



Weather Forecast

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



TELANGANA POLITICS

@DELHI

- ▶▶ Revanth Meets Congress High Command
- ▶▶ KTR's Delhi Visit Sparks Buzz
- ▶▶ CLP Meeting Sets Poll Strategy
- ▶▶ BC Census, SC Quota in Focus
- ▶▶ Defector MLAs Stay Away
- ▶▶ Cabinet Expansion on Cards
- ▶▶ KTR to Meet Union Ministers
- ▶▶ Legal Battle Over MLAs Heats Up

Revanth Reddy's Delhi Tour

After attending the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy left for Delhi to meet top AICC leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and KC Venugopal. His visit is expected to focus on explaining the details of the recently conducted BC caste census and SC classification in Telangana. Additionally, discussions on upcoming local body elections, cabinet expansion, and the impact of recent political developments, such as the Supreme Court's decision on defecting MLAs, are likely to be on the agenda.

Reports suggest that Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and PCC Chief Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud may also accompany the CM on this crucial visit. The tour has gained prominence amid speculation about a secret meeting of MLAs within the Telangana Congress, adding another layer of intrigue to the political landscape.

Excitement Over KTR's Visit

Meanwhile, KTR's visit to Delhi has also generated political buzz. The BRS is currently engaged in a legal battle over the defection of its MLAs to the Congress. With the Supreme Court scheduled to hear the case on February 10, KTR has reportedly traveled to Delhi to consult legal experts regarding the party's strategy.

In addition to the legal battle, KTR is expected to meet Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Nitin Gadkari to discuss key issues concerning Telangana. His scheduled interactions with central leaders have sparked debate, with speculation growing over the possible motives behind his meetings.

CLP Meeting and Political Strategy

Earlier in the day, the Congress Legislature Party meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Center in Hyderabad. Attended by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, State Congress Affairs Incharge Deepa Das Munshi,

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Congress Plans, Rebels Warned



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Center, has concluded. Several key decisions were taken during the meeting, including a firm stance against party leaders who cross the party line. It was decided that strict action will be taken against those opposing the Congress party's decisions. Senior Congress leaders emphasized that any leader with concerns about party policies should discuss them internally rather than expressing dissent publicly.

Strict Action Against Rebels

MLAs to Strengthen Local Presence

Focus on BC & SC Welfare

Congress Strategy for Local Polls

In the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy directed Congress MLAs to exhibit their strength in the upcoming local body elections. AICC Affairs In-charge Deepadas Munshi also provided strategic suggestions on party strengthening, MLC elections, and local body elections. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of uniting villages under Congress leadership and ensuring the implementation of government promises. He instructed MLAs to coordinate with ministers regarding CC roads, temple construction permits, and the allocation of development funds.

CM Revanth Reddy's Directions on Local Body Elections

Emphasizing the party's commitment to backward classes, Revanth Reddy stated that MLAs have the responsibility of ensuring 42% of local body positions are allocated to BCs. He urged both

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TPN , PARDHU

Hyderabad , Feb 07 : Telangana politics has once again reached the national capital, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) both visiting Delhi on crucial political and legal matters. Their simultaneous visits have sparked intense political discussions, as significant developments unfold in the state.

KTR Meets Union Ministers in Delhi

"KTR Pushes for Fair Medical Seat Allocation"

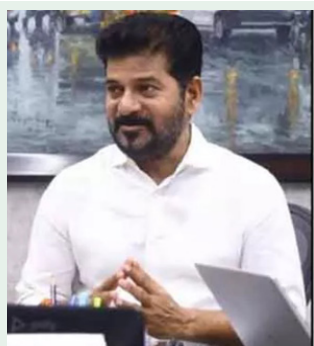
"KTR Discusses Defection Case and Education Reforms in Delhi"

"KTR Advocates for Telangana in Delhi Talks"



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World Economic Forum Lauds CM Revanth Reddy's Leadership



- ▶▶ WEF Praises CM Revanth Reddy's Visionary Leadership
- ▶▶ Global Recognition for Revanth Reddy's Development Plans
- ▶▶ CM Revanth Reddy's Ambitious Goals Earn WEF's Praise
- ▶▶ Telangana's Future Vision Commended at WEF

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Two Chilli Farmers Die by Suicide Due to Debt Burden

TPN Correspondent Hanumakonda, Feb 07

In a tragic incident, two chilli farmers ended their lives due to mounting debt. The incident came to light on Thursday morning in Parakala mandal of Hanumakonda district.



pesticide, leading to their deaths.

According to locals, Pasula Mogili from Paidipally and Banoth Balakishan from Humlathanda in Kuravi mandal, Mahabubabad district, had taken loans to cultivate chilli on a large scale. However, a poor yield left them unable to repay their debts. Unable to bear the financial pressure, they consumed

Their grieving family members are inconsolable. Upon receiving information, the police arrived at the scene and began an investigation. Further details about the deceased are being collected. Authorities are also looking into possible support measures for the bereaved families.

Banswada By-Election: Tough Road Ahead for Pocharam?

Pocharam's Challenge in Banswada

BRS Gears Up for a Tough Fight

Congress Eyes a Strong Hold

C-Voter Survey Predicts Close Contest

Revanth Reddy's Delhi Discussions

KTR and Kavitha Mobilize BRS Cadres



TPN Correspondent Banswada, Feb 07

Banswada in Kamareddy district is once again in the political spotlight, with speculation

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₹176.5 Cr Relief for TS Transport

- ₹50 Cr Incentive for Vehicle Tax Concession
- ₹75 Cr for Scrapping Old Transport Vehicles
- Priority Districts Secure ₹31.5 Cr
- Non-Priority Districts Get ₹20 Cr Support



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07
In a significant boost to Telangana, the Central Government has announced an additional incentive of ₹176.5 crore under the Special Financial Investment Assistance to States 2024-2025 Scheme of the National Road Transport Department. The assistance is granted for achieving key milestones in transport management.

Telangana has submitted a plan for scrapping transport vehicles older than 15 years. Under this initiative, ₹75 crore has been sanctioned. Furthermore, out of Telangana's total districts, 21 priority districts have been allocated ₹31.5 crore, while non-priority districts will receive ₹20 crore, bringing the total incentive amount to ₹50.5 crore.

This funding will enhance Telangana's transport infrastructure, aid in vehicle modernization, and provide financial relief to the state. The initiative aligns with the Central Government's efforts to promote sustainable and efficient transport systems across India.

Telangana has qualified for ₹125 crore and ₹51.5 crore under Milestone 1 and Milestone 2, respectively. Additionally, the state is eligible for ₹50 crore under the Motor Vehicle Tax Concession scheme.

As part of Milestone 2,

Minister Surekha Highlights Successful Execution of BC Survey

- BC Survey Marks Key Step Toward Social Justice
- Congress Leaders Applauded for Successful BC Survey
- Survey Fulfills Congress Promise in Kamareddy Declaration

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

Telangana Minister Konda Surekha has written a letter to the Hon'ble President of the Indian National Congress, Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Former Congress President Sonia

Gandhi, AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, and senior leader & MP Priyanka Gandhi, highlighting the successful completion of the Backward Classes (BC) survey conducted by the Congress-led government in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

In her letter, Minister Konda Surekha emphasized the dedicated efforts of State Congress Affairs In-charge Deepa Das Munshi, Cabinet Sub-Committee Chairman Uttam Kumar Reddy, BC Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, and PCC Chief Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud. She acknowledged their tireless work

in ensuring the smooth execution of this crucial initiative.

She firmly stated that the survey will pave the way for justice for the BC community in Telangana, fulfilling a key promise made by the Congress in the Kamareddy Declaration. The findings from the survey are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping policies that address the needs and upliftment of the BC communities.

The Telangana Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to social justice and inclusive governance, ensuring equitable opportunities



for backward classes. The successful execution of the BC survey marks a significant milestone in the state's welfare policies, aligning with the Congress party's vision for an inclusive and progressive society.

KTR Demands Disqualification of Defected MLAs

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has made a strong statement calling for the disqualification of MLAs who won the last assembly elections on the BRS symbol and later defected to the Congress party. KTR filed a petition in the Supreme Court to take further action on this matter.



The Supreme Court recently directed the Assembly Speaker to issue notices to those MLAs who defected from BRS, and ten such MLAs have received notices. Speaking from Delhi, KTR emphasized that he met with legal experts to discuss how to expedite the process

of disqualifying these defectors. He expressed confidence that they would explore all possible legal avenues to ensure that the MLAs who switched parties would face disqualification.

This move is part of BRS's ongoing legal battle to challenge party defections and protect its interests ahead of future elections.

Water Crisis: Telangana Ministers Meet Karnataka CM

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

A team of Telangana ministers, including Sridhar Babu and Jupalli Krishna Rao, visited Karnataka to request the release of 5 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic) feet of Krishna water from the Narayanpur reservoir to the Jurala project, which is vital for the drinking and irrigation needs of the joint Mahabubnagar region. The ministers met Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM Shivakumar, and Minister Bose Raju, presenting a petition highlighting the current water crisis.



Gadwal, Wanaparthy, Kollapur, Devarakadra, and Maktal constituencies. The ministers emphasized that around 30 lakh people depend on the Jurala project for drinking water, urging immediate action to prevent a humanitarian crisis.

The delegation included MLAs Krishna Mohan Reddy, Madhusudhan Reddy, Megha Reddy, Parnika Reddy, Vakiti Srihari, and AICC Secretary Sampath, who all expressed urgency in resolving the issue. The meeting, however, has sparked a social media frenzy, with opposition parties questioning the necessity of this visit.

As the situation grows dire, the Telangana government is hoping for a swift resolution to mitigate the water shortage in these crucial areas.

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TELANGANA POLITICS @DELHI

PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, ministers, and MLAs, the meeting focused on the state government's recent ambitious schemes and political strategies.

The discussions primarily revolved around taking the BC caste census and SC classification issues to the people ahead of local body elections. It was also decided to hold two major public meetings on these issues, with plans to invite Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge as chief guests.

Defecting MLAs Stay Away

Notably, the 10 MLAs who defected from

the BRS to the Congress remained absent from the CLP meeting. With the matter currently under the purview of the Supreme Court and the MLAs receiving notices from the Legislative Assembly Secretary, the CLP reportedly felt it would be best to avoid further complications by keeping them away from the meeting.

With both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS actively engaging in political and legal battles, Telangana's political scenario remains tense, and the outcomes of these crucial Delhi visits are awaited with keen interest.

Congress Plans, Rebels Warned

senior and new leaders to work together for Congress' success in the elections.

Mahesh Kumar Goud's Statement on Party Strategy

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted the strategy for the upcoming local body elections. He stated that the government's welfare schemes should be effectively communicated to the people. He also mentioned that for the first time in India's history, Telangana has successfully completed a caste census, which the BRS is attempting to mislead BC communities about.

Goud assured that Congress will counter opposition misinformation and ensure legislators reach out to the public. He also reiterated the party's

stance on SC classification and emphasized that district in-charges will take these discussions to the grassroots level. The five-hour-long meeting included a PowerPoint presentation by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, explaining the caste census process.

Upcoming Public Meetings

To highlight the success of the caste census and SC classification, Congress has planned major public meetings. A rally will be held in Suryapet focusing on the BC caste census, while another will take place in the joint Medak district on the success of SC classification.

With a strong focus on local body strengthening and party unity, the Congress leadership aims to bolster its presence and counter opposition criticism effectively.

Banswada By-Election: Tough Road Ahead for Pocharam?

growing over a possible by-election. If the election becomes inevitable, former Speaker and BRS leader-turned-Congress member Pocharam Srinivas Reddy may face a tough challenge. Recent survey reports, including one by C-Voter, indicate that Pocharam's victory will not come easily this time.

Despite strong opposition in the last assembly elections, internal conflicts within the Congress helped Pocharam secure a win. However, his position has weakened since the fall of the BRS government. Although he held prominent roles as a cabinet minister for five years and Assembly Speaker for another five, the BRS's defeat in the state elections has left the party fragmented. Meanwhile, the ruling Congress is now gearing up to consolidate its hold in Banswada.

On the other hand, BRS, recovering from Pocharam's defection, is searching for a strong candidate to contest the by-election. BRS working president KTR recently met with party leaders from Banswada, and MLC K. Kavitha conducted an extensive tour of the segment, energizing party

cadres. The BRS leadership is now strategizing to defeat Pocharam in the likely by-election. The party is also pursuing a legal battle over nine other assembly segments where its MLAs defected to Congress.

In light of these developments, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is said to have discussed the by-election strategy with Congress leadership in Delhi. Meanwhile, a C-Voter survey on ten constituencies suggests that Congress and BRS are likely to win four seats each if by-elections are held. The survey predicts that Congress has an edge in Bhadrachalam, Gadwal, Pantacheru, and Serilingampally, while BRS is expected to perform well in Chevella, Station Ghanpur, Banswada, and Jagtial. A tight contest is anticipated in Khairatabad and Rajendranagar.

The survey, shared on social media, did not provide insights into the BJP's current standing. As the political battle intensifies, all eyes are now on the Election Commission's decision regarding potential by-elections in Telangana.

World Economic Forum Lauds CM Revanth Reddy's Leadership

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has extended special appreciation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his visionary leadership. In a formal letter, the WEF recognized CM Revanth Reddy's clear policies and deep understanding of global issues such as prosperity, urban transport, and fair economic growth. The forum highlighted Telangana's rising global recognition under his leadership, particularly for his forward-thinking programs aimed at improving living standards through better urban transport systems.

The WEF praised Revanth Reddy's focus on sustainable development, social equal-

ity, and environmental protection. His bold statement that Telangana will become a trillion-dollar economy by 2035 has inspired global investors, with many showing interest in upcoming investment opportunities discussed at the WEF. The Chief Minister's ambitious plans, including making Hyderabad India's first carbon-free city by 2047 and transforming it into an AI hub, were also noted as impressive by investors.

The WEF expressed eagerness to collaborate with Revanth Reddy's government to achieve these goals, with Congress sources celebrating the international recognition of his policies aimed at creating a prosperous and sustainable future for Telangana.

KTR Meets Union Ministers in Delhi

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 07

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has been on a busy visit to Delhi, where he met with Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Dharmendra Pradhan to discuss key issues concerning Telangana. Speaking to the media after the meetings, KTR emphasized that the legal battle regarding the defection of BRS MLAs to the Congress party would continue. He confirmed that a group of party leaders would meet with lawyers to expedite the process of expelling the defectors.

KTR also met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, where he presented a memorandum regarding the issue of medical college seats in Telangana. The BRS leader raised concerns that the new UGC regulations would be unfair to Telangana's medical students and urged the Union Minister to amend the regulations to ensure justice for the state.

KTR expressed his belief that India's universities are key to the country's success on the global

stage, citing the significant role of central and state governments, as well as private educational institutions like IITs, in shaping the future of the nation's students.

While KTR's meetings in Delhi focused on these critical issues, many are criticizing the new UGC regulations, particularly the shift in power to appoint Vice-Chancellors from state governments to the central government. The response of the Union Education Minister to KTR's request is awaited.

Minister Komatireddy Criticizes Opposition, Praises Congress Rule

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has made sensational remarks, stating that opposition parties in Telangana have no work to do under the Congress-led government. Speaking at the CLP meeting chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Centre, Komatireddy highlighted the Congress's achievements, including conducting the first-ever Caste Census in the country, calling it a historic move. He expressed confidence that Congress would remain in power in Telangana for another 30 years, adding that the party is destined to win 100 percent of



future elections.

CM Revanth Reddy, during the meeting, stressed the importance of MLAs being accessible to workers at all times and the need to maintain their positions once elected. He also de-

fended the practice of MLAs having lunch together, criticizing the opposition for politicizing the issue. Komatireddy echoed these sentiments, accusing the BRS of failing to deliver on its promises during its decade in power, while continuing to spread misinformation on social media. He also ridiculed those who did not participate in the caste census survey for commenting on it.

Meanwhile, MLC Teenmar Mallanna was absent from the meeting, prompting the issuance of show-cause notices. State Congress Affairs In-charge Deepadas Munshi stated that further notices would be sent if Mallanna failed to respond.

Teenmar Mallanna Served Show Cause Notices by TPCC

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has issued show cause notices to MLC Teenmar Mallanna, also known as Chintapandu Naveen, following controversial remarks he made about the BC caste census report in the Warangal assembly. The notices were issued by the PCC disciplinary committee on Thursday, requesting an explanation for Mallanna's critical comments regarding the caste census.



report, a comment that sparked widespread discussions and criticism, especially from the opposition, which had already expressed dissatisfaction with the decrease in the BC population figures.

The TPCC has taken Mallanna's remarks seriously and issued the show cause notices in response. TPCC In-charge Deepadas Munshi emphasized that further notices would be sent if Mallanna failed to respond. He also indicated that appropriate action would be considered based on Mallanna's explanation.

Mallanna had sharply criticized his own party's government for the findings in the BC caste census, particularly pointing out the reduced number of BCs in the survey. He even went as far as to suggest burning the caste census

In the same context, Deepadas clarified that there is nothing wrong with MLAs having dinner together, and noted the need to bridge the gap between MLAs and ministers, with plans to address the matter through discussions.

MLA Attacks Singareni's Management



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao has raised serious concerns about the growing illegal activities and corruption within the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (Singareni). Speaking on the issue, Kunamneni emphasized that coal production efforts with private entities should be halted and that the company is increasingly prioritizing private businesses over its core coal production operations.

He pointed out that illegal activities have surged, and corruption within the company has reached alarming levels. Political interference, according to Kunamneni, has significantly impacted the company's functioning. He also called for the implementation of a housing scheme for retired Singareni workers and demanded the government pay the company the thousands of crores it owes.

Kunamneni highlighted the confusion within the management, citing vacant key director posts and the lack of clarity on the company's CMD. He stressed that this management confusion is affecting Singareni's coal production and that the government's election code should not be used as an excuse to neglect workers' issues.

The MLA also criticized the BRS government for its inclination toward privatizing coal mining in new mines at Kothagudem and Illandu, calling these steps illegal. He urged the Congress government, if in power, to ensure that Singareni takes over coal mining operations, safeguarding both the company and workers' rights.

Seethakka Accuses BRS of Campaigning Against Congress Initiatives

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Minister Seethakka has praised the Congress party for its welfare schemes, highlighting that several leaders from Adilabad joined the party, drawn by its initiatives such as the caste census and SC classification. She emphasized that Congress's efforts, including providing free buses and ration cards, have been instrumental in winning support from the public.



Seethakka criticized the BRS for campaigning against the Congress government's achievements, particularly the caste census and SC classification, which she said were unprecedented in the country. She pointed out that while Congress conducted a thorough door-to-door survey for the caste census, BRS failed to reveal the details of their own survey. She alleged that BRS and BJP were undermining Congress's efforts, despite their own shortcomings.

Harish Rao Criticizes Congress for Nagayya's Death



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Former Minister and senior BRS leader Harish Rao expressed his sorrow over the tragic death of Kumari Nagayya (Nageshwar Rao) from Buttaigudem in Mulugu district, who reportedly attempted suicide by consuming pesticide during a Gram Sabha meeting. Despite efforts from the BRS party in Mulugu to provide medical assistance, Nagayya passed away while undergoing treatment.

Harish Rao condemned the Congress government for its failure to address the distress of Nagayya and

his family. He called it "murder" by the Congress government, stating that the government had neglected the issue and watched the situation unfold without offering any support. He questioned who would support Nagayya's wife and three daughters, left grieving after the tragic loss.

Rao also criticized the Congress party for its mismanagement of government schemes, particularly accusing Congress representatives of creating confusion by releasing a beneficiary list without proper planning. He claimed that Congress party leaders had openly stated that the schemes were intended only for Congress workers, sparking protests during Gram Sabhas due to the lack of transparency. He further questioned what tangible outcomes the Congress party had delivered during its brief 14-month rule.

He strongly criticized Congress for its unfulfilled promises, especially regarding the six guarantees it pledged to implement within 100 days, calling it "a hand of ashes" rather than a safe hand for the people. Harish Rao demanded an ex-gratia of Rs. 25 lakh for Nagayya's family and urged the government to provide support for the grieving family.

Rao concluded with an appeal to the people, urging them not to resort to suicides as a solution. He urged the public to unite and fight for their rightful schemes and benefits, assuring them that the BRS party would stand with them.

KTR Criticizes Congress for Governance Failures in Panchayats

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Congress government's governance, accusing them of neglecting both the state and village secretariats. He raised concerns over the collapse of governance in rural areas, particularly the 12,789 panchayats across the state, with nearly 80% of them struggling due to unresolved issues.

KTR pointed out that the failure to conduct panchayat elections has led to a lack of funds from both the central and state governments, severely impacting village governance. Under the rule of special officers, panchayats are facing a shortage of resources for essential services, including sanitation, street light repairs, and road maintenance. KTR highlighted the severe consequences, including rising illness due to poor sanitation and darkness in village borders caused by the lack of street lights.

He criticized the Congress for insufficient funding to repair damaged roads and fuel panchayat tractors, questioning whether this is a sign of proper public administration. KTR reflected on the previous BRS regime, where panchayats were well-funded and underwent visible improvements. He lamented that Congress's return to power has reignited old troubles, leaving former sarpanches in debt and secretaries unable to claim expenses from their own pockets.

He urged the Chief Minister to take immediate action, stop neglecting rural areas, and resolve the ongoing issues in villages through the panchayats.



Kavitha Criticizes Congress for Neglecting Godavari River

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

BRS MLC Kavitha has strongly criticized the Congress government's handling of the Godavari river, highlighting the drying up of the river even before the arrival of summer. She questioned the Congress's ability to govern, mocking the party's "guarantee" of days when people would once again be desperate for water in the valley.

Kavitha shared an image on the social media platform 'X' showing



the Godavari river near the Colbelt Bridge in Peddapalli district, which had dried up. She reminded the public of the significant improvements made to the river under the BRS regime, particularly the Kaleshwaram project. The

project, she noted, transformed the Godavari into a lifeline, ensuring the river flowed consistently from Medigadda to Dharmapuri.

She emphasized that, even under the harsh sun, the Sundilla Barrage kept the Godavari's waters alive, ensuring the river was vibrant and full. Kavitha accused the Congress of undoing the progress made by BRS, warning that under their rule, people would soon be forced to search for water again.

Anirudh Reddy Responds to Allegations of Secret MLA Meeting

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

MLA Anirudh Reddy has responded to recent claims of a secret meeting between lawmakers, clarifying that the gathering was not clandestine. He explained that the meeting was held at Kohinoor Hotel, where he, along with other MLAs, discussed issues pertaining to his constituency over lunch.

Reddy emphasized that no official files were present-



ed to any ministers during the meeting. He stated that the primary focus of his

discussion was the ongoing issues in his constituency, including the widespread encroachment of lands during the BRS regime. The MLA called for a thorough inquiry into the matter of land alienation, urging that the government take action to resolve the issue. His remarks come amid growing political tensions regarding land management and governance in the state.

Gaddar v/s Film Chamber Awards

A New Era for Telugu Cinema Awards
Film Chamber's Bold Move on Telugu Cinema Day
Competition Heats Up with New Awards
Flagging Off a New Tradition in Telugu Cinema
Two Award Programs, One Exciting Future



TPN , PARDHU
Hyderabad , Feb 07 : The recent announcement by the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC) to introduce its own annual awards has sparked considerable debate within both the film industry and political circles. Starting this year, the TFCC will honor the best films and actors each February 6, aligning with the celebration of the birth anniversary of Telugu cinema. As part of these celebrations, the TFCC has also decided that actors, producers, and other industry figures will hoist flags at their homes and theaters, marking this day with pride.

However, the announcement has garnered additional attention due to the Telangana government's decision to introduce the



"Gaddar Awards" as part of the Ugadi celebrations. Aimed at promoting national unity and cohesion, the Gaddar Awards will recognize the best films in the Telugu language, further intensifying the competitive atmosphere between the two award programs. The government has already set up a committee to design the awards, with Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka at the helm of preparations.

This simultaneous emergence of two award events has raised several questions within the industry. In the past, the Nandi Awards were the primary government-led recognition for films in the state. Now, with the TFCC stepping in with its own awards, the question arises whether this will create a rivalry, particularly as the

Gaddar Awards, named after the renowned singer and activist Gaddar, are gaining political traction.

The political climate has further fueled the conversation, especially after Union Minister Bandi Sanjay's criticism of the Telangana government's proposal to award Gaddar the Padma Shri. Sanjay questioned Gaddar's background, citing his controversial ideological stance, which added to the ongoing discourse around the awards.

With the TFCC's new awards program in place, all eyes will be on the response from Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju, MD Harish, and the Gaddar Awards Committee Chairman B. Narsing Rao. As these two competing award programs take shape, it remains to be seen how they will coexist and what impact they will have on the Telugu film industry.

Meanwhile, the film community has welcomed the TFCC's initiative, expressing excitement over the new traditions and the opportunity for recognition, marking a significant shift in how Telugu cinema will be celebrated annually.

New Twist in Mastan Sai Drug Case

Police Investigate Parties and Arrests

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

A new twist has emerged in the Mastan Sai drug case as the police continue their investigation into drug parties allegedly held at his house. Surveillance is underway on individuals who appear in videos of the drug parties recorded by Mastan Sai. In a recent development, police arrested Rahul in Guntur. According to sources, Mastan Sai and an associate named Chintu allegedly ordered MDMA drugs to be planted at Lavanya's house from Bangalore. Meanwhile, Khaja is said to have brought 130 grams of drugs from Guntur to Hyderabad.

The Narsinghi police have also arrested Mastan Sai along with Khaja in connection with a nude video case. However, Khaja was later released after receiving 41 notices from the police. Following his release, Khaja reportedly absconded with the drugs and is now being sought by the authorities.

The police are currently looking for 10 other individuals in connection with the case, with efforts underway to locate and apprehend them.

This case continues to unfold, and authorities are committed to tracking down all individuals involved. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses.



Tragedy Strikes Hayatnagar as School Bus Accident Claims Life of Four-Year-Old

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

A tragic incident occurred in Hayatnagar, Rangareddy district, when a four-year-old child was killed due to the negligence of a school bus driver. The child, who was learning to read and write, tragically lost her life in a matter of moments. The driver, while reversing the bus, failed to notice the child, causing her to be struck by the rear wheels.



The incident took place Thursday evening when school hours ended, and children boarded their buses to head home. The young victim had stepped off the bus and was walking on the road when the driver attempted to reverse the vehicle. Sadly, the child fell under the wheels and died at the scene.

The incident has deeply shocked the local community. The driver was apprehended by locals and handed over to the police. Authorities have conducted a thorough investigation, and the child's body has been sent for postmortem. A case has been filed, and the investigation is ongoing.

Brutal Attack in Secunderabad: Mother and Son Injured in Mettuguda

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

A brutal attack unfolded in Secunderabad under the Chilakalaguda police station limits when five unidentified assailants, riding two-wheelers, stormed a house near Mettuguda junction and attacked a mother and son with knives. The assailants launched an indiscriminate attack, leaving the victims, Yashwanth and his mother Renuka, seriously injured.

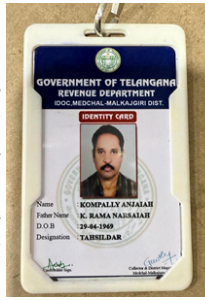
Upon receiving information from local residents, the police rushed to the scene and quickly transported the victims to Gandhi Hospital, where doctors have reported that their condition remains critical. The motives behind the attack are still unclear.

Local corporator Sunitha expressed shock over the incident, noting that the area is home to many poor families and such violence had never occurred before. She described the victims, Renuka and Yashwanth, as peaceful individuals who kept to themselves and had no known conflicts. The local community has called for strict action against those responsible for this horrific attack.

Fake Employee Caught Entering Telangana Secretariat

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Security personnel at the Telangana Secretariat have apprehended yet another individual attempting to gain unauthorized access with a fake identity card. The accused, identified as Kompalli Anjaiah, was caught while trying to enter the Secretariat posing as a Tahsildar.



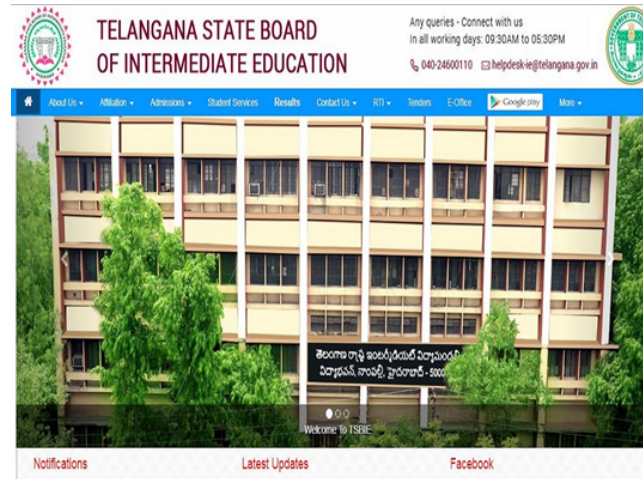
Anjaiah had been using a vehicle marked with a "Tahsildar" sticker to visit the Secretariat in recent days. On suspicion, the security team detained him for questioning today. Upon investigation, it was discovered that Anjaiah was carrying a forged ID card. He was immediately handed over to the Saifabad police, who registered a case and seized the fake ID. Further police investigation revealed that the fake ID cards had been printed at a local Xerox center. The police are now conducting a broader investigation into a possible scam involving fake employees at the Secretariat. Authorities are taking stringent measures to prevent such incidents and ensure the security of government premises.

This incident highlights growing concerns over unauthorized individuals gaining access to sensitive government areas using fraudulent means. The police are continuing their investigation into the case.

Telangana Inter Board Implements CCTV Surveillance for Exams

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

The Telangana Inter Board has made a significant decision to enhance the integrity of the upcoming inter exams by installing CCTV cameras at exam centers. With practical exams already underway, the board has directed the installation of cameras at all exam centers, including those where theory exams will be conducted.



As part of the initiative, CCTV cameras have been set up in 417 colleges, including some corporate institutions that already had cameras in place. The board has also decided not to assign exam centers to colleges that refuse to comply with the installation directive. Inter Board Secretary Krishna Aditya confirmed that CCTV surveillance has been implemented in 90 percent of the cen-

ters. The cameras are being linked to the Command Control Center to monitor the exams in real time. For theory exams, cameras will be installed in critical areas, including the room where the papers are opened, at the center's entrance, in the corridors, and on the exam hall floor. This move aims to ensure a transparent and fair examination process by preventing any irregularities during the exams.

Brutal Murder in Bandlaguda: DCM Driver Attacked with Knives



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

A horrific murder occurred within the limits of Bandlaguda police station in Hyderabad's old town. Shahbaz, a DCM driver, was viciously attacked with knives by unidentified assailants. The exact number of blows inflicted remains unclear, but blood was seen flowing profusely at the scene. Upon receiving the distress call, Bandlaguda Inspector Satyanarayana, Sub-Inspector Nagaraj Reddy, and ACP Manoj Kumar from Chandrayan Gutta reached the location. The police immediately initiated an investigation, with the clues team also arriving to gather evidence. The motive behind the murder is yet to be determined, and the authorities are working to identify the attackers.

Accident at Begumpet Airport Disrupts Operations Before CM's Delhi Tour

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

An unexpected incident at Begumpet Airport has raised concerns and stirred social media discussions. A trainee aircraft, while attempting to land, lost control and skidded off the runway. The aircraft's front wheel bent, and it continued for some distance, damaging the runway. Thankfully, the pilot was unharmed in the accident.



Airport staff quickly responded, taking necessary measures, and the authorities have started repairing the damaged runway. As a result, flight operations at the airport are facing delays. This incident occurred just before Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's scheduled departure to Delhi, adding to the stir surrounding the situation. Official information regarding the impact on the CM's tour is awaited.

Prof. Haragopal Criticizes UGC for Reform Plans Without Adequate Resources

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Prof. Haragopal expressed concern over recent changes in the education sector, questioning their positive impact. Speaking at a roundtable meeting in Hyderabad, organized by the Telangana Education Commission, he criticized the University Grants Commission



(UGC) for pushing reforms in universities without providing necessary resources. He emphasized that the UGC should focus on supporting universities and protecting their autonomy instead of engaging in political maneuvers. Prof. Haragopal called for a clear explanation from the UGC on how these reforms would benefit the future of education.

Illegal Factories in Gandhinagar Raise Health Concerns

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

In a disturbing development in Charminar's Gandhinagar area, hazardous industries have been illegally set up in residential zones, violating regulations that prohibit industrial construction in such areas. Despite rules in place to prevent industrial activities from encroaching into residential neighborhoods, some officials appear to be turning a blind eye, leading to severe pollution and health issues for the local population.



health risks, with locals suffering from foul odors and poor air quality. Complaints have surfaced from residents who feel threatened by the industrial operators when raising concerns about the hazardous activities in their neighborhoods.

Mini industrial estates are rapidly emerging in the area, particularly near the Falaknuma Circle, with sheds being constructed illegally and rented out to industrial operators. The chemicals used in these industries are causing serious

The public's frustration is growing, as authorities continue to ignore the negative impact on public health, further exacerbating the problem. The local community is now demanding immediate action from officials to address this growing threat.

BRS MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy Arrested Amid Protests in Medak

TPN Correspondent
Medak, Feb 07

A large-scale public protest erupted in Medak district, reminiscent of the previous Lagacharla movement in Kodangal. The recent protests in Pyranagar, Gummadidala mandal, saw residents from



10 villages voicing their opposition to a proposed dumping yard in the area.

As tensions escalated, women from the surrounding villages expressed their distress over what they claimed were illegal nighttime arrests by the police. Meanwhile, three youths climbed a local cell tower, threatening to release a statement unless action was taken. In response, women and villagers took to the streets, crossing roads in protest.

Narsapur BRS MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy, who arrived to support the protesters, was arrested by the police. The arrest further intensified the public outcry, as locals condemned the heavy-handed response to their grievances. The situation remains tense as the controversy over the dumping yard continues to unfold.

Heated Argument Over Kalyana Lakshmi Cheque Distribution



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 07

Tensions flared in Addagutta, Secunderabad, during the distribution of Kalyana Lakshmi cheques as Congress and BRS leaders clashed over who would carry out the distribution. Both parties believed they were entitled to distribute the cheques, leading to a heated argument.

Amid the commotion, Secunderabad MLA Padmarao stepped in to distribute the cheques, despite the ongoing protests. In a forceful statement, Padmarao warned Congress leaders against interfering, saying they would face severe consequences if they attempted to block the process. He further criticized the Congress government, accusing them of making false promises and failing to implement their commitments. The incident highlighted the growing political rivalry between the two parties over local welfare schemes.

Water Shortage in Nereducherla Women's Struggle for Water Continues for 5 Days



TPN Correspondent
Suryapet, Feb 07

Residents of Pulagambanda Thanda, a village in Nereducherla mandal, are grappling with a severe water shortage after the borehole motor burnt out five days ago. Despite multiple requests to local authorities, no action has been taken to repair the motor, leaving the village without access to drinking water.

As a result, women and children are resorting to fetching water from agricultural boreholes, a challenging and unsafe option, to meet their daily needs. This situation has arisen due to the government's failure to hold elections in Pulagambanda Thanda, which has been under the control of special officers since the sarpanch's term expired months ago. The absence of elected officials has led to a lack of proper governance, with insufficient funds and resources to address the water crisis.

The residents, primarily tribal women and children, have expressed their distress over the prolonged water scarcity. Despite repeated pleas for assistance, the authorities have yet to take corrective measures, leaving the community in a state of hardship.

Youths Climb Cell Towers in Protest Against Dumping Yard in Sangareddy



TPN Correspondent
Sangareddy, Feb 07

In a dramatic protest against a proposed dumping yard in Gummadidala mandal, three youths climbed a local cell tower, threatening to jump unless the villagers arrested during earlier protests were released. The arrest of the protesters, who had been demonstrating against the dumping yard, sparked further unrest.

Villagers from Nallapalli and Pyranagar,

both in Gummadidala mandal, have raised serious concerns over the negative health impacts of the dumping yard, alleging that it has led to frequent illnesses in the area. In response to their grievances, the villagers have called for a bandh, which is currently being observed in both villages.

The situation remains tense, with locals demanding immediate action from authorities to address their concerns and ensure the health and safety of the community.

Effigy of Revanth Burnt in Protest Against SC Classification Bill

TPN Correspondent
Nizamabad, Feb 07

In a strong show of dissent, an effigy of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was burnt by members of the District Mala Mahanadu in Nizamabad on Thursday. The protest was held against the Telangana government's classification bill introduced in the Assembly.



instead. Leaders of Mala Mahanadu, including state leaders Edla Nagaraju, Angari Pradeep, Aluka Kishan, and district leaders Anampally Yellaiah, Nandi Vinay Kumar, Nilgiri Raju, Uday Kumar, and others, took part in the protest.

They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the bill, claiming it was unreasonable and unfair to use outdated data for classification. The protest highlighted widespread concerns about the bill's potential impact on various communities in the state.

Protesters criticized the bill for classifying communities based on the 2011 census, arguing that it should be based on the 2024 survey

Collector Muzammil Khan Inaugurates NCD Department at Khammam

TPN Correspondent
Khammam, Feb 07

District Collector Muzammil Khan inaugurated the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) department at the Khammam District Government Main Hospital. Following the inauguration, the Collector conducted a thorough inspection of various hospital facilities, including the diagnostic ward, physiotherapy section, tuberculosis eradication center, inpatient wards, and the Sakhi centers. During the visit, he interacted with inpatient patients to gather feedback on the medical services being provided. The Collector also in-

quired about outpatient services, staff availability, and the quality of medications and services offered to the public. In addition to inspecting healthcare facilities, Muzammil Khan reviewed the hospital's infrastructure, alongside municipal engineering officials. He made several key recommendations to improve the hospital's accommodation arrangements, parking facilities, and toilet facilities. The Collector also examined plans for the construction of a new parking lot near the hospital's main gate and another one near the Sakhi center, along with improving the accessibility of hospital gates.

AR SI Commits Suicide in Mulugu: Family Dispute Suspected



TPN Correspondent
Mulugu, Feb 07

A tragic incident occurred in Govindaraopet Mandal, Mulugu District, on Thursday when 36-year-old AR Sub-Inspector Lakshmi Nurse was found dead in what appears to be a suicide. Lakshmi Nurse, who was posted at the Bayyaram Police Station in Bhadradi Kothagudem District, was a resident of Pasra in Mulugu District. According to initial police reports, the officer took his own life by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his residence. The local community alerted the police, and Pasra SI Kamalakar reached the spot, after which the body was sent for postmortem at Mulugu Area Hospital. A case has been registered, and investigations are ongoing. Preliminary investigations suggest that the suicide may have been linked to a family dispute. On the day before the incident, Lakshmi Nurse reportedly had an argument with his wife, Sunitha, a government school teacher in Govindaraopet Mandal. Following the dispute, Sunitha was allegedly asked to leave the house and went to stay with relatives in Hanmakonda with their two children. Further details are still under investigation.

Tragedy Strikes in Telangana: Baby Dies After Vaccination



TPN Correspondent
Rajannasiricilla, Feb 07

Rajannasiricilla: A tragic incident has occurred in Nerella village, Rajannasiricilla district, where a 45-day-old baby died after receiving a vaccination at

the local Primary Health Centre (PHC). The infant, daughter of Lalitha and Ramesh, was administered the vaccine at the PHC. However, shortly after returning home, the baby became unconscious. The parents rushed the child back to the hospital, but doctors confirmed that the baby had already passed away by the time they arrived.

In response, the grieving family staged a dharna, accusing the authorities of negligence in the vaccination process. A case has been filed, and the police are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the tragic death.

Gurukul Student Commits Suicide in Mahabubnagar District

TPN Correspondent
Mahabubnagar, Feb 07

A tragic incident has occurred at a girls' Gurukul school in Balanagar mandal center, Mahabubnagar district, where a 16-year-old student, Aaradhya, took her own life. The tenth-class student from Kalvakurthi committed suicide by hanging herself in the classroom early Thursday morning at 6:30 AM.

Fellow students noticed the tragic scene and immediately alerted the teachers, who rushed her to the hospital. Un-

fortunately, she was declared dead upon arrival. The authorities are still investigating the cause of this heartbreaking incident, though it is believed to be linked to academic pressure and other personal struggles faced by the student.

This incident is part of a worrying pattern of suicides among Gurukul students in the state, sparking concerns over student welfare and the academic environment. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.



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

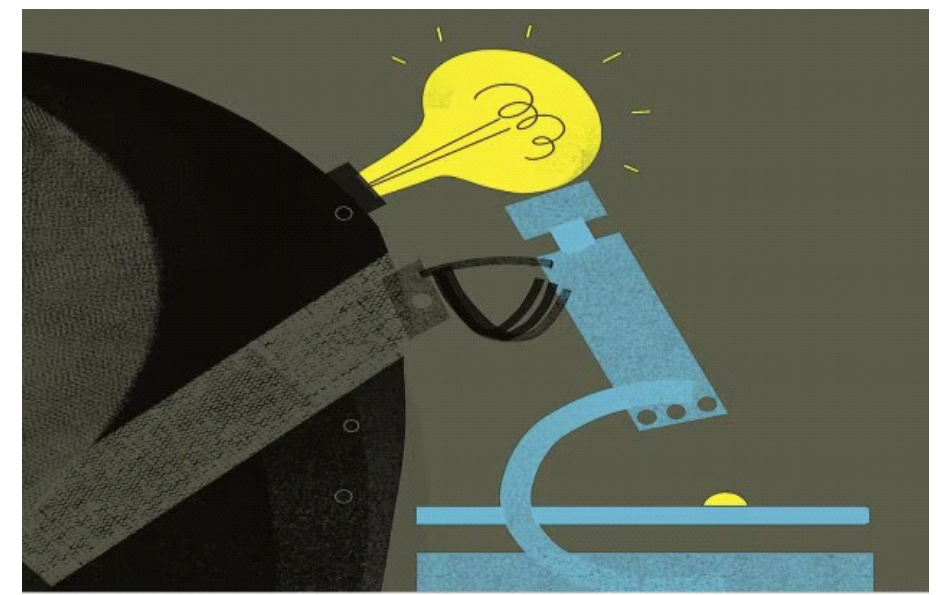
In 2024, Indian cinema leaned heavily toward action-packed films targeting younger audiences, with titles like *Raayan*, *Garudan*, *Captain Miller*, and *Devara: Part 1*. However, this trend shifted with the success of *Amaran*, a family film that grossed nearly Rs 340 crore globally in October 2024. 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) polic Trump stirs the Gaza pot y—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.



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.

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.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also emphasized the significance of the Samudrayaan mission, which has the po-

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.

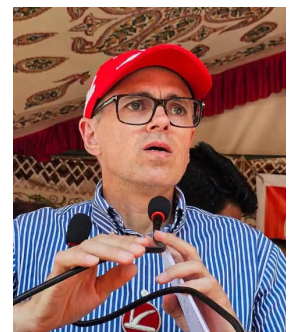
The move also aligns with India's broader goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, allowing for greater control over critical military assets and reducing dependence on foreign imports. By investing in advanced military technologies, India aims to enhance its tactical capabilities while supporting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

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



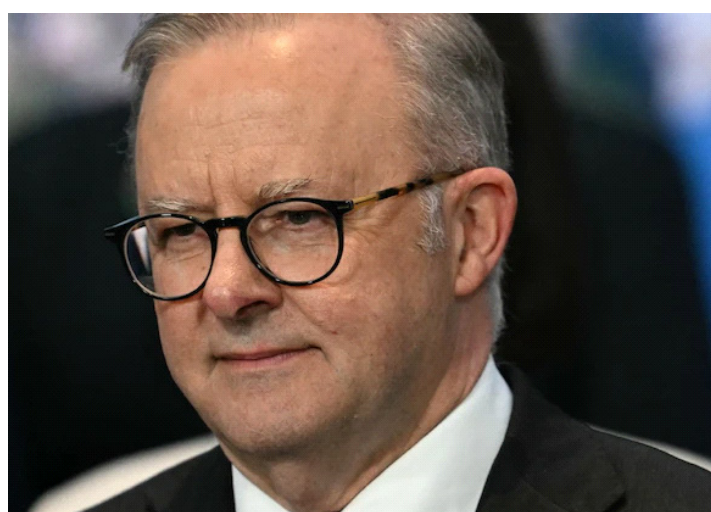
TPN Correspondent | Washington

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.

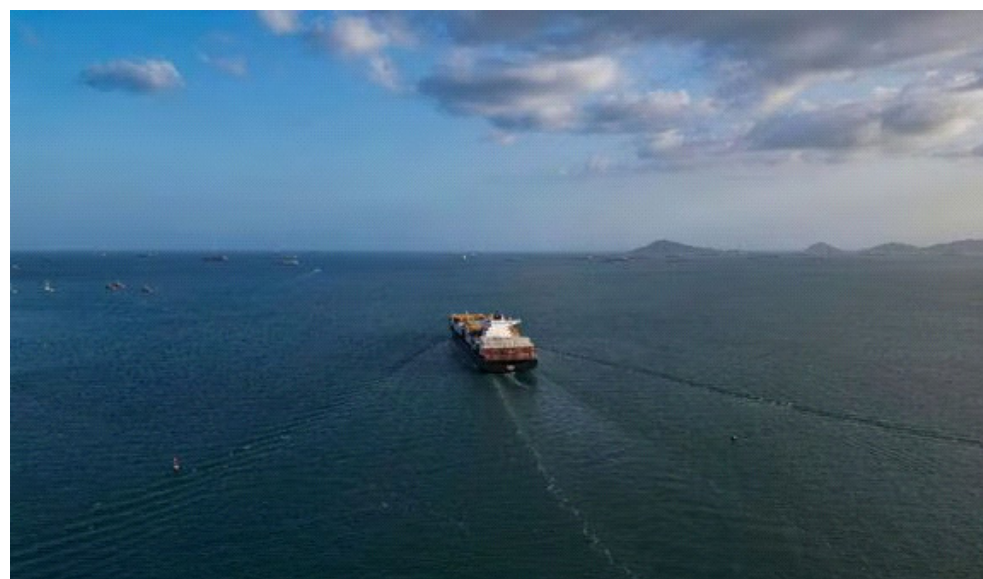
The official post from the Panama Canal Authority stated, "In response to a publication released by the United States Department of State, the Panama Canal Authority, which is authorized to set tolls and other fees for transiting the Canal, reports that it has not made any adjustments to them. The Panama 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.

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.



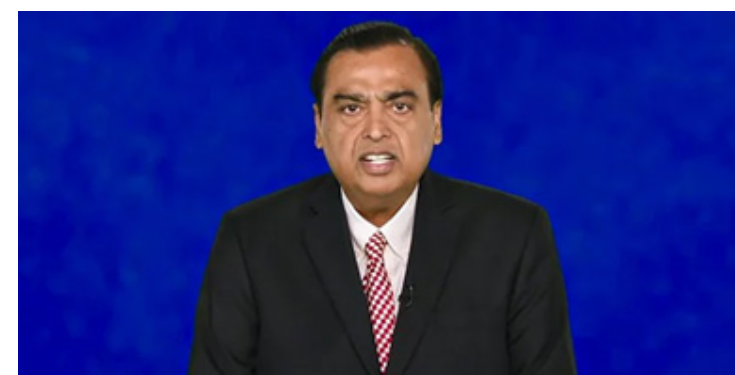
Amazon's commitment to renewable energy goes beyond its operations in India. Avinash Shekhar, Head of APJ Energy and Water Strategy at AWS, highlighted that Amazon has invested in over 600 solar and wind projects globally, including more than 50 in India, as part of its Climate Pledge to reach net-zero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



able 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



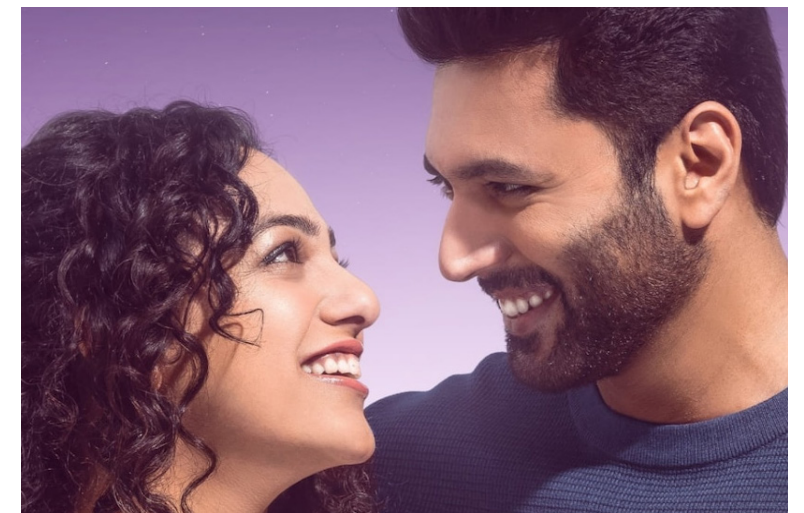
PM Modi had earlier extended his congratulations to Chandrika on X (formerly Twitter), saying,

"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: Gaveemic 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.