurnool district, where two students reportedly suffered from food poisoning. He criticized the filing of cases against BRS leaders and a journalist who reported the incident, questioning why students were subjected to police inquiries instead of being provided proper care.

Gold Prices Surge Amid Global Uncertainty

- **Global Factors Drive Gold Prices to Record Highs**
- **Rupee Depreciation Fuels Surge in Gold Value**
- **Is Now the Right Time to Invest in Gold?**
- **Geopolitical Instability and Stock Market Volatility Impact Prices**
- **Gold as a Safe Haven Amid Economic Uncertainty**
- **Will Gold Prices Drop Anytime Soon? Experts Weigh In**

TPN , PARDHU Hyderabad, Feb 15 : Gold prices have reached record highs, driven by multiple global and domestic factors. Experts attribute the surge to wedding season demand, international political instability, stock market volatility, and the weakening of the rupee. Currently, the price of pure gold has climbed to ₹89,000 per 10 grams, while jewelry gold stands at ₹82,410 per 10 grams. The price of silver in Hyderabad has also risen, reaching ₹1,00,450 per kilogram.



Why Are Gold Prices Rising?
Several global economic and geopolitical factors have contributed to the continuous rise in gold prices. The financial crisis, the strengthening of the U.S. dollar, ongoing conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, and political instability in the Middle East have all played a role. Additionally, sanctions imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump and fluctuations in international markets

Is It the Right Time to Invest in Gold?

Market analysts believe this could be a favorable time for long-term investments in gold. Investors looking for stability may consider options such as Gold ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) and Sovereign Gold Bonds, which offer a more secure investment alternative. However, experts advise considering additional costs like manufacturing charges and security expenses when purchasing physical gold jewelry.

Will Gold Prices Drop?

According to market experts, gold prices are likely to continue rising in the coming months. Any stabilization will depend on improvements in the global economic situation. As uncertainty persists, gold remains a preferred choice for investors seeking long-term security. With demand continuing to surge, the gold rush shows no signs of slowing down.

Tech Visionary Earns Top Honors

- **Sairohith Thummarakoti Honored**
- **IT Innovator Wins Prestigious Award**
- **Cloud & Healthcare Tech Leader Awarded**
- **Indian Achievers Award for Sairohith**

Sairohith Thummarakoti, an IT professional with over a decade of experience, has been recognized for his contributions to cloud computing, healthcare technology, and enterprise application modernization. He has received prestigious awards, including the Indian Achievers Award and the TITAN Health Award, for his role in advancing digital transformation in the healthcare sector.

After earning a Master's degree in Computer Science from Texas A&M University, Kingsville, Thummarakoti focused on cloud computing, scalable architectures, and SaaS-based solutions. His expertise in enterprise application development, cloud migration, and automation has positioned him as a leader in Pega Cloud and advanced SaaS technologies.

As a Consultant Application Engineer at HCA Healthcare, he has led initiatives such as the Oncology & GRAIL Application, designed for early cancer detection through data analytics. He also modernized the COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker, used by over a million people, and contributed to AI-driven improvements in Provider Lifecycle Management and claims automation.

Beyond his professional work, Thummarakoti is a published author and researcher. He has written a book on Pega Cloud architecture and published research on cloud computing and healthcare IT. His research focuses on modernizing cloud infrastructures to enhance efficiency and accelerate healthcare processes.

An active member of ACM, BCS, and IEEE, he continues to contribute to global technology advancements. His vision is to develop cloud-based solutions that improve patient care, streamline operations, and create a more data-driven healthcare ecosystem.

Etala Rajender Visits Chilkur Balaji Temple, Condemns Attack on Priest



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender visited the Chilkur Balaji Temple, where he offered prayers to Lord Balaji and Lord Shiva. Temple priests, including CS Rangarajan, welcomed him and performed special rituals.

Speaking to the media, Etala emphasized India's rich cultural heritage, deeply rooted in Sanatana Dharma and diverse traditions. He highlighted that the Chilkur Balaji Temple, a self-governing shrine established 500 years ago, has been a place of faith for countless devotees.

Expressing concern over recent incidents, Etala condemned the alleged attack on priest Rangarajan. "The way our children are being

subjected to injustice, contrary to our cultural traditions, is deeply disturbing. The Telangana Police must investigate who instigated this incident and ensure accountability," he stated.

He urged the government to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future, emphasizing its responsibility to safeguard religious institutions and the faith of the people. "I strongly condemn the attack on Rangarajan garu and demand strict action. The government must ensure the protection of temples and their traditions," he added.

Etala concluded by reiterating his commitment to preserving the sanctity of religious places and ensuring justice for those affected.

Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy Directs Urgent Road Repairs

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Minister for Roads and Buildings (R&B) Komatireddy Venkata Reddy held a video conference with Superintending Engineers (SEs) to discuss the repair of damaged roads and the selection of ham roads across Telangana.



He instructed officials to expedite patchwork on roads severely damaged during the last monsoon using mechanized machinery for pothole filling. The Minister emphasized selecting ham roads in coordination with the government-appointed consultancy and district collectors.

He directed officials to prioritize roads in border areas and those causing significant inconvenience and accidents due to severe damage. Reddy pointed out that many roads in the state have deteriorated over the past decade due to a lack of proper maintenance. The Minister stressed the urgency of these repairs, ensuring safer and more accessible roads for the public.

Country Club Hosts Asia's Biggest Darling's Day with Grand Celebrations

TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15 :Country Club celebrated Asia's biggest Darling's Day at its Begumpet premises in Hyderabad, featuring a dazzling fashion show and entertainment programs for members of all ages. The event saw teenagers, couples, and senior citizens walk the ramp, creating a lively atmosphere.

Y. Rajeev Reddy, CMD of Country Club Hospitality & Holidays (CCHHL), unveiled the event poster and expressed excitement about hosting the celebration across all Country Club locations in India on February 13, 2025. He highlighted the success of the club's New Year



celebration and its impact on bookings, with 40,000 room nights recorded last year and a goal to double that in 2025. Country Club has expanded its offer-

ings with premium outlets such as Koliba, Plan B, Bar Project, Hashi, Cava Restaurant, Funnel Hill Creamery, and Meghavi Spa. In Pune, it has partnered with Virat Kohli's One8 Commune, providing members exclusive access. New initiatives include Pickleball courts and special membership cards with international travel benefits.

With 100 new franchise properties and 10,000 additional rooms, Country Club continues its expansion while maintaining a debt-free, asset-light model. It is also seeking luxury resorts for leasing and real estate partnerships to enhance its offerings.

BJP MLA Raja Singh Alleges Harassment, Hints at Leaving Party



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: BJP MLA Raja Singh has made strong allegations against his party, claiming that he has faced harassment since joining in 2014. Expressing his frustration, he stated that if the party no longer needs him, he is ready to leave. Singh's remarks came after his suggestion to appoint a leader from the SC or BC community as Golconda district BJP president was ignored. Instead, he alleged that the post was given to someone linked to the AIMIM. When he questioned a key party leader about the decision, he was told there was no knowledge of the election, which he claimed exposed a conspiracy against him.

"I have been fighting against BJP, MIM, and Congress, and now I am forced to fight within my own party," Singh said. He questioned why his recommendation was overlooked when district president appointments are usually decided by the party's MLA and MP. Singh has demanded an immediate change in leadership, signaling internal discord within the party.

Telangana Speeds Up Young India Schools Project

TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: In a key decision benefiting students across Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to expedite the establishment of Young India residential schools in every constituency.

During a review meeting with education department officials at the Control Command Center in Banjara Hills, the CM assessed the progress of site procurement and other necessary approvals for the project. He instructed officials to ensure that construction contracts for schools in 105 constituen-

cies are allocated within the planned timeframe.

Emphasizing the need for efficiency, the CM directed district collectors to conduct field visits and finalize land selection on a priority basis. He also ordered a survey by experts to verify the suitability of allocated sites. If any land is deemed unfit, alternative locations must be secured immediately. The government aims to fast-track the establishment of these schools to enhance educational infrastructure and provide quality learning opportunities for students across the state.



Talasanani Dismisses BRS LP Merger Speculations

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 15: Former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav has dismissed speculation about the merger of the BRS Legislature Party (BRS LP) with Congress, calling it baseless. He questioned how BRS MLAs, who had already joined Congress and reportedly regretted their decision,

could influence others to do the same. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Talasani stated that there was no need to pay attention to such reports. He confirmed that the party's stance in the GHMC Standing Committee elections would be decided on February 17.

Regarding the no-confidence motion against the mayor, he said no decision had been made yet. He also revealed that BRS has opted not to contest the MLC elections, emphasizing that the party has its own strategic plans.



Harish Rao Opposes Dumping Yard in Gummadidala



TPN , Correspondent, Sangareddy, Feb 15: Former Minister Harish Rao has extended his support to farmers and locals protesting against the establishment of a dumping yard in Gummadidala mandal, Sangareddy district. MLAs Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, Chinta Prabhakar, Manik Rao, MLC Shambhipur Raju, and other key leaders participated in the protest.

Speaking at the event, Harish Rao criticized the Congress government for ignoring public concerns. "The people here are pleading not to set up a dumping yard that would pollute the environment, contaminate Narsapur Lake, and affect public health. Yet, the Revanth Reddy government remains adamant," he said. He accused the administration of forcefully detaining hundreds of protesters and pushing the project forward under the cover of night.

Harish Rao highlighted that the previous government had halted similar plans in response to public opposition. He demanded an immediate withdrawal of the dumping yard project, alleging that Revanth Reddy had already attempted to seize land in Lagacharla and Nyalkal.

"The farmers of this region cultivate crops like gold. Their concerns must be heard. We will fight for you in the Assembly and exert pressure on the government," he assured.

He also warned the Sangareddy District Collector and GHMC Commissioner to stop the project, citing High Court orders against it. "If the government does not reconsider its decision, it will face serious consequences," he warned.

Meenakshi Natarajan Appointed as Telangana Congress In-Charge



TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed Meenakshi Natarajan as the new in-charge of Telangana Congress affairs, replacing Deepadas Munshi. Meenakshi Natarajan, a leader from Madhya Pradesh, has been actively working at various levels in the Congress party. She served as the NSUI president from 1999 to 2002 and later as the Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress president until 2005. In 2008, she was elected as an AICC secretary. She won the 2009 Lok Sabha elections from Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, but lost in subsequent elections. Natarajan is recognized as a key member of Rahul Gandhi's team.

Deepadas Munshi, who was appointed after Congress's victory in Telangana, faced criticism for allegedly interfering in administrative affairs beyond her party role. Several party leaders were reportedly dissatisfied, blaming her for delays in cabinet expansion. She was also accused of prioritizing personal connections over party matters, with claims that more political activity happened at her residence than at PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud's office or Gandhi Bhavan.

Before Munshi, Manik Rao Thackeray was the Telangana Congress in-charge and played a crucial role in the party's electoral success. He effectively coordinated party leaders, trained polling agents, and managed the war room at Gandhi Bhavan during the assembly elections.

With Natarajan's appointment, many believe Rahul Gandhi's influence over Telangana Congress will strengthen. Party insiders anticipate strategic changes under her leadership, ensuring better coordination within the state unit.

Phone Tapping Case: Court Grants Bail to Former DSP Praneeth Rao

TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: In a significant development in the Telangana phone tapping case, the Nampally Sessions Court has granted bail to former SIB DSP Dugyala Praneeth Rao (A2 in the case). Praneeth Rao, who was in judicial remand at Chanchalguda Jail, secured bail after multiple hearings. His lawyer, Umamaheswara Rao, argued that almost all other accused in the case had already been granted bail. The Telangana High Court had earlier granted interim bail to former Additional SP Bhujanga Rao and former DCP Prabhakar Rao, while the Supreme Court granted bail to Additional SP Tirupatanna.

The phone tapping case gained prominence after the Congress government launched an investigation into alleged surveillance on opposition leaders, including those from Congress and BJP, during the BRS regime. Reports suggest that Praneeth Rao removed and destroyed 42 hard disks from 17 computers in the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) to erase evidence.

The Telangana government formed a special team to probe the case, leading to multiple arrests. With the latest bail order, all key accused have now been granted bail. Praneeth Rao is expected to be released soon.



Telangana Speaker

Quality Meals Provided to Hostel Students

TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: Telangana Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar emphasized that wardens should treat students in government hostels as their own children and ensure they receive nutritious food. On Friday, cooking utensils worth ₹25 lakh were distributed to wardens of 104 SC, ST, BC, minority, government, and Gurukul hostels in the district. The initiative was led by Chief Whip of the Legislative Council Patnam Mahender Reddy, District Collector Prateek Jain, and other officials.

Speaker Prasad Kumar praised the District Collector's efforts in securing funds for hostel improvements. He assured that he would push for additional government funding to enhance hostel accommodations. Highlighting the state government's commitment to education, he noted

that over 7% of the state budget has been allocated to the education sector.

He stated that improved cooking facilities would ensure hygienic and nutritious meals for students. The state government has increased diet charges by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200%, ensuring better-quality meals. Legislators and district officials are regularly inspecting hostels to ensure compliance with food standards.

Additionally, the government is setting up integrated residential schools in every constituency and modernizing schools and hostels. The first teacher recruitment under CM Revanth Reddy's administration has also been conducted. Several officials, including Additional Collectors Lingya Nayak and Sudhir, attended the event.



AP MLA Invites CM to Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam

TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy invited Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to the annual Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam at Sri Kalahasti, known as the "Kailash of the South."

The MLA met the Chief Minister at the CM Camp Office in Hyderabad on Friday, presenting an invitation letter and Tirtha Prasad from the temple. They also discussed developmental programs between the two states. Sudheer Reddy requested CM Revanth Reddy to attend the Brahmotsavam with his family.

Jakkidi Siva Charan Reddy Takes Oath as Youth Congress President

TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: The swearing-in ceremony of Telangana State Youth Congress President Jakkidi Siva Charan Reddy was a grand affair, attended by several prominent leaders. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with Ministers, MPs, MLAs, chairpersons of various corporations, constituency in-charges, and state in-charges of the Youth Congress, also participated.

Before the ceremony, Jakkidi Siva Charan Reddy paid homage at the Martyrs' Stupa. A



massive rally was later organized from the Stupa to Gandhi Bhavan, featuring cultural performances, poetry recitations, and tradi-

tional games.

Following the oath-taking, Jakkidi Siva Charan Reddy inaugurated the Youth Congress state office at Indira Bhavan and officially assumed charge as the State Youth Congress President. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of thousands of Youth Congress leaders, activists, and party members.

On this occasion, Jakkidi Siva Charan Reddy expressed his gratitude to all Youth Congress leaders and activists who attended and pledged to work towards strengthening the party and empowering the youth.

Indiramma Houses: Construction Begins

TPN , Correspondent, Nalgonda, Feb 15: As part of the state government's ambitious Indiramma Houses scheme, District Collector Tripathi has directed officials to expedite the construction of houses in villages where the scheme was formally launched on January 26.

A preparatory meeting was held at Udayaditya Bhavan in the District Collector's office premises on Friday, bringing together Panchayat Secretaries and Masons to raise awareness about the construction process.

Collector Tripathi emphasized key

steps, including site selection, payments, and technical guidelines. She clarified that payments would be made only for newly constructed houses as per government regulations, and no funds would be allocated for old houses or extensions of existing structures. Officials explained the payment process at different stages, the materials to be used, and other technical aspects of the project. The meeting was attended by Housing Department Project Director Rajkumar, RDO, In-charge DRO Y. Ashok Reddy, and other officials.



Etala Slams Congress, Highlights BJP's Role in MLC Elections



TPN , Correspondent, Hyderabad, Feb 15: BJP MP Etala Rajender criticized the Congress government, stating that it has lost its grip within a year. Speaking at Sushma Swaraj's birth anniversary celebrations at the BJP state office, he emphasized BJP's active role in teacher and graduate MLC elections.

He announced Malka Komuriah as the teacher MLC candidate for Adilabad-Nizamabad-Medak-Karimnagar, Anji Reddy as the graduate MLC candidate, and Sarottam Reddy as the teacher MLC candidate for Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda. Etala accused Congress of failing to fulfill promises, particularly regarding GO 317, which affected teachers. He claimed that BJP was the only party that fought for teachers' rights.



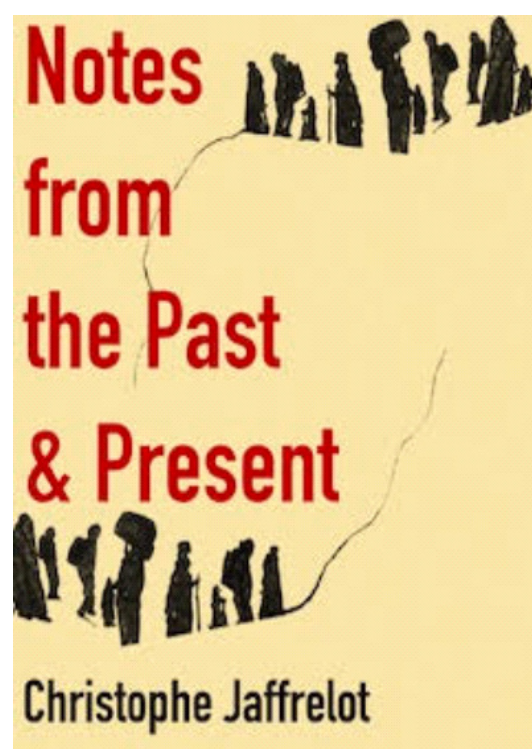
Why are Gujarati Migrants Fleeing the Model State?

Gujarat, a state often hailed as a model of economic growth in India, presents a paradox: despite boasting one of the highest growth rates and per capita GDPs in the country, it remains plagued by high levels of poverty and a lack of job opportunities. This contradiction has prompted thousands of Gujaratis, particularly from rural areas, to risk their lives migrating illegally to the United States. In fact, Gujaratis constitute a significant portion of illegal Indian migrants to the US, with 41,330 out of 67,391 illegal Indian migrants in 2023 hailing from Gujarat. The plight of these migrants has been tragically underscored by incidents such as the deaths of Jagdish Patel and his family, who froze to death while attempting to cross the US-Canada border in 2022.

Despite its high economic growth, Gujarat continues to struggle with mass poverty. The state's GDP per capita was Rs 181,963 in 2022-23, more than double the national average of Rs 99,404. However, much of this wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few, while the majority of the population continues to live in poverty. This is largely due to a failure to create enough jobs that provide decent wages for the state's poor, particularly in rural areas.

The state's labor market is marked by a trend of informalization, with 74% of workers in Gujarat lacking formal contracts, compared to 41% in Karnataka and 53% in Tamil Nadu. This casualization results in lower wages for workers, with the average daily wage for casual labor in Gujarat in 2024 at Rs 375—well below the national average of Rs 433. Furthermore, the average monthly earnings from regular salaried jobs in Gujarat are also below the national average, standing at Rs 17,503 compared to Rs 21,103.

The rural economy of Gujarat is particularly dire. In 2023, agricultural workers earned the lowest daily wage in India, with an average of Rs 242. This is even



lower than in Bihar, one of India's poorest states. Other rural workers, such as artisans, also face low wages, with daily earnings of just Rs 273. In comparison, Bihar's rural workers earn higher wages, with construction workers in Gujarat earning Rs 323 per day, again trailing behind states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Moreover, the state's rural and urban populations exhibit relatively low consumption levels. The Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) in Gujarat's urban areas was Rs 6,621, and in rural areas, it was just Rs 3,798 in 2022-23. These figures place Gujarat behind other states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka in terms of basic living standards.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which measures poverty by considering access to education, healthcare, and food, also reveals Gujarat's challenges. In 2020-21, 11.66% of the state's population was classified as poor according to the MPI, a

figure that is better than some states but still indicates significant poverty.

The root cause of this paradox lies in Gujarat's economic policies, which prioritize capital-intensive industries over labor-intensive ones. Under Narendra Modi's leadership, Gujarat's industrial strategy shifted dramatically, focusing on large-scale infrastructure projects and petrochemicals at the expense of labor-intensive industries and social spending, including education and healthcare. This change marked a departure from Gujarat's previous model, which had supported small and medium enterprises (SMEs), known for their higher employment potential.

The shift in industrial policy, particularly the introduction of the Gujarat Special Investment Region Act in 2009, led to the creation of industrial mega-projects that generated few jobs relative to the investment. For example, a Rs 10 billion project would only employ about 2,000 people, resulting in a ratio of Rs 500,000 per job. This capital-intensive model led to the decline of SMEs, with many shutting down due to delays in payments and the high cost of doing business.

The rise of crony capitalism, exemplified by industrial giants like the Adani Group, further exacerbated the problem. Despite being among the largest conglomerates in India, the Adani Group employs just 36,000 people, the fewest among the top six business groups in the country.

In conclusion, Gujarat's high GDP and economic growth are not reflected in the standard of living for most of its residents. The state's focus on large-scale, capital-intensive industries, coupled with the decline of labor-intensive sectors, has resulted in poor job creation, low wages, and continued poverty. This economic disparity has pushed many Gujaratis to seek a better life abroad, often through dangerous and illegal means.

SC's stinging comments on freebies miss the real harm they do



Justice B.R. Gavai has recently raised concerns about the long-term effects of freebies distributed by political parties, particularly in Maharashtra, where such incentives are provided prior to elections. He criticized the practice, arguing that it undermines the national work ethic by reducing the motivation to work. Gavai pointed out a specific issue faced by farmers in Maharashtra, noting that due to the distribution of free benefits, agricultural laborers were increasingly reluctant to work. "Because of the freebies in Maharashtra, which were announced prior to the elections, the agriculturists are not getting laborers. When everybody is getting free [money] at home, why would they want to work?" Gavai remarked, highlighting the adverse consequences these measures can have on the productivity of vital sectors like agriculture.

This criticism of freebies extends beyond Maharashtra, reflecting a broader concern about government social welfare programs. Gavai's comments echo a significant fear that such practices may erode the work culture by fostering dependency on free handouts, thereby discouraging individuals from contributing to the economy through productive labor. According to Gavai, these types of freebies often become a blanket criticism of all forms of social welfare, making it harder to build a robust and sustainable social security system that can support citizens without creating dependency.

However, evidence from government schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) challenges this assumption. Data from the MGNREGA program contradicts the idea that welfare schemes discourage people from working. It shows that the demand for work under MGNREGA spikes during the lean season in agriculture, when there is less availability of work in farming, and many people turn to these government-backed employment opportunities as a means to support themselves.

Despite such data, there remains growing discontent among the middle class regarding the financing of these freebies, particularly when they are funded through taxpayer money. Many view the extensive distribution of free benefits as an unsustainable financial practice that may strain the economy in the long term. That said, well-established government welfare programs like the Public Distribution System (PDS), old-age pensions, and PM-Kisan remain valuable tools for addressing the needs of vulnerable sections of society, offering targeted assistance where necessary.

The challenge remains in balancing the need for effective welfare measures with maintaining a productive, self-sustaining workforce that doesn't rely solely on government support. While schemes like MGNREGA play a crucial role, the debate about freebies and their implications for work culture and economic sustainability is likely to continue.

Modi-Macron Power Combo: What Makes France Such A Loyal Partner To India?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France was a significant diplomatic moment, underscoring the strengthening of India-France relations. The visit was marked by warm exchanges between Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, highlighting a partnership based on trust, mutual respect, and strategic autonomy. The duo co-chaired the Paris AI Action Summit, where India took center stage, advocating for a democratic and unbiased approach to AI development, aiming for inclusivity, particularly for the Global South. This summit aimed to present an alternative to the US-led OpenAI and China's DeepSeek, focusing on harnessing AI's potential without succumbing to fear and skepticism.

One of Modi's standout contributions was his call for a democratised

AI model, free from biases that often reflect political and social prejudices. His argument emphasized the importance of training AI systems on diverse, balanced datasets, a message that resonated widely on social media. India's growing AI ambitions are backed by a strong talent pool, with over 650,000 professionals in the sector, and the country's AI mission is rapidly expanding, with plans to add more GPUs to its infrastructure. Furthermore, AI model training costs in India are significantly lower than in other parts of the world, thanks to government subsidies.

Modi's visit also included a focus on economic ties, with the India-France CEO Forum co-hosted by the two leaders, reinforcing their commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations. Modi's interactions extended



beyond AI and economics, as he visited Marseille, where he inaugurated a new Indian consulate and toured key

energy projects, including the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

The strategic alignment between India and France has long been based on shared values, with both nations prioritizing strategic autonomy in their foreign policies. Unlike other Western nations, France has consistently supported India in critical moments, particularly during the 1998 nuclear tests when it chose not to impose sanctions. This partnership extends across various sectors, including defense, where a \$10 billion defense deal is set to be finalized soon, and nuclear energy, where France is helping India develop the Jaitapur nuclear power plant. This deep-rooted cooperation between India and France is set to continue shaping global technology, energy, and defense landscapes, with both countries working together to drive the future of AI and beyond.

Mission-500: India, US Aim To Double Bilateral Trade To \$500 Billion By 2030

- Modi, Trump launch Mission-500 for \$500B trade by 2030.
- New 10-year US-India defense partnership set (2025-2035).
- Modi visits US after Trump's second-term inauguration.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

During a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, both leaders unveiled several key initiatives aimed at enhancing bilateral relations. One of the major highlights was the launch of Mission-500, a trade and investment initiative designed to more than double the current two-way trade to USD 500 billion by 2030. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri shared the details of these ambitious plans during a press briefing.

In addition to Mission-500, the leaders introduced the US-India Compact for the 21st Century, which aims to accelerate military partnerships, bolster commerce, and drive technological advancements. Both nations

also committed to negotiating a **multi-sector trade agreement by the fall of 2025, with the goal of enhancing trade across goods and services sectors.

Mr. Misri elaborated, stating that the two leaders were determined to focus on strengthening trade relations by making greenfield investments in high-value industries in each other's countries. He also highlighted plans to negotiate and finalize a 10-year framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership covering the period from 2025 to 2035. As part of this agreement, both countries will move forward with ongoing defence procurement negotiations, including platforms for land and air systems, as well as coproduction agreements. The leaders also agreed to initiate discus-

sions for a reciprocal defence procurement agreement, which could further enhance defence ties between the nations.

In a warm gesture, President Trump welcomed PM Modi with a hug at the White House, reaffirming the strength of their personal and diplomatic relationship. During the meeting, PM Modi expressed his delight at seeing Trump back at the White House for his second term and reiterated India's commitment to advancing the strategic partnership between the two countries.

This visit marks PM Modi's first official trip to the US since President Trump's second term began, and it underscores the growing cooperation between the world's largest democracies.

'Srinagar people deserved better: J&K CM as no night prayers at Jamia Masjid

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Jammu and Kashmir's former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, condemned the security establishment's decision to seal Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid on Shab-e-Baraat, one of the holiest nights in the Islamic calendar. The decision to restrict access to the mosque during this significant religious observance sparked widespread criticism.

In a post on X, Abdullah expressed his disappointment, calling the action "very unfortunate" and claiming it demonstrated a lack of confidence in both the people and the law-and-order system. He further emphasized that the decision undermined the belief that peace and calm would not prevail without extreme measures. Abdullah added, "The people of Srinagar deserved better."

The incident occurred when the police placed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who was scheduled to deliver a sermon at the mosque on Shab-e-Baraat, under house arrest. People present at the mosque were asked to leave, and the mosque management was informed that there would be no night prayers.



Meanwhile, elsewhere in Srinagar, thousands of faithful gathered at various mosques and shrines to observe Shab-e-Baraat, with the Hazratbal shrine hosting the largest congregation on Thursday night. The occasion is observed by Muslims across South Asia and beyond, including in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and several Central Asian countries. The night commemorates significant events in Islamic history, including the Prophet Muhammad's entry into Makkah and his prayers for the forgiveness of departed souls.

Dalai Lama Granted Z-Category Security Cover

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In light of potential security threats, the Indian government has provided a **Z-category armed protection cover** to Tibetan spiritual leader **Dalai Lama**. Official sources confirmed the move on Thursday, citing concerns for the safety of the 89-year-old leader.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed the **VIP security wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** to handle the security arrangements for Dalai Lama. This decision comes as part of efforts to safeguard the leader, who has long been a prominent figure in the global Tibetan independence movement.



The Z-category security detail is among the highest levels of protection provided by the Indian government. It includes a large team of armed personnel and specialized security measures to ensure the safety of individuals facing specific threats.

Dalai Lama, who has been residing in India since 1959 following his exile from Tibet, continues to be a revered spiritual figure. Despite his peaceful approach to advocacy, he has faced various threats due to his stance on Tibetan autonomy and his global influence.

This enhanced security arrangement underscores the importance of safeguarding influential leaders, particularly in light of their symbolic significance on the international stage.

CRPF Jawan Opens Fire at Manipur Camp, Kills Two Before Shooting Himself

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

A CRPF jawan opened fire on his colleagues at a camp in Lamsang, Imphal West, on Monday night, killing two personnel and injuring eight others before taking his own life. The incident occurred around 8 PM within the 120th battalion of the force. Senior police and CRPF officials rushed to the scene following the gunfire. The injured personnel were immediately shifted to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Imphal for treatment. Authorities are investigating the motive behind the shooting, while security at the camp has been reinforced to prevent further incidents.

Allegations of National Security Threats: Assam CM Targets Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Assam Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, is set to discuss the national security implications surrounding Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, following claims of alleged Pakistani links involving his wife. Sarma announced that on February 16, the cabinet would deliberate on whether the recent revelations concerning the MP from Assam require a thorough examination of national security concerns.

In his posts on X, Sarma alluded to Gogoi's parliamentary actions after his marriage to Elizabeth Colebourn, a British citizen, who allegedly had professional ties with Pakistani individuals linked to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Sarma's statements reference social media posts from pro-BJP handles claiming that Colebourn had worked under Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, a former advisor to Pakistan's Planning Commission, raising questions about her associations.

Additionally, Sarma accused Gogoi of seeking sensitive defense information in Parliament, particularly related to the country's coastal radar systems and defense infrastructure. The Chief Minister's posts pointed to a visit by Gogoi, along with his startup, to the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi in 2015, where they discussed India-Pakistan relations, despite India's formal protest over the Pakistani High Commission's interference in internal matters. Sarma argued that the timing of these actions, including Gogoi's growing focus on defense matters, raised national security concerns.

In response, Gaurav Gogoi dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, sarcastically suggesting that if his wife could be an ISI agent, he must be a RAW agent. He further claimed that Sarma's accusations were an attempt to deflect attention from ongoing land grabbing cases involving his family. Gogoi suggested that Sarma's actions were motivated by the potential loss of his position as the Chief Minister, with the BJP leadership allegedly planning to replace him with Dilip Saikia.

The dispute has sparked intense political exchanges, with both sides exchanging serious accusations, setting the stage for an important debate on national security and political maneuvering in Assam.

US Approves Extradition of Mumbai Terror Attack Accused Tahawwur Rana to India

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a significant development following his bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump announced that his administration has approved the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, to India. During a joint press briefing, Trump expressed his satisfaction over the decision, calling Rana one of the "evil people" involved in the horrific attacks and confirming that he would face justice in India.

"I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters, Tahawwur Rana, to face justice in India," Trump said. He further added, "He is going back to India to face justice." Prime Minister Modi thanked President Trump for expediting the extradition process, stating, "A perpetrator

of the Mumbai terror attack is being extradited for his interrogation and trial in India."

This announcement follows the US Supreme Court's rejection of Rana's review petition on January 21, clearing the way for his extradition. The US State Department had previously stated that, in light of the Supreme Court's decision, it was evaluating the next steps in the case. The Department reaffirmed its support for India's efforts to ensure that those responsible for the Mumbai attacks face justice.

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-origin businessman, is accused of being involved in the 2008 attacks that killed 166 people, including six Americans. He was linked to David Coleman Headley, another key



Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Rana had traveled to India in November 2008, staying at Mumbai's Renaissance Hotel during the attack.

Indian agencies will now interrogate Rana and proceed with his trial in India. Rana had been previously convicted in the US for providing material support to terrorism and had faced prosecution for his involvement with Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terrorist group behind the Mumbai attacks.

PM Modi Meets Elon Musk, Discusses Space, AI, and Innovation

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk during his two-day visit to the United States, engaging in discussions on technology, innovation, and space exploration. The meeting took place at Blair House, just hours before Modi's scheduled bilateral talks with US President Donald Trump. Modi described the meeting as "very good" in a post on X, highlighting discussions on strengthening India-US collaboration in artificial intelligence, space exploration, and sustainable development. Sources added that the talks also covered emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, and governance. Musk was accompanied by his three young children, who were seen interacting with Modi during the meeting. Neuralink director Shimon Zilis was also present. The Prime Minister gifted the children three books—Rabindranath Tagore's *The Crescent Moon*, *The Great RK*



Narayan Collection, and Panchatantra. Earlier in the day, Modi met US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, with Indian NSA Ajit Doval also in attendance. He later held talks with Tulsi Gabbard, who was recently sworn in as the US Director of National Intelligence, and India-origin entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. PM Modi and Musk have met several times in the past, including during Modi's visit

to the Tesla facility in 2015. Musk, who now oversees the Department of Government Efficiency under the Trump administration, has expressed interest in expanding Tesla's presence in India. Modi's meeting with Trump is expected to focus on trade agreements, a new defense partnership, and military sales. The two leaders will hold a joint press conference following their discussions.



"No Role For Deep State, Leave It To PM Modi": Trump On Bangladesh Crisis

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

US President Donald Trump distanced his administration from any involvement in the political crisis in Bangladesh, stating that the matter should be left to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His remarks came during a joint press briefing with PM Modi in Washington DC when he was questioned about the alleged role of the US deep state in the recent regime change in Bangladesh. "There was no role for our deep state. This is something that the Prime Minister has been working on for a long time, for hundreds of years, frankly, I have been reading about it. I will leave Bangladesh to the Prime Minister," Trump said, without directly addressing whether the previous Democratic government under Joe Biden had played a part in the change.

Speculation is growing that the Trump administration may avoid direct involvement in Bangladesh, where Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has taken charge as caretaker leader following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has since sought refuge in India. The new interim government has faced criticism for failing to control rising attacks on minorities by alleged radical Islamist elements. Tensions between India and Bangladesh have escalated since Hasina's departure in August amid widespread anti-government protests. India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that PM Modi raised concerns about the situation with President Trump during their discussions.

"We hope that the situation in Bangladesh will also move forward in a direction where we can pursue relations in a constructive and stable way with them. But there are concerns about that situation. And the Prime Minister shared those views with President Trump," Misri stated.

PM Modi, who is on a two-day visit to the US, also met billionaire businessman Elon Musk during his trip.

Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to Return to Earth on March 12



TPN Correspondent | Newyork

NASA and SpaceX are expediting the upcoming crew rotation missions to the International Space Station (ISS), aiming to bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back to Earth. The two astronauts have been stranded in space since June 2024 due to technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which had originally brought them to the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission, previously slated for a late March launch, is now targeting March 12, pending final mission readiness and the completion of NASA's flight certification process. NASA made the announcement on Tuesday, signaling that preparations are progressing ahead of schedule.

Williams and Wilmore are currently part of the Crew-9 mission, which also includes NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov. The Crew-9 team will return to Earth after a few days of handover activities with the Crew-10 astronauts,

who are set to arrive at the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission will carry NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov to the space station. This accelerated launch was made possible after a decision to use a previously flown Dragon spacecraft, named Endurance, rather than a new Dragon spacecraft that was originally planned. SpaceX's teams are now conducting additional assessments of the spacecraft's hardware to ensure it meets NASA's Commercial Crew Program safety standards.

The decision to speed up the return of Williams and Wilmore comes after US President Donald Trump personally asked SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to help bring the astronauts home as soon as possible. Musk has expressed his frustration with the prolonged stay of the astronauts, calling it "terrible" that they have been stranded on the ISS for so long, despite NASA's coordination with SpaceX for their return.

Netanyahu Warns of Renewed Military Action If Hamas Fails to Release Hostages



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a stern warning to Hamas following the group's recent announcement that it will not release Israeli hostages, citing a violation of the ceasefire-hostage agreement. Netanyahu emphasized that Israel will resume intense military action if Hamas fails to meet the Saturday deadline for releasing the hostages.

The Prime Minister's office released a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday, indicating that Netanyahu had instructed the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to mobilize inside and around the Gaza Strip. The military buildup is intended to prepare for a resumption of military operations, which Netanyahu said would focus on the "final defeat" of Hamas if the group fails to uphold the ceasefire.

"I have instructed the IDF to amass forces inside and surrounding the Gaza Strip. This action is underway and will soon be completed," Netanyahu's office stated. The post also clarified the government's position: "If Hamas does not return our hostages by Saturday noon, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF will resume intense fighting until the final defeat of Hamas."

The growing tensions come after Hamas broke the terms of the ceasefire agreement, which was intended to facilitate the release of hostages held by the militant group. The hostages' release had been a key element of the agreement, but Hamas now refuses to honor it, prompting Netanyahu's firm response.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump also weighed in on the situation, advising Israel to take a tough stance on Hamas in order to secure the release of the hostages.

The situation in Gaza remains volatile as both sides brace for further escalation. With the deadline fast approaching, the international community is closely monitoring developments, as the outcome could have significant implications for regional security and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Zelensky Willing to Swap Land with Putin, On Condition of US Mediation

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has expressed readiness to swap land with Russian President Vladimir Putin under one condition – if US President Donald Trump facilitates negotiations between the two nations. This development comes after Russia released at least one American prisoner, which Trump described as a gesture aimed at fostering peace in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.



Zelenskyy also emphasized that Ukraine's security guarantees could not be fulfilled by European partners alone, asserting that security without the involvement of the United States would not be viable. He warned that a deal lacking firm military commitments, such as NATO membership or peacekeeping forces, would allow Russia the opportunity to regroup and potentially attack Ukraine again.

Furthermore, Zelenskyy sought to involve US businesses in Ukraine's reconstruction, offering lucrative deals to firms that contribute to rebuilding the war-torn nation.

Zelenskyy has historically rejected ceding any Ukrainian territory after Russia's invasion in February 2022. However, in a recent interview with *The Guardian*, he stated that Ukraine would consider trading territories, including the Kursk region of Russia, which Ukraine had seized following a surprise offensive last year. Zelenskyy remained noncommittal on which areas Ukraine might request in return but emphasized the importance of all Ukrainian territories.

Nothing To Buy, Will Take It: Trump Doubles Down On Gaza Takeover Plan



TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his controversial proposal to "own" the Gaza Strip, asserting that the United States will take control of the region and manage its redevelopment, which would involve displacing the 2.2 million Palestinians living there. The plan was discussed during a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

"We're going to have Gaza. We don't have to buy it. There's nothing to buy. We will have Gaza... We're going to take it, we're going to hold it, we're going to cherish it," Trump said, while also denying any personal involvement in real estate development in the region. He emphasized that the redevelopment would benefit the broader Middle East, creating jobs for the region's people.

Trump suggested that Palestinians in Gaza would be willing to leave, citing the dire living conditions in the enclave following the ongoing conflict. "Look at the way they're living now. Nobody's living like that in the entire world," he stated, referring to the destruction caused by over a year of fighting following the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas.

While Trump has presented his proposal to take over Gaza as a potential solution, Jordan's King Abdullah expressed opposition, emphasizing the Arab world's position against the displacement of Palestinians. He affirmed the importance of rebuilding Gaza without forcing Palestinians to leave and prioritizing the region's humanitarian needs. Abdullah added that Egypt was working on a plan that could align with Trump's vision without displacing Gaza's residents.

Trump had previously mentioned the possibility of halting US aid to Jordan if it did not accept refugees, but during the meeting, he retreated from this stance. In response, King Abdullah offered to take in 2,000 severely ill Palestinian children as a goodwill gesture.

Meanwhile, Israel has warned that it will resume intense fighting in Gaza if hostages are not returned by this weekend, with Hamas maintaining its commitment to the ceasefire deal that has largely held since the fighting paused in recent months.



India's Wholesale Inflation Eases to 2.31% in January

India's wholesale inflation moderated to 2.31% in January on an annual basis, slightly lower than the 2.37% recorded in December, according to government data released on Friday.

The data shows a notable decline in the inflation rate for primary articles, which dropped to 4.69% in January from 6.02% in December. Primary articles include food items, which are a significant component of the wholesale price index, and this decrease reflects a more stable pricing environment for agricultural and raw materials.

Additionally, fuel and power wholesale prices saw a smaller decline of 2.78% in January, compared to a sharper 3.79% drop in December. The moderation in fuel prices indicates a less volatile energy market, contributing to the overall easing of wholesale inflation.

The January figures indicate a stabiliza-

tion in the cost of goods at the wholesale level, offering some relief to both businesses and consumers. The easing of inflation in primary articles and fuel prices suggests that input costs may not rise as sharply in the near term, which could have a positive impact on the broader economy.

While the overall wholesale inflation remains subdued, analysts will be closely watching the upcoming months to see if these trends continue, particularly in sectors like food and energy, which have a significant influence on the overall inflationary landscape.

India's wholesale inflation is a key indicator for policymakers, as it influences decisions related to interest rates and economic growth strategies. The government's efforts to stabilize inflation may help support economic growth while maintaining price stability for consumers and industries.

UM Hardeep Puri emphasises commitment to attract investors in energy sector

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, on Friday emphasized India's dedication to creating a predictable, stable, and growth-oriented business environment within the energy sector. Speaking at a discussion during the India Energy Week 2025 in New Delhi, Puri underlined the government's commitment to facilitating ease of doing business in the energy industry, referencing the recently tabled Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 in Parliament.



Puri explained that the bill aims to attract international investments while solidifying India's position on the global energy map. He noted that the law's enactment would reduce unpredictability, thereby boosting confidence in the sector and encouraging greater foreign involvement. Highlighting India's rapidly growing energy needs, driven by its goal to become a developed nation by 2047, Puri pointed out that this expansion would open substantial opportunities in both traditional and green energy sectors. He emphasized that India's strategy not only focuses on securing its

energy future but also on contributing to the global energy market. Collaborative efforts in clean energy technologies are already underway with countries like Italy, the UK, Brazil, and several Middle Eastern nations.

Puri also underscored India's eagerness to share innovative solutions with the world. He mentioned that technologies developed in India, such as clean cooking and energy-efficient products, have the potential to be scaled internationally and can significantly aid global efforts to transition to cleaner energy sources.

Additionally, Puri shared insights from discussions with international partners, including the US-India Business Council (USIBC), which is exploring AI applications. He noted that the themes of "frugality, efficiency, and innovation" were central to these conversations, indicating a positive outlook for future collaborations. He also highlighted productive meetings with representatives from the Gulf and Latin America, reinforcing India's active role in the global energy landscape.

Indian Oil and Gas Companies Secure Long-Term LNG Deals Amid Growing Demand



In a bid to secure natural gas supplies as demand rapidly increases, Indian oil and gas companies have entered into three significant long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) import agreements with global energy giants. The deals, which were finalized during the India Energy Week, are valued in billions of dollars and include contracts with major international players such as Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and TotalEnergies.

Among the key agreements, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest refiner and fuel retailer, has signed a substantial deal with ADNOC Gas, a subsidiary of ADNOC. The agreement is worth between \$7 billion and \$9 billion, with IOC set

to import 1.2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG over a period of 14 years, starting in 2026. This deal aims to address India's growing energy demand, particularly as the country transitions toward cleaner energy sources.

In addition to the IOC-ADNOC deal, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) also finalized a long-term contract with ADNOC, strengthening India's energy ties with the UAE. The deals highlight India's efforts to diversify and secure reliable sources of natural gas, an essential component of the country's energy mix. Furthermore, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) has secured an LNG import agreement with French energy giant TotalEnergies, further diversifying India's energy partnerships.

These long-term LNG contracts are part of India's strategy to ensure energy security while meeting the growing needs of its expanding economy. As the country aims to reduce its carbon footprint and transition to more sustainable energy sources, securing reliable natural gas supplies is crucial for supporting industries and infrastructure projects across the nation.

The agreements solidify India's position in the global LNG market and highlight the country's efforts to diversify its energy sources in line with its broader energy security and sustainability goals.

BSNL Returns to Profitability After 17 Years, Reports Rs 262 Crore Net Profit for Q3



BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has posted a net profit of Rs 262 crore for the third quarter of FY2024-25, marking a significant milestone in the state-owned telecom company's recovery. This is the first time in 17 years that BSNL has recorded a quarterly profit, with the last such instance dating back to 2007. Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia, hailed this achievement as a "significant turning point" for the company, which has focused on expanding its service offerings and growing its subscriber base.

BSNL's growth across several segments is noteworthy, with the company seeing a 14-18% increase in revenue from its mobility, Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH), and leased line services. Additionally, its subscriber base grew from 8.4 crore in June to approximately 9 crore in December, reflecting strong demand for its services.

The positive results are attributed to BSNL's emphasis on network expansion, innovation, and cost optimi-

zation. For instance, mobility services revenue rose by 15%, FTTH revenue saw an 18% increase, and leased line services experienced a 14% growth compared to the same quarter last year. These improvements contributed to BSNL's overall recovery, helping reduce losses by over Rs 1,800 crore compared to the previous year.

In an effort to enhance customer experience, BSNL introduced several new offerings, including National Wi-Fi Roaming, BiTV (Free Entertainment for All Mobile Customers), IFTV for FTTH customers, and the first private 5G connectivity for mining. The company has also been working on cutting finance costs and controlling overall expenditure to boost profitability.

Looking ahead, Scindia expressed confidence that BSNL would continue to grow, with the hope of further revenue increases by the end of the fourth quarter. He emphasized that maintaining control over costs and expenditure would be key in reducing losses further in the coming year.

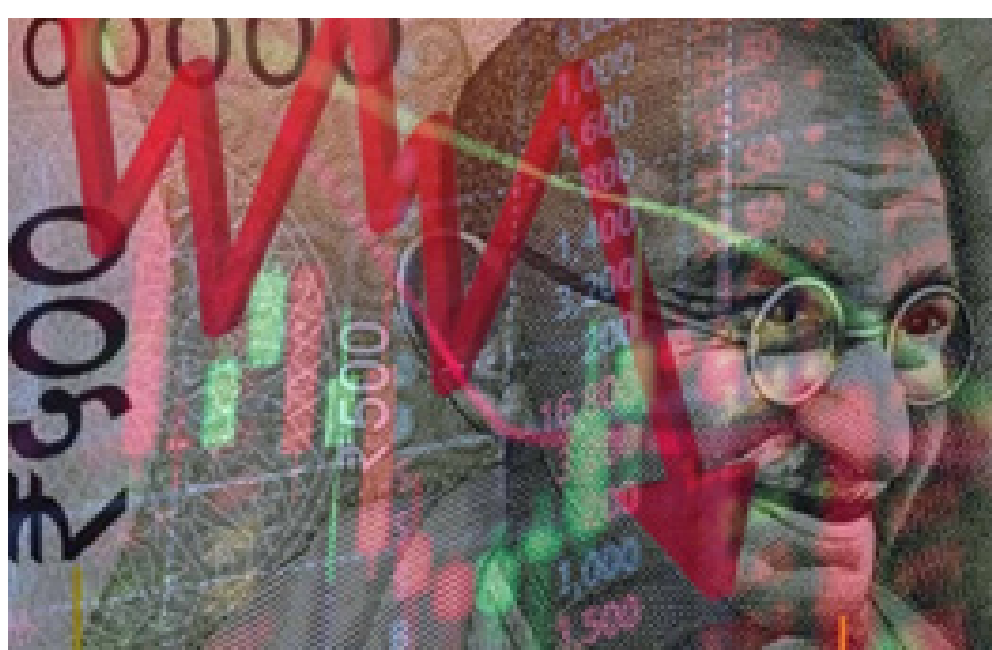
Over the past four years, BSNL has made significant strides, with its EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) doubling from Rs 1,100 crore in FY2019-20 to nearly Rs 2,100 crore in FY2023-24.

One of BSNL's major ongoing projects is its 4G service rollout. Scindia stated that out of 100,000 planned towers, around 75,000 have already been installed, with nearly 60,000 commissioned. The company aims to have all 100,000 towers operational by June this year, which will mark a critical step in BSNL's digital transformation and expansion across India.

India Launches EFTA Desk to Strengthen Economic Ties with Europe

India's industrial growth, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), stood at 3.2% in December 2024, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Wednesday. The growth was slightly slower compared to the 5.2% recorded in November, marking a slowdown after reaching a six-month high.

The manufacturing sector, which constitutes over three-fourths of the IIP, grew by 3% in December 2024. The sector is vital for creating quality jobs, particularly for the young graduates emerging from India's engineering institutes and universities. Notably, 16 out of 23 industry groups at the NIC 2-digit level showed positive growth in December, indicating a broad-based



recovery within manufacturing.

Key contributors to this growth included "Manufacture of basic metals," which saw a 6.7% rise, "Manufacture of electrical equipment," which grew by an impressive 40.1%, and "Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products," which expanded by 3.9%. Within the basic metals sector, products like MS blooms, galvanized steel, and pipes made significant contributions to the overall performance.

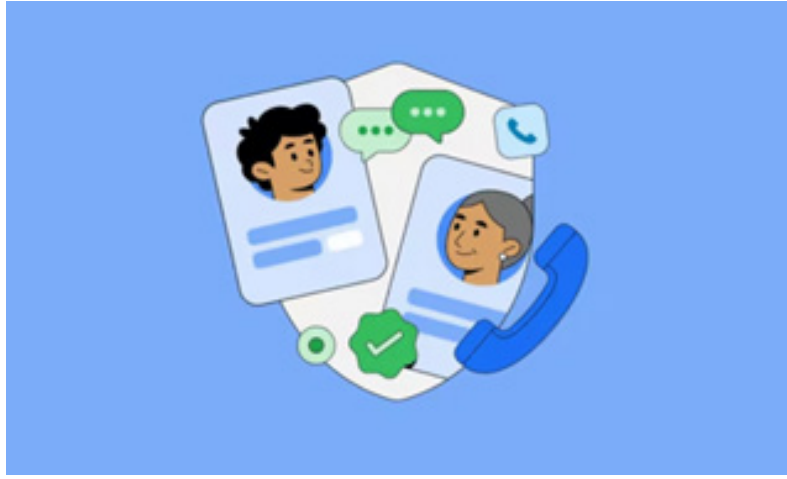
In addition to manufacturing, the electricity sector posted robust growth of 6.2%, while the mining sector grew at a slower pace of 2.6%. The data also highlighted a substantial increase in the production of capital goods, which

surged by 10.3% in December, signaling strong investment in machinery and factory equipment—key drivers for future economic growth and job creation. Additionally, the production of consumer durables, including electronic goods, refrigerators, and TVs, rose by 8.3%, reflecting increasing consumer demand amid rising incomes.

For the period of April-December 2024, industrial production increased by 4%, down from 6.3% during the same period in the previous year. Despite the slowdown, the growth trend in sectors like manufacturing and electricity continues to provide optimism for India's industrial outlook in the coming months.

After Meta, Google will use AI to determine if a user is lying about their age

Google has announced plans to test a new machine learning-powered model designed to determine if a user is under 18. This initiative, set to launch in the United States later this year, will eventually expand to more countries. The goal is to enhance online safety and ensure that users under the age of 18 are shielded from potentially harmful content across Google products. In a blog post, Google explained that the new system would be integrated across its platform, including YouTube, Google Search, and other services. Once the system determines a user is under 18, it will automatically apply several protective measures. These measures include limiting exposure to sensitive advertising content, enabling SafeSearch filters to block explicit search results, and restricting access to age-restricted videos on YouTube. Google emphasized that this age verification model aims to create a safer online environment for younger users, especially in an era where dig-



ital content and advertising are increasingly prevalent. The company has stated that the machine learning model would not require users to manually input their birth dates, but instead, it will use advanced algorithms to detect a user's age based on certain behavioral patterns and data. The company's move follows growing concerns about online safety, privacy, and the well-being of young users. With this new system, Google seeks to build a more age-appropriate online experience that aligns with both regulatory guidelines and user ex-

pectations. It's expected that this approach will evolve over time, as the company gathers feedback and refines the technology. While the model is still in the testing phase, Google is committed to transparency and providing clear options for users to manage their privacy settings. As the testing rolls out in the United States, it will be interesting to see how the model is received and whether it successfully addresses concerns about the protection of young users on the internet.

Outrage in Bengaluru Over 'Rent A Boyfriend' Service Posters During Valentine's Day

A new trend has sparked outrage in Bengaluru, with posters advertising the rental of boyfriends appearing across the city, particularly in areas like Jayanagar, Banashankari, and BDA complexes. The posters, promoting the "Rent A Boyfriend" service, have caught the public's attention, especially as Valentine's Week approaches. The service is being marketed with the tagline "This Valentine's Day, Rent A Boyfriend, Scan Me" and is priced at Rs 389 for a day's rental.



The service, which allows individuals to rent a "boyfriend" for various purposes such as attending public events, parties, or simply to stave off loneliness, has raised concerns among residents of Bengaluru. Many have taken to X, formerly Twitter, to express their outrage, tagging the Bengaluru Police in their posts and demanding action against the service providers. The controversy has sparked heated debates about cultural values and the potential impact of such services on society, with some individuals viewing it as

a threat to the city's traditions. This "rent-a-partner" phenomenon, although not new, has been gaining popularity globally, particularly in countries like China, Japan, and Thailand. Now, it appears to be making its way into India, with new apps and websites emerging to cater to this demand, especially during times like Valentine's Week. In these countries, renting a partner, whether for social events or to meet specific emotional needs, has become a growing trend. However, the practice is now drawing significant attention

in India, where it has sparked discussions around the implications for social behavior, emotional well-being, and public culture. With Bengaluru at the forefront of this controversy, many are calling for greater scrutiny and regulation of such services to ensure that they align with societal norms. As the city grapples with this issue, authorities are expected to examine the legalities surrounding these types of services and their potential consequences for local communities.

AI detects 96% of policy-violating YouTube content



On Safer Internet Day 2025, Google reaffirmed its dedication to user safety by highlighting significant measures implemented to protect billions of users in India. The company reported that in 2024, it prevented fraudulent Google Pay transactions totaling ₹13,000 crore and issued 41 million warnings to safeguard Indian users. Google has intensified its security protocols across various platforms. With Google Play Protect, the service scanned over 200 billion apps daily, identifying more than 13 million new malicious apps outside of Google Play. The company also took action to enforce its policies, blocking over 2.36 million policy-violating apps from reaching Google

Play and banning more than 158,000 developer accounts globally for attempting to publish harmful apps. In its efforts to combat online scams, Google took proactive steps, particularly on YouTube, where in the third quarter of 2024, over 4.1 million channels and 85,000 videos were removed for violating spam, deceptive practices, and scams policies. The platform also strengthened its efforts to tackle clickbait, especially for videos on sensitive topics like news and current events, ensuring viewers weren't misled. Google has also explored innovative approaches to digital literacy, including a pilot study of a mobile game, "ShieldUp!," designed to help

users recognize common manipulation techniques used by scammers. Results showed that playing the game improved users' ability to spot scams, with the effect lasting for weeks. To further enhance online safety, Google engaged in cross-industry collaborations, such as the partnership with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre. This collaboration led to the integration of Google Pay into the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, enabling better information sharing to investigate fraudulent financial activities. These initiatives underscore Google's ongoing commitment to creating a safer and more trustworthy digital ecosystem for users worldwide.

Zuckerberg Reveals He Faced Possible Death Sentence in Pakistan



Indians are renowned for their remarkable 'jugaad' — the ability to find innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to any problem. A recent viral video showcasing an inventive "chai jugaad" perfectly captures this ingenious spirit and has caught the attention of social media users worldwide. The video, shared on Instagram, shows a scene from an Indian train where a tea vendor encounters a problem: a passenger wants tea, but the window has tiny holes in it. Rather than give up, the vendor uses his creativity to serve tea in a way that leaves viewers amazed. The vendor stands outside the train near the window and crumples a small paper cup to fit through the tiny hole. Once the cup is inside, the

passenger carefully unfolds it, allowing the cup to regain its original shape. With precision, the tea vendor then places the spout of his kettle through the same hole and pours hot chai into the paper cup. This "jugaad" method allows the passenger to receive their tea without having to open the window or step outside. The video's caption, originally written in Gujarati, translates to: "This technique has not been tried outside India," followed by a laughing emoji. The clever tea-serving technique quickly gained popularity on social media. Users were impressed by the vendor's ingenuity and flooded the comment section with enthusiastic reactions. One user

remarked, "That's Indian jugaad! So smart," while another joked, "The good thing is that this era cannot even go outside the country." Comments like "Hacker ultra pro max" and "India is definitely not for Beginners" further showcased how the video resonated with viewers. However, not all responses were without concern. One individual raised a hygiene issue, pointing out that "regular travelers know people spit from that gap." Despite the mixed reactions, the video remains a testament to India's knack for creative problem-solving, and the vendor's resourceful technique is a shining example of 'jugaad' in action.

Women In Assam State Consume The Most Alcohol, Shows Survey

A recent survey by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has revealed interesting insights into alcohol consumption patterns among women in India, shedding light on the states with the highest prevalence of female alcohol consumption. According to the survey, Assam stands out with the highest proportion of women consuming alcohol. While the national average for women aged 15-49 who drink alcohol is just 1.2%, Assam's figure is significantly higher, with 16.5% of women in this age group reporting alcohol consumption. This marks a sub-

stantial deviation from the national trend, placing Assam at the top in this regard. Following Assam is Meghalaya, where 8.7% of women aged 15-49 report consuming alcohol. While this figure is lower than Assam's, it is still considerably above the national average, indicating a notable prevalence of alcohol consumption among women in the state. Arunachal Pradesh holds the third spot on the list, with 3.3% of women aged 15-49 consuming alcohol. Though this marks a decline compared to previous years, the fig-

ure remains substantial. Notably, Arunachal Pradesh also has the highest proportion of male alcohol consumers in the country, with 59% of men in the same age group reporting alcohol consumption. Other states such as Sikkim and Chhattisgarh report much lower figures, with only 0.3% and 0.2% of women aged 15-49 consuming alcohol, respectively. These findings shed light on regional differences in alcohol consumption patterns among women in India, with certain northeastern states showing higher prevalence compared to the national average.



Chennai Heat Shock Hyderabad Falcons with 85-82 Victory in InBL Pro U25



In a thrilling upset, the Chennai Heat defeated the league-leading Hyderabad Falcons 85-82 at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium in the InBL Pro U25. Jack Stanwix (20 points) led the charge early, hitting key three-pointers, while Matt Gray (17 points) kept the Heat in control. Despite a strong comeback led by Jack Purchase (21 points) in the final minutes, the Falcons fell short. The Heat built a commanding lead in the first half, and though the Falcons pushed back, Chennai's defense held firm. A clutch three-pointer from Gray extended the Heat's lead, and despite a last-minute rally, the Heat held on for a dramatic victory. The Falcons, missing key players Kushal Singh and Harsh Dagar, fought hard but couldn't overcome the Heat's resilience.

WPL 2025: Smriti Mandhana Confident in RCB's Strength Despite Injury Setbacks



Ahead of the Women's Premier League 3 opener, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Smriti Mandhana expressed faith in her squad, despite facing multiple injury challenges. The defending champions, who kick off their campaign against the Gujarat Giants, have been hit hard by injuries to key players. Australia's Sophie Molineux and New Zealand's Sophie Devine were ruled out, while legspinner Asha Sobhana also sustained an

injury. Despite these setbacks, Mandhana remains confident, highlighting the depth and quality of RCB's squad. "We have really good youngsters and strong replacements," she stated, emphasizing the team's determination to honor the injured players. Mandhana's optimism reflects RCB's readiness to overcome adversity and defend their WPL title with talent and resilience.

Indian Men's Hockey Team Gears Up for FIH Pro League 2024-25



The Indian Men's Hockey Team, ranked fifth globally, is set to begin their FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Under the leadership of Harmanpreet Singh, the team will face World No. 7 Spain in their opening matches on

February 15 and 16, followed by encounters with World No. 4 Germany on February 18 and 19. India's momentum is strong after a bronze medal win at the 2024 Paris Olympics and a successful defense of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024. With a mix of seasoned stars and young talent,

including Vice-Captain Hardik Singh, the team aims to improve on their seventh-place finish from last season and secure World Cup qualification. Chief Coach Craig Fulton emphasized performance over rankings, preparing for a tough series of back-to-back matches.

Sports Ministry Dismisses Speculation About Converting Cricketers into Baseball Players



The Sports Ministry has firmly rejected speculation about turning India's aspiring cricketers into baseball players for future Asian Games or Olympics, clarifying that such an idea has never been discussed. A ministry source stated that baseball is not even a recognized na-

tional federation in India, and the suggestion that it was discussed at the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) meeting was "completely imaginary." The Amateur Baseball Federation of India is affiliated with the global body but lacks recognition from the ministry. The focus, accord-

ing to the ministry, remains on improving sports where India is already performing well. The BCCI also dismissed the idea, highlighting that cricket offers financially rewarding career options, especially with lucrative leagues like the IPL.

India Eliminated from Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships After Loss to Japan



India's campaign at the 2025 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships ended in the quarterfinals with a 3-0 defeat to Japan in Qingdao, China. In the opening match, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto showed resilience against the world

No. 12 Japanese pair Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito, but eventually lost 21-13, 17-21, 21-13 after 61 minutes. Malvika Bansod then faced World No. 8 Tomoka Miyazaki, but her efforts fell short, losing 21-12, 21-19. India's hopes rested on Asian

Games bronze medallist HS Prannoy, who fought back from a game down against Kenta Nishimoto. However, Nishimoto dominated the decider, securing a 21-14, 15-21, 21-12 victory, sealing India's exit from the tournament.

SESA Football Academy Clinch Goa Regional Round Title in Thrilling Penalty Shootout

SESA Football Academy secured their place in the National Finals of the Dream Sports Championship 2025 after a dramatic penalty shootout victory against Dempo SC in the Goa regional round final on Friday at the Fields of Dreams. The match ended 2-2, with SESA initially taking a 2-0 lead through goals by Aniket Terane and Pramod Gawas. However, Dempo SC mounted a fierce comeback with goals from Jonathan Silva and Jodric Abranches, leveling the score in injury time. In the ensuing shootout, SESA goalkeeper Sakib Lamture became the hero, saving two penalties as SESA triumphed 4-2. Dempo SC will also advance to the National Finals as the best losing regional finalist, completing the lineup for the finals in Goa in April 2025.





Mahesh Babu Unveils Romantic Song 'Wherever You Go' from Robinhood



Superstar Mahesh Babu has launched the much-anticipated second song, "Wherever You Go," from the upcoming heist comedy **Robinhood**, starring Nithiin and Sreeleela. The song, composed by popular Kollywood music director GV Prakash Kumar, is a delightful romantic track, perfectly timed for this year's Valentine's Day. "Wherever You Go" showcases Nithiin's affection for Sreeleela in a creative and quirky manner, with a playful blend of well-known brands and their iconic taglines. Armaan Malik's enchanting vocals bring an extra layer of charm to the song, while Krishnakanth's lyrics elevate its emotional depth. The song's upbeat tempo and infectious rhythm make it a perfect romantic anthem.

In the track, Nithiin appears in a stylish, energetic avatar, while Sreeleela dazzles with her elegance and charm. The chemistry between the two stars is palpable, with their vibrant dance moves and sizzling screen presence enhancing the song's appeal. The visually stunning music video complements the energetic vibe of the song, making it a treat for fans. Directed by Venky Kudumula and produced by the Mythri Movie Makers banner, **Robinhood** promises to be a fun-filled entertainer. The film is slated for a worldwide release on March 28, 2025. With its exciting mix of romance, humor, and action, **Robinhood** is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films of the year.

Laila : A Misfire with Missed Potential



Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen's latest film **Laila** has been released amidst much controversy, but does it live up to the hype? Unfortunately, the film falls short in several areas, leaving audiences underwhelmed.

Sonu (Vishwak Sen), a beauty parlour owner admired by many women in his neighborhood, finds himself entangled in a conflict with local rowdy Rustum (Abhimanyu Singh) and SI Shankar (Bablu Prithviraj). In an attempt to escape their threats, Sonu adopts a new identity as Laila. The transformation and its consequences form the crux of the story. Vishwak Sen's bold decision to take on a challenging role as Laila (dressed as a woman) is commendable, and he does a passable job in the role. His performance as Laila, while not extraordinary, does manage to hold the film together in parts. Abhimanyu Singh shines with his comic timing, especially in the second half. His presence provides much-needed levity in an otherwise dreary narrative. The biggest drawback of *Laila* is its outdated and weak storyline,

which lacks depth or originality. The film follows a predictable, formulaic approach with little novelty beyond what the trailers already revealed. Despite an attempt at humor, crass dialogues and ill-timed jokes only diminish the film's appeal. Vishwak Sen's character transformation feels unnecessary and lacks emotional depth. The screenplay is underdeveloped, and the direction appears unfocused. Moreover, the film suffers from some outdated notions about complexions that feel out of place and offensive. Akanksha Sharma's role is limited to an extended cameo with minimal impact, and the rest of the characters remain underdeveloped. The random references to Chiranjeevi feel forced and do nothing to enhance the experience. Director Ram Narayan's execution falters, with a poorly structured screenplay that hinders the film's potential. The music by Leon James doesn't create much of an impact, and the cinematography feels lackluster. While the runtime is short, the editing does little to maintain the film's flow.

HHVM: Valentine's Day treat served with a special update

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited period action drama, **Hari Hara Veera Mallu**, is all set for its grand release, and the makers have confirmed that it will hit the screens on March 28, 2025, despite earlier speculations suggesting a delay. The confirmation came with a special Valentine's Day treat for fans, as the team released a romantic poster featuring Pawan Kalyan and Nidhi Agerwal, along with an exciting update about the second single from the film. The second single, titled "Kollagottinadhiro," will be unveiled on February 24, 2025, at 3 PM. Fans can expect the song's release simultaneously in multiple languages, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film's music. This romantic track promises to capture the chemistry between the lead pair and is expected to be one of the highlights of the film. **Hari Hara Veera Mallu** is current-

ly in the final stages of shooting, and the film is shaping up to be a high-budget spectacle. Set against the backdrop of the 17th-century Mughal Empire, the film promises to be a thrilling ride. Pawan Kalyan plays the titular role of Veera Mallu, a fearless warrior, while Bobby Deol portrays the villainous Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. The ensemble cast also includes Anupam Kher, Subbaraju, Sunil, and Nasser in pivotal roles, adding to the film's star power. The film is directed by Jyothi Krishna and Krish Jagarlamudi, who have combined their expertise to bring this historical drama to life. The production is handled by A. Dayakar Rao, and A.M. Ratnam is presenting the film. Music maestro MM Keeravani has composed the soundtrack, further raising expectations for the musical elements of the film.



Interstellar Sets New Records with Re-release in Telugu States



The Telugu audience's deep love for cinema was once again proven with the overwhelming success of the re-release of **Interstellar**, Christopher Nolan's iconic space exploration masterpiece. The film, which is considered one

of the greatest in its genre, marked a decade since its original release, and its re-release in India generated immense excitement, particularly in the Telugu states. Right from the start, the re-release bookings showed strong demand, especially in Hyderabad, where the response was exceptionally positive. One of the standout locations was Prasads Multiplex, a well-known hub for movie lovers. The numbers reported from this cinema were nothing short of extraordinary, setting a new benchmark for re-release films in the region. Prasads Multiplex screened **Interstellar** across 50 shows, attracting an impressive 25,242 admissions and grossing a remarkable ₹74,46,390. This was

the highest-ever earnings for any re-release film at the multiplex, surpassing previous records by a wide margin. The screenings were met with an astounding 99.9% occupancy, indicating that the film was in high demand. The numbers were so strong that even the most popular Telugu cult classics, which are often the stars of the cinema scene in the region, couldn't compete with the massive turnout for **Interstellar**. This trend highlights the diversity and tenacity of the Telugu audience, who not only have a deep appreciation for their local films but also show immense admiration for high-quality international cinema.

Chhaava – Watchable historical action drama



Chhaava opens with the poignant death of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a moment that deeply shakes the Maratha Empire. Stepping into his father's shoes, Sambhaji (Vicky Kaushal) embarks on a daring assault on the Mughal stronghold of Burhanpur. Aurangzeb (Akshaye Khanna), enraged by the Maratha audacity, sees this as the perfect opportunity to crush the Marathas once and for all. Yet, Sambhaji's strategic brilliance keeps the mighty Mughal Empire on its toes. However, betrayal from within leads to his capture, setting the stage for a saga of defiance, sacrifice, and undying courage. intensity, exceptional dialogue delivery, and strong screen presence make the film captivating, particularly during the gripping climax. He elevates the film

with his portrayal of the brave and resilient warrior. Rashmika Mandanna's brief role is handled well, even though her screen time is limited. Akshaye Khanna's portrayal of Aurangzeb is decent, and supporting actors like Ashutosh Rana, Divya Dutta, and Diana Penty contribute solid performances to the overall narrative. While the film holds immense historical significance, its execution lacks finesse. Director Laxman Utekar presents the story competently, but the screenplay could have been more engaging, especially in the first half. The war sequences in the second half fall short of being truly gripping, and the internal betrayals don't have the emotional depth they deserve. Despite a strong ensemble cast, only a

few characters are given the depth they need. While Shivaji Maharaj is present through voiceovers, visual representations of him would have strengthened the emotional resonance. Aurangzeb, played by Akshaye Khanna, could have had more depth in his characterization to intensify the conflict with Sambhaji. Laxman Utekar's direction is competent, but a sharper screenplay would have enhanced the narrative. AR Rahman's music complements the film, and the dialogues by Rishi Virmani and Irshad Kamil stand out in the climax. The cinematography by Saurabh Goswami, while functional, could have been more striking, and the editing could have been tighter to improve the pacing.