

Weather Forecast HYDERABAD VIJAYAWADA TIRUPATHI

No One Greater, No One Lesser: CBN on Ministerial Rankings

- Rankings to Motivate Ministers, Not Compare Them
CM Chandrababu announces ministerial rankings based on performance.
Commitment to Governance and Development



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 08

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced the rankings of AP ministers on Thursday, assessing their performance based on administrative efficiency and file clearance.

introduced as part of a performance review to ensure better governance. Chandrababu emphasized that the intent behind these rankings is to encourage ministers to evaluate their work, compete with themselves, and enhance their efficiency.

Reflecting on the historic 93% strike rate victory in the 2024 elections, Chandrababu reiterated that his government has been working relentlessly since day one to restore the state's systems, implement welfare initiatives, and drive development.

'People First' Approach

CM Chandrababu affirmed that his government operates with a 'People First' approach, ensuring that every action taken serves the public interest. He emphasized the importance of teamwork, stating that from grassroots employees to the Chief Minister, collective effort is essential in addressing the state's challenges.

JAGAN @ DANGER ZONE



TPN | K.S. Shekar Andhra Pradesh, Feb 08

The political landscape of Andhra Pradesh is witnessing swift and dramatic shifts, with indications that Jagan Mohan Reddy is being pushed into a danger zone. While everything appears calm on the surface, behind the scenes, a well-orchestrated game seems to be unfolding, allegedly involving the BJP, TDP, and Janasena.

Vijayasai Reddy resigns, reportedly due to BJP's pressure.

If the NDA alliance plan succeeds, Jagan could face legal troubles.

YSRCP may be left with only three Rajya Sabha members.

Allegations of financial misdeeds haunting Jagan both in India and abroad.



Political analysts believe that if the central government cooperates, Jagan could face serious legal troubles. There are murmurs that efforts are underway to permanently sideline him through legal cases, raising questions about his political future.

FOUR SHADOWS OF MLA CHINTHAMANENI

- MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar appoints "Shadow MLAs" to oversee all activities in four mandals.
Allegations of control over sand mining, gravel smuggling, and illegal transactions.
Fear spreads among locals as land deals allegedly require MLA's approval.
A Tight Grip on Kolleru Lands
Allegations of Extortion and Political Targeting



TPN | KISHORE B. K. Denduluru, Feb 08

In Denduluru constituency, a parallel system of governance appears to be in place, with "Shadow MLAs" allegedly appointed by local MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar to monitor and control activities across Pedapadu, Denduluru, Pedavegi, and Eluru Rural mandals.



out their approval from sand mining and gravel smuggling to real estate deals and contract allocations. Sources claim that the shadow MLAs operate with full backing from the legislator, ensuring their grip over local businesses, landowners, and even government postings.



TRUMP DUMPING DOESNT EFFECT US

Dr. Buragadda Srinath Requests PM Modi for Additional Train to Kumbh Mela

- High demand for Machilipatnam–Prayag train; 250 on waiting list.
- Railway officials promise to increase bogies under their jurisdiction.

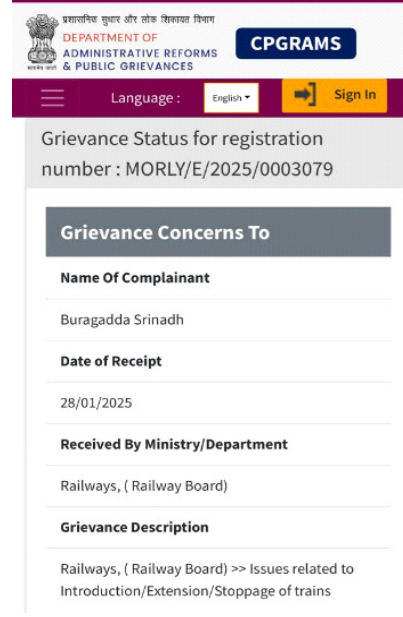
TPN Correspondent |
Machilipatnam

With a large number of devotees from Machilipatnam planning to travel to Prayag for the Kumbh Mela on February 5, the demand for train tickets has surged, leaving over 250 passengers on the waiting list. Responding to this situation, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) Krishna District President Dr. Buragadda Srinath has formally requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to arrange an additional special train or increase the number of bogies on the existing train. Dr. Srinath sent an email to the PMO highlighting the urgency of the situation, emphasizing that many devotees risk missing the sacred pilgrimage due to insufficient railway capacity. Following his appeal, the PMO, under the leadership of Vijayawada Railway Division Vice President



Varre Rajasekhar, took note of the request. On January 30, Additional Divisional Railway Manager Paul Adwin and Traffic Chief Controller Verma Garla met with VHP representatives, including PMS

Prasad, Kanthamneni Muralimohan, Bandi Durga Rao, Alluri Seshu, and Araja Edukondalu. The railway officials assured that, within their jurisdiction, efforts would be made to increase the number of bogies to



accommodate more devotees. The request has brought hope to hundreds of pilgrims eager to attend the Kumbh Mela. A final decision on the additional train or bogie extension is expected soon.



"Telugu States Train Cancellations"

- "Automatic Section Work Halts Trains"
- "Khammam Station's Upgrade Cancels 30 Trains"
- "Passengers Alerted: Check Before You Travel"

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 08

In a significant announcement affecting rail travel, the South Central Railway has declared extensive train cancellations and diversions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This move comes in response to ongoing non-interlocking work aimed at upgrading railway infrastructure. In Andhra Pradesh, the Vijayawada Railway Division is focusing on the automatic section between Nuzvidu, Vat-lur, and Eluru. This will lead to the cancellation of six trains on February 8, including Rajamahendravaram-Vijayawada (67261), Vijayawada-Rajamahendravaram (67262), among others. Additionally, 13 trains will be diverted on February 7 and 8, with routes like Nidadavolu-Gudivada-Vijayawada being used for trains such as Shalimar-Chennai Central (12841) and CST Mumbai-Bhubaneswar (11019).

Turning to Telangana, the non-interlocking work at Khammam Railway Station will see 30 trains cancelled from February 10 to 20. Affected services include the Golconda, Bhagyanagar, and Satavahana Expresses, impacting travel between cities like Secunderabad, Guntur, and Sirpur Kagaznagar. Moreover, nine trains will be diverted, and four will face delays ranging from 60 to 90 minutes on specific days, including the Secunderabad-Vishakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express.

This infrastructure project, while causing temporary disruptions, is part of broader efforts to enhance railway efficiency and safety. Passengers are advised to check the latest updates via official South Central Railway communications or through railway enquiry services to adjust their travel plans accordingly. The railway authority apologizes for the inconvenience and is committed to completing the work with minimal disruption.

FOUR SHADOWS...

Continued from page 1

that those questioning the system face retaliation, including police cases and physical threats. One of the most controversial aspects of Chintamaneni's influence lies in the Kolleru region, where he allegedly attempted to construct a road through forest department land near Komatilanka. In the past, forest officials had blocked this illegal road project, leading to conflicts. Now, with his return to power, it is believed that the MLA has renewed efforts to push the project through. Additionally, reports from Pedavegi Mandal suggest that land transactions have come under the MLA's direct influence, forcing local landowners in Duggirala, Koppaka, Pedakadimi, Pinakadimi, and Ankanna Gudem to sell their properties under pressure. Many fear that their lands are being systematically acquired in favor of the MLA's interests. Within the constituency, a select group of local leaders—including Boppana Sudhakar, Millu Babu, Laveti Srinivasa Rao, US Ramprasad, and Netala Ravi—are reportedly tasked with maintaining the MLA's control. These individuals allegedly set targets for revenue collection from illegal activities, ensuring that all transactions contribute to a larger network of financial gain. While the coalition government claims to be implementing developmental programs, locals argue that MLA Chintamaneni's rule through shadow MLAs is stifling genuine progress. As public resentment grows, the question remains how long will this parallel power structure continue unchallenged?

TRUMP DUMPING DOESNT EFFECT US

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Amid rising concerns over the deportation of undocumented Indian immigrants from the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on February 12-13 comes at a crucial time. While official data confirms that 487 Indian nationals have been issued final removal orders, large-scale deportation of Indian workers, especially those in the IT sector, remains unlikely. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, addressing the issue on Friday, stated that the Indian government is actively in touch with the Trump administration to ensure the safe return of those affected. He acknowledged concerns over the treatment of deportees, affirming that India will take up the matter with US authorities. Misri also noted that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) follows specific procedures, including the use of restraints, which have been in place for a long time.

Beyond the official numbers, there have been reports estimating anywhere between 18,000 to 5 lakh undocumented Indians living in the US. However, deporting such large numbers would be logistically difficult, and sources indicate that only a fraction of them face immediate action. So far, 102 deported individuals have reached India, with most having entered the US illegally. Those who traveled on valid visas but overstayed may receive some time for legal recourse. For the Indian IT sector, which heavily relies on smooth bilateral ties, there is no immediate reason to panic. India is a key strategic partner for the US, and Modi's visit is expected to address immigration-related concerns, including work visa policies.



NITI Aayog Team Meets CM Chandrababu Naidu

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

A high-level delegation from NITI Aayog, headed by Vice Chairman Suman Bery, arrived in Andhra Pradesh on Friday and met with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Amaravati Secretariat. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav welcomed the delegation upon their arrival. The discussions primarily revolved around the state's economic condition, financial planning, and the 'Vikasith AP - 2047' vision document. The debt situation of AP and ongoing welfare initiatives were also key points of deliberation. The meeting holds strategic significance, coming just before the state budget presentation, as AP seeks greater financial support and efficient fiscal management. The state's share

of central taxes, pending funds, and collaboration in centrally sponsored schemes were crucial topics in the talks. Senior officials A. Muthu Kumar IAS, Parthasarathi Reddy IAS, and K. Kishore were present during the meeting, along with NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery. The discussion also followed CM Chandrababu Naidu and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav's recent meeting with 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya, where AP's demand for its rightful share in central allocations was emphasized. With the state's development and financial stability in focus, the government is working towards strategic financial planning and central support to achieve long-term growth under the Vikasith AP - 2047 initiative.



Atrocity Case Filed Against Former Minister Vidadala Rajini

TPN Correspondent
Palnadu Dist, Feb 08

A case under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been registered against former minister Vidadala Rajini, her personal assistants Phani and Ramakrishna, and the then Chilakaluripet CI Vaddi Suryanarayana. The case follows allegations made by ITDP president Pilli Koteswara Rao, who claimed that he was detained and tortured for five days in the Chilakaluripet police station in 2019. Pilli Koteswara Rao had repeatedly approached the police seeking justice but was allegedly ignored. Frustrated by the lack of action, he petitioned the High Court, which resulted in the registration of a case.

Graduate MLC Candidate Alapati Raja Expresses Gratitude to Alliance Leaders

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Feb 08

Alapati Rajendra Prasad, the NDA-backed Graduate MLC candidate for Guntur and Krishna districts, expressed his pride and gratitude while filing his nomination. Addressing a large gathering of supporters and alliance leaders, he emphasized his commitment to serving graduates and addressing their concerns.

"The alliance government has given me this opportunity because it understands the problems of graduates, unemployed youth, and labor unions. I assure you that I will work tirelessly to resolve these issues," Alapati stated. He highlighted that the coalition's victory in the last election was due to the people's overwhelming support. He criticized the YSR Congress Party, accusing them of fleeing from

elections out of fear. "The YSRCP is a party that runs away when elections come. They stepped aside because they lacked the courage to face the people. They ignored public problems and focused on looting the state," Alapati remarked. He urged graduates and working professionals to support the alliance, promising to be their voice in the Legislative Council and fight for their rights.

Ongole Police Interrogate Director RGV For Five Hours

TPN, | N. Kasirao
Ongole, Feb 08

Ongole police have questioned film director Ram Gopal Varma (RGV) for five hours on Friday in connection with a photo morphing case. The investigation, conducted at the Ongole rural police station in the presence of a lawyer, is focused on the morphed images of coalition leaders Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh,

which were posted on social media during the previous YSRCP government. According to reports, RGV has admitted during questioning that he posted the morphed images from his X account as part of his movie Vayuham's promotional campaign. However, he denied any involvement of YSRCP leaders in the morphing incident. The police are also investigating allegations regarding ₹2 crore funding from AP Fiber

Net. So far, RGV has reportedly remained silent on this issue. Additionally, police have questioned his connections with YSRCP leaders, including his recent meetings with Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and YCP district president Buchepalli Sivaprasad Reddy. Sources indicate that the interrogation may continue for another four to five hours as officials seek further clarity on financial transactions and political connections linked to the case.



Jagan 2.0 Turning into Psycho Jagan - Minister Sandhyarani



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

Tribal Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani made sharp remarks against former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party chief Jaganmohan Reddy. Speaking to the media, she alleged that Jagan is behaving irrationally and misleading the public with false claims. She further stated that his avoidance of Assembly proceedings raises questions about his credibility.

Minister Sandhyarani accused Jagan of trying to manipulate people with fabricated stories, comparing his behavior to that of a "psycho" who deserves an Oscar for deception. She questioned why Jagan refused to attend the Assembly despite being elected to represent the people.

Referring to Jagan's family dynamics, she remarked that even his mother YS Vijayalakshmi and sister YS Sharmila have distanced themselves from him due to his leadership style. She warned that if Jagan continues his current approach, people will reject him entirely.

Taking a direct dig at Jagan's statements, Minister Sandhyarani claimed that his alleged conversations with spirits indicate his deteriorating mental state. She sarcastically suggested that the medicines he procured from London are ineffective and even offered to recommend medical treatment for him under the CM Relief Fund.

She went on to criticize Jagan's past governance, stating that people have grown tired of his misleading speeches and false promises. Sandhyarani ridiculed Jagan for not being able to write the word "credibility" in Telugu and for lacking understanding of its meaning in English.

The Minister concluded by warning Jagan not to provoke a public backlash, stating that people are ready to stand against him if he continues his disruptive politics.

A Major Setback to YSRCP in Tirupati



TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 08

In a major setback to YSRCP, several key leaders from Avilala Panchayat in Tirupati Rural Mandal have switched allegiance to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Avilala Upa Sarpanch Payyavula Kavita Rajagopal, MPTC Dashavani, and multiple ward members joined the TDP along with over 100 followers.

The leaders formally joined the party on Friday, in the presence of Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani and Tirupati Rural Mandal Party President Eeshwar Reddy, who welcomed them by covering them with TDP scarves. Speaking on the occasion, Kavita Rajagopal highlighted the stark difference between the previous YSRCP government and the current coalition government, stating:

"Under YSRCP rule, governance was focused on personal and family benefits. Now, with the coalition government in power, the administration is dedicated to addressing public issues and ensuring welfare for all. Our decision to join TDP was influenced by the remarkable development and welfare initiatives being implemented in Tirupati Rural Mandal under the leadership of CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh."

The newly joined leaders praised MLA Pulivarthi Nani for his people-first approach and commitment to the region's development. They emphasized that he has been actively solving public grievances and executing key projects, making a significant impact in Avilala Panchayat and beyond.

"MLA Pulivarthi Nani has been instrumental in driving progress beyond party lines. His efforts in infrastructure, welfare, and governance have created visible change. We are confident that under TDP, the focus will remain on public welfare and regional growth," they stated.

The event saw the participation of several coalition government leaders, activists, and women supporters, marking a strong show of support for TDP in Tirupati Rural.

Former APCC President Sailajanath joins YSRCP

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

In a significant political shift, former Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president and ex-minister Sake Sailajanath has officially joined the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomed him into the party by draping the YSRCP shawl over his shoulders in a symbolic gesture of induction.

For the past few days, speculation had been rife about Sailajanath's move to the YSRCP, and on Friday, he formally joined the party along

with his followers. Speaking on the occasion, Sailajanath stated that he was drawn to Jagan's leadership and political policies. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with the current coalition government, accusing it of failing to implement its election promises and adopting anti-people policies. Sailajanath, a two-time MLA from Singanamala, previously served as a minister in the cabinets of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, K Rosaiah, and N Kiran Kumar Reddy. He also led the Congress in Andhra Pradesh as PCC chief. He emphasized that he was ready to work under Jagan's lead-

ership in any capacity and vowed to serve the people of Rayalaseema.

Interestingly, Sailajanath hinted that more Congress leaders would soon follow in his footsteps, though he refrained from naming them. Reports suggest that Jagan is preparing to assign a key party position to Sailajanath, strengthening YSRCP's presence in key constituencies. With political alignments shifting ahead of the upcoming elections, all eyes are now on how Sailajanath's induction will impact the dynamics between YSRCP and the ruling coalition.



YSRCP Don't Have Values and Ethics

Dokka Manikya Vara Prasad



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

In a strong reaction to former minister and ex-APCC president Sake Sailajanath joining YSR Congress Party, senior leader Dokka Manikya Vara Prasad issued a cautionary statement. Addressing the media, he advised Sailajanath to reconsider his decision, stating that YSRCP does not uphold values and credibility. Dokka alleged that YSRCP leaders initially welcome newcomers with warmth but later subject them to political exploitation. He went further, accusing Jagan Mohan Reddy of committing "political rape" on those who join his party. According

to Dokka, over 74 leaders have already faced severe difficulties after aligning with YSRCP, especially Dalit leaders, whom he claims are not given due respect within the party. He asserted that YSRCP operates against the interests of Dalits and suggested that if Sailajanath wishes to have a stable political future, he should rethink his decision.

Meanwhile, political analysts speculate that Sailajanath might be appointed as the YSRCP in-charge for the Singanamala constituency. Notably, this constituency has a unique electoral history—whichever party wins the MLA seat here has gone on to form the government in Andhra Pradesh for the past 30 years. With this sentiment in mind, YSRCP is likely to leverage Sailajanath's influence to strengthen its hold in the region.

As the political landscape shifts, it remains to be seen whether Sailajanath's move to YSRCP will bring him success or validate Dokka Manikya Vara Prasad's concerns.

ED Seizes ₹44.74 Crore Assets Linked to Former YCP MP MVV Satyanarayana



TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Feb 08

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken action against former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Visakhapatnam MP MVV Satyanarayana by seizing assets worth ₹44.74 crore linked to Hayagriva Farms. According to ED officials, MVV, along with his auditor GV and managing partner Gadde Brahaji, orchestrated a large-scale land sale,

earning approximately ₹150 crore through questionable transactions.

In October last year, ED officials raided the residences and offices of MVV Satyanarayana and GV, uncovering crucial evidence related to the case. The investigation revealed that the accused had encroached upon land originally allocated for the welfare of orphans and the elderly.

The case came to light after Chilukuru Jagadeeswaru and his wife Radharani filed a complaint at the Arilova police station on June 22, 2023.

They alleged that 12.51 acres of land belonging to the Hayagriva project in Endada had been forcibly taken over. Based on this FIR, the ED launched its investigation, ultimately leading to the confiscation of properties linked to MVV Satyanarayana. With the ED tightening its grip, the case is expected to have significant legal and political ramifications in the coming days.

Tulasi Reddy Ridicules Jagan's Statements on Values and Credibility

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

APCC Chief Spokesperson Tulasi Reddy launched a scathing attack on YSR Congress Party president Jagan Mohan Reddy, calling it laughable that Jagan speaks about values and credibility. Addressing the media in Vempalle on Thursday, Tulasi Reddy remarked, "Dushshasana talking about women empowerment, Chintamani about pativrattam, and Godse about non-violence—this is exactly what happens when Jagan talks



about credibility."

He further accused Jagan of political hypocrisy, recalling that Jagan had once blamed Reliance

Chief Mukesh Ambani for his father YS Rajasekhara Reddy's death and had his properties raided. However, after coming to power, Jagan recommended Parimal Nathwani—associated with Reliance—for a Rajya Sabha seat, exposing his contradictions.

Tulasi Reddy also listed a series of issues where Jagan failed to deliver on his promises, including the Polavaram project, the abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), addressing unemployment, the liquor ban, justice for Agri-

gold victims, farmer assurance schemes, and controlling petrol prices.

Slamming Jagan's attempts to portray himself as a common man, he remarked, "He claimed he did not have his own newspaper and that he was poor—what bigger lie could there be?"

Concluding his remarks, Tulasi Reddy asserted that the less Jagan talks about credibility, the better, as people are already aware of his deceptive politics.

Vijayasai Reddy Hits Back at Jagan Over 'Values and Credibility' Remarks

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 08

Former MP Vijayasai Reddy has issued a strong rebuttal to former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy's remarks on values and credibility. Taking to social media platform X, Vijayasai Reddy asserted that he stands by his principles and was never swayed by external pressures.

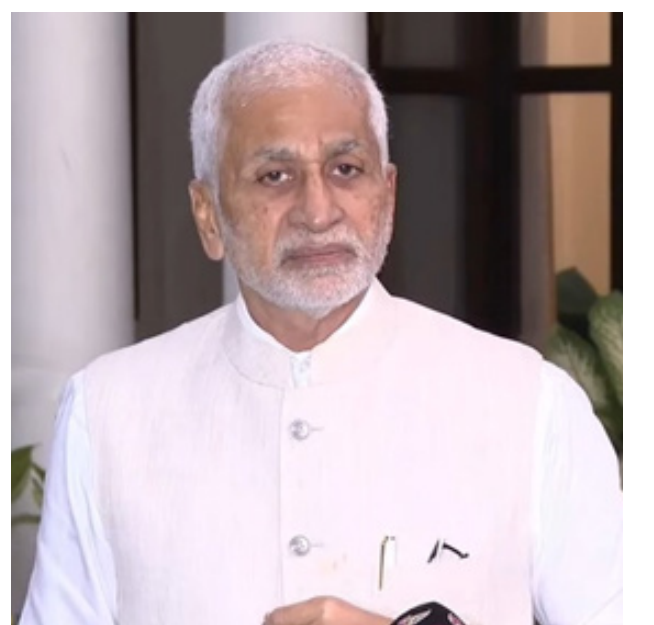
"Because I have values, credibility, and character in my personal life too, I have never succumbed to any temptation. Fear is not in any atom of me, that is why I gave up my Rajya Sabha post, party posts, and politics," tweeted the former MP.

His comments come in direct response to Jagan's statements made during a press meet on Thursday, where Jagan spoke about the

importance of values and credibility in politics. The former CM remarked that leaders should carry themselves with dignity, ensuring that their credibility earns them respect among the people. He indirectly suggested that those who quit the party, including Vijayasai Reddy, lacked these qualities.

Vijayasai Reddy's sharp response has now triggered discussions within YSRCP circles, with many interpreting it as the beginning of an open rift between the two leaders. While Vijayasai Reddy has mostly remained silent on Jagan's remarks in the past, his latest counter has fueled speculation about tensions within the party.

Political analysts believe that this public exchange could mark a new phase of confrontation between the former MP and YSRCP leadership, signaling deeper cracks in the party.



IA&AD South Zone Cricket Tournament - 2025



**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 08**

The Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Andhra Pradesh, is organizing the prestigious IA&AD South Zone Cricket Tournament - 2025 at the Andhra Cricket Association International Cricket Stadium, Mangalagiri, from February 10 to 13, 2025.

The IA&AD South Zone cricket tournament is being organized in Vijayawada for the first time. This four-day tournament will witness spirited participation from cricket teams representing the southern states of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana,

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The tournament serves as a qualifying event for the All India Cricket Tournament of IA&AD, where the best-performing players will earn the opportunity to represent their respective states at the national level.

The inaugural ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 10, 2025, at 8:00 AM, and the closing ceremony will be held on February 13, 2025, at 1:30 PM.

Cricket enthusiasts are invited to witness the exciting matches and cheer for their favorite teams.

AIG Study on Healthcare's Environmental Impact Published in Top Journal

Key Findings

Lower Waste in India: Waste generation per procedure in India (0.504 kg) is significantly lower than in Western countries (2-3 kg) due to reusable materials and efficient resource management.

Recycling Benefits: Recycling 25.7% of hospital waste saves 380 kg CO₂e in just two weeks, equivalent to generating 9,816 kWh of solar energy or removing 2.1 cars from roads.

Call for Sustainability Departments: The study recommends setting up 'Sustainability' departments in hospitals to implement eco-friendly practices and explore non-invasive diagnostic alternatives.



File photo of Lead Researcher Dr. Hardik Rughwani (R) with Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy (Centre) and Dr. Noriya Uedo (Left) from Osaka International Cancer Institute, Japan who was at AIG Hospitals recently for a training program.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A groundbreaking study conducted by AIG Hospitals on the environmental impact of gastrointestinal endoscopy (GIE) procedures has been published in the prestigious journal Gut, part of the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Group. The study, titled "Carbon Footprinting and Environmental Impact of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Procedures at a Tertiary Care Institution: A Prospective Multi-Dimensional Assessment," highlights the carbon footprint and waste generation associated with GIE procedures and calls for sustainable healthcare practices.

Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals and a researcher in the study, emphasized the urgent need for sustainability in healthcare. "Healthcare activities, particularly in tertiary care centers, have a significant environmental impact. India, with its vast healthcare needs, must lead in adopting sustainable practices. This study provides actionable insights for reducing hospital carbon emissions while maintaining high-quality care," he said.

The study found that each GIE procedure generates an average carbon footprint of 38.45 kg CO₂e. With large-scale procedures performed globally, the cumulative emissions are substantial. A single unit performing 10,000 procedures annually would generate 384,500 kg CO₂e, requiring 17,500 mature trees to offset the emissions. The research also highlights that patient travel contributes 83.09% of total emissions, stressing the need for sustainable transportation and improved healthcare accessibility.

Lead researcher Dr. Hardik Rughwani called the study a crucial step in addressing healthcare's environmental impact. "By highlighting the significant carbon footprint of endoscopy procedures, we hope to drive change in healthcare practices and inspire policymakers to adopt sustainable solutions," he said.

The study underscores the need for greener medical practices to align with global climate change mitigation efforts, urging hospitals to integrate sustainability into their healthcare operations.

Five Applications Approved for Biogas/Compressed Biogas Plants in AP Under MDA Scheme

**TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 08**

The Central Government has approved five biogas/compressed biogas (CBG) plants from Andhra Pradesh under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme, which promotes organic fertilizers. These plants, located in East Godavari, Kurnool, Guntur, Tirupati, and Visakhapatnam districts, will now be eligible to sell light organic fertilizers.

Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Anupriya Patel, confirmed this development in a written reply to MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni)'s query in the Lok Sabha on Friday. She stated that a subsidy of ₹1,500 per metric ton (MT) has been approved for fertilizers produced in biogas/CBG plants under the GOBARDHAN programme.

The MDA scheme, implemented between



2023-24 and 2025-26, has a total allocation of ₹1,451.84 crore, including ₹360 crore for research. Across the country, 81 applications have been received from biogas/CBG plants, and 39 agreements (MoUs) have

been signed between chemical fertilizer marketing companies and CBG plants to ensure organic fertilizer distribution to farmers.

In Andhra Pradesh, Gayathree Innovative Energies Pvt Ltd has been producing Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), which helps convert urban waste into organic fertilizers. Similar production units exist in Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

The government has released ₹16 crore under the MDA scheme as of January 31, 2025, facilitating the sale of 1,19,490.07 metric tonnes of organic fertilizer.

Additionally, three Research & Development (R&D) projects have been approved under this initiative, with a funding allocation of ₹15.12 crore, aiming to support farmers and industries in sustainable agricultural practices.

YS Sharmila Questioned the Character of YS Jagan

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 08**

In a scathing attack, AP Congress President YS Sharmila questioned the character of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he pressured Vijayasai Reddy to lie in a press conference. Her remarks come after Vijayasai Reddy, who recently resigned from the YSR Congress Party and Rajya Sabha, met her for discussions.

Sharmila claimed that during her meeting with Vijayasai Reddy, he confided in her about the pressures he faced from Jagan. She alleged that Jagan dictated false statements for 40 minutes and forced Vijayasai Reddy to present them in a press conference.

She also accused Jagan of filing cases against her and their mother Vijayamma to seize family assets. According to Sharmila, Jagan and his wife conspired to deprive her chil-



dren of their rightful share.

"Jagan has degraded himself to a point where he did not even consider YSR's legacy. He has spoken badly about my character, but he should reflect on his own," Sharmila remarked. She further criticized Jagan's governance, saying he used his power as Chief Minister for personal gains and betrayed his own family.

These statements have sparked intense political debate, particularly as Vijayasai Reddy has not yet announced his next political move.

Contract & Outsourcing Employees Demand a Better Policy from the Govt

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 08**

The Andhra Pradesh Contract & Outsourcing Employees Association (APCOEA), an affiliate of AP JAC Amaravati, has urged the coalition government to introduce a better policy for outsourcing employees, ensuring job security and eliminating the role of private agencies in recruitment.

Association leaders, including State President K. Suman, General Secretary Allam Suresh Babu, Associate President G. Sampath Kumar, and Treasurer Ramana Murthy, emphasized that even after the abolition of APCAS (Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services), a more effective and transparent system must be implemented. They pointed out that discussions on APCAS were held in the recent state cabinet meeting and highlighted their concerns in a press release. They stressed that assigning outsourcing employees directly to departments, rather than routing them through private agencies, would prevent exploitation and safeguard the interests of one crore outsourcing employees across the state.

The association strongly opposed the re-introduction of a middleman system,

arguing that private agencies degrade employees' conditions. They urged the government to implement direct department-wise appointments instead. They expressed confidence that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, known for his administrative acumen, would ensure a better system than APCAS.

APCOEA demanded that the state government extend HR policies similar to those in SPERS and MEPMA to all outsourcing employees. They announced plans to engage with MLAs and ministers to push for these policy changes. The outsourcing employees reiterated their trust in the coalition government, believing that their hopes would not be misplaced. They called on the Chief Minister and his cabinet to take decisive steps to protect outsourcing employees' rights, ensure job security, and improve their working conditions. The association urged the Honorable Chief Minister, cabinet ministers, MLAs, and concerned officials to ensure justice for outsourcing employees by designing a new system that eliminates exploitation and provides stability to thousands of families relying on outsourcing jobs in Andhra Pradesh.



Massive iPhone Theft at Ingram Warehouse in Enikepadu

350 iPhones Stolen, It's Worth ₹2.50 Crores



**TPN Correspondent
Enikepadu, Feb 08**

A significant theft has come to light in Enikepadu, Vijayawada Rural Mandal, where around 350 iPhones were stolen from Ingram Warehouse last night. The stolen smartphones are estimated to be worth approximately ₹2.50 crore.

Warehouse administrators, upon discovering the burglary, immediately approached the Padamata police, who have since launched an investigation. Authorities are currently reviewing CCTV footage from the premises and surrounding areas to identify the culprits.

Police officials suspect that the crime might have been premeditated, given the scale of the theft. They are tracking possible leads and verifying records of past offenders involved in similar heists.

This high-value robbery has raised concerns about security measures in commercial warehouses. Business owners in the region are being advised to enhance surveillance and security protocols to prevent such incidents.

The police have assured that all efforts are being made to apprehend the criminals and recover the stolen iPhones.

Principal's Brutality on Children at Sri Acharya School in Autonagar

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 08**

A horrifying case of child abuse has surfaced at Sri Acharya Play School in Autonagar, Vijayawada, where parents have accused the school management of brutally torturing young children. According to reports, the principal physically assaulted children, causing them distress and injuries.

One of the most shocking allegations is that the principal hit a child's private parts, leaving the parents in shock and anger. Several parents have reported finding injuries on their children after they returned home from school.

Distressed parents have come forward to denounce the principal and her husband, demanding immediate action against them. They have also urged the authorities to strictly regulate schools to prevent such incidents from recurring.

This disturbing case has raised serious concerns about child safety in private schools. Parents are calling on the education department and law enforcement to intervene swiftly and ensure justice for the affected children.



Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Distributes ₹77 Lakh in CMRF Cheques



TPN Correspondent
Addanki, Feb 08

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has asserted that the coalition government is actively working for the welfare of the poor and weaker sections. On Friday, he distributed CMRF cheques worth ₹77 lakh to 56 beneficiaries at his camp office in Addanki. Speaking at the event, the Minister criticized the previous YSRCP government, stating that Jaganmohan Reddy had pushed the state's health system into the ICU, but it has now started recovering under the coalition leadership. He remarked that the public uprising against Jaganmohan Reddy was evident, leading to his party securing only 11 assembly seats in the state. Gottipati further accused Jagan of making excuses in the Assembly, claiming he was denied a mic, time, and opposition status. He dismissed YSRCP's 30-year rule ambition, stating that instead, Jagan should prepare for a 30-year prison sentence for alleged economic crimes. He added that even Jagan's close associates were exposing his true character and leadership failures.

The Minister reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to the development of Andhra Pradesh, regardless of any obstacles or conspiracies. Local coalition leaders and beneficiaries were present at the event.

Elderly Couple Commits Suicide in Tirumala's Nandakam Guest House

TPN | Ganesh
Tirumala, Feb 08

A tragic incident unfolded at the Nandakam guest house in Tirumala, where an elderly couple was found dead in an apparent suicide on Friday. The deceased woman was identified as Aruna, wife of retired head constable Srinivasulu Naidu.



According to police sources, the couple, residents of Abbanna Colony in Tirupati, had come to Tirumala on Thursday for darshan of Lord Shiva. They secured accommodation at the Nandakam guest house and reportedly spoke to their children over the phone after their visit to the temple, mentioning that their darshan went well. A suicide note recovered from the scene stated that no one was responsible for their deaths and that they took the decision voluntarily. It was also mentioned that their younger brother should be informed to utilize the money kept in a beer bottle for their cremation expenses. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to their drastic step. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and further inquiries are underway.

Bhimavaram Dist Moves Towards Phased Plastic Ban

TPN Correspondent
Bhimavaram, Feb 08

District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani announced that plastic elimination in Bhimavaram district will be carried out in a phased manner, urging people to adopt sustainable alternatives.



During a meeting at the District Collector's Chamber, representatives of Hyderabad-based AE Technology Company showcased their Bio Elite products as substitutes for plastic. Company representative K. Dilip explained that biodegradable water bottles, meal plates, food packaging covers, and carry bags are being manufactured from the inner part of corn cobs. These products decompose in soil within four to five months and have already received approvals for sale at Srisailem and Kerala temples. District Collector Nagarani and District Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy personally inspected the products, using a dichloroethane solution to verify their plastic-free nature. AE Technology representatives stated that while Bio Elite products cost 20-30% more than plastic alternatives, they offer a long-term, eco-friendly solution.

District Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy reiterated the administration's commitment to phasing out plastic use and encouraged businesses and the public to cooperate in making Bhimavaram a plastic-free model town. With these steps, the district aims to lead by example in promoting a healthier and environmentally responsible lifestyle.

Sri Parthasarathiswamy Graces the Teppotsavam Raft

TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 08

On the second day of the Sri Govindarajawamy Teppotsavam in Tirupati, Sri Parthasarathiswamy, along with consorts Sri Rukmini and Satyabhama, graced the devotees on Friday evening. The divine procession was accompanied by devotional fervor and special rituals at the temple. From 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, the deities performed five ceremonial laps on the sacred raft, blessing the gathered devotees. Following this, the procession moved through the four Mada streets surrounding the temple,



drawing a large number of worshippers. Continuing the spiritual celebrations,

on Saturday, Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy will take center stage on the holy raft, blessing devotees with divine presence. On this occasion, bhajans, Harikatha, and musical programs were conducted under the auspices of the TTD Hindu Dharmaprachara Parishad and the Annamacharya Project.

The event witnessed the presence of Tirumala Sri Sri Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Sri Sri Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, Temple Deputy EO Smt. Shanti, along with other temple officials and a large number of enthusiastic devotees.

Veterinary Students Continues Indefinite Strike for Stipend Hike

TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 08

On Friday, veterinary students from Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in Tirupati continued their indefinite strike for the fifth consecutive day, demanding an increase in their stipend.



In the morning, a group of students met Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani and presented

their concerns regarding the stipend issue, urging immedi-

ate government intervention. Despite ongoing discussions, the students have announced that they will not end their strike until the government issues a Government Order (GO) along with the necessary financial approvals.

As part of their intensified protest, the students have launched a relay hunger strike from Friday onwards. Addi-

tionally, all veterinary students under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University have started an email campaign, sending mass appeals to government officials and ministers to expedite the resolution of their demands.

The student community remains firm in its stance, emphasizing that their protests will continue until concrete action is taken.

Parks to be a Key Tourist Attraction in Rajahmundry by Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

TPN | Ch. Sri
Rajahmundry, Feb 08

District Collector P. Prashanthi has emphasized that parks in Rajamahendravaram should be developed in a unique manner to serve as major attractions for both tourists and residents by the time of Godavari Pushkaralu 2027. She reviewed the draft PPT for the development of 26 parks and city forests in the city along with Municipal Commissioner Ketana Garg at the District Collector's Camp Office on Friday.



Speaking at the meeting, Collector Prashanthi highlighted that parks should go beyond conventional designs and offer specialized themes such as:

- Yoga and gym parks for fitness enthusiasts.
- Adventure parks featuring rock climbing and water shows.
- Cultural parks showcasing the traditions of the region.
- Flower and bird parks to enhance biodiversity.
- Music and dance-themed parks to promote local art forms.

She stressed that these parks should cater

to all age groups and create an engaging environment for visitors. Officials were instructed to identify suitable locations and finalize proposals accordingly.

Development of Kadiyam Nursery as a Tourist Destination

In a separate review meeting with officials from Tourism, Horticulture, Revenue, and Panchayat Raj departments, the focus was on enhancing the Kadiyam nursery region as a major tourist hub. Plans include:

- Public-private partnerships with nursery

owners to promote tourism.

- Boating, ziplining, and adventure sports to attract visitors.

- Eco-friendly initiatives such as installing solar panels along cycling and walking tracks.

Officials also presented route mapping strategies to integrate various attractions within the nursery areas. The Seven Hills Associates team proposed sustainable solutions to increase greenery and generate renewable energy through solar-powered lighting.

Officials Present at the Review

Municipal Commissioner Ketana Garg, Additional Commissioner Shailaja Valli, RMC Officer Abul Malik, Seven Hills Associate Representatives, AP MIP PD A. Durgesh, District Tourism Officer P. Venkatachalam, MPDO K. Ramesh, and Kadiyam Deputy Tehsildar Sunil participated in the discussions.

With these ambitious plans in place, Rajamahendravaram is set to emerge as a premier tourist destination, seamlessly blending nature, culture, and adventure in the run-up to Godavari Pushkaralu 2027.

Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy Launches Awareness Poster on Forced Labour Eradication.



TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 08

In a bid to combat forced labour, Eluru District Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy emphasized the strict implementation of child labour laws. She released a poster on forced labour eradication at the Eluru Collectorate on Friday, marking Forced Labour System Eradication Day. Speaking on the occasion, JC Dhatri Reddy stressed that child labour is a punishable offense, urging officials to conduct special drives to completely eradicate it in the district.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner of Labour P. Srinivas, Factories Inspector A. Srinivas, Eluru RDO Achyuta Ambareesh, CWC Chairman P. Venkateswara Rao, Circle Inspector M. Subba Rao, Women SI V. Kantipriya, ICDS PD P. Sharada, DCPO Suryachakravarini, and other officials from the labour department. The district administration has committed to stringent action against violators while raising awareness on child rights and legal provisions to ensure a labour-free future for children.

Garaga Dance Performances at Maha Kumbh Mela

TPN | C.N. MURTHY
P. Gannavaram, Feb 08

Garaga dance artists from Mukkamala Mandal showcased their talent at the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The Sri Vijayadurga Sangeet and Nritya Kalakshetra troupe, led by Pasupuleti Nagababu, was invited by the South Zone Cultural Center to participate in the grand event.

A 15-member team traveled to Prayagraj to perform Garaga dance on February 6th, 7th, and 8th. Nagababu expressed pride in representing Andhra Pradesh on such a prestigious stage. He recalled that his troupe had earlier performed at the Kumbh Mela in 2019 and the Ganga Utsav in Varanasi in 2021 through South Central Zones.

The performance drew enthusiastic applause from devotees and cultural enthusiasts, highlighting the rich traditions and folk heritage of Andhra Pradesh on a national platform.



Not the end of immigration challenges for India



A recent deportation of 104 illegal Indian immigrants aboard a US military aircraft has sparked widespread controversy. The deportees, escorted by 45 US officials, were subjected to a grueling and humiliating experience. For every two passengers, there was one official overseeing their journey, which lasted over 40 hours. The immigrants were handcuffed, their feet shackled, and were not allowed to move from their seats. Despite repeated requests, they were only allowed limited access to the restroom, with US crew members forcibly opening the lavatory door to monitor them.

What has drawn attention, however, is India's response to this treatment. The Indian government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, seemed to passively accept this harsh protocol, which portrayed the deportees as hardened criminals, even

though they were, in reality, just illegal immigrants seeking to return home. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar defended the situation in Parliament, citing that the deportation procedures by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which have been in place since 2012, involved restraints for deportees. He clarified that women and children were excluded from being restrained, but this statement failed to address the broader concerns over the degrading treatment faced by adult male deportees.

India's acceptance of such treatment raises questions about the government's stance on the dignity of its citizens and whether such brutal measures are necessary to enforce immigration laws. Many have criticized the Indian government for not standing up to the US and for allowing the deportation process to unfold without protest or action. In stark con-

trast, Latin American countries have shown more resistance to similar deportation tactics. Mexico, for example, refused to accept the deportation of illegal immigrants via US military aircraft, while Colombia insisted on sending its own planes to bring back deported citizens.

This incident sheds light on the growing concerns over the treatment of illegal immigrants and the power dynamics between countries when it comes to deportation protocols. Critics argue that the US should reconsider its use of military aircraft for deportation, which subjects immigrants to inhumane treatment. It is clear that India's response—or lack thereof—has left many questioning whether the government truly values the human dignity of its citizens, or whether international pressure and relations with the US outweigh the protection of its own people.



Is Donald Trump Interested in Pakistan?

The relationship between the United States and Pakistan has had its fair share of ups and downs over the years. Pakistan's strategic location has allowed it to play a key role for the US during pivotal moments, such as during the Cold War and the War on Terror. However, as the world changes, so too does the dynamic between the two nations.

Since his return to power, Donald Trump has shown little interest in reviving US-Pakistan relations. His policy, which has largely focused on issues like immigration and geopolitical competition with China, suggests that Pakistan will not be a priority for him. Trump's past interactions with Pakistan have been far from warm, notably when he suspended \$1.3 billion in military aid in 2018 and labeled Pakistan a "country of particular concern." His foreign policy is typically driven by personal biases and the relationships he maintains with other leaders, rather than diplomatic tradition. While Pakistan's strategic importance has historically been linked to conflicts such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, its role has significantly diminished in the absence of such a crisis. Under Trump, it is unlikely that Pakistan will regain its former significance in US foreign policy. The US may continue to engage with Pakistan on a limited basis, particularly in areas like intelligence-sharing and defense partnerships. However, with Trump's transactional view of global relations, this cooperation is unlikely to expand beyond essential security concerns.

Moreover, Pakistan's growing relationship with China may further strain its ties with the US. Trump's administration is likely to view Pakistan's proximity to China as a negative, and this could worsen relations. The US's focus under Trump will likely shift toward strengthening alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China, further sidelining Pakistan. In conclusion, it appears that Pakistan will not play a significant role in Trump's foreign policy agenda. Without direct threats to US interests, the US-Pakistan relationship is expected to remain minimal, with any cooperation relegated to intelligence-sharing and counter-terrorism efforts.



Time for India to blaze the trail further on UPI: Build guardrails for data privacy

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized digital payments in India, positioning the country as a global leader in financial technology. Offering a costless, reliable, and ubiquitous payment solution used by millions, UPI is one of India's most significant contributions to the 21st century. It has facilitated the bypassing of traditional card networks, accelerating the digital payment ecosystem by decades.

However, the ongoing policy discourse around the dominance of third-party app providers (TPAPs) like GooglePay and PhonePe, and the attempts to impose market share limits on these players, are misguided. Some argue that reducing the market share of these platforms below 30% is essential for ensuring competition. While these concerns are valid in traditional markets, applying such arbitrary market share caps to UPI may lead to unintended consequences.

The concentration seen in the UPI market is a natural outcome of positive network externalities. In essence, the more users and merchants adopt a particular platform, the more valuable it becomes for everyone. UPI's success lies in its simplicity and reliability, and platforms like GooglePay and PhonePe have leveraged these strengths to become dominant players. Attempting to break up this dominance through arbitrary market share caps would undermine the very network effects that have fueled UPI's success.

Instead of focusing on reducing market share, policymakers should address the core issues that could hinder UPI's continued growth and fairness. One of the most pressing concerns is personal data protection. As UPI becomes more integrated into the daily lives of millions of Indians, the risks associated with personal data breaches and misuse increase. Currently, there is a lack of clarity around data ownership, storage, and usage practices of third-party apps. Stronger regulatory frameworks around data privacy and user consent are necessary to ensure that UPI remains secure, trustworthy, and user-centric.

South India curious about ChatGPT, Bihar & Northeast the least, shows Google search data

According to the latest Google Trends data analyzed by India in Pixels, Telangana is the leader in searches related to ChatGPT in India, followed closely by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The data, which tracks Google searches from November 3, 2024, to February 3, 2025, reveals that Telangana has the highest score of 100, indicating the most interest in ChatGPT compared to other states. Tamil Nadu scores 94, Karnataka 92, Maharashtra 85, and Kerala 81.

The ranking system used is relative, not absolute, meaning the score represents how much more or less a state searched for ChatGPT compared to others. The high-ranking states all have strong IT sectors and educational institutions known for AI adoption.

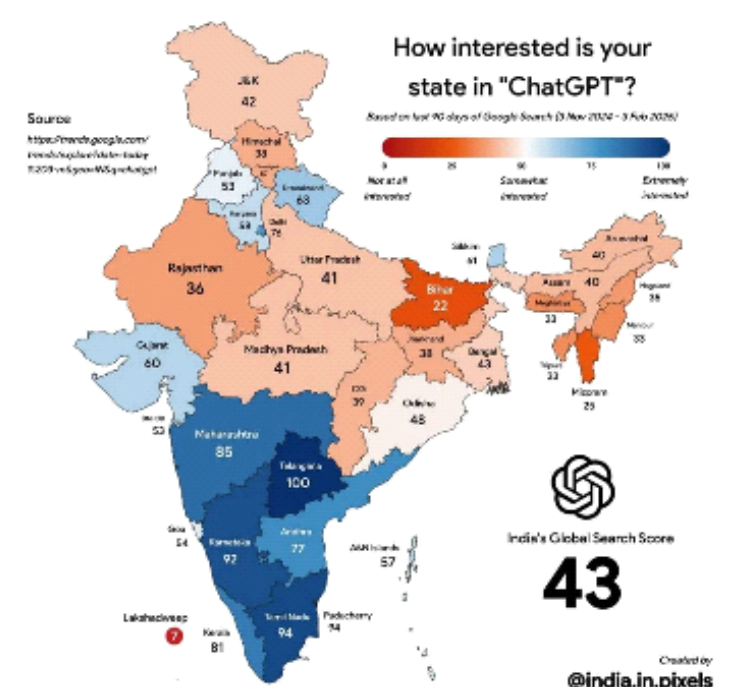
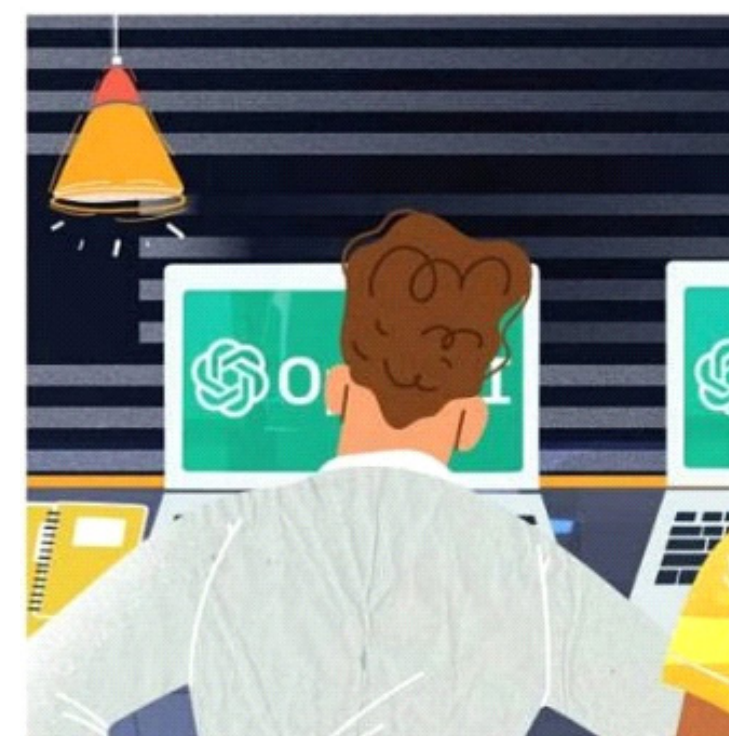
On the other end of the spectrum, Bihar recorded the lowest score of 22, indicating minimal curiosity about the AI tool. Other northeastern states, such as Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, and Nagaland, also show relatively low engagement with ChatGPT, with scores ranging from 25 to 35.

Delhi, home to a vibrant startup culture, scored 76, while Gujarat and Punjab had scores of 60 and 53, respectively. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh scored 41, and Rajasthan 36, suggesting relatively low AI engagement. Lakshadweep, a union territory, had the lowest score of 7.

Ashris Choudhury, the data visualizer behind India in Pixels, explained that the disparity in interest between regions is largely due to differences in education, employment trends, and economic factors. States with higher technical education and employment in IT sectors, such as in the south, show more interest in AI tools like ChatGPT.

Choudhury also pointed out that AI's "strong English bias" might be limiting its reach, suggesting that India needs to develop AI tools in regional languages to ensure broader access.

The data reflects the growing interest in AI in India, with the national average score for ChatGPT searches standing at 43. However, accessibility and economic factors play a key role in determining which regions are more engaged with AI technology.



PM to visit US on February 12-13, hold bilateral with Trump amid tariff threat

Talks to focus on trade, defense, and Indo-Pacific cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the United States from February 12 to 13, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced on Friday. This visit will mark Modi's first trip to the US since the inauguration of President Joe Biden in January 2021.

During his visit, Modi is expected to hold discussions with President Biden on a range of key issues, including strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing strategic cooperation, and addressing global challenges. The visit is seen as an important opportunity to reaffirm the longstanding partnership between India and the US, especially in the context of the evolving geopolitical situation.

Modi's visit will also focus on deepening cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, climate change, and defense. The two leaders are likely to discuss expanding ties in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as joint efforts to address global issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

This will be the first in-person meeting



between Modi and Biden since Biden assumed office, following a series of virtual meetings between the two leaders. The visit also comes as the US seeks to strengthen its relationships with India, a key partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

India and the US have enjoyed a growing partnership over the years, with both countries collaborating on various fronts,

including defense, trade, and technological innovation. This visit is expected to further bolster the ties between the two nations and pave the way for more robust collaboration in the future. As Modi prepares for his trip, it is expected that the visit will serve as a reaffirmation of the shared values and goals between the two democratic nations, further solidifying their strategic partnership.



Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains to Get a Boost with Nine More Sets by December 2025

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

After successfully completing the long-distance trial of the first 16-car Vande Bharat sleeper train on January 15, 2025, the Ministry of Railways has announced plans to expand the Vande Bharat fleet with additional sleeper trains. The Indian Railways will manufacture nine more 16-car Vande Bharat sleeper trains by the end of December next year, according to official reports. These trains will be produced by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, which is responsible for manufacturing various rail coaches for Indian Railways.

The Vande Bharat sleeper train project is a significant step toward upgrading the country's rail infrastructure, offering passengers a premium travel experience with enhanced comfort and speed. The 16-car Vande Bharat sleeper trains are designed to cater to long-distance travel needs, and their success during the trial run has spurred the government to expedite the production process.

In addition to the production of 16-car trains, Indian Railways is also working on the manufacturing of 24-car Vande Bharat sleeper trains. The government had placed an order for propulsion electrics on December 17, 2024, for 50 rakes of the 24-car Vande Bharat sleeper trains. The order was awarded to two prominent companies—Medha, based in Hyderabad, and Alstom. Medha will supply propulsion systems for 33 rakes, while Alstom will provide the systems for the remaining 17 rakes. These propulsion systems are crucial for the trains' electricity-powered functionality, which is a step toward increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the Indian railway network.

The decision to expand the Vande Bharat sleeper train program comes at a time when Indian Railways is focused on improving passenger services and modernizing its fleet. The Vande Bharat trains are expected to significantly reduce travel time between cities, offering faster and more comfortable travel options for passengers, especially on long-distance routes.

With the success of the initial trials and the government's commitment to manufacturing more Vande Bharat sleeper trains, the initiative marks a transformative period in India's railway modernization plans. As the production of these advanced trains progresses, Indian Railways aims to enhance its competitiveness on the global stage and cater to the growing demands of domestic travelers.

Bombay High Court Grants Bail to Two Accused in Salman Khan Murder Plot

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to two individuals arrested in connection with a conspiracy to assassinate actor Salman Khan. Seven people were arrested last year following the discovery of a plot to kill Khan near his farmhouse in Panvel. The scheme was allegedly orchestrated by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and all the accused were reportedly associated with the incarcerated gangster.

The court ruled in favor of Wasim Chikna and Sandeep Bishnoi, citing a lack of substantial incriminating evidence against them. Both individuals were members of a WhatsApp group where the conspiracy was discussed and planned.

The actor had faced multiple threats from the Bishnoi gang, with one incident involving gunfire near his Mumbai residence in April 2024. Later that year, in June, Navi Mumbai Police uncovered the plot to kill Khan during a visit to his Panvel farmhouse. Following the discovery, Khan's security was heightened, and he remains under round-the-clock police protection.

While the court's decision to grant bail has garnered attention, Salman Khan's safety continues to be a significant concern.



India Energy Week 2025: A Global Platform for the Future of Energy

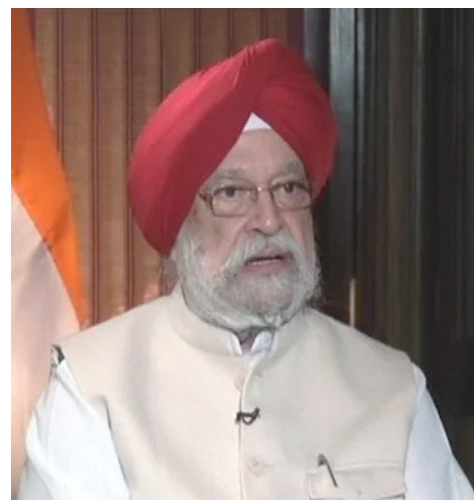
TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Energy ministers from over 20 countries will gather in Delhi for the India Energy Week (IEW) 2025, set to take place from February 11 to 14. The event will feature key energy producers from both advanced economies and the global south, making it a prominent meeting point for energy leaders worldwide.

In addition to government ministers, ambassadors, and heads of international organizations, the event will also be attended by at least 90 CEOs and members of the executive boards from some of the world's largest Fortune 500 energy companies. This level of participation makes IEW 2025 the second-largest global energy event in terms of participation, exhibition space, and sessions.

Building on the success of its previous editions, which were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the third edition of IEW promises to further establish its importance in the global energy sector. As one of the first major energy events of the year, it will set the stage for the industry's challenges and opportunities in 2025.

Held at Yashobhoomi, India's largest convention and exhibition center located in Dwarka, Delhi, IEW will provide a vital platform for discussions on the critical issues facing the global energy landscape. Participants will include key figures like Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Tanzania's Deputy Prime Minister Doto



Mashaka Biteko, and the Republic of Djibouti's Energy Minister Yonis Ali Guedi, alongside leaders of international organizations such as Jassim Al Shirawi, Secretary General of the IEF, and Haitham Al-Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC.

The 90 CEOs attending will come from top energy companies like Petrobras, Baker Hughes, JERA Asia, ADNOC, BP, Vitol, Technip Energies, Weatherford, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, The Boeing Company, and Vedanta Ltd. This high-level representation underscores the global importance of IEW as an influential energy industry gathering.

IEW 2025 will cover a vast area of over 1 lakh square meters and will host 10 country pavilions, representing nations such as the US, the UK, Russia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands. The event will also feature eight thematic zones focusing on critical topics including hydrogen, renewables, bio-fuels, and petrochemicals.

Calcutta HC to Deliver Death Penalty Petition for R.G. Kar Rape and Murder Convict

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court is set to deliver its verdict on the admissibility of a petition filed by the West Bengal government seeking the death penalty for Sanjay Roy, the sole convict in the R.G. Kar rape and murder case, on Friday morning. The petition has been jointly filed by the state government and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), both seeking the death penalty for Roy.

While the state government has backed the petition, the CBI has raised objections. The central agency argues that it was responsible for conducting the investigation after the Calcutta High Court's prior order, and that the victim's parents, not the state govern-

ment, should have the right to make the petition.

The hearing on the admissibility of both petitions concluded on January 27, with the Division Bench of Justice Debangsu Basak and Justice Shabbar Rashidi reserving their judgment, which will now be delivered on Friday.

The state government's counsel contended that the state had the right to appeal under Sections 377 and 378 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which allows the state to challenge inadequate sentences or acquittal orders for serious offenses. The crime in question occurred last August, when Roy was convicted for the rape and murder of a junior doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.



MK Stalin Accuses Centre of Neglecting Tamil Nadu in Union Budget Allocations

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday criticized the Centre for allegedly neglecting the state in the Union Budget, accusing the government of prioritizing BJP-ruled and election-bound states. Stalin expressed his dissatisfaction during a visit to Tirunelveli, a city famous for its sweet halwa, using a Tamil metaphor to describe the Centre's approach. He likened the Centre's treatment of Tamil Nadu to offering "halwa," implying that the state was being deceived with false promises and inadequate financial allocations.

Stalin emphasized that Tamil Nadu, despite its significant contribution to India's economy, has been systematically ignored in financial allocations. He pointed to the aftermath of the devastating floods in December 2023, which severely affected districts like Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Kanyakumari, and Thoothukudi. While two Union Ministers visited the affected regions, Stalin criticized the Centre for providing only a meager Rs 276 crore in aid, a fraction of the Rs 37,907 crore the state had requested. He stated that Tamil Nadu had to approach the court to receive even this minimal assistance.

The Chief Minister also questioned the absence of Tamil Nadu in major budget allocations and criticized the Centre for not announcing special projects for the state. He accused the BJP-led government of focusing on its political interests rather than addressing the concerns of Tamil Nadu. "They visit Tamil Nadu only to seek votes but provide no answers to our issues," he stated. Despite the alleged neglect, Stalin assured that the Tamil Nadu government would continue its development efforts using state resources. He highlighted that the state's Dravidian model of governance has placed Tamil Nadu at the forefront in several national surveys, showcasing the government's commitment to the welfare of its people.

Panama president to US: stop 'lies and falsehoods' about canal

- President Mulino denied US claims that Panama waived tolls for American vessels.
- The Panama Canal Authority confirmed no changes were made to existing fees.
- Tensions rise after Trump suggested the US should "take back" the canal.



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, Rama-

phosa 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.



US Plane with 10 aboard goes missing in Alaska, search on

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A search is currently underway in rural Alaska after a plane carrying 10 people, including the pilot, failed to arrive in Nome as scheduled. According to local media reports, the Bering Air Caravan flight, traveling from Unalakleet to Nome, was reported overdue to Alaska State Troopers around 4 pm local time.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety confirmed the report and stated that the plane's position was lost about 12 miles offshore, while en route from Unalakleet to Nome. The Coast Guard has been alerted and has initiated a search, along with an active ground search effort by the Nome Volunteer Fire Department, which issued a statement on social media.

The US Coast Guard's Alaska maritime division said that the notification for the emergency response was received by the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center at 4:30 pm local time. The aircraft in question was identified as a Cessna Caravan with 10 people onboard.

In the wake of the disappearance, authorities are continuing to search the area, as no additional information has yet been provided on the whereabouts of the plane or its occupants.

In other recent aviation news, a US-contracted surveillance plane crashed in the Philippines on Thursday, killing all four crew members, including one US military personnel, as reported by US Indo-Pacific Command. Additionally, a mid-air collision occurred on January 29 between an American Airlines flight and a Black Hawk helicopter near Washington, D.C., resulting in the deaths of 64 people aboard the airliner.

Relief For Indians In US, Court Blocks Donald Trump's Citizenship Order Indefinitely



TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a significant relief for Indian students and professionals in the United States on visas, a federal judge in Seattle has indefinitely blocked President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at ending birthright citizenship. The order, which sought to deny US citizenship to children born in the US to parents who are not permanent residents, was slammed by US District Judge John Coughenour. The court criticized the order, accusing Trump of attempting to bypass the rule of law for political purposes.

Judge Coughenour issued a preliminary injunction, marking the second major legal defeat for Trump's efforts to alter US immigration law, following a similar ruling by a federal judge in Maryland. The judge remarked that the president's actions were undermining the Constitution, stating, "The rule of law is a bright beacon which I intend to follow." He emphasized that any change to birthright citizenship would require a constitutional amendment, not a presidential order.

The Seattle court's ruling expands a previous short-term block issued by Judge Coughenour shortly after Trump signed the executive order. This nationwide injunction will remain in effect while the legal case progresses. The Justice Department, however, has expressed its intent to appeal the decision, which will likely be taken up by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals and may eventually be heard by the US Supreme Court.



Vandalism and Arson Erupt in Bangladesh as Protesters Target Awami League Leaders

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Protests across Bangladesh have erupted into violent unrest, with demonstrators targeting the homes of leaders from the ruling Awami League (AL) and defacing murals of the nation's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The violence began after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's live online address, where she condemned the ongoing protests.

Protesters set fire to the house of Sheikh Selim, an AL presidium member, in Dhaka's Banani at around 1:30 a.m. on Friday. However, the fire service was delayed in responding due to security concerns, and they did not arrive until 2:45 a.m. This attack followed similar incidents, including the torching of the Dhanmondi-32 residence of Sheikh Mujib, and the ransacking and arson of houses belonging to key AL leaders, such as Obaidul Quader, general secretary of AL, and Shahriar Alam, former state minister for foreign affairs.

The protests intensified across the country, with demonstrators targeting murals and statues of Sheikh Mujib in several districts. In Cumilla,

protesters used bulldozers to demolish two murals of Sheikh Mujib, with one being destroyed at the Cumilla Judge Court and the other at the City Park. In Narayanganj, pro-BNP lawyers similarly demolished murals and a bust of the national leader, as workers were instructed to tear them down with hammers and crowbars.

The protests have a broader political context. The student-led movement, which earlier called for the abolition of Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution, is also demanding an end to the "Mujibist" legacy. These calls have been accompanied by far-right groups suggesting changes to the national anthem and other symbols associated with Sheikh Mujib's post-independence government.

Prime Minister Hasina, who fled the country in August following massive protests that led to the collapse of her 16-year regime, condemned the destruction, stating, "They can demolish a building, but they can't erase history." Amid the unrest, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former officials for alleged crimes against humanity and genocide.



Israel Orders Army To Prepare For Palestinians' "Voluntary" Exit From Gaza

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

US President Donald Trump's proposal to move Palestinians out of Gaza has sparked widespread outrage, with world leaders and international bodies condemning the idea. The proposal, which was first revealed during a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, suggested that Palestinians could leave Gaza and go to any country willing to accept them. The move was immediately met with criticism, particularly from the United Nations, which labeled it as "ethnic cleansing."

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz confirmed that the military had been instructed to prepare a plan for the voluntary departure of Gaza residents, although the execution of such a plan remains uncertain. Katz stated that the Palestinians could relocate to countries that are open to hosting them. The proposal was reportedly devised as part of efforts to ease the impact of the ongoing war in Gaza, which has been severely devastating the region.

Trump doubled down on the idea, claiming that the US could take over Gaza once the fighting concludes, though details on how such a plan would be executed remain scarce. Trump's plan would not require US soldiers, he argued, and claimed it would lead to stability in the region. Israeli leaders, including Netanyahu, praised the idea as "the first original concept" in years and suggested that it was a viable solution for Gaza's future.

However, the plan has drawn strong condemnation from both Palestinians and the international community. Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that controls Gaza, condemned Trump's remarks as "absolutely unacceptable," calling it a declaration of intent to occupy Gaza. Palestinians in Gaza, who have long experienced displacement and hardship, expressed their refusal to leave their homeland, recalling the Nakba, the forced exodus that occurred during the creation of Israel in 1948.



Repo Rate Cut Has Limited Impact, Markets End Lower



Domestic stock markets closed with moderate losses on Friday despite an initial surge following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to cut the repo rate. The indices, which had remained flat due to mixed global cues, reached intraday highs after the RBI's announcement.

However, with US job data awaited and no unexpected policy moves from the central bank, investors booked profits in FMCG, finance, and banking stocks, dragging the indices to intraday lows before a slight recovery reduced losses.

The BSE Sensex, which ended at 78,058 in the previous session, opened at 78,119 and touched an intraday low of 77,475 before climbing to a high of 78,356. It finally closed at 77,860, down by 197 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,649, fluctuated between a low of 23,443 and a high of 23,694 before settling at 23,649, down 43 points. The Nifty Bank index fell 223 points to close at 50,158.

In the Nifty50 index, 28 stocks advanced while 23 declined. The top gainers included Tata Steel, ITC Hotels, Bharti Airtel, JSW Steel, and Trent. Among the worst performers were ITC, SBI, Britannia, Adani Ports, and TCS. Sectorally, banking, finance, FMCG, IT, media, PSU bank, and oil and gas stocks declined, while auto, metal, pharma, healthcare, and consumer durables stocks saw gains.

Market breadth in the NSE favored sellers, with 1,756 stocks declining out of 2,895 traded, while 1,042 advanced. A total of 31 stocks hit a 52-week high, while 69 touched a 52-week low.

RBI Cuts Repo Rate After Five Years

The RBI reduced the repo rate from 6.50% to 6.25%, marking the first rate cut in five years. This move is expected to lower home loan interest rates. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that inflation is gradually coming under control, and India's GDP growth rate for the next year is projected at 6.7%. The rupee appreciated by 15 paise, settling at 87.42 against the US dollar.

Stock Ratings and Earnings Reports

Investment firm Nomura gave SBI a "buy" rating with a target price of ₹1,000, while Jefferies maintained a "hold" rating on BSE with a target price of ₹5,250 and on Trent with a target of ₹5,800.

In corporate earnings, Balrampur Chini reported a 73% decline in net profit to ₹17.35 crore from ₹44.6 crore. Meanwhile, Mazagaon Dock saw a 29% rise in net profit to ₹807 crore from ₹627 crore, and Alkem Laboratories' net profit grew by 5.2% to ₹626 crore from ₹595 crore. On the other hand, Ola Electric's losses widened to ₹564 crore from ₹376 crore. Mahindra & Mahindra posted a 20.8% increase in net profit, rising from ₹2,454 crore to ₹2,964 crore.

Tata Chemicals Shares Drop 4% After Q3FY25 Loss Announcement



Tata Chemicals' shares fell by 4% on Tuesday, February 4, hitting a 52-week low of Rs 906.65 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) following the company's announcement of a net loss of Rs 21 crore for Q3FY25. This marks a sharp decline from the net profit of Rs 194 crore reported in the same quarter last year.

At 09:48 AM, Tata Chemicals shares were trading at Rs 905.40 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The company's disappointing performance in Q3FY25 was largely attributed to lower soda ash prices and a one-time exceptional loss of Rs 70 crore. This loss was linked to employee termination benefits, decommissioning of plant and machinery, and other closure-related expenses following the cessation of soda ash production at the Lostock plant in Northwich, UK.

In addition to the exceptional loss, the company's revenue from operations dropped by 3.8% year-on-year, totaling Rs 3,590 crore compared to Rs 3,730 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal year. The operating margin also saw a contraction, falling to 12.1% in Q3, down from 14.5% in Q3FY24.

Tata Chemicals' financial performance in the latest quarter has raised concerns among investors, contributing to the drop in share prices. The decline in soda ash prices, which directly affects the company's key business segment, combined with the additional expenses from the plant closure, has put pressure on Tata Chemicals' overall profitability.

Looking ahead, investors will be closely monitoring the company's strategy to recover from this setback, particularly in terms of addressing challenges in its soda ash business and navigating the effects of the plant closure. Despite the challenges, Tata Chemicals' long-term outlook will depend on its ability to adapt to these market conditions and regain stability in its revenue and profit margins.

India Remains Net Importer of Steel as Imports Surge 20%



India continued to be a net importer of steel, with inbound shipments rising over 20% during the April-January period of the 2023-24 fiscal year. Official data released on Friday revealed that the country imported 8.29 million tonnes (MT) of steel in this period, up from 6.89 MT in the same period the previous year.

The data shows a year-on-year growth of 20.3% in finished steel imports, underscoring India's growing reliance on steel imports to meet domestic demand. Steel industry players, particularly those in the stainless steel sector, have repeatedly raised concerns over the rising volume of imports, especially from a select group of countries, including China. These increasing imports are reportedly affecting the competitiveness of India's steel manufacturers, who are facing challenges from the cheaper steel flooding the market.

The growing influx of imported steel has sparked debates within the industry, with domestic producers pushing for government intervention to address the issue. They argue that the surge in imported steel

not only undermines the competitiveness of local producers but also puts pressure on domestic prices, making it difficult for Indian manufacturers to maintain profitability. Additionally, the increasing volume of steel imports could have broader implications for the local economy, including job security within the steel production sector.

While the Indian government has taken steps in the past to safeguard local industries through anti-dumping duties and import tariffs, the steel sector continues to grapple with the issue of rising imports. The government's response and any potential future policies aimed at curbing steel imports will be closely monitored by industry stakeholders, as they seek measures that can support the growth and sustainability of domestic production.

In summary, India's role as a net importer of steel continues to expand, with imports from countries like China posing a significant challenge to the domestic steel industry. Industry players are calling for more stringent measures to protect local producers from the influx of cheaper foreign steel.

Infosys Faces Backlash Over Layoffs of 700 Freshers at Mysuru Campus



Infosys has come under fire after nearly 700 freshers were reportedly laid off from its Mysuru campus, as claimed by the IT employees' union, Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES). The union alleges that the fresh recruits were terminated only a few months after being on-boarded, which has sparked controversy regarding the company's practices.

According to NITES, these freshers were reportedly forced to sign confidentiality agreements as part of the termination process, potentially to suppress details about the layoffs. The union also raised concerns about the company's alleged use of "bouncers and security per-

sonnel" during the termination process, which they believe was intended to intimidate employees and prevent them from documenting the incident or seeking help. Harpreet Singh Saluja, president of NITES, expressed shock over the layoffs, calling the move unethical and forceful. He criticized Infosys for its treatment of employees, especially given that they had been recently hired and were not given enough time to prove themselves in the company.

However, Infosys has defended its actions, stating that the terminated freshers failed to clear the internal assessments they were required to take as part of the onboarding process. According to the

company, all new employees are given three attempts to clear these assessments, and failure to do so results in termination, which has been part of the company's policy for over two decades.

NITES has expressed its dissatisfaction with the way Infosys handled the layoffs and announced that it would be filing an official complaint with the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The union is calling for immediate intervention and strict action to protect the rights of Indian IT workers.

As the dispute escalates, the handling of layoffs in the Indian IT sector continues to raise questions about job security and the ethical treatment of employees.

REUTERS

UK Firm Launches 'World's First Cruelty-Free' Dog Bites Made Of Cultivated Chicken



A groundbreaking innovation has arrived in the UK with the launch of lab-grown meat dog treats, marking a world-first for the pet food industry. Chick Bites, created by the collaboration between Meatly and Pets at Home, combines plant-based ingredients with cultivated chicken. These revolutionary dog treats will initially be available in limited quantities at a single pet store, with plans for wider availability as production scales up. Meatly, the company responsible for creating the lab-grown chicken, uses a process that involves a single chicken egg cell sample, allowing for the sustainable production of meat indefinitely. The cultivated chicken preserves the

flavor and nutritional benefits of traditional chicken breast, offering essential amino acids, fatty acids, minerals, and vitamins crucial for pet health. This innovative approach eliminates the need for animal slaughter, aligning with the growing demand for ethical and sustainable food options. The UK became the first European country to approve the use of cultivated meat in pet food, receiving approval from both the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Animal and Plant Health Agency. As a result, Pets at Home claims to be the first company globally to offer lab-grown meat for pet food, highlighting their commitment to pioneering sustainable and

ethical pet care solutions. Owen Ensor, founder and CEO of Meatly, expressed excitement over the milestone, stating, "Just two years ago, this felt like a moonshot. Today, we take off. It's a giant leap forward towards a healthier, more sustainable meat market that's kind to our planet and animals." Anja Madsen, COO of Pets at Home, shared similar enthusiasm, emphasizing the potential of this innovation to drastically reduce the environmental impact of pet food production. With this launch, the pet food industry is set to experience a major shift, opening the door to a more sustainable, ethical future for our pets and the planet.

Apple iPhone SE 4 Launch Imminent, Will Go on Sale Later in February

Apple's highly anticipated iPhone SE 4 is expected to be launched in the coming days, with the device potentially going on sale later this month, according to a report from Bloomberg. The iPhone SE series has been a popular budget option since its first release in 2016, and the upcoming fourth-generation model is set to bring significant design and feature upgrades.



The iPhone SE 4 is expected to resemble the iPhone 14, departing from the previous models with its smaller 4.7-inch LCD screen. The new device is rumored to feature a larger 6.1-inch OLED display, offering better color contrast and sharper visuals. Notably, the home button and Touch ID will be removed, with Apple adopting gesture-based navigation and Face ID for enhanced security.

Another major change for

the iPhone SE 4 is the shift from Apple's traditional Lightning port to a USB Type-C port, aligning with the company's move toward standardizing USB Type-C across all devices. The new phone is also expected to include Apple's first-generation modem, which is designed to replace the Qualcomm component currently used in iPhones, and provide enhanced connectivity.

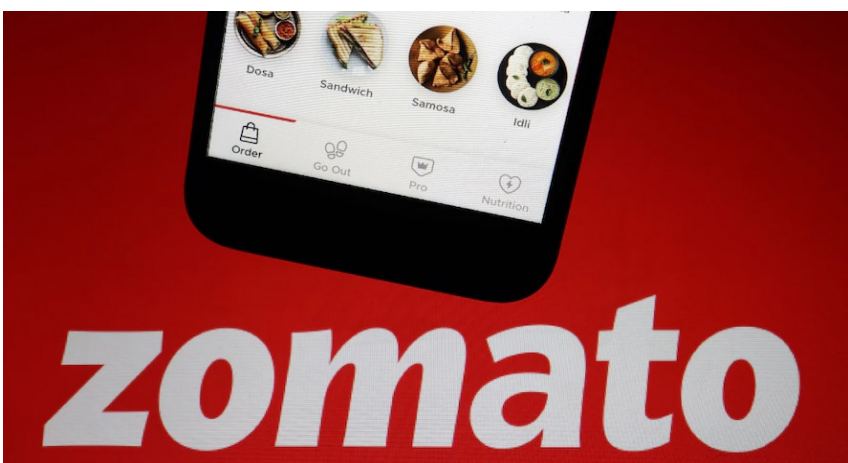
Powering the iPhone SE 4 will be a chip as advanced as

the A18 chip, featured in the upcoming iPhone 16, paired with 8GB of RAM. This hardware upgrade will enable improved performance and support for Apple Intelligence features, which could offer smarter capabilities for users.

The iPhone SE 4 is expected to be announced soon, possibly via a release on Apple's website instead of a formal launch event. While its predecessor, the iPhone SE 2022, was unveiled at Apple's "Peak Performance" event in March 2022, this new model is likely to arrive at a higher price point than the 2022 version, which started at Rs. 43,900 for the base 64GB variant.

With these exciting upgrades, the iPhone SE 4 is poised to become a compelling option for consumers seeking a powerful device with the latest technology at a more affordable price.

Zomato Rebrands to "Eternal" as It Expands Beyond Food Delivery



Indian food delivery and grocery platform Zomato announced on Thursday that it would be renaming the company to "Eternal" and unveiling a new logo. This decision follows over two years of using the name internally and comes as the company diversifies its business beyond food delivery. The rebranding reflects the company's broadening scope, which now includes four key business sectors. Alongside its original food delivery service, Zomato now operates the

quick-commerce service Blinkit, the live events business District, and kitchen supplies unit Hyperpure. Founder Deepinder Goyal shared in a letter to shareholders that the company felt it was time to publicly rebrand after these new ventures became significant drivers of its future. "We thought of publicly renaming the company when something beyond Zomato became a significant driver of our future," Goyal explained. He also mentioned that with Blinkit's suc-

cess, the company has officially reached this point of transformation.

The shift marks a significant change from just a few years ago when investors were initially skeptical about Zomato's acquisition of Blinkit in 2022. Since then, however, the quick-commerce sector has seen rapid growth, especially with Blinkit and Swiggy's Instamart leading the charge. These platforms have reshaped consumer shopping habits in India, prompting major retailers like Reliance Industries' JioMart and international giants Amazon and Walmart to launch their own quick-commerce services to compete.

The rebranding to Eternal highlights Zomato's evolution from a food delivery app to a multi-faceted business with a strong foothold in the fast-growing quick-commerce sector, signaling the company's forward-looking vision and its commitment to expansion across various industries.

World's First Kangaroo Embryos Created via IVF

In a significant step for conservation science, researchers have successfully created the first kangaroo embryos through in vitro fertilisation (IVF), a breakthrough that could prove crucial in saving endangered marsupial species. The study, led by the University of Queensland in Australia, highlights the potential of assisted reproduction techniques for the conservation of native marsupials, with an emphasis on protecting species like koalas, Tasmanian devils, and Leadbeater's possums.



Published in the journal *Reproductive, Fertility and Development*, the research demonstrates the successful development of kangaroo embryos, opening doors for the use of IVF in preserving the genetic material of these iconic Australian animals. Lead researcher Andres Gambini, a senior lecturer in animal science at the University of Queensland, explained that the ultimate goal is to develop preservation methods to safeguard endangered marsupial species. "Our focus is on ensuring the survival of these unique species by developing techniques that will allow us to store their genetic material

for future conservation efforts," Gambini said. IVF technology has been gaining traction in the global effort to conserve endangered species. In January 2024, scientists in Germany successfully transferred a rhino embryo into a surrogate, marking the world's first IVF rhino birth. In the kangaroo study, researchers used eastern grey kangaroos, a species that is overabundant, to test and refine IVF methods. They cultured 32 ovarian follicles from a single female kangaroo, with 78 percent of the follicles showing some growth and 12 percent doubling in size. The embryos were cre-

ated through a technique called intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), where a sperm is injected directly into a mature egg. Although the timeline for successful marsupial births through IVF remains uncertain, Gambini expressed optimism about the future. "With continued collaboration, funding, and technological advancements, we hope to see the birth of a marsupial through IVF within the next decade," he said. This groundbreaking achievement brings new hope for the future of marsupial conservation and the preservation of Australia's endangered wildlife. people.

Dr. James Advocates for Rethinking Hygiene Routines: Is Daily Showering Necessary?

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logical advancements, we hope to see the birth of a marsupial through IVF within the next decade," he said.

This groundbreaking achievement brings new hope for the future of marsupial conservation and the preservation of Australia's endangered wildlife.

BCCI Rewards Rohit Sharma-Led T20 World Cup Winners With Diamond-Studded Rings



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has honored the Rohit Sharma-led Indian T20 World Cup-winning team with personalized diamond-studded rings to commemorate their historic victory. The team, which went unbeaten in the 2024 T20 World Cup, received the prestigious rings during the Naman Awards 2025 in Mumbai last week.

Taking inspiration from NBA and NFL traditions, BCCI's specially designed "Champions" rings feature each player's name and jersey number, along with an Ashok Chakra embedded on top. The

rings also highlight India's dominant campaign, showcasing the win margins of every match. BCCI announced the recognition with a heartfelt message: "Diamonds may be forever, but this win is immortalized in a billion hearts. These memories will 'Ring' loud and live with us forever."

India lifted the T20 World Cup title in Barbados after defeating South Africa in a thrilling final. The Proteas, at one stage, needed just 30 runs off 30 balls, but India's bowlers delivered a stunning comeback.

The victory marked India's first ICC trophy since

the 2013 Champions Trophy and led to emotional farewells from key players. Following the win, captain Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli announced their retirements from T20Is, with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja joining them the next day.

"This was my last T20 World Cup, and this is what we wanted to achieve," said Virat Kohli. "It was now or never, and I wanted to lift the cup." Rohit Sharma echoed the sentiment, saying, "No better time to say goodbye. This was my last T20I game, and I desperately wanted this title."

Carlos Alcaraz Dominates, Stefanos Tsitsipas Battles Through to Rotterdam Quarter-Finals



World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz stormed into the quarter-finals of the Rotterdam Open with a commanding straight-sets victory over Italian qualifier Andrea Vavassori on Thursday. The top-seeded Spaniard dominated the match, securing a 6-2, 6-1 win in just over an hour.

"I had no ups and downs today, which is something I've been working on," Alcaraz stated after his victory. Playing with a breathing aid as he recovers from illness, the 20-year-old star showed no signs of weakness, breaking his opponent early in both sets. He wrapped up the match with a powerful forehand

winner, ensuring his spot in the next round.

In contrast, Stefanos Tsitsipas endured a grueling three-hour battle against Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor, ultimately winning 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 after saving a match point. "I feel like I played for 10 hours today," Tsitsipas joked post-match.

Alcaraz will now face Pedro Martinez, who stunned Danish fifth seed Holger Rune 6-4, 6-1, while Tsitsipas is set for a showdown against Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci, who earlier shocked Daniil Medvedev. Elsewhere, Alex de Minaur advanced by defeating Jakub Mensik 6-4, 6-4, keeping his title hopes alive.

Steve Smith Equals Rahul Dravid, Joe Root in Elite Test Century List



Australian batting stalwart Steve Smith has etched his name among cricket's greatest by registering his 36th Test century on Day 2 of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Friday. With this milestone, Smith has equaled the legendary Rahul Dravid and England's Joe Root, making him the joint-fifth highest century-maker in Test history. Leading Australia in the absence of Pat Cummins, Smith delivered a captain's knock after Australia suffered early blows. Walking in at 37/2, Smith held firm, showcasing resilience despite early pressure.

He navigated through a close lbw appeal on his first delivery and steadily built his innings. Smith formed crucial partnerships—first with Usman Khawaja (36) and later a century stand with Alex Carey, which solidified Australia's dominance. His fifty came off 98 balls, executed with finesse through classical stroke play. As the innings progressed, Smith looked in total control, dispatching boundaries with elegant cover drives and tactical strike rotation. His moment of glory arrived when he pulled Kamindu Mendis for a boundary, securing his second

consecutive century in the series following his 141 in the first Test. Smith Surpasses Ponting in Asia In addition to his century, Smith surpassed Ricky Ponting to become Australia's highest Test run-scorer in Asia, crossing Ponting's tally of 1,889 runs. Just a day earlier, Smith had broken Ponting's record for the most Test catches (197) by an Australian outfielder. Smith's latest feat cements his place as one of the most prolific Test batters in history, further strengthening Australia's position in the Test series against Sri Lanka.

Lovlina Borgohain Clinches Gold, Shiva Thapa Settles for Silver at National Games

Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain bagged gold in the women's 75kg category, while six-time Asian champion Shiva Thapa settled for silver in the men's 63.5kg division at the National Games on Friday.

Lovlina, representing Assam, dominated her younger opponent Pranshu Rathore from Chandigarh, winning convincingly 5-0 across all three rounds. This victory marks her first major competition since the Paris Olympics, reaffirming her dominance in the ring.

In the men's light welterweight (63.5kg) final, Shiva Thapa faced a tough battle against Services Sports Control Board boxer Vanshaj, narrowly losing 3-4 in a close encounter.

The day saw several other notable performances:

- Mandengbam Singh (Services) defeated Anshul Punia (Chandigarh) in the men's flyweight (51kg) category with a 4-1 split decision.
- Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (Services) dominated World Championship bronze-winner Manisha Moun (Haryana) in the women's 60kg event, securing a 5-0 win.



- Sakshi (Services) outclassed Vinakshi (Himachal Pradesh) 5-0 to grab gold.
- Divya Panwar (Madhya Pradesh) defeated Sonia Lather (Uttar Pradesh) 4-1 in the women's bantamweight category.
- Nivedita Karki (Uttarakhand) showcased agility and precision, overpowering Kalpana (Haryana) to clinch gold in the women's flyweight (50kg) category.
- Additionally, former youth world champion Ankushita Boro (Assam) secured gold in the women's welterweight (66kg) category, defeating

FIFA Suspends Pakistan Football Federation Over Constitutional Amendments

The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has been suspended by FIFA after failing to implement the necessary constitutional amendments mandated by the world football governing body. The suspension will remain in place until the PFF congress enacts the required changes to ensure transparent governance of the sport in the country. Pakistan football has been overseen by a FIFA-appointed Normalisation Committee (NC) since June 2019, with a mandate to conduct elections and resolve internal disputes. How-

ever, repeated failures in executing these reforms, along with conflicts between the NC and the state-run Pakistan Sports Board, have led to continued administrative deadlock. PFF Normalisation Committee chairman Haroon Malik had earlier warned that February 15 would be the final day of his tenure and that Pakistan risked suspension if the amendments were not made. He clarified that his role was not to contest elections but to oversee the reforms necessary for fair governance.

Despite repeated interventions, the PFF Congress has remained resistant to making the amendments, leading to FIFA's decision. This marks Pakistan Football Federation's third suspension since 2017, reflecting ongoing governance issues that continue to plague the sport in the country.

Pakistan now faces an uncertain footballing future, with domestic and international football activities put on hold until FIFA's requirements are met.





“Pattudala” Movie Review: A Lackluster Thriller That Fails to Impress

The much-anticipated film Pattudala, starring Ajith Kumar and Trisha Krishnan, has hit theaters with minimal publicity. Originally released in Tamil as Vidaa Muyarchi, the film has been dubbed into Telugu but failed to generate significant buzz. Directed by Magizh Thirumeni and produced by Lyca Productions, the movie takes audiences on a road trip-based thriller with a mix of action and drama.

Plot Overview

Set in Azerbaijan, the story revolves around Arjun (Ajith Kumar) and Kayal (Trisha), a married couple on the verge of separation after 12 years of marriage. Before officially divorcing, they decide to embark on one last road trip together. However, their journey takes an unexpected turn when their car breaks down, leading to Kayal's encounter with mysterious individuals, Rakshit (Arjun Sarja) and Deepika (Regina Cassandra). The film unfolds as Arjun searches for Kayal and faces unforeseen dangers.

Analysis

The movie suffers from a lack of gripping narrative and engaging screenplay. The road-trip thriller theme feels repetitive, failing to deliver the necessary suspense.



The pacing, particularly in the second half, tests the audience's patience. Even the emotional depth between Ajith and Trisha's characters lacks impact. Ajith's restrained performance may not sit well with his mass-action hero image.

Verdict

With weak storytelling and uninspiring execution, Pattudala turns out to be a disappointment. Despite its star cast, the film fails to engage audiences.

Rating: 2/5

“Thandel” Movie Review: A Gripping Tale of Love, Survival, and Patriotism

Telugu cinema has often explored real-life events, and Thandel is the latest addition to that list. Directed by Chandu Mondeti and produced by Bunny Vasu under the Geetha Arts banner, the film stars Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi in lead roles. With music by Devi Sri Prasad, the film hit theaters today, carrying strong emotions, thrilling sequences, and a powerful patriotic message.

Plot Summary

Set in a fishing village in Sri-kakulam, Thandel follows the story of Raju (Naga Chaitanya), a leader among the local fishermen. He is in love with Satya (Sai Pallavi), a young woman who fears for his safety whenever he ventures into



the sea. One such trip turns into a nightmare when Raju and his crew mistakenly enter Pakistani waters, leading to their arrest. The story then

follows Satya's relentless fight to bring Raju back, highlighting the struggles, sacrifices, and emotional turmoil of families affected by such incidents.

Analysis

The film successfully blends romance, emotion, and patriotism. The first half focuses on the love story, while the second half shifts into a gripping survival drama. The screenplay maintains an engaging pace, making the audience feel the emotional weight of the situation. Sai Pallavi delivers a compelling performance, while Naga Chaitanya excels in emotional scenes.

Verdict

Thandel is a heartfelt film that combines romance, action, and patriotism. With strong performances and a well-crafted narrative, it is a must-watch.

Rating: 3/5

Megastar Chiranjeevi to Grace 'Laila' Pre-Release Event



- Tollywood's young actor Vishwak Sen and director Ram Narayan are coming together for the film Laila, set to release on February 14, coinciding with Valentine's Day. In this movie, Vishwak Sen will be seen in a lady getup for the first time, creating excitement among fans.
- As part of promotions, the makers are gearing up for a grand pre-release event, and reports suggested that Megastar Chiranjeevi will be the chief guest. Adding weight to these speculations, Vishwak Sen confirmed the news through an Instagram post, which has now gone viral.
- Producer Sahu Garapati and Vishwak Sen personally visited Chiranjeevi's residence to invite him to the event. The Megastar graciously accepted the invitation, and a picture of the meeting was

shared by Vishwak on social media.

- Expressing gratitude, Vishwak wrote, "Thank you, Megastar Chiranjeevi Garu, for always supporting us unconditionally." The confirmation has heightened excitement for the film's pre-release celebrations.
- 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.

Bollywood Star to Share Screen with Prabhas in Fauji



Prabhas, one of Indian cinema's biggest stars, is currently working on multiple high-profile projects. Following the success of Kalki 2898 AD, he has now begun filming Fauji, a war drama directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. The latest buzz suggests that a renowned Bollywood actor has joined the project, further raising anticipation among fans. According to reports, veteran actor Anupam Kher has been roped in for a crucial role in the film, marking his third Telugu project after Karthikeya 2 and Tiger Nageswara Rao. However, the makers have yet to officially confirm this news. The film is currently being shot at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad.

Prabhas as an Army Officer

In Fauji, Prabhas will portray an army officer in a high-intensity action drama. Produced on a grand scale by UV Creations, the film promises powerful storytelling and breathtaking visuals.

Production and Cast

The movie is being backed by Mythri Movie Makers, with Imavi as the female lead opposite Prabhas. Vishal Chandrasekhar is composing the music, while Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is handling the editing, and Sudeep Chatterjee is in charge of cinematography. Alongside Fauji, Prabhas is also working on The Raja Saab, a horror-comedy directed by Maruthi Dasari.

ICC Unveils Official Song for Champions Trophy 2025

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially released the Men's Champions Trophy 2025 anthem titled "Jeeto Baazi Khel Ke", performed by renowned Pakistani singer Atif Aslam. With just 12 days to go until the high-stakes tournament kicks off on February 19, the release of the song aims to build further excitement for the 15-match event taking place in Pakistan and the UAE. The official song is produced by Abdullah Siddiqui, with lyrics penned by Adnan Dhool and Asfandyar Asad. The accompanying music video captures the vibrant culture of Pakistan, highlighting the love for cricket that unites people from the streets to the stadiums. Fans can stream the song across popular audio platforms worldwide. Excitement Builds for Champions Trophy 2025

The two-week tournament will witness eight of the world's top teams battling across 15 intense matches, with every game crucial in the pursuit of the prestigious Champions Trophy.

Atif Aslam, sharing his excitement, said:

"I have always been passionate about cricket and dreamed of being a fast bowler. I understand the adrenaline rush of the fans, especially during high-stakes matches like India vs. Pakistan. It's an honor to be part of this global event's official song."

ICC Chief Commercial Officer Anurag Dahiya expressed enthusiasm for the launch, stating, "The song celebrates Pakistan's



identity and builds excitement for the Champions Trophy. We encourage fans to secure their tickets before they sell out."

Stadiums to Buzz with Energy Sumair Ahmad Syed, ICC Champions Trophy 2025 Tournament Director and PCB Chief Operating Officer, called it a "thrilling milestone" and praised Atif Aslam for delivering another cricket anthem. He expressed confidence that the song would ignite fan enthusiasm, especially in Pakistan, where the tournament will see packed stadiums.

Ticket sales remain open for all matches, with Final tickets set to be available after the first semi-final in Dubai. The grand finale is scheduled for March 9, 2025.