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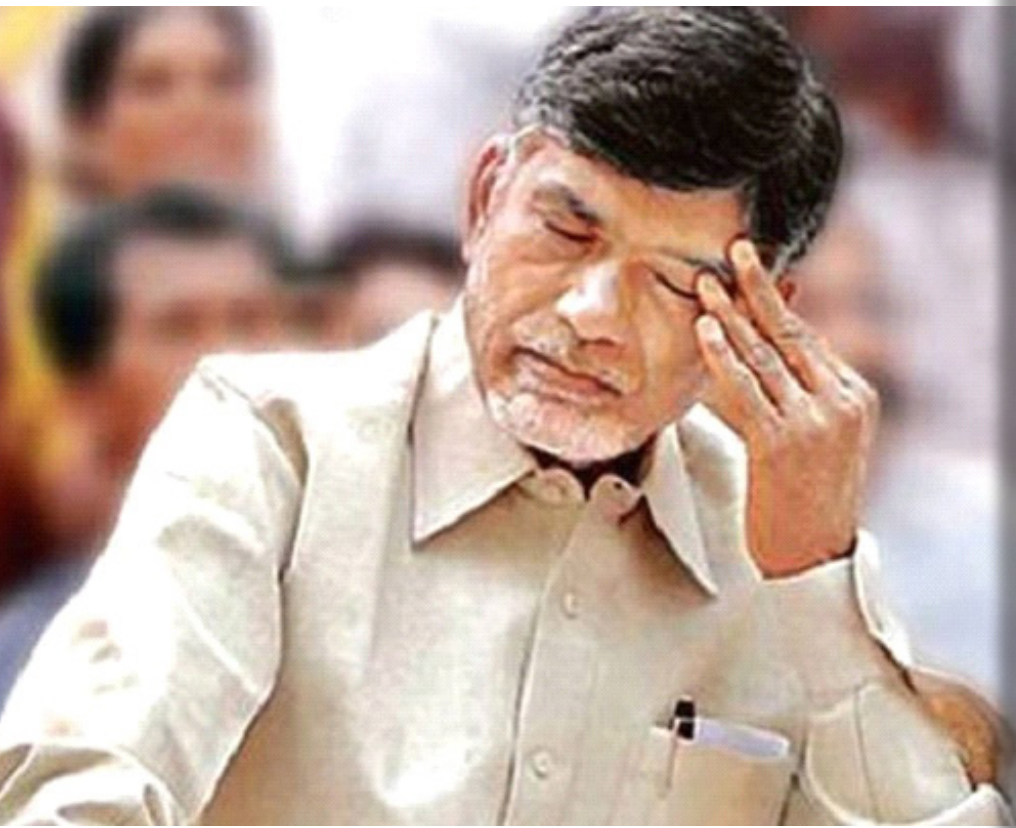
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Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C

WHAT IS THIS RANKING NONSENSE?



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 07

- 1 NMD Farooq
- 2 Kandula Durgesh
- 3 Kondapalli Srinivas
- 4 Nadendla Manohar
- 5 Dola Balaveeranjaneyswamy
- 6 Chandrababu Naidu
- 7 Satyakumar Yadav
- 8 Nara Lokesh
- 9 BC Janardhan Reddy
- 10 Pawan Kalyan
- 11 Savita
- 12 Kollu Ravindra
- 13 Gottipati Ravikumar
- 14 Narayana
- 15 TG Bharath
- 16 Anam Ramnarayana Reddy
- 17 Atchannaaidu
- 18 Ramprasad Reddy
- 19 Gummadi Sandhyarani
- 20 Vangalapudi Anitha
- 21 Anagani Satyaprasad
- 22 Nimmala Ramanaidu
- 23 Kolusu Parthasarathy
- 24 Payyavula Keshav
- 25 Vasamsetty Subhash

The ranks announced for the ministers based on file clearance by the Government of Andhra Pradesh have created a stir, with people expressing their outrage on social media. Ranks should be given based on performance, but instead, they have been assigned based on file clearance. The most absurd aspect is that Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu has been ranked 6th. This itself exposes the flawed nature of these rankings. If rankings are based on file clearance, they should be for internal purposes only and limited to Cabinet members. However, why were these rankings released to the public? The majority of people are shocked by these rankings. By publishing such rankings, the morale of ministers may decline, and their public image could be negatively affected. Mr. Nara Lokesh, who has demonstrated exceptional performance by launching WhatsApp Governance, implementing education reforms,

and making extensive efforts to attract investments to the state, has been ranked 8th. How ridiculous is that? This was a comment made by a netizen. Similarly, Mr. Nimmala Ramanaidu, who has been praised multiple times by the CM himself for his hard work, has been ranked 22nd, which is absurd. Mr. Pawan Kalyan, Minister for Panchayat Raj, Forests, and Environment, has been ranked 10th as per these questionable rankings. He has been implementing innovative solutions, ensuring the proper execution of decisions, and even auditing budgets, yet he has been given an undeserving rank. His followers have already begun criticizing these rankings on social media, claiming that this is a deliberate attempt to place Pawan Kalyan lower than Lokesh and to undermine his performance. We have already witnessed disputes regarding the demand for the Deputy CM post for Lokesh, which led to heated discussions on social media and in political circles. Now, these unjustifiable rankings could fur-

ther escalate tensions within political circles. Pending files exist for various reasons, such as financial constraints and decision-making processes. Given these factors, how can such rankings be justified? The public is now questioning Mr. Chandrababu Naidu on social media. Many are demanding that these rankings be withdrawn. Lastly, any rankings—regardless of the criteria—should remain confidential and be handled exclusively by the CM. If made public, people will inevitably speculate about the hidden motives behind them.



- Liquor Syndicate Flourishing in Villages Under MLA Watch
- 24/7 Liquor Sales, No Regulation
- Excise Department's Alleged Leniency
- Belt shops continue to operate despite CM Naidu's warnings.
- Liquor sales linked to licensed wine shops, operating beyond legal hours.
- Excise officials accused of negligence, allowing illegal sales to flourish.

DENDULURU HAVING ANY TIME LIQUOR UNDER MLA SIR

TPN | KISHORE B. K. Denduluru, Feb 07

Despite Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's strict warnings against belt shops, they continue to thrive in various villages of Eluru district. The new liquor policy implemented by the TDP coalition transferred liquor shop management to private hands, but it has also led to the unchecked rise of belt shops connected to licensed liquor stores. Liquor license holders are allegedly setting up belt shops across the district, selling alcohol at inflated prices and exploiting the poor. The excise department, responsible for regulation, remains a silent spectator. Open drinking areas have been set up in several licensed liquor stores without any official permission. In Denduluru constituency alone, the state government has permitted 15 licensed liquor shops. However, nearly every village has an unregulated belt shop operating nearby, openly selling liquor. While legal wine shops function from 10 AM to 10 PM, belt shops operate 24/7—selling liquor even on national holidays like Gandhi Jayanti. Shockingly, liquor is being sold in grocery stores, tiffin centers, and even cool drink stalls. Some wine shop owners have reportedly formed a syndicate, ensuring a steady liquor supply in rural areas. Belt shop owners are allegedly charging ₹50 extra per quarter bottle, further exploiting consumers. Local sources claim that a public representative and his followers are backing the illegal liquor trade. Despite knowing the situation, excise officials seem to be targeting small street vendors while ignoring the rampant belt shop operations. Unauthorized open sittings have been set up at licensed wine shops, serving food and alcohol without permits. Though the government has pledged strict action against belt shops, the reality on the ground tells a different story. Liquor sales continue unabated, raising serious concerns about enforcement and political influence in the trade. Only a decisive crackdown can curb this widespread illegal business.

Trusting Chandrababu Is Like "Putting Your Head in the Tiger's Mouth" - YS Jagan

- Jagan criticizes the coalition government for increasing debts and failing to fulfill promises.
- Accuses government of removing jobs and failing to deliver welfare schemes.
- Strong remarks on liquor case involving Mithun Reddy and challenges to the opposition status in the Assembly.



2 PAGE

AP Cabinet Approves 34% Reservation for BCs in Nominated Posts

- Key decisions include a revision of excise tax and regularization of construction on government land.
- Cabinet also focuses on incentives for women entrepreneurs and Polavaram displaced persons.



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 07

In a significant decision, the AP Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has approved 34% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in nominated posts. This decision aims to increase representation for BCs in important positions, further promoting social equity and inclusion. The

Cabinet's approval is seen as a step toward empowering marginalized communities in key governance areas. The ongoing Cabinet meeting also saw discussions on several other crucial issues. The Cabinet has proposed a revision of the additional retail excise tax on domestically manufactured foreign liquor, beers, and FL-spirits. The revised tax policy is expected to

impact the revenue generation from alcohol sales in the state, and further deliberations are anticipated before a final decision is made. Another key development is the regularization of constructions on government land in the Gajuwaka revenue village of Visakhapatnam. The Cabinet decided to regularize

2 PAGE



Uncertain Future for Rajahmundry's Sahitya Peetha

- Will the Telugu University's Sahitya Peetha Disappear?
- No admissions at Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, Bommooor.
- Rajahmundry's rich literary and artistic heritage at risk.
- Officials and public representatives remain indifferent.
- Admissions Halted, University in Crisis
- The Fate of Telugu University Post Bifurcation
- Will Leaders Act Before It's Too Late?



TPN | KISHORE B. K.
Rajahmundry, Feb 07

Rajahmundry, once a hub of Telugu literature and culture, is witnessing a slow erosion of its Sahitya Peetha. The Sahitya Peetha, which has nurtured generations of artists and scholars, is now on the verge of disappearing, with Potti Sriramulu Telugu University in Bommooor facing an uncertain future.

For decades, Rajahmundry has been home to vibrant literary events poet gatherings, book launches, Harikatha performances, and music concerts keeping the spirit of Telugu culture alive. However, the situation has drastically changed, and the historic literary seat may soon fade into obscurity.

Admissions for the current academic year were expected, but in August last year, the government issued a notification restricting admissions to Telangana alone, effectively shutting the doors for students in Andhra Pradesh. The Telugu University

campus in Bommooor, spread over 45 acres, now faces an existential threat. Established in 1985 through a special legislative act, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University was envisioned as a center for Telugu language, literature, history, culture, and arts. Over the years, it expanded with additional campuses, including Siddhendra Kalakshetra in Kuchipudi. The university played a crucial role in promoting Telugu language and literature, not only within Andhra Pradesh but also across the country and abroad.

However, bureaucratic indifference has taken its toll. During the previous YSRCP government, land allocations within the Bommooor campus were ordered to be repurposed, raising concerns over the university's future. Former MP Undavalli Arun Kumar intervened, urging the government to revoke these orders, but the issue remains unresolved.

With the 10-year joint capital status between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh ending on June 2, 2024, Telugu University

in Hyderabad now falls under Telangana's jurisdiction. The AP government requested the university to continue admissions, but no response was received from the Telangana government. As a result, a notification was issued limiting admissions solely to Telangana students, effectively sidelining Andhra Pradesh from its own linguistic institution.

Rajahmundry has a rich political and cultural background, producing leaders who have held significant positions in the central and state governments. Yet, apart from Undavalli Arun Kumar, no leader has raised concerns over the university's decline. If immediate action is not taken, Telugu University's Literary Peetha will meet the same fate as Gautami Cultural School and Abhilekhana Kendra, which have already been relocated from Rajahmundry.

Will the state cultural department step in to revive Telugu University's lost glory? Or will this historic institution fade into oblivion? The fate of Telugu literature in Andhra Pradesh hangs in the balance.



Raghurama Krishnam Raju Demands Immediate Suspension of PV Sunil Kumar

- PV Sunil Kumar's followers involved in violence at Akividu Municipal Office.
- Raghurama Krishnam Raju accuses Sunil Kumar of promoting casteism and illegal activities.
- Calls for immediate suspension of Sunil Kumar and an investigation into the incident.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

Raghurama Krishnam Raju, Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, has sharply criticized IPS officer PV Sunil Kumar for inciting casteism and being involved in illegal activities. Raghurama Krishnam Raju pointed out that Sunil Kumar's followers, who arrived in a police vehicle with stickers, were involved in a violent incident at the Akividu Municipal Office. The vehicle was registered under Joga Rao, a business partner of Sunil Kumar's sons, leading Raghurama Krishnam Raju to accuse Sunil Kumar of misusing police resources for personal gain.

Raghurama Krishnam Raju also addressed the issue of encroachments around Dharmapuram Lake in Aakiveedu Nagar Panchayat, which the Supreme Court had ordered to be cleared. Despite the legal order, the encroachments remain, and Raghurama Krishnam Raju believes Sunil Kumar's followers were involved in obstructing the process. He demanded that the government take immediate action against the perpetrators.

Raghurama Krishnam Raju further criticized Sunil Kumar for violating service rules by establishing the Ambedkar India Mission, which he claimed promotes divisive politics and violates ethical standards. Despite multiple appeals to the Central Government, no action has been taken against Sunil Kumar's actions.

Concluding his statement, Raghurama Krishnam Raju called for the immediate suspension of Sunil Kumar and an investigation into the events at the Akividu Municipal Office. He emphasized that such behavior undermines the integrity of public office and jeopardizes the rule of law.

AP Cabinet... Continued from page 1

constructions up to 1,000 yards in areas where people have built homes on government lands with no objections in the past. This decision aims to provide relief to families who had constructed homes on these lands before official objections were raised.

The Cabinet also approved an amendment to the Patadar book law, which is intended to streamline land ownership and transfer processes, offering more clarity and better access to land records.

A significant development in the educational and skills sector was the approval of the AP Knowledge Society, Capacity Building 2025 initiative. This proposal aims to strengthen the state's educational framework and enhance its capacity-building efforts to prepare the youth for future challenges.

Additionally, in a bid to support women in business, the Cabinet approved revised guidelines under the MSAE policy to provide increased incentives for SC and ST women entrepreneurs. This initiative is expected to encourage industrial growth while addressing gender disparities in entrepreneurship.

The Cabinet also focused on the rehabilitation of Polavaram displaced persons, with plans for compensation and support, continuing the ongoing construction work at the Polavaram project.

With these decisions, the AP Cabinet aims to address crucial social, economic, and developmental issues, furthering its commitment to inclusive growth and welfare.

AP Government Announces Incentives for Sportspeople

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

In a significant move for Andhra Pradesh's sportspeople, the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government has announced the release of Rs. 7.96 crore in cash incentives for athletes. This decision comes after the efforts of Sports Minister Ramprasad Reddy and SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, who raised concerns about the pending sports incentives worth Rs. 11.68 crore from the previous YSRCP regime.

According to Ravi Naidu, 224 sportspeople in the state had been facing considerable hardships due to the delay in receiving their due incentives. He thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh for ensuring the release of these funds. A total of 189 athletes have been credited with their share of the incentives, offering them much-needed relief.

The announcement has been welcomed by both the players and sports associations, who have expressed



their gratitude for the coalition government's swift action. Previously, under the YSRCP government, sportspeople faced significant neglect, with no incentives provided for a prolonged period. This led to severe difficulties for athletes across the state.

Additionally, while the Aadudam Andhra sports event organized just before the elections aimed to support players, it failed to deliver meaningful results, and allegations of a possible scam have surfaced regarding the event.

AP Committee of Ministers Discusses Measures to Control Inflation and Monitor Market Prices.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

A key meeting of the Committee of Ministers on Price Monitoring was convened at the AP Secretariat under the chairmanship of State Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadendla Manohar. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and top state officials.

The primary focus of the meeting was to address the current market price situation, identify strategies to control inflation, and promote the consumption of millets. The ministers and officials reviewed the price trends and discussed several measures to ensure price stability in the state.

As of December 2024, Andhra Pradesh's inflation rate stood at 4.34%, which is notably lower than the national average of 5.22%. The government is actively monitoring prices by collecting and analyzing data every day through the CP app in 154 mandal centers. Additionally, 151 farmers' bazaars



are also being closely monitored to keep track of price fluctuations. A total of 69 essential commodities, including grains, vegetables, cooking oil, and spices, are under constant surveillance in the state. The review revealed that prices for key items have seen a decrease compared to the previous year, including lentils (down 13%), groundnut oil (down 4%), and chili (down 27%). One of the notable decisions from the meeting was the promotion of jowar and ragi through initiatives like AP Mission Millet. These efforts include inte-

grating millets into the mid-day meals program and other welfare schemes to encourage their consumption. The government has also committed to providing regular price information to farmers to help them make informed decisions.

Addressing the rising costs of transport across the state, which has contributed to price hikes in some areas, the officials have been directed to implement appropriate measures to control and stabilize prices, ensuring economic stability for consumers and farmers alike.

Trusting Chandrababu Is Like "Putting Your Head in the Tiger's Mouth"

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

YSRCP President and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a sharp attack on the coalition government led by Chandrababu Naidu, accusing it of severe financial mismanagement and fraud. Speaking at a press conference, Jagan claimed the government has borrowed ₹80,000 crore in just 9 months and is planning to borrow another ₹52,000 crore for the Amaravati construction project, which he called a fraudulent move.

Jagan ridiculed the coalition's campaign slogan, "Babu Surety-Future Guarantee," asserting that it had now turned into "Babu Surety-Fraud Guarantee." He questioned the government's failure to deliver on key promises, such as providing ₹15,000 to everyone and fulfilling welfare schemes, asking, "Where are the promises and bonds given to the people?"

He further criticized the mounting debt, which he claims has now reached ₹1.45 lakh crore, questioning where this money has gone and who is benefiting from it. Jagan pointed out that, rather than creating new jobs, the government has slashed existing ones, including the 2.6 lakh village volunteers and 18,000 liquor shop workers.

Regarding the liquor case involving Mithun Reddy, Jagan strongly condemned his alleged involvement, asking which minister's department his father belonged to and how that relates to the case. He accused the government of fabricating charges to embarrass individuals.

Jagan also addressed the resignation of Rajya Sabha members from YSRCP, particularly criticizing Vijayasai Reddy, stressing that credibility is essential in politics and should not be compromised. Finally, Jagan demanded that his party be granted opposition status in the assembly, stating he would not attend unless his party receives equal speaking time as the Chief Minister. His demand has sparked debate, given the YSRCP's poor performance in the 2024 elections. This press conference solidifies Jagan's strategy of opposing the ruling government on economic mismanagement, unfulfilled promises, and political maneuvering in the assembly.

JD Lakshminarayana and Chalasani Srinivas Criticized Central Govt Policies



TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Feb 07

Former IPS officer JD Lakshminarayana has expressed concerns over the unresolved issues of the Partition Act and the injustice faced by Andhra Pradesh in budget allocations. He pointed out that while Polavaram is designed to be 45.72 meters long, it has been drained to 41.15 meters, which could endanger future crops. He

urged the Center to provide clarity on the Polavaram project and stated that the Sadhana Samiti would take up the matter with both the Center and the State. He also criticized the claim that Polavaram is merely a general project rather than a multipurpose one. Chalasani Srinivas accused the Center of deceiving Andhra Pradesh, highlighting that while other states received signifi-

cant allocations, Andhra Pradesh was neglected in the Union Budget. He noted that Polavaram was being portrayed as a dead storage project globally. He pointed out that while the railway budget allocated ₹278 crores to Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat received ₹17,155 crores, with Maharashtra's bullet train project given high priority. Srinivas further criticized the budget, stating that while Amaravati is securing loans from the World Bank, the state is being given inadequate financial support. He also alleged that not a single rupee has been received from the ₹17,000 crore KBK and Gundelkan package meant for Seema and Uttarandhra. Taking a dig at the Prime Minister, he remarked that there was no need for Modi to make grand statements in Davos while failing to address key issues in Andhra Pradesh. He also called on Chandrababu Naidu to speak the truth, stating that if special status and privileges were granted to the state, it would significantly benefit the youth by fostering industrial growth.

AP Suffers Irreparable Loss Due to Jagan's Policies – Alapati Rajendra Prasad



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

Telugu Desam Party senior leader and former minister Alapati Rajendra Prasad strongly criticized YSRCP chief Jaganmohan Reddy, stating that Andhra Pradesh has suffered irreparable damage due to his policies. Addressing the media in Amaravati on Thursday, he accused Jagan of weakening all state institutions and leading a destructive government. Alapati Rajendra Prasad urged the coalition government and party workers to ensure his victory as the alliance-backed candidate in the upcoming Graduate MLC elections for the Krishna-Guntur districts. He noted that 3,46,000 graduates had already registered as voters and emphasized the need for collective support to steer the state towards development. Slamming Jagan's leadership,

Alapati Rajendra Prasad asserted that despite being jailed for 16 months and securing bail, Jagan remains the only politician without values. He accused the former CM of stalling the state's progress by reversing key projects initiated during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, such as Amaravati's capital development and Polavaram's construction. He further criticized Jagan for degrading governance, alleging that his policies had pushed the state back by 25 years. Referring to controversial administrative decisions, he questioned, "Isn't it your credit, Jagan Reddy, that teachers were made to work at liquor shops?" Concluding his remarks, Alapati Rajendra Prasad challenged Jagan to acknowledge his political standing post-defeat, stating that his tenure lacked any significant development efforts.

Jagan Lost Even Opposition Status - MLA Adinarayana Reddy

TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Feb 07

Jammalamadugu MLA and Government Whip Adinarayana Reddy strongly criticized YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, stating that people have rejected him entirely, denying him even the status of the opposition. Speaking at an event in Kadapa, Reddy declared that the BJP is set to dominate Delhi and drive national and state development. He ridiculed Jagan's past claims of ruling for 30 years with 175 MLAs and 25 MPs, saying the public has shattered his political future. He accused YSRCP leaders of corruption, likening Jagan to a "big shop," with Avinash Reddy, Peddiredy, and Vijayasai Reddy operating as a "supermarket." Addressing the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, Reddy alleged that Jagan applies double standards—labeling minor incidents against himself as murder attempts while showing no concern for real crimes. He claimed police were obstructed from arresting Avinash Reddy in Kurnool. Reddy vowed to crack down on anti-social activities in Jammalamadugu, warning that



offenders would face strict action. "If anyone engages in illegal activities, I will personally ensure the police act," he stated. On development, he announced a ₹10,000 crore steel plant for Kadapa and highlighted investments discussed in Davos. He also emphasized the government's commitment to the Jal Jeevan Mission for statewide water supply. Regarding internal party matters, Reddy dismissed rumors of disputes with MP Ramesh, saying external forces influenced the MP's letter. He assured that he personally requested a police investigation into the issues raised. Reddy concluded by asserting that the NDA government will continue for another 30 years, ensuring development while sidelining Jagan from Andhra Pradesh's political landscape.

MLA GV Anjaneyulu Criticizes Jagan's Leadership

TPN Correspondent
Vinukonda, Feb 07

Palnadu district's Vinukonda constituency witnessed a strong political statement from Chief Whip GV Anjaneyulu, who launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking at a media conference, he remarked that Jagan's overseas visit had not tempered his political approach but rather intensified it. Anjaneyulu pointed out that Jagan, who is the AI accused in 11 CBI cases, no longer holds the status of a responsible opposition leader. He asserted that if the ongoing CBI and ED cases progress, Jagan would not only lose his opposition leader status but also be ineli-

gible to contest as an MLA. Further, he alleged that Jagan's latest political moves were an attempt to shield his party members who are distancing themselves from YSRCP. "Jagan has a history of abandoning those who once trusted him, and now he is desperately trying to retain control," he stated. Referring to Jagan's claim of a political resurgence, Anjaneyulu remarked, "If people grant him a 2.0 version, it will not be a revival but a complete rejection with zero seats." He also criticized Jagan's statements on the coalition government's policies on sand and liquor, stating that he had no moral right to comment on governance.



CPI Leader Ramakrishna Urges Chandrababu to Release White Paper on Central Funds



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 07

CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna has written a letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, urging the government to release a white paper on the funds received from the Central Government for the financial year 2024-25. He raised concerns over reports that AP received ₹3,324 crore less this year and sought an official clarification on the matter. Ramakrishna questioned the accuracy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that ₹3 lakh crore had been allocated to the state. He criticized the Centre for failing to provide a transparent breakdown of the funds and alleged that the financial assistance to AP has decreased compared to the previous year.

Addressing the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant issue, Ramakrishna argued that the Centre's proposed ₹11,500 crore package is insufficient to resolve the crisis, as the plant's debt reportedly stands at ₹17,000 crore. He reiterated the demand for a permanent solution, suggesting that the plant be merged with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and allocated its own iron ore mines. The CPI leader expressed skepticism over the Centre's commitment to halting the privatization of the Vizag Steel Plant, stating that doubts remain about the government's true intentions. He called for a firm assurance that the steel plant would remain under public sector control and not be privatized under any circumstances.

YS Jagan Ruled with Criminals Over Five Years - Buddha Venkanna



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 07

TDP senior leader Buddha Venkanna strongly criticized former CM and YSRCP

chief Jaganmohan Reddy, alleging that he ruled the state with criminals for five years. Addressing the media at the TDP office on Thursday, Buddha Venkanna stated that the people outright rejected Jagan, denying him even the status of the Opposition. Expressing his frustration, Buddha Venkanna remarked that Jagan's wife Bharati should take him to psychiatric experts. He accused Jagan of living under the illusion that he would continue as Chief Minister for 30 years, despite facing a resounding defeat seven months ago. He claimed that even YSRCP leaders were disillusioned with Jagan's leadership, and activists had distanced themselves from him. Buddha Venkanna questioned whether land encroachments had continued after the NDA government took charge,

asserting that such incidents were rampant under Jagan's rule. He alleged that the former CM manipulated governance to benefit his close circles while ignoring public welfare. He further criticized Jagan's past behavior in the Assembly, claiming that degrading remarks against women were made during his tenure. In contrast, he asserted that the NDA government upholds the dignity of women. Challenging Jagan to prove his credibility, Buddha Venkanna urged him to step into the Assembly and genuinely represent the people instead of making misleading statements before the media. He concluded by stating that "Jagan 2.0" would only lead to the complete downfall of YSRCP, emphasizing that the party may not even retain the 11 seats it currently holds.

Huge Scam on the Name Of Jagananna Colonies, Says BJP MLA Parthasarathy

TPN Correspondent
Kurnool, Feb 07

BJP MLA Dr. Parthasarathy has submitted a memorandum to the Kurnool District Collector, demanding an inquiry into alleged large-scale corruption in the land acquisition process for Jagananna Colonies. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he claimed that a massive ₹2,500 crore scam took place across the state in the allocation of

lands for the housing scheme. He alleged that lands were identified at low prices and agreements were made with farmers at ₹5 lakh per acre, but the same lands were later handed over to the government at inflated rates ranging between ₹13 lakh and ₹23 lakh per acre. Specifically, he pointed out that in Mandagiri village of Adoni mandal, 65 farmers were affected by this fraudulent transaction.

Dr. Parthasarathy accused local leaders of opening bank accounts in farmers' names but keeping control over their passbooks. In Adoni constituency alone, he claimed that while the government allocated ₹23 crore, only ₹13 crore reached the farmers, with the rest allegedly siphoned off by YSRCP leaders.



VMC BECOME CORRUPTION HUB

Employees to be in the corporation	CMHO- 1
ACHENCHO - 4	Supervisors - 20
Sanitary Inspectors - 64	Daily workers - 5000

Allegations of corruption in sanitation and town planning departments.

Outsourcing posts being sold for up to ₹3 lakh.

Commissioner Dhyanachandra's efforts undermined by corrupt officials.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 07

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), once expected to drive the city's progress, has recently become embroiled in corruption allegations, particularly within its sanitation and town planning departments. Commissioner Dhyanachandra, who has actively worked towards the city's development, including tackling the Budameru floods and ensuring sanitation during the Dussehra festival, now faces significant challenges as corrupt practices plague the corporation.

Despite Commissioner Dhyanachandra's best efforts, reports suggest that the city's municipal operations are being tainted by widespread corruption among lower-level staff. Allegations indicate that VMC officials have been selling outsourcing posts, which include positions for sweepers, gardeners, and sanitary workers, for hefty sums ranging between ₹2 and ₹3 lakh. Many workers reportedly pay large bribes to secure their jobs, with the approval of officials.

The corporation's City Medical and Health Officers (CMHO) department, which is essential to the city's sanitation efforts, is under scrutiny. Out of the four designated Assistant Medical and Health Officers (AMHOs), only one is actively serving, while the others have either retired or been absent. Under the remaining AMHO, supervisors are allegedly exploiting the system for financial gain, with claims of bribes being collected from sanitary inspectors to secure promotions. In one instance, it is reported that inspectors who lacked proper educational qualifications paid ₹2-3 lakh each for their appointments.

Reports further suggest that the situation in the VMC's workforce is far from transparent. There are about 5,000 workers employed in the corporation, but many positions left vacant by retiring or leaving



staff are not being filled. Sanitary workers are allegedly being used as tools by supervisors to collect bribes, with certain figures reportedly wielding significant power over the workers' roles. A sanitary worker named Ramireddy is allegedly using his influence to control workers and engage in business dealings related to trade licenses.

In the 38th division, allegations of exploitation by mason Nakka Srinivas have surfaced, with claims that he has been offering high-interest loans to workers while threatening them and engaging in inappropriate behavior toward female staff. Further complicating the matter, Srinivas's son-in-law and son are reportedly continuing his practices, ensuring the corruption runs through the ranks. Sanitary supervisors in the One Town area have reportedly been in power for years, using their political connections to

maintain control and run a racket involving sanitary inspectors. The previous government's decision to recruit 150 workers under outsourcing has added to the corruption. Despite the interviews held at Indira Gandhi Stadium, no clear results were announced, raising suspicions that jobs were sold under the table.

Under the YSRCP government, Mayor Bhagyalakshmi and former Minister Vellampalli have been accused of facilitating bribes for these outsourcing positions. The VMC accounts section is also said to be complicit in this corruption, with 2-5% commissions allegedly being charged on approved bills.

With these corrupt practices running unchecked, questions remain about whether Commissioner Dhyanachandra is aware of these issues and if he is able to take action against the widespread corruption.

Nara Lokesh's Efforts for Urdu Development Praised



TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Feb 07

State Minority Cell General Secretary Mohammad Fathullah has commended Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh for his dedication to the promotion of the Urdu language and the development of Abdul Haq Urdu University. He welcomed Lokesh at Gannavaram airport following his discussions with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan regarding the university's growth.

Addressing the media, Fathullah highlighted that it was Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu who officially recognized Urdu as the second language of united Andhra Pradesh. He also credited Naidu for establishing Abdul Haq Urdu University in

Kurnool after the state's bifurcation.

Fathullah emphasized that Nara Lokesh's efforts to strengthen Urdu education, universities, and its recognition as an official language demonstrate his commitment to the cause. He noted that nearly 20% of the state's population speaks Urdu as their mother tongue, and yet, during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, Urdu colleges and schools faced severe neglect.

He lauded Lokesh for prioritizing the development of Urdu institutions and ensuring that the language receives the support it deserves. He expressed confidence that under Lokesh's leadership, the future of Urdu education in Andhra Pradesh would see significant improvement.

PMKSY-AIBP Projects in AP Targeted for Completion by 2025-26



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 07

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Raj Bhushan Chowdhury, has stated that eight key medium-term irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) are being expedited to meet the state's irrigation needs. He assured that the pending projects are targeted for completion by 2025-26.

Responding to a query raised by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shiva-

nath (Chinni) in the Lok Sabha, the minister provided details on the progress of these projects and the funds allocated by the central government. He mentioned that no funds were released to Andhra Pradesh under PMKSY-AIBP between 2019 and 2024. However, in the financial year 2024-25, the central government allocated ₹5.97 crore for the Gundlakamma project, ₹2.619 crore for Tadipudi LIS, ₹21.518 crore for the Thotapalli project, and ₹19.8 lakh for Pushkara LIS.

The targeted completion timelines for these projects are:

- Gundlakamma: June 2026
- Tadipudi LIS: December 2025
- Thotapalli: June 2025
- Tarakarama Tirtha Sagaram: June 2026
- Musurumilli: December 2026
- Pushkara LIS: December 2025
- Yerrakalva: December 2026

The minister also informed that irrigation capacity generated by these projects has not seen significant improvement so far. He emphasized that the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Project Management Unit (PMU) are conducting regular reviews to monitor progress and submitting reports to the central ministry for further assessment.

Jana Sena Leaders Begin Hunger Strike in Pedana Constituency

- Jana Sena leaders launch hunger strike against alleged atrocities by TDP mandal president.
- Demand action from the party high command before calling off the protest.
- Several Jana Sena leaders join in solidarity with the protesters.

TPN Correspondent
Pedana, Feb 07

In a significant political development in Pedana constituency, Jana Sena leaders of Gudur mandal launched a hunger strike unto death on Thursday, protesting against alleged atrocities committed by Gudur TDP Mandal President Pothana Swamy Naidu against Jana Sena workers.

The protest was sparked by accusations that Swamy Naidu had verbally abused Jana Sena Mandal General Secretary Santosh. The agitating leaders declared that their hunger strike would continue until the party's high command takes appropriate action against him.

Extending their support, several prominent Jana Sena leaders, including Battina Hariram and Courier Srinu, reached the protest camp to stand in solidarity with Santosh and the other protesting members. The situation remains tense as political tensions escalate in the region.



Awareness Program on Road Safety Held at St. Mary's Stella College

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 07

As part of the 36th Road Safety Week celebrations, a road safety awareness program was held at St. Mary's Stella College on Thursday. The event was attended by IPS Training Officer Manisha Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Latha Kumari, and Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC) A. Mohan as chief guests. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Sister Rekha, Director of Extension Activities.

Speaking at the event, IPS Training Officer Manisha Reddy urged students to act responsibly on the roads, emphasizing that the country's future de-

pends on them. ACP Latha Kumari highlighted the dangers of using mobile phones while driving, stating that it is a punishable offense. She cautioned that talking on the phone while driving leads to distractions and accidents, urging students to stop their vehicles before using their phones.

Deputy Transport Commissioner A. Mohan pointed out that a significant number of road accident fatalities in the district result from not wearing helmets. He stressed that high-speed driving, mobile phone use, and not using helmets and seat belts are major causes of accidents.

Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) Regional Manager Sri Yesu Danam encouraged students to use public transportation, stating that it is a safer and more reliable mode of travel.

The event saw participation from Disha Police Inspector Vasavi, Municipal Corporation Executive Engineer Samrajyam, Degree Vice Principal Usha Kumari, Inter Vice Principal Swapna, teachers, 500 students, and RTA officials and staff. The program aimed to instill a sense of responsibility among students and reduce road accidents through awareness and adherence to traffic rules.



₹6 Crore Scam in Tuni Municipality?

Allegations of Corruption in Revenue and Municipal Departments

₹6 crore allegedly misappropriated in Tuni Municipality's revenue collections.

Over 200 municipal shops reportedly defaulted on rent for four years without action.

Officials collected ₹2.1 crore after show-cause notices were issued.

Missing Funds: Arrears or Embezzlement?

Investigation is the Only Way Forward



TPN | NV SURYA
Tuni, Feb 07

Serious allegations of corruption have surfaced in Tuni Municipality, East Godavari district, where officials are accused of misappropriating ₹6 crore in municipal revenue. Despite structured revenue collection processes, the disappearance of funds has raised concerns about governance and accountability. Tuni Municipality generates significant revenue through its 615 commercial shops. Shop

rents are meant to be renewed every three years, but officials allegedly obstructed the process to manipulate collections. Reports indicate that over 200 shops have failed to pay rent for four years, yet no strict enforcement—such as legal notices, tax penalties, or electricity disconnections—was undertaken. This inaction has led to suspicions that collected funds may have been embezzled. Records show that certain shops

owe over ₹10 lakh each, yet of-

officials failed to act, reinforcing corruption allegations. The controversy gained traction after the formation of the Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government, prompting scrutiny of the revenue department. In December 2024, Municipal Administration Regional Director CH Naga Narasimha Rao inspected the revenue department and raised concerns. Show-cause notices were issued to Commissioner Venkat Rao, Revenue Officer Salmon Raju,

former Revenue Inspector SK N M Valli, and Junior Assistant Vamsi. However, officials claim some of the mismanagement predates their tenure. Following the inspection, ₹2.1 crore was reportedly recovered. However, many unanswered questions remain. Are the arrears genuine, or has the collected money been misappropriated? A high-level inquiry is essential to expose the truth and bring those responsible to justice.

MLA Amaranatha Reddy Emphasizes Transparency in Loan Allocation

TPN | C. Sekhar
Palamaneru, Feb 07

Palamaneru MLA Amaranatha Reddy has emphasized that government-provided corporation loans for self-employment schemes should be allocated only to eligible beneficiaries. He held a meeting with municipal officials at his office in Palamaneru town on Thursday, stressing the importance of a fair and transparent selection process.

During the meeting, the MLA directed officials to carefully examine all applications for corporation loans to ensure that only deserving candidates benefit. He insisted that the process should be free from bias and irregularities, allowing genuine applicants to utilize the funds effectively.

With summer approaching, MLA Amaranatha Reddy urged officials to take proactive steps to prevent water shortages in Palamaneru town. Officials briefed him on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Ganganna Sirassu project, which aims to enhance water supply in the region.

The meeting also included discussions on the progress of the Town Hall project, the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and other key municipal works. Municipal Commissioner Ramana Reddy, TPBO Indira, AE Sneha Priya, Surveyor Anjaneyulu, ME-PMA Manager Baba, and other officials were present at the meeting.



Janasena leader Kiran Royal Ridicules Jagan Mohan Reddy's 'Jagan 2.0' Statement

TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 07

Janasena Tirupati in-charge Kiran Royal launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, mocking his recent 'Jagan 2.0' statement. Addressing the media, Kiran Royal remarked that after a long silence, Jagan resurfaced from London to hold a press conference, branding himself as 'Jagan 2.0.' He compared this to Rajinikanth's 'Chitti' from Robot 2.0, sarcastically dubbing Jagan as 'Chitti Reddy.'

Taking the jibe further, Kiran Royal humorously advised Jagan's mother and sister to be cautious around him, suggesting that they should wear helmets before sleeping at night. He alleged that Jagan's '2.0 version' was not meant for public welfare but rather a tactic to mislead his party workers.

Highlighting the mass exodus of YSRCP workers, Kiran stated that while Jagan's cadre showed strength in the last election, they are now leaving the party due to the corruption and misrule witnessed over the past five years. He claimed that 'Jagan 2.0' is merely an attempt to clean up his crumbling party and deceive his remaining loyalists.

Concluding his remarks, Kiran Royal asserted that the people of Andhra Pradesh and even YSRCP workers no longer trust Jagan. He mocked Jagan's statement about ruling for the next 30 years, suggesting that while Jagan may continue to exist, his place will be in jail, not in power.



Passenger Safety Top Priority for RTC At Awareness Program



TPN | Dhanalakshmi
Kakinada, Feb 07

District Public Transport Officer M. Srinivasa Rao emphasized the importance of passenger safety, asserting that it is the top priority for RTC. This statement came during a family counseling awareness program organized as part of the ongoing Road Safety Month, held at the Kakinada depot on Thursday.

The program was attended by Kakinada RTO Shiva Reddy, RTO Medical Officer Padmavati, MVI Harinath Reddy, AMVI Sai Babu, and other key officials, including Depot Manager MUV Manohar, Assistant Engineer K. Prabhar Rao, and Assistant Manager T. Balakrishna.

During the session, drivers were briefed on essential precautions to take while driving buses and the necessary skills to avoid accidents. Additionally, family counseling was conducted for the families of drivers who had been involved in accidents, helping them cope with the challenges they faced.

PRO CH Venkataraju and a large number of staff members actively participated in the event, reflecting the RTC's commitment to both passenger safety and supporting its employees and their families.

Villagers Block Polavaram Canal Construction Over Compensation Concerns

TPN Correspondent
Kakinada, Feb 07

In a strong show of opposition, villagers in Kummari Lova, Tuni Mandal, Kakinada District, blocked the construction work of the Polavaram left canal. The farmers, expressing their dissatisfaction with the lack of compensation, staged a protest by blocking the pro-cleaver. They demanded that the government pay compensation for the 46 acres and 92 cents of land that would be affected by the canal works.

The farmers insisted that compensation be provided based on current land prices, emphasizing the financial impact they would face. They warned that if the authorities failed to meet their demands, they would unite to continue blocking the construction.

In the face of growing unrest, the authorities decided to halt the canal works temporarily. Surveyor Jaga Ramu and Polavaram Canal DE A. Murali Mohan assured the protesters that their concerns would be reported to higher authorities for further consideration.

Key figures in the protest included Jakkana Rama Naidu, Gedela Krishnamurthy, Thottadi Rambabu, Jakkana Gangarao, Suryanarayana, and other concerned farmers and residents. The protest underscored the importance of addressing the farmers' compensation demands before proceeding with the project.



Joint Collector Sethu Madhavan Inspects Rice Mills in Vizianagaram

TPN | Narasimhulu
Vizianagaram, Feb 07

Joint Collector S. Sethu Madhavan carried out an unannounced inspection of the Ramalakshmana Traders Rice Mill located in KL Puram, Vizianagaram district. During the visit, he scrutinized the grain stocks, mill records, and the functioning of the electricity meters, also checking the electricity bills. In addition, he inquired about the milling process and took rice samples for testing. The JC also examined the pending truck sheets and gunny bags used at the mill. Following the inspection at the rice mill, Sethu Madhavan proceeded to inspect the nearby Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns. Here, he questioned the officials about the rice stocks and the weight of the grains stored. He advised the staff to take necessary precautions to maintain the quality and accuracy of stock management.



Four Interstate Thieves Arrested with Stolen Gold and Silver Worth Rs. 72.94 Lakh

Police seize 469 grams of gold and 41 kg of silver from the criminals



TPN | Kishore
Eluru, Feb 07

In a major breakthrough, police in Eluru arrested four interstate thieves involved in stealing gold and silver items from jewelry shops. The stolen goods,

valued at Rs. 72.94 lakh, were recovered during the investigation.

At a media conference held on Thursday at the Eluru District Police Headquarters, District SP Kommi Pratap Sivakishore revealed that a special team was formed to investigate a series of thefts reported across the region. These thefts involved cutting holes in the walls of jewelry shops during the

night to gain access. The team, led by Eluru DSP D. Shravan Kumar and Additional SP N. Suryachandra Rao, acted swiftly on the complaints and detained four suspicious individuals in

the Chodimella area of Eluru city.

Upon interrogation, the thieves were identified as habitual criminals with past records from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan. The stolen items included 469 grams of gold jewelry and 41 kg of silver, which were seized along with the tools used for the thefts and a motorcycle.

The criminals had stolen the items from behind Lokeshwari Jewelers in the main bazaar area, falling under the jurisdiction of Eluru 1st Town Police Station. Eluru 1st Town Inspector G. Satyanarayana, SB CI B. Adi Prasad, CCS CI Rajasekhar, Ganapavaram CI M.V. Subhash, and 1st Town SI S.K. Medina Basha were present during the announcement of the arrest.

Family Movies Making a Comeback, Is South Cinema Finally Done With Violence?

The South Indian film industry seems to be witnessing a surprising shift in 2025, as family-oriented films have gained significant traction at the box office. One standout is the Telugu film *Sankranthiki Vasthunam*, which was released on January 14 this year and has grossed an impressive Rs 300 crore worldwide in just three weeks. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, this film has become the highest-grossing Telugu film for Sankranti 2025, surpassing even the highly anticipated **ame Changer*, directed by Shankar and starring Ram Charan. Notably, both films were produced by Dil Raju.

In Tamil cinema, director Sundar C's **Madha Gaja Raja** has resonated with family audiences, grossing over Rs 55 crore since its release on January 12. Another family film, **Kudumbasthan**, which debuted on January 24, has earned around Rs 18 crore, despite being a modest production. This raises an intriguing question: are family movies making a strong return in South Indian cinema?

The Setback of 2024

The year 2024 was a challenging one for South Indian cinema, with the Malayalam and Tamil industries facing significant financial losses. The Malayalam film industry suffered Rs 700 crore in losses, while Tamil cinema saw a deficit of Rs 1,000 crore. Several big-budget films, such as *Indian 2*, *Kanguva*, and *Game Changer*, failed to meet box-office expectations, leaving the industry in a slump. Against this backdrop, the success of films like *Sankranthiki Vasthunam* and *Madha Gaja Raja* has been a surprise.

Notably, *Sankranthiki Vasthunam* did not feature an A-list cast, starring 64-year-old Venkatesh along-



side Meenakshi Dixit and Aishwarya Rajesh. Similarly, *Madha Gaja Raja*, which was completed in 2013 but delayed due to legal and financial issues, finally made its debut in January 2025. *Kudumbasthan*, starring actor-writer Manikandan, also attracted a significant family audience with its relatable content.

Shifting Trends in Cinema

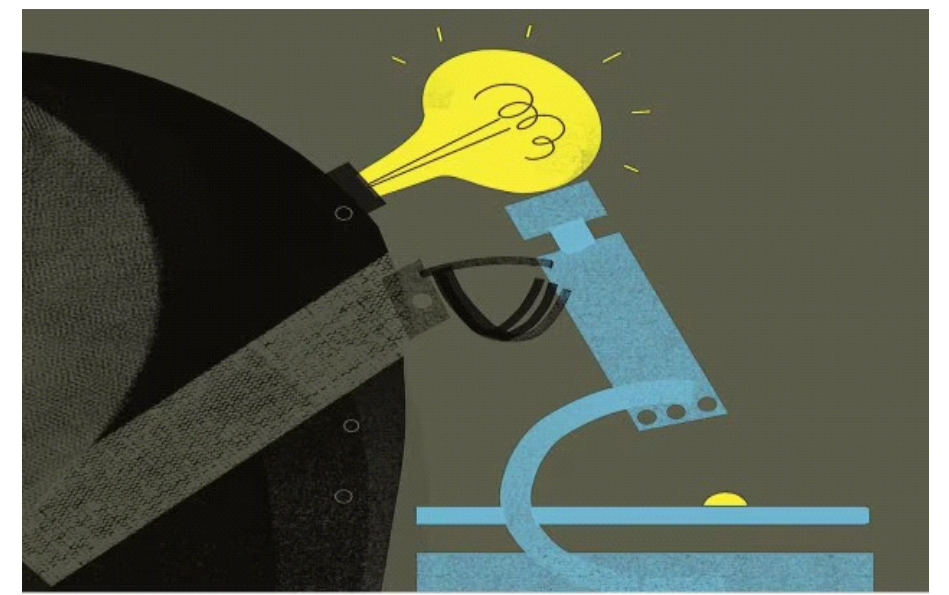
In 2024, Indian cinema leaned heavily toward action-packed films targeting younger audiences, with titles like *Raayan*, *Garudan*, *Captain Miller*, and *Devara: Part 1*. However, this trend shifted with the success of *Amaran*, a family film that grossed nearly Rs 340 crore globally in October 2024. According to film journalist Bharath Kumar, the industry had long focused on action films while neglecting family-oriented stories. However, the success of family films in January 2025 demon-

strates a growing demand for wholesome content that blends comedy, sentiment, and feel-good factors.

A Promising Future for Family Film

Family films provide an alternative to darker genres like thrillers and action. They cater to group viewings, making it easier for families to attend theaters together. **Kudumbasthan**, for instance, explores the struggles of a family man in the digital age with a humorous twist, earning praise for its relatable content.

With 2025 starting strong for family entertainers, it remains to be seen if this trend continues. The success of these films may inspire more producers to invest in similar projects, especially as action films show signs of waning popularity. The tide may indeed be turning in South Indian cinema.



Reimagining Innovation: Empowering Indian Firms for National Growth

oversight. This collaboration produced notable outcomes, such as the successful nuclear test of 1974, showcasing India's growing technological prowess.

However, over time, the landscape of innovation policy—earlier termed Science and Technology (S&T) policy—has evolved to encompass a more inclusive, societal-wide approach. The true future of innovation lies not only in government-run institutions but also in the intellectual capabilities within the broader population. It's about fostering intellectual talent across diverse sectors, particularly in private firms, as well as educational institutions, creating an ecosystem of innovation that permeates all aspects of society.

For India to secure its economic future, a vibrant and knowledgeable workforce in both public and private sectors is essential. Intellectual capacity in Indian firms is a vital precursor to economic growth, ultimately contributing to an enhanced GDP. In the modern era, national power extends beyond just military strength or political influence—it is intricately linked to the nation's scientific and technological capabilities.

Take the engineers at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for instance, who successfully placed a spacecraft on the moon. While this achievement is a remarkable testament to India's technological progress, the real challenge is to ensure that such imaginative, ambitious, and knowledgeable minds are spread across a wide range of sectors. These engineers should not be confined to government agencies but should also thrive in universities and private organizations, where their expertise can stimulate innovation on a much larger scale.

Trump stirs the Gaza pot



US President Donald Trump's recent remarks on Gaza have sparked widespread condemnation and confusion, with many questioning the legality and morality of his proposals. Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 4, Trump declared that the US would "take over the Gaza Strip" and be responsible for its development, describing it as a "long-term ownership position." This statement, delivered in a formal White House press briefing, has been met with both diplomatic outrage and concern for its potential consequences in the Middle East.

Trump's comments were not entirely unexpected, as similar sentiments had been expressed in the days leading up to his announcement. However, his suggestion that Jordan and Egypt should absorb around 2.3 million displaced Palestinians from Gaza has drawn sharp criticism from Arab nations. On February 1, foreign ministers from Arab countries, including Jordan and Egypt, condemned any plan that would forcibly displace Palestinians from their land, warning it could destabilize the region and hinder prospects for peace. Saudi Arabia also issued a firm response, reaffirming its commitment to Palestinian sovereignty and rejecting any attempts to infringe on their rights.

The proposal has placed Egypt and Jordan in difficult positions. Both nations have long-standing relations with the US but now face the possibility of being asked to take in large numbers of Palestinian refugees. Egypt, which has already been involved in numerous ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Gaza, is particularly concerned that Trump's remarks could destabilize its economy and political situation. Similarly, Jordan, home to a significant Palestinian population, would find it difficult to absorb more refugees without exacerbating existing tensions.

Beyond these immediate concerns, Trump's statements raise a host of questions that remain unanswered. How would the US enforce such a proposal? Would it involve military intervention, and what impact would that have on American foreign policy? Moreover, Trump's focus on developing Gaza as a real-estate project has raised alarms, with some questioning whether his administration views the suffering of Palestinians as an opportunity for business development, rather than addressing the region's long-standing humanitarian crisis.

Karnataka Excise Sector Reforms: Committee Proposes Lifting Liquor License Freeze



A committee led by retired IAS officer K P Krishnan has recommended significant reforms in Karnataka's excise sector, including lifting the 33-year-old freeze on new liquor licences for retail stores (CL-2) and bars/restaurants (CL-9), along with an increase in fees for existing licenses. According to the committee's interim report, these reforms could generate an additional Rs 2,200 crore in revenue for the state, offering a potential solution to Karnataka's fiscal challenges.

The freeze on new licences, which has been in place since 1992, has resulted in a market where the existing 3,995 CL-2 and 3,637 CL-9 licences have become highly sought-after assets. This scarcity has led to inflated prices, with licences often changing hands through informal and illegal transactions. As a result, the state has been deprived of substantial legitimate revenue, while an underground market flourishes. Lifting the freeze aims to break this monopolistic system and bring more transparency to the sector.

The growing population of Karnataka, especially in rural areas, has further escalated the demand for liquor outlets. Currently, many rural residents have

to purchase liquor in bulk from nearby towns, only to sell it unofficially at inflated prices, contributing to unregulated bootlegging. By allowing new licences, the government hopes to meet the increasing demand while curbing these illicit operations.

While the proposal may seem like a practical solution to address fiscal concerns, it must be approached with caution. Critics argue that the expansion of liquor outlets could exacerbate social issues, including alcohol abuse and its impact on public health and safety. The increased availability of alcohol might lead to more social and economic costs, potentially offsetting the financial gains from the reforms.

It is essential that the state carefully assesses the long-term effects of lifting the freeze on liquor licences, weighing the potential revenue boost against possible adverse outcomes. Transparent regulation, along with stricter enforcement of licensing rules, will be crucial in ensuring that the benefits of these reforms outweigh the risks. By addressing these concerns, the government can ensure that the excise sector reforms contribute positively to Karnataka's economy while minimizing any negative consequences.

'One Nation One Election' constitutionally unsustainable: Udayanidhi Stalin

TPN Correspondent |
Thiruvananthapuram

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udayanidhi Stalin on Thursday voiced strong opposition to the Union government's proposal for the 'one nation, one election' process, describing it as an attack on federalism and constitutionally unsustainable. Speaking at the sixth edition of the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL), Stalin argued that the move undermines the principles of the Indian Constitution, which affirms federalism as a core value.



Stalin explained that under the 'one nation, one election' system, states would be forced to align their electoral cycles with that of the national elections. He pointed out that if a state government were to fall

due to party defections or a loss of confidence, the state would have to wait for the next national election cycle to hold fresh elections. This, he claimed, would significantly disrupt the functioning of state governments and their autonomy, making them sub-

ject to the whims of the national political landscape.

The Deputy Chief Minister also criticized the Centre's proposal to conduct a new delimitation of Lok Sabha seats based on the latest operational census. He highlighted that this move

would disproportionately affect southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have made significant progress in population control programs. "This is the reward for states that have effectively implemented population control measures," he said. Stalin argued that the proposed delimitation would reduce the representation of these states in Parliament, effectively diminishing their political voice and influence at the national level.

Stalin also questioned the motivations behind the delimitation, suggesting that it was part of a broader agenda to weaken the southern states. If the new delimitation guidelines are implemented, Tamil Nadu and Kerala would lose their current number of seats in Parliament, further sidelining their interests in national decision-making.

India to Launch Chandrayaan-4 in 2027: Union Minister Jitendra Singh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is set to launch the Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2027, aiming to bring back samples of moon rocks to Earth, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh announced. This ambitious mission will involve multiple launches of the heavy-lift LVM-3 rocket, which will carry five different components that will be assembled in orbit to execute the mission.



"The Chandrayaan-4 mission's goal is to collect samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to Earth," Minister Singh told PTI Videos in a recent interview. The mission is expected to mark a significant milestone in India's lunar exploration program.

In addition to Chandrayaan-4, India is gearing up for a number of other important missions. Next year, the country will launch the Gaganyaan mission, which will send Indian astronauts into space in a specially designed spacecraft for a low Earth orbit mission. Singh also announced that in 2026, India will launch the Samudrayaan mission, which aims to explore the deep ocean. This mission will take three scientists aboard a submersible to a depth of 6,000 meters to explore the seabed, further showcasing India's growing scientific capabilities.

tential to uncover valuable resources such as critical minerals, rare metals, and marine biodiversity, essential for the country's economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Another milestone for India's space program will be the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan project, scheduled to take place this year. The mission will carry a robot named 'Vyommitra' as part of the preparations for future human space missions. Minister Singh noted that although the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in 1969, it took more than two decades to set up the first launch pad in 1993. The space sector, however, has witnessed remarkable growth over

the last decade, with India now building a third launch pad to accommodate heavier rockets and expanding operations beyond Sriharikota. A new launch site is also being developed in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district for launching small satellites.

India's space economy, valued at USD 8 billion, is expected to reach USD 44 billion over the next decade. Singh emphasized that the recent reforms, including opening the space sector to private players, have led to greater innovation and international collaborations. With new infrastructure, increased private sector participation, and significant investments, India is poised for even greater achievements in the coming years.

Defence Ministry Signs Over Rs 10,000 Crore Deal For Pinaka Rocket System

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Indian government has signed defence contracts worth over ₹10,000 crore to bolster the firepower capabilities of the Indian Army. These contracts, finalized on Thursday, focus on the procurement of advanced munitions, including Area Denial Munition Type-1 (ADM) and high-explosive rockets with enhanced range for the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).



According to a statement from the Ministry of Defence, the contracts were signed with Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) to procure ADM Type-1 (DPICM) and High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF) Mk-1 (Enhanced) rockets. The total cost of these contracts amounts to ₹10,147 crore.

The HEPF Mk-1 (Enhanced) rockets are an upgraded version of the in-service HEPF rockets, offering an enhanced range to strike deep into enemy territory with precision and devastating impact. The ADM Type-1 of the Pinaka MLRS comes with a specialized warhead capable of dispersing sub-munitions over a larger area. This will target enemy

mechanized forces, vehicles, and personnel, denying specific areas to the enemy.

These advanced munitions are part of the ongoing modernization of India's artillery rocket regiments and will significantly enhance the Army's firepower by enabling long-range and accurate strikes. The procurement is a key milestone in modernizing India's defence infrastructure, empowering domestic industries, and advancing the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. In addition to strengthening national defence, these projects will create direct and indirect employment opportunities, particularly by promoting the Indian

MSME sector through component manufacturing. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh attended the contract signing event in New Delhi, underscoring the strategic importance of these procurements for India's defence preparedness.

The move also aligns with India's broader goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, allowing for greater control over critical military assets and reducing dependence on foreign imports. By investing in advanced military technologies, India aims to enhance its tactical capabilities while supporting the growth of indigenous defence industries.



Saif Ali Khan's Attack: Two Staffers Identify Arrested Bangladeshi Man as Assailant

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a significant development in the case involving the attack on Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, two staff members at his residence have identified Shariful Fakir, a Bangladeshi national, as the person who assaulted the actor last month. Fakir, 30, was arrested in connection with the incident and is currently in judicial custody.

The identification took place during an Identification Parade conducted by the Mumbai police at Arthur Road jail on Wednesday. Eliyamma Phillip (56), a staffer at Khan's house, and Junu, a househelp, both confirmed that Fakir was the individual responsible for the attack on Khan, according to police officials. Phillip is considered a key witness, as she was also reportedly attacked by the assailant during the break-in.

On January 16, Fakir allegedly broke into Khan's apartment in the Satguru Sharan building in the Bandra area. Once inside, he reportedly stabbed Khan six times before fleeing the scene. Authorities quickly launched an investigation, which included reviewing CCTV footage from the building. The footage was instrumental in identifying Fakir, and a subsequent facial recognition test confirmed that the man arrested in Thane was the same person seen in the CCTV.

Following the attack, Fakir was apprehended three days later in Thane, a neighboring city. The police revealed that Fakir had entered the apartment in the early hours of the morning and carried out the attack. Investigators have indicated that the motive behind the attack remains unclear, and they are continuing to probe the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The identification parade played a critical role in confirming Fakir's involvement in the attack. Both Phillip and Junu positively identified him as the assailant, which strengthens the case against the accused.

Saif Ali Khan, who sustained multiple stab wounds in the attack, was reportedly in a stable condition after the incident. His family and team members have refrained from commenting publicly on the ongoing investigation.

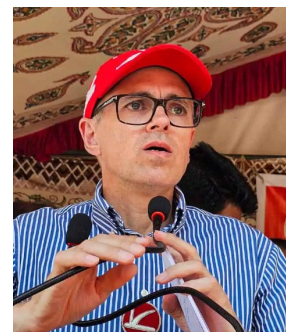
The police are continuing their investigation into the incident and are looking into Fakir's background to determine how he gained access to Khan's residence and if there were any connections that might have led to the attack.

Budget will not be confined to government offices: Omar Abdullah

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured on Wednesday that the upcoming budget would be a "people-friendly" one, emphasizing that it would not be limited to the bureaucratic framework but would cater to the aspirations of the public. Abdullah, who also holds the finance portfolio, made the announcement during his pre-budget consultations with legislators and chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu.

In a video conference with elected representatives from Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua, and Samba districts, the Chief Minister emphasized that the budget would reflect the hopes and needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, aligning closely with their expectations. Abdullah stated, "You have won your elections because people have placed their trust in you. Their expectations are tied to your leadership. Through this meeting, we aim to align budget priorities with the hopes of those who voted and participated in the democratic process."



The pre-budget discussions were not just aimed at presenting a financial framework, but at ensuring that the people's voices were heard and represented. Abdullah stressed that the budget would be created by the people, for the people, ensuring inclusiveness and transparency in the decision-making process. "We want to ensure that this budget is not just by the government but by the people, for the people. Your voices will be represented, as you represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The consultations, which involved discussions with public representatives, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and DDC chairpersons, were a significant step toward building a more collaborative and transparent approach to governance.

US Secretary of State Rubio to Skip G20 Talks in South Africa

Rubio cites "anti-American" agenda, escalating tensions over land reform

- Marco Rubio announced he will boycott the G20 foreign ministers Talk
- US absence could impact G20 diplomacy, including talks on the Ukraine war.

TPN Correspondent | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Wednesday that he would be skipping the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) foreign ministers' talks in South Africa, accusing the host nation of pursuing an "anti-American" agenda. Rubio's decision follows a fiery response from US President Donald Trump, who recently criticized South Africa's land reform policies that aim to address inequalities from the apartheid era.

Rubio, echoing Trump's combative rhetoric, posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he would not participate in the foreign ministers' summit scheduled for February 20-21 in Johannesburg. In his post, Rubio condemned South Africa's actions, claiming the country was "expropriating private property" and using the G20 forum to promote agendas like "solidarity, equality, & sustainability." He accused the South African government of prioritizing initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as well as climate change—both of which have become subjects of scorn for Trump and his supporters.

"My job is to advance America's national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism," Rubio asserted in his post, signaling his frustration with South Africa's position on issues like land reform and international policy agendas.

The tensions over land ownership in South Africa remain high. Despite the



country's transition to democracy three decades ago, most of the nation's farmland is still controlled by white landowners. The South African government has been under growing pressure to implement reforms that would allow for the redistribution of land to rectify the racial disparities left by apartheid policies. These reforms have provoked backlash from critics, including Trump, who has condemned South Africa for what he perceives as "confiscating" land.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa strongly rejected Trump's accusations, calling them misinformation. Earlier this week, Ramaphosa also reached out to Elon Musk, a prominent Trump ally, to express his concerns about what he described as disinformation circulating in the US media. Despite these efforts, the diplomatic rift between the two countries continues to widen.

The absence of the United States, the world's largest economy, from the G20 talks would deal a significant blow to the forum. The G20 is intended to represent the leading global economies, and such a high-profile boycott would undermine the legitimacy of the talks. This diplomatic snub also means that Rubio, a key figure in US foreign policy, would miss an opportunity to engage with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Trump has expressed interest in fostering dialogue with Russia on issues such as the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and this meeting could have offered a first opportunity for such diplomacy.

Overall, the growing tension between the US and South Africa highlights the challenges of navigating global policy while balancing national interests and diplomatic concerns.

Netanyahu Supports Trump's Proposal to Displace Palestinians from Gaza



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended former US President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to displace Palestinians from Gaza, despite widespread international condemnation. The proposal, which included suggestions for permanently displacing Palestinians and allowing them to return at will, was met with fierce criticism from rights groups, who labeled it as ethnic cleansing.

During an interview on Fox News, Netanyahu did not specifically address Trump's idea of a US takeover of Gaza but endorsed the concept of giving Palestinians in Gaza the option to leave. He stated, "What's wrong with that? They can leave, they can then come back, they can relocate and come back. But you have to rebuild Gaza."

Netanyahu further downplayed concerns, claiming that Trump's idea didn't involve sending US troops to Gaza or having Washington foot the bill for the region's reconstruction. He characterized Trump's proposal as "the first good idea" he had heard regarding the situation and called for it to be "examined and pursued." Netanyahu argued that the plan could bring about a "different future for everyone," reflecting his approval of the idea despite its controversy. Trump's proposal, first floated on January 25, suggests that Palestinians in Gaza should be resettled in neighboring Arab nations like Egypt and Jordan. This idea has been outright rejected by both Palestinian leaders and the Arab states in question. Trump's aides later attempted to clarify and distance themselves from aspects of the plan in response to the backlash.

This proposal emerged in the context of an ongoing and brutal military campaign by Israel against Gaza. Since the start of the conflict, Israel's airstrikes and ground assaults have resulted in over 47,000 Palestinian deaths, according to Gaza's health ministry. The violence has also sparked accusations of war crimes and genocide, which Israel has denied. Despite a fragile ceasefire, the human toll of the conflict continues to grow, with nearly all of Gaza's population displaced and widespread hunger exacerbating the crisis.



Australia Passes Strict Anti-Hate Crime Laws in Response to Rising Antisemitism

TPN Correspondent | Sydney

On Thursday, Australia passed tough new anti-hate crime legislation aimed at combating the recent surge in antisemitism. The laws introduce mandatory minimum sentences for various hate crimes, including terror-related offences and the display of hate symbols. The new legislation mandates prison terms ranging from 12 months for less severe offences, such as publicly giving a Nazi salute, to six years for individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who had previously opposed mandatory minimum sentences, voiced his strong support for the new laws, emphasizing the importance of holding those engaged in antisemitism accountable. "I want people who are engaged in antisemitism to be held to account, to be charged, to be incarcerated," Albanese stated in an interview with Sky News.

The government's hate crimes bill, which was first introduced to parliament last year, also creates new criminal offences for any acts of force or violence targeting individuals based on factors like race, religion, nationality, political opinion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status. The legislation is designed to address a significant uptick in antisemitic incidents across the country.

In recent months, Australia has witnessed a disturbing rise in attacks on Jewish community sites, including synagogues, Jewish-owned businesses, and cars. One particularly alarming incident involved the discovery of a caravan loaded with explosives and a list of Jewish targets in Sydney.

Panama Canal Denies Fee Waiver for US Vessels

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

The Panama Canal Authority (PCA) has clarified that it has not made any changes to the fees for US government vessels transiting the Panama Canal, following a statement from the US State Department suggesting otherwise. The PCA took to social media platform X to refute claims that Panama had agreed to waive the tolls for US government ships, emphasizing that the Authority, which has the power to set tolls and fees, had not altered its fee structure.

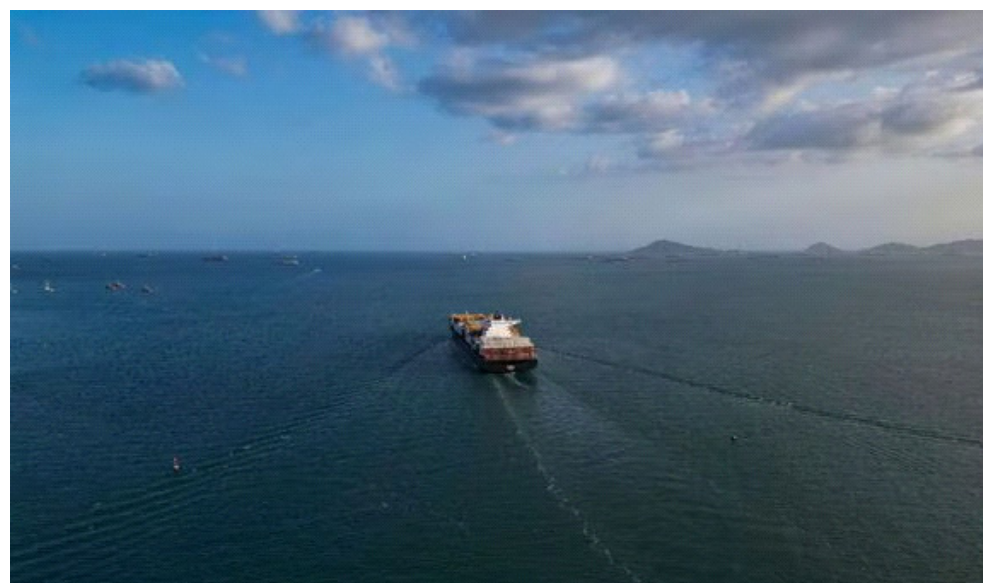
The official post from the Panama Canal Authority stated, "In response to a publication released by the United States Department of State, the Panama Canal Authority, which is authorized to set tolls and other fees for transiting the Canal, reports that it has not made any adjustments to them. The Panama Canal Authority, as it has indicated, is fully prepared to engage in dialogue with relevant United States officials regarding the transit of U.S. warships."

This clarification came after a US State Department announcement claimed Panama had agreed to waive the tolls

for US government vessels using the Canal. According to the statement, this move would save the US government millions of dollars annually. The announcement was made public following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's trip to Panama on February 1, marking his first official visit to the country since assuming the role.

The US State Department's post on X read, "US government vessels can now transit the Panama Canal without charge fees, saving the US government millions of dollars a year." The decision was positioned as a significant financial relief for the United States, especially given the strategic importance of the Panama Canal for naval and commercial shipping.

However, the Panama Canal Authority's response casts doubt on the claim, insisting that no official policy changes had been implemented and that further discussions with the United States would be necessary to address the situation. The PCA's statement underscores the importance of transparent communication between the two governments, particularly when it involves a key international shipping route.



DeepSeek Faces Global Scrutiny and Bans Over Security Concerns

TPN Correspondent | Italy

DeepSeek's rapid rise to prominence has sparked widespread concern among regulators and governments worldwide, leading to multiple countries imposing restrictions or outright bans on the Chinese AI app. Privacy watchdogs and national security officials have raised alarms about the app's data collection practices and potential security risks, prompting actions in several regions.

Italy was one of the first to act, banning the app after an investigation by the Italian Data Protection Authority (Garante) into DeepSeek's compliance with EU data protection laws. The authorities found the app's response to their inquiries "completely insufficient," leading to the removal of DeepSeek from the Apple and Google app stores in Italy. The Italian regulators also noted that the app claimed not to operate in Italy, further complicating its legal standing within the European Union. Taiwan followed suit, banning government agencies, state-owned businesses, and public schools from using DeepSeek. The Ministry of Digital Affairs expressed concerns over the app's potential to endanger national security, pointing out that it is a Chinese product with implications for cross-border data transmission. Taiwan's restrictions were particularly focused on the risk of information leaks, a concern amplified by the app's Chinese origins.

Australia also acted swiftly, prohibiting government workers from using DeepSeek. The country's Department of Home Affairs issued a directive that forbids the installation or use of DeepSeek products on any government systems or devices, citing unacceptable security risks. However, the ban does not extend to private citizens, though Australians have been urged to exercise caution regarding their online data usage and privacy.



Markets Slip Amid Rate Concerns; Nifty Faces Resistance at 50-DMA

Domestic stock markets ended with moderate losses for the second consecutive session. They moved in a range-bound pattern throughout Thursday. The indices, which had gained initially, gradually fell due to mixed signals from international markets. Interest rate-related stocks were dealt a blow in the wake of the RBI monetary meeting. FMCG, realty, banking and finance shares fell as investors remained cautious and did not buy. Once again, the 50-day moving average became a resistance for Nifty. In the end, Nifty lost 90 points and Sensex lost 200 points.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,271 in the previous session, opened at 78,513 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 77,843. It reached an intraday high of 78,551. It ended at 78,058, down 213 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,761, hit a low of 23,556 and a high of 23,773. It closed at 23,603, down 92 points. The Nifty Bank rose 39 points to settle at 50,382.

In the Nifty50, 21 companies gained while 30 lost. IT, pharma and private bank indices gained the most. Realty, consumer durables, media, metal and FMCG indices rose the most. Cipla, Adani Ports, ITC Hotels, Dr. Reddy's, HDFC Life were the top gainers. Trent, BEL, Airtel, Titan, ONGC were the top losers.

Today, the market breadth in NSE slightly favored sellers. Out of a total of 2905 stocks traded, 1334 gained and 1495 lost. Shares of 38 companies reached 52-week highs. Only 32 reached 52-week lows.

The rupee fell to a fresh low of 87.57 against the dollar. NMDC's net loss increased to Rs. 757 crore from Rs. 568 crore. REC's net profit increased by 23.2% from Rs. 3296 crore to Rs. 4029 crore. MQURE's net profit increased by 30% from Rs. 119 crore to Rs. 156 crore. Aarti Pharma's margin increased from 21.40 to 23.88 percent. Net profit increased by 39.6%. Bernstein has given an Outperform rating to Swiggy with a target price of Rs 575. Minda Corp's net profit rose to Rs 64 crore from Rs 52 crore. SBI's net profit rose 84% to Rs 16,890 crore. Chambal Fertilizers' profit rose 16.3% to Rs 534 crore from Rs 459 crore.

1. Axis Bank (NSE: AXISBANK)



Axis Bank is one of India's largest private sector banks, offering retail banking, corporate banking, and treasury services. It has a strong digital banking presence and a large customer base. Strong digital banking and fintech partnerships Expanding SME and corporate banking portfolio Stable loan book growth and improving asset quality Positive, driven by strong credit demand, digital expansion, and cost efficiency improvements.

2. Zydus Lifesciences

Zydus Lifesciences is a leading pharma company specializing in generics, biosimilars, specialty drugs, and vaccines, with a strong presence in India and the US. Strong US generics pipeline and biosimilars expansion Leadership in domestic formulations business High investment in R&D for new drug discovery Steady growth expected due to strong product pipeline, global expansion, and higher R&D spending.



3. HDFC Life Insurance (NSE: HDFCLIFE)



HDFC Life is one of India's top private life insurance companies, offering term insurance, annuities, and ULIPs. It benefits from a strong bancassurance tie-up with HDFC Bank. Increasing insurance penetration in India Strong digital insurance sales and bancassurance network Expanding annuity and pension products Long-term positive due to increasing demand for insurance and strong financial stability.

4. Cipla (NSE: CIPLA)

Cipla is a global pharma company with a strong presence in respiratory, chronic diseases, and US generics. It is a leader in inhalers and respiratory therapies. Leadership in respiratory and chronic therapies. Expansion in US generics market High-margin specialty drugs and biotech growth. Strong growth potential with consistent expansion in global markets and new drug launches.



5. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (NSE: UJJIVANSFB)



Ujjivan SFB is a leading small finance bank focused on microfinance, affordable housing, and MSME lending, with a strong presence in rural India. Strong expansion in microfinance and SME lending Increasing focus on affordable housing loans Digital banking adoption for rural banking Strong growth expected, supported by rising credit demand and improving financial inclusion.

FM Sitharaman Stresses Commitment to Disinvestment and Privatisation Plans

After presenting the Union Budget on February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined the government's ongoing commitment to disinvestment and privatisation, emphasizing that these steps remain integral to the government's economic strategy. Speaking on the subject, Sitharaman asserted that there would be no reconsideration of the cabinet's decision regarding privatisation.

"Privatisation is a commitment given to the cabinet, and there is no rethink on this matter," Sitharaman said. "We are fully committed to moving forward with the privatisation agenda as planned."

She also highlighted the government's efforts in improving the valuation of public sector companies, a key factor in the success of the disinvestment process. According to Sitharaman, the government has worked



hard to bring in professional management, enhancing the performance of several companies that were previously underperforming. This has allowed these companies to achieve better market valuations, with many of them now performing well on the stock markets.

"The valuations of these companies have been a major focus. We have introduced professional management, and that has contributed significantly to the

improved performance and market valuations," she said. "Many of these companies, which were earlier struggling, are now delivering respectable results."

Sitharaman's comments come at a time when the Indian government is making strides in its disinvestment and privatisation efforts as part of a broader plan to reduce fiscal deficits, optimize public sector enterprises, and encourage private sector participation in the economy. The government's

approach includes selling stakes in state-run companies, thereby generating funds for infrastructure development and other priority sectors.

The government has already made progress in privatising various public sector units (PSUs), with several companies achieving success in their listing on the stock exchanges. These positive outcomes have bolstered confidence in the privatisation agenda, with experts noting that professional management and strategic changes have played a key role in improving the financial health of these entities.

As the government continues its disinvestment and privatisation drive, Sitharaman's statement reaffirms the administration's firm stance on this issue, underscoring its commitment to implementing reforms in public sector enterprises and strengthening the Indian economy.

Clean Energy Transition with Amazon's Investments, Targets 50% Non-Fossil Fuel Power by 2030

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday praised India's growing role as a global leader in the clean energy transition, following Amazon's announcement of investments in three new wind energy projects across the country. Vaishnaw, who oversees the Ministries of Railways, Electronics and Information Technology, and Information and Broadcasting, emphasized the significance of such investments in accelerating India's clean energy journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, India is rapidly emerging as a global leader in the clean energy transition. Investments from companies like Amazon are accelerating this progress," Vaishnaw said, applauding Amazon's commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

Earlier in the day, Amazon revealed its investments in three wind energy projects in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The projects, which will add over 379 MW of clean energy, reinforce Amazon's pledge to power its operations using 100% renewable en-

ergy. The new wind farms — CleanMax Koppal (100 MW) in Karnataka, BluPine Solapur (99 MW) in Maharashtra, and JSW Energy Dharapuram (180 MW) in Tamil Nadu — will contribute to India's ambitious target of producing 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

"Clean energy is not only about sustainability; it is central to our goal of producing 50 percent of our electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. As we expand our digital and transportation infrastructure, renewable energy will play a crucial role in powering the next wave of connectivity and innovation," Vaishnaw added.

Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy, also welcomed Amazon's continued investments in wind and solar projects, which he said are crucial for achieving India's renewable energy targets and ensuring energy security. He noted that these projects will not only help in creating a cleaner environment but also generate employment and boost local economies.



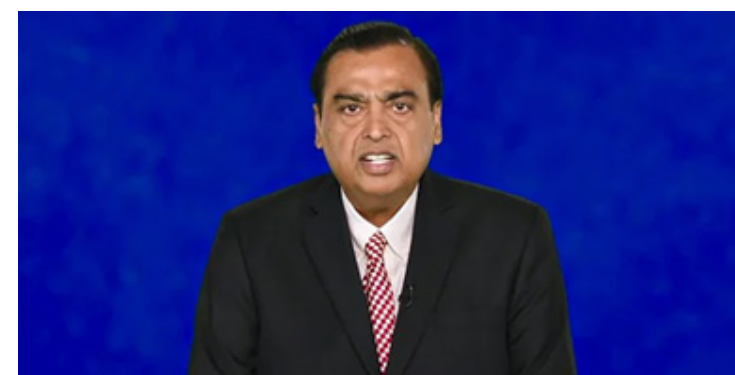
Amazon's commitment to renewable energy goes beyond its operations in India. Avinash Shekhar, Head of APJ Energy and Water Strategy at AWS, highlighted that Amazon has invested in over 600 solar and wind projects globally, including more than 50 in India, as part of its Climate Pledge to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

With these new projects, Amazon has now enabled 53 renewable energy initiatives in India, providing over 4 million megawatt hours (MWh) of carbon-free energy, enough to power over 1.3 million homes. These efforts further Amazon's goal of supporting sustainable development while creating new jobs and business opportunities within local communities.

Jio building world's best AI infrastructure in India: Mukesh Ambani

In a significant statement made on Wednesday, Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries (RIL), emphasized the company's strong commitment to advancing artificial intelligence (AI) in India. Ambani revealed that RIL's digital arm, Jio, is focused on constructing the best AI infrastructure in the world, right here in India. During his address, Ambani stated, "AI is indispensable for India's transformation into a Deep-Tech Nation with advanced manufacturing capabilities." This remark underscores his vision of leveraging AI to drive India's technological and industrial growth in the coming years.

Ambani highlighted the importance of AI as a central element in the global competition for technological dominance, specifically in the rapidly evolving landscape of AI. With this in



mind, Reliance's digital initiatives aim to place India at the forefront of the global AI revolution.

Jio, under Ambani's leadership, has been a pioneer in India's digital transformation. From building an extensive telecommunications network to venturing into a diverse array of technology and digital services, Jio's latest focus on AI is seen as a bold step toward advancing India's position in the digital ecosystem. Ambani envisions the development of AI technologies

that can empower Indian industries, facilitate innovations in healthcare, education, manufacturing, and infrastructure, and contribute to creating new job opportunities.

The initiative comes at a time when many global tech giants and governments are vying for leadership in AI, with countries like the United States, China, and the European Union investing heavily in AI research and development. With Reliance's deep resources and its ambitious goals for dig-

ital and technological innovation, Jio's AI-driven infrastructure could significantly enhance India's competitiveness on the global stage.

Ambani's announcement also aligns with India's broader push toward fostering advanced technological capabilities. Through initiatives like Digital India, the country aims to boost its position as a global leader in technology and innovation. By harnessing the power of AI, Ambani believes that India can revolutionize various sectors, ensuring that the nation's digital transformation is both sustainable and inclusive.

As Jio continues to evolve, this AI initiative could play a pivotal role in ensuring that India keeps pace with global tech advancements, solidifying its place as a powerhouse in the digital world.

Mysterious Brain Disease Found in Dead Great White Sharks Along Atlantic Coast



A string of unexplained great white shark deaths along the North American Atlantic Coast has raised serious concerns among marine scientists. The first case was reported in August 2023, when a 500-pound juvenile male shark, measuring 8 feet 9 inches, was found dead on a beach in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The shark's carcass was sent to the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island for examination. Initial findings revealed no external injuries, and starvation was ruled out due to a healthy liver. However, a necropsy revealed meningoencephalitis—an inflammation

of the brain tissue—as the cause of death, prompting further investigations. As additional shark deaths surfaced across the region, a study by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (C.W.H.C.) found similar brain inflammation in tissue samples from four other great white sharks. Dr. Megan Jones, a veterinary pathologist and regional director of C.W.H.C., noted that three of the five sharks examined showed signs of a potential infectious disease affecting the brain. In total, nine cases of great white sharks with brain swelling have been recorded since July 2022. While brain inflammation has

been linked to bacterial infections in other shark species, no such cause has been identified in these cases. The lack of baseline mortality data for white sharks in the western North Atlantic complicates the investigation. Dr. Alisa Newton, chief veterinarian for OCEARCH, a Florida-based shark research organization, pointed out that it is difficult to determine whether the deaths are an anomaly or a natural occurrence. Meningoencephalitis was first identified in a white shark in 2022 in Long Island, New York, and has since been found in sharks from South Carolina and Massachusetts. While investigations continue, experts are exploring various possibilities, including the potential role of viral or bacterial pathogens. Some, such as Tonya Wimmer, executive director of the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS), believe the rising number of beached sharks could be due to population growth, not a new disease. The cause of these deaths remains uncertain, and further research is needed to uncover the truth. A day for making promises, whether big or small, to ensure the relationship continues to thrive and grow.

Viral AI Video Shows Tiny Construction Workers Building Food, Gets 18 Million Views

A viral AI-generated video is taking the internet by storm, showing tiny construction workers meticulously building food items as if they were constructing houses. The creative video, shared by AI video creator Pablo Prompt on Instagram, in collaboration with nutritionist Carlos Hugo Jimenez Dominguez, has gained an astounding 18 million views. The video imagines a whimsical world where miniature construction workers, dressed in hard hats and uniforms, are responsible for preparing dishes in a highly detailed and mechanical way. The scene begins with the tiny workers garnishing a piece of salmon, followed by an excavator placing lemon slices on top of a perfectly grilled fish. The surreal sight continues with a worker transferring an Indian gravy dish onto a bed of steaming rice,



showcasing a variety of food preparations, from pizza to prawn rice, and even a sunny-side-up egg. The workers are seen using various construction tools like cranes and excavators, adding a layer of quirky realism to the cooking process. Social media users quickly flocked to the comments section of the post, ex-

pressing a mix of awe and amusement. One user commented, "This is the weirdest thing I've ever seen but it's so good!" Another added, "Oddly satisfying to watch!" Many others admired the creative use of AI, with one user saying, "Now, this is the type of AI I can mess with." However, some expressed a more humorous, albeit slightly disturbed, reaction, with a comment saying, "I find this both delicious and disturbing." Despite the mixed reactions, the video's creative concept has captivated viewers, leaving them in awe of the potential AI has in blending art, food, and entertainment. With such a unique and imaginative take on food preparation, this AI video is certainly one for the books, showing just how far artificial intelligence can go in reshaping our understanding of food creation.

OpenAI Expands ChatGPT Search Feature to All Users Worldwide



OpenAI has announced the global expansion of its ChatGPT Search feature, making it available to everyone, including those who have not signed up for the platform. This feature was initially introduced in November 2024 for paid subscribers and was extended to users on the free tier in December 2024. Now, it can be accessed by anyone visiting the ChatGPT website, offering users the ability to ask real-time queries and receive answers sourced directly from the web.

The official announcement was made on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Wednesday, where OpenAI confirmed that the search feature would be widely accessible. This change allows anyone worldwide to use ChatGPT's native search engine-powered functionality

to ask questions and receive up-to-date answers sourced from the internet. The rollout of this feature was initially observed on Android devices, though it has not yet appeared on the iOS app at the time of writing. However, it is expected to be available on iOS soon. For those who do not have an OpenAI account, the feature is powered by the GPT-4o AI model. Users will see a globe icon next to the "Attach file" icon in the text field within the ChatGPT interface. By tapping the globe icon, users can activate the web search mode, where the chatbot will exclusively pull information from the web to answer queries. An interesting aspect of the feature is that it provides transparency about the sources of the information. Each sentence in the response is followed by a

clickable icon that directs users to the original source of the information. Additionally, a full list of sources is displayed at the bottom of the response, and these can also be clicked for further details. OpenAI has yet to announce any rate limits for using the ChatGPT Search feature, even for users who have not registered. This means that users on the free tier can use the search feature without restrictions, a notable benefit for those seeking up-to-date web-based information. With this expansion, OpenAI is offering a more accessible, real-time way for users worldwide to interact with its AI-powered chatbot and receive information from the web, making ChatGPT a more comprehensive tool for knowledge seekers everywhere.

New Study Reveals How Aliens Could Detect Earth's Technosignatures



Google is gearing up to unveil its budget-friendly Pixel 9a, slated to launch on March 19, marking the earliest release date in the Pixel A series history. The highly anticipated mid-range model is expected to come with some enticing offers and powerful features to attract buyers. According to a recent leak from Android Headlines, Pixel 9a buyers could enjoy several premium subscriptions as part of their purchase. The freebies include six months of free Fitbit Premium, three months of free YouTube Premium, and a three-

month subscription to 100GB of Google One storage. These offers resemble those provided with the Pixel 9 series, although the Pixel 9a will not come with the 2TB+ AI plan for Google One, and users will need to pay extra for any Gemini Advanced features. The Pixel 9a is expected to maintain the same Tensor G4 processor found in the flagship Pixel 9 series. The device is likely to feature a 6.3-inch Actua display with a peak brightness of 2,700 nits and Gorilla Glass 3 protection for durability. With 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, the Pixel 9a promis-

es a smooth and spacious user experience. It is also expected to have an IP68 rating, ensuring dust and water resistance. For photography, the Pixel 9a is rumored to include a dual-camera setup, consisting of a 48-megapixel primary camera and a 13-megapixel ultrawide camera. The phone is likely to be equipped with a robust 5,100mAh battery, supporting 23W wired and 7.5W wireless charging. Additionally, it is expected to feature an in-display fingerprint scanner for enhanced security and convenience.

Nagpur Golegappa Vendor Offers Lifetime Supply for Rs 99,000: A Viral Deal

Golegappas, also known as pani puri or puchka in some parts of India, are a beloved street food across the Indian subcontinent. With their irresistible combination of spicy, tangy, and sweet flavors, golegappas have earned a special place in the hearts of food lovers worldwide. From weddings to local markets, these bite-sized treats are a common sight at street food stalls, offering a quick and satisfying snack for people from all walks of life. Recently, a golegappa vendor in Nag-

pur has captured attention and gone viral with a unique offer that has intrigued many social media users. The vendor has come up with an unconventional deal that allows customers to enjoy golegappas for free, for life, by paying a one-time fee of Rs 99,000. According to the offer, anyone who pays this amount will have unlimited access to golegappas from the stall for the rest of their lives—without needing to pay again. This extraordinary deal has sparked

considerable discussion on social media platforms, with users expressing a mix of amusement and curiosity. The concept of paying a large sum upfront for a lifetime of free food has caught the imagination of many who love golegappas and are willing to make a long-term investment in their favorite snack. The post has quickly gained attention, with people debating the value of such an offer and whether it's worth the hefty price tag.



Real Madrid Edge Past Leganes with Last-Minute Winner to Reach Copa del Rey Semifinals



Young Real Madrid striker Gonzalo Garcia sealed a dramatic 3-2 victory for Los Blancos with a 93rd-minute header, securing a place in the Copa del Rey semifinals at the expense of Leganes. In a thrilling contest at Butarque Stadium, Juan Cruz's brace helped Leganes fight back after Luka Modric and teenage sensation Endrick put Madrid ahead early in the game. With the match seemingly heading to extra-time, Brahim Diaz delivered a superb cross, allowing 20-year-old Gonzalo to nod home the

winner. Despite missing Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe due to minor injuries and dealing with a defensive injury crisis, Carlo Ancelotti's side showcased resilience, with Jacobo Ramon and Raul Asencio making key contributions. Madrid started strong, with Modric scoring in the 18th minute, followed by Endrick's close-range finish. However, Leganes responded, with Cruz converting a penalty after Jacobo handled the ball. In the second half, Madrid squandered multiple chances,

with Vinicius Junior missing two golden opportunities before Cruz equalized with a deflected shot. Just when extra-time loomed, Gonzalo's last-gasp goal kept Madrid's Copa del Rey hopes alive. Madrid will now face Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday before a crucial Champions League encounter against Manchester City on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Atletico thrashed Getafe 5-0 to reach the semifinals, while Barcelona take on Valencia and Real Sociedad face Osasuna in the remaining quarter-finals.

Italian Qualifier Mattia Bellucci Stuns Daniil Medvedev to Reach Rotterdam ATP Quarterfinals

Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci pulled off a major upset at the Rotterdam ATP 500, stunning former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in three grueling sets on Wednesday. The 23-year-old, ranked 92nd in the world, secured a 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 victory to register the biggest win of his career and reach his first ATP quarterfinal of the season.

"It was a three-hour battle, and I really enjoyed every moment of it," said Bellucci after the match. "I'm pretty tired but extremely happy. I went for serve-and-volley tactics, something I don't usually do, but today it worked perfectly."

The Italian held his nerve in the final set, saving six break points, after missing a match point in the second-set tiebreak against defending champion Medvedev.

Bellucci, who previously reached the Atlanta Open quarterfinals in 2024, will now face sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas or Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor for a place in the Rotterdam semifinals.

For world No. 7 Medvedev, it was another disappointing outing in early 2025, following his second-round exit at the Australian Open. The 2021 US Open champion had earlier defeated Stan Wawrinka in the first round but was unable to overcome Bellucci's aggressive game.



With this stunning win, Bellucci continues his breakthrough run on the ATP circuit and will look to maintain momentum in Rotterdam.

Marcus Stoinis Announces Surprise ODI Retirement Ahead of Champions Trophy

In a surprising move, Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs) with immediate effect, just days before the ICC Champions Trophy. His decision means Cricket Australia (CA) will now name a replacement in their squad for the tournament.

Stoinis, who played 74 ODIs for Australia, expressed gratitude for representing the national team and stated that he will now focus entirely on T20 cricket. "Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I'm grateful for every moment in

the green and gold. This wasn't an easy decision, but I believe it's the right time for me to step away and fully focus on the next chapter of my career," said Stoinis in a CA statement.

Stoinis made his ODI debut in 2015 against England and became a key figure in Australia's limited-overs setup. His standout performance came in 2017 when he smashed 146 against New Zealand at Eden Park* while also taking three wickets. He played a vital role in Australia's 2023 ODI World Cup-winning campaign in India. Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald praised Stoinis for his

contributions, calling him a natural leader and an exceptional team player. However, his retirement adds to Australia's growing concerns ahead of the Champions Trophy, with Mitchell Marsh ruled out due to a back injury and injury worries surrounding Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. With Stoinis' exit, Cricket Australia's National Selection Panel (NSP) will finalize replacements after the Sri Lanka Test series. Australia, placed in Group B alongside England, South Africa, and Afghanistan, has until February 12 to submit its final 15-member squad for the tournament.

India vs England 1st ODI Highlights: Shubman Gill, Bowlers Shine as India Clinch 4-Wicket Win in Nagpur

India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series with a convincing 4-wicket victory over England in the first ODI at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium. Shubman Gill led the chase with a composed 87, while debutant pacer Harshit Rana and Ravindra Jadeja starred with the ball to restrict England to a below-par total of 248.

England Innings: Buttler, Bethell Shine Amidst Indian Bowling Attack

Opting to bat first, England started aggressively, with openers looking to capitalize on the batting-friendly conditions. However, India's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding turned the game around.

- Jos Buttler (64) and Jacob Bethell (57) were the only bright spots in England's batting order.
- Debutant Harshit Rana (3/53) impressed with a fiery spell, claiming three crucial wickets.
- Ravindra Jadeja (3/26) put on a stellar all-round show, breaking partnerships and maintaining control in the middle overs.
- England, who looked set for a big score at 180/4, collapsed to 248 all out in 45.3 overs.

India's Chase: Shubman Gill, Iyer, and Axar Deliver



- Chasing 249, India lost early wickets, but a brilliant knock from Shubman Gill (87 off 91) stabilized the innings.
- Shreyas Iyer (59 off 36) provided a counterattacking fifty, keeping India in command.
- Axar Patel (52 off 47) played a vital supporting role, ensuring there were no hiccups in the chase.

- Despite a few late wickets, India comfortably chased down the target in 38.4 overs, winning by 4 wickets.
- With this win, India take a 1-0 lead in the series. The second ODI will be played in Pune, where England will look to bounce back and level the series.

Sachin Tendulkar Shares Hilarious Story About Virender Sehwag at Rashtrapati Bhavan Event

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was the special guest at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Vimarsh Shrinkhala event, where he shared stories from his illustrious career. In attendance were President Droupadi Murmu, his wife Anjali, and daughter Sara. The former India captain presented a signed Indian Test jersey to the President as a token of his appreciation.

Speaking at the event, Tendulkar emphasized the importance of teamwork and trust, recalling how different players required different motivational tactics. He narrated a hilarious anecdote about Virender Sehwag, revealing how he had to manipulate Sehwag's mindset to get the best out of him. "Sehwag Would Do the Opposite of What I Said" Tendulkar explained how Sehwag, known for his aggressive style, would always do the opposite of what he was asked to do.

"If I wanted him to defend for a few overs, I would say, 'Viru, go



and blast the bowlers, hit sixes.' And he would reply, 'No paaji, I think I should defend for four overs first.' That was the way to get what I wanted from him." Tendulkar also recounted his 2011 World Cup chat with Yuvraj Singh, who looked low on energy before the tournament. "Yuvi told me he wasn't timing the ball well, so I advised him to focus on fielding instead. I

told him, 'Yuvi, you will matter when it matters.' That motivated him, and he went on to have a phenomenal World Cup," he added. During the event, Tendulkar reminisced about his journey in cricket and his past visits to Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he received multiple awards, including the Bharat Ratna in 2014.





Ed Sheeran And A.R. Rahman's 'Shape of You' And 'Urvashi' Mash-Up Goes Viral!

It was a musical extravaganza in Chennai as two Grammy-winning artists, Ed Sheeran and A. R. Rahman, took the stage together for a sensational performance. The duo delivered a mesmerizing mash-up of Sheeran's global hit 'Shape of You' and Rahman's iconic 'Urvashi', blending Western pop and Indian beats seamlessly. Sheeran strummed his guitar while Rahman rendered the vocals, with the metronome of 'Shape of You' syncing perfectly with the lyrics of 'Urvashi'. The electrifying performance has now gone viral, captivating music lovers worldwide.

Jonita Gandhi Opens the Show

The concert kicked off with a stunning performance by singer Jonita Gandhi, known for chartbusters like 'Gilehriyaan', 'What Jhumka', and 'Dil Ka Telephone'. Expressing her excitement, she shared, "I've been a huge fan of Ed's for quite a while! I love how seamlessly he crosses over into different genres. It's a dream come true to share the stage with him in Chennai."

Sheeran's India Love Continues

This isn't the first time Ed Sheeran has collaborated with Indian artists. Last year, he



performed in Mumbai alongside Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, and their jam session went viral. The Chennai concert proved to be another

legendary musical moment, bringing together global music icons and showcasing the power of cross-cultural collaborations.

Grammy Winner Chandrika Tan don Thanks PM Modi For His Appreciation

Indian-American vocalist Chandrika Tandon, who recently won a Grammy Award for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for her album Triveni, has expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his appreciation and recognition.

Taking to social media, Chandrika shared a throwback picture with PM Modi, writing, "It is an extra special moment when the Prime Minister of India gives public appreciation to global artists from India -- such a gracious and encouraging gesture! Feel so honoured and proud. Thank you @narendramodi ji. Love Light Laughter." PM Modi's Congratulatory Message



PM Modi had earlier extended his congratulations to Chandrika on X (formerly Twitter), saying,

"Congratulations to @chandrikatandon on winning the Grammy for the album Triveni. We take great pride in her

accomplishments as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and of course, music."

Chandrika's Grammy-Winning Album Chandrika shared the Grammy honour with South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto. The category featured other prominent Indian nominees, including Ricky Kej, Anoushka Shankar, and Radhika Vekaria. Chandrika, an accomplished musician and entrepreneur, is also known as the elder sister of former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi. Her Grammy win has been widely celebrated in India and among the global Indian diaspora.

Kadhalikka Neramillai OTT Release Date Reportedly Revealed: When and Where to Watch Romantic Drama Online



The much-loved romantic drama Kadhalikka Neramillai, starring Ravi Mohan and Nithya Menen, is reportedly set for its OTT release on Netflix on February 14, 2025. The film, which hit theaters on January 14 during Sankranti and Pongal, received a warm response from audiences, and now, its digital release is anticipated to be a Valentine's Day special.

When and Where to Watch Kadhalikka Neramillai Online

According to reports, Netflix has secured the streaming rights for Kadhalikka Neramillai, and it will be available for subscribers starting February 14, 2025. However, an official announcement from the makers is awaited.

Plot Summary

The film follows Shriya, an architect, who marries Karan through a registered marriage in 2017 but later discovers his infidelity. Seeking motherhood, she undergoes IVF with anonymous donor sperm, unknowingly using Sid's (a structural engineer from Bengaluru) sample due to a hospital mix-up.

Eight years later, Sid relocates to Chennai, unknowingly forming a deep bond

with Parthiv, Shriya's son. As Shriya and Sid cross paths professionally, their rivalry and growing interactions lead to emotional revelations. Parthiv embarks on a journey to uncover his father's identity, setting off a chain of unexpected events.

Cast & Crew

Directed and written by Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi, Kadhalikka Neramillai is produced by Udhayanidhi Stalin under Red Giant Movies. The film boasts an impressive crew:

- Cinematography: Gave-mic U. Ary
- Editing: Lawrence Kishore
- Music: A. R. Rahman
- Reception & Expectations

Critics and audiences have praised the film's engaging storytelling, lead performances, and emotional depth. While official box office figures remain undisclosed, the movie is said to have performed well during its theatrical run.

With its upcoming Netflix release, Kadhalikka Neramillai is expected to reach a wider audience, making it a perfect pick for Valentine's Day streaming.

Ram Charan Starrer 'Orange' to Re-Release After 15 Years on Valentine's Day



The much-anticipated Tamil sci-fi horror thriller 'Black' has been released on Amazon Prime Video under the title 'Dark' in Telugu. Originally hitting theatres on October 11, 2024, the film gained widespread attention, grossing ₹50 crore worldwide against a modest ₹5 crore budget.

Directed by KG Balasubramani, 'Dark' seamlessly blends science fiction and supernatural horror. The story revolves around Vasanth (Jeeva) and Aranya (Priya Bhavani Shankar), who buy a luxurious villa near Chennai for a romantic getaway.

However, their dream vacation soon turns into a nightmare as they experience strange occurrences, eerie noises, and an unseen presence watching them. Their investigations lead them to a shocking mystery from 1964, connecting their fate to a gruesome double murder.

With stunning cinematography by Gokul Benoy, haunting music by Sam CS, and engaging performances, 'Dark' delivers a gripping thriller. Fans of sci-fi horror can now stream it on Amazon Prime Video.

Rating: *** (3/5)



Huma Qureshi Dismisses North vs South Cinema Debate as 'Clickbait'

Actress Huma Qureshi has brushed off the ongoing North vs South cinema debate, calling it petty and irrelevant. Instead, she urged the Indian film industry to unite and focus on creating globally competitive content, akin to hit franchises like Avatar, Squid Game, and Money Heist.

Speaking at the recently concluded Kerala Literature Festival, Huma emphasized that India has one film industry, and any creative individual would recognize the importance of collaboration over division.

"It is such a silly debate; we are one country. A film like Drishyam is loved across India. Rather than engaging in these petty debates, we should ask: where is India's Squid Game? Why can't we make our own Avatar? The whole industry should come together for that."

Huma, who has worked in Tamil and Malayalam films, including Kaala (2018), Valimai (2022), and White (2016), said that cross-industry collaboration has always existed.

"I have been fortunate to work in the South, and I hope for more opportunities because you learn so much."

The actress, who debuted as an author last year with her fantasy fiction novel Zeba: An Accidental Superhero, continues to advocate for a unified Indian cinema that competes on a global scale rather than engaging in regional rivalries.