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**Utilise Funds in 40 Days, CM Revanth Directs Officials: P8**

**TGSRTC set to soon introduce digital payment process: P2**

**KTR urges T'gana HC to quash pending cases against him: P8**



### Brief Insights

**Vijender Gupta to be Delhi assembly Speaker**



Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vijender Gupta is likely to be appointed as Speaker of the Delhi Assembly while Mohan Singh Bisht is likely to be the deputy speaker, according to sources. Vijender Gupta, who was the Leader of Opposition in the assembly, is MLA of Rohini. He won the assembly constituency with a margin of more than 37 thousand votes, beating Aam Aadmi Party's Pradeep Mittal. Gupta has been the president of Delhi BJP too, along with a Delhi Development Authority member, and a former chairman of MCD's standing committee.

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**NIA Arrests 3 More Accused in Visakhapatnam Espionage Case**



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) with the assistance of local police arrested three more accused in the Pakistani ISI-linked Visakhapatnam espionage case involving sensitive and classified Naval defence information. While Vethan Laxman Tandel and Akshay Ravi Naik were picked up from Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka, Abhilash P.A was arrested from Kochi in Kerala. With these, the total arrests in the case have gone up to eight. All the three accused persons arrested were found to have been in contact with Pakistan Intelligence Operatives (PIOs) through social media.

CONTINUE:P4

## Rupee Rises 33 Paise on Strong Dollar Inflows

New delhi WUT | Feb . 21

The Indian rupee saw a relief rally, settling at a one-week high on Thursday, tracking the Chinese yuan and dollar sales from foreign banks. Traders noted an inflow of approximately \$1 billion from a block deal related to HDFC

Bank, which supported the rupee's appreciation. Adding to the positive sentiment was data showing that the rupee's 40-currency Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) eased to 104.83 in January 2025, down from a high of 108.30 in November and 107.20 in December 2024. This decline signals a re-



duction in the currency's overvaluation. Analysts also believe that the reciprocal tariffs set to be imposed by President Trump are unlikely to significantly impact India's

exports, except for trade in petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals, which together constitute only one-fifth of total exports. Furthermore, the implementation of these tariffs is expected to be a gradual, multi-step process. Anil Bhansali, Head of Treasury at Finrex Treasury Advisors, stated, "Foreign

banks were sellers for custodian banks, possibly for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) buying equity and debt. A few exporters, who were unable to sell at higher levels, also sold dollars, bringing the dollar-rupee down to 86.58, while it closed at 86.66 from Tuesday's closing of 86.95."



## Trump says unfair to US if Musk builds Tesla factory in India

U.S. President Donald Trump has said that if Tesla were to build a factory in India to circumvent that country's tariffs, it would be "unfair" to the U.S., in an interview with Fox News which aired on Tuesday. Trump called out India's high duty on cars during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last week, but agreed to work towards an early trade deal and resolve their standoff over tariffs.

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk has long criticised India for having import tariffs of around 100% on EVs which protect local automakers such as Tata Motors in the world's third largest auto market, where EV adoption is still at a nascent stage. Trump said it is "impossible" for Musk to sell a car in the South Asian nation. "Every country in the world takes advantage of us, and they do it with tariffs... It is impossible to sell a car, practically, in, as an example, India," he said. India's government in March unveiled a new EV policy lowering import taxes substantially to 15% if a carmaker invests at least \$500 million and sets up a factory.

## Rekha Gupta sworn in as Delhi CM

Women in Delhi to get Rs 2,500 monthly aid by March 8: CM-designate Rekha Gupta

New delhi WUT | Feb . 21

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Rekha Gupta was on Thursday sworn-in as Delhi Chief Minister in a grand ceremony at Ram-lila Maidan. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena administered the oath of office to Rekha Gupta and her council of ministers in the ceremony. Six other ministers, including Parvesh Sahib



Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra, and Pankaj Kumar Singh, also took the oath.

Bharatiya Janata Party's top leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister JP Nadda, and

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, were present on the occasion. Multiple party leaders, including union ministers and CMs of neighbouring

states, were present to attend the ceremony. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Bihar Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha, Rajasthan Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu and other leaders were also present.

CONTINUE:P4

## UP government presents Rs 8.09 lakh crore budget, largest in state history

LUCKNOW WUT | Feb . 21

Aiming for a trillion-dollar state economy, the Yogi government 2.0 presented its fourth annual budget (2025-2026) of Rs 8.09 lakh crore, the largest in the state's history.

Overall, it was the ninth budget presented under the current government, which has been in power since 2017, and the second-last of Yogi 2.0 before the 2027 state assembly polls.

Presenting the annual budget for the financial year 2025-26 in the Assembly on Thursday, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister



Suresh Khanna described it as a significant step towards the state's economic growth and social welfare.

"This budget is 9.8 per cent higher than the 2024-25 budget, meant to accelerate UP's economic growth. The budget has been designed with a focus on strengthening the

state's economy, boosting industrial and infrastructural development, creating employment opportunities, expanding the horizon of education, and also making the state an Artificial Intelligence hub by establishing an Artificial Intelligence City," said the minister.

CONTINUE:P4

## Over 50 lakh Nepali devotees take holy dip



Over 50 lakh devotees from Maa Janaki's birthplace Nepal have taken a holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, an official statement said. The Maha Kumbh celebrations have sparked immense enthusiasm in Nepal with devotees from the neighbouring country bringing holy 'akshat' (rice) and other sacred offerings from Janakpur, Maa Sita's birthplace and the in-laws' place of Lord

CONTINUE:P4

## Trump warns Zelensky to settle war or risk losing Ukraine

Maimi WUT | Feb . 21

President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that he "better move fast" to negotiate an end to Russia's invasion of Ukraine or risk not having a nation to lead. The rhetoric from Trump toward Ukraine comes amid an escalating back-and-forth between the two presidents and rising tensions between Washington and much of Europe over Trump's approach to settling the biggest conflict on the continent since World War II. Trump's harsh



words for Zelensky drew criticism from Democrats and even some Republicans in the United States, where Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression has had bipartisan support. Zelensky said Trump was falling into a Russian disinformation trap — and was quickly admonished by Vice President JD Vance about the perils of publicly criticizing the new president.

Trump, who is trying to bring the fighting to a close on terms that Kyiv says are too favorable to Moscow, used an extended social media post on his Truth Social platform to lash out at Zelensky and call the Ukrainian a "dictator without elections." "Think of it, a modestly successful comedian, Volodymyr Zelensky, talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion Dollars, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and "TRUMP," will never

CONTINUE:P4

## SC stays Lokpal order to probe HC judges

New delhi WUT | Feb . 21

The Supreme Court on Thursday sent notice to the Centre in a suo motu case against a Lokpal order which held that it can extend its jurisdiction over High Court judges. A bench of Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Abhay S Oka of the top court rejected Lokpal's reasoning and stayed the execution of the order. Moreover, the apex court sent notices to Registrar General of the Lokpal and the complainant.

The Lokpal passed the order on two complaints filed against a sitting additional judge of the high court, alleging that he influenced an additional district judge in the state, and a judge of the same high court who had to deal with

the suit filed against the complainant by a private company, to favour that company.

It has been alleged that the private company was earlier a client of the named high court Judge, while he was practising as an advocate at the Bar.

In its order, the Lokpal had directed that subject complaints and relevant materials received in the registry in these two matters be forwarded to the office of the Chief Justice of India for his kind consideration.

"Awaiting the guidance of the Chief Justice of India, consideration of these complaints, for the time being, is deferred until four weeks from today, keeping in mind the statutory time frame to dispose of the complaint in terms of Section 20 (4) of the Act of 2013."

## MUDA scam case: Karnataka Lokayukta submits interim B Report

Bengaluru WUT | Feb . 21

Karnataka Lokayukta SP Udesch submitted an interim 8,000-page B Report on Thursday in connection with the MUDA scam case. According to officials, Lokayukta personnel reached the People's Representative Court in Bengaluru carrying four bags containing 27 volumes of documents related to the MUDA inquiry. Speaking on the development, Lokayukta SP Udesch said, "The investigation is progressing as per procedure. The documents submitted form a crucial part of the enquiry."

Earlier, the Karnataka Lokayukta Police issued a notice to complainant



Snehamayi Krishna stating that the allegations in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam case could not be substantiated due to a lack of evidence. According to the notice, Snehamayi Krishna's complaint invoked multiple legal provisions, including the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act, and the Karnataka Land Acquisition Act.

However, after reviewing the evidence, the Lokayukta concluded that the allegations against the four accused individuals were either civil in nature, outside the scope of a criminal investigation, or based on misinterpretations of legal provisions. The notice, issued by Lokayukta SP Udesch, declares the case "not actionable," leading to the submission of a final report to the competent court. Reacting to the Notice, Snehamayi Krishna strongly criticised the Lokayukta, accusing it of shielding political leaders and vowing to challenge the report in court. "It is proven what I doubted about Lokayukta.

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Elderly woman in Bhatti's constituency seeks justice or permission to die



An elderly woman in Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's constituency in Madhira sought revenue officials to either return her encroached land or give her permission to die.

It was said that the 85-year-old woman, Kanakapudi Karunamma of Dendukuru village in Madhira mandal owned a piece of land at the village. Her land was allegedly encroached by some individuals and she approached the local tahsildar's office several times in the past seeking to free her land from the encroachment and return it to her, but in vain.

Vexed at the revenue officials' alleged negligence in protecting her land, the woman staged a protest in front of Madhira tahsildar's office on Thursday. She alleged that some local Congress leaders were protecting those who encroached her land. The local CPI (M) leaders extended support to her and demanded the tahsildar to do justice to the woman.

The tahsildar, Rallabandi Rambabu told the leaders not to create any commotion over the land issue. A couple of days ago, notices were issued to those who occupied the land and they were given time to submit documents, if they have any, by Saturday.

After verifying the land documents whoever was eligible would be given that land, the tahsildar said.

# Congress Government Blind to AP's Water Theft": Harish Rao

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Former Minister Harish Rao has accused the Congress government of turning a blind eye while Andhra Pradesh (AP) illegally diverts Krishna River water, leaving Telangana's farmers in distress. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, he criticized the state government for failing to act against this injustice, even as crops dry up and drinking water shortages loom.

According to Rao, AP has been diverting 10,000 cusecs of water daily from the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Canal, with 60 TMC allegedly transferred in the last 25 days. Despite Telangana's rightful share, AP has exceeded its allocation of 512 TMC, already drawing 657 TMC. He condemned the Congress government for staying silent while irrigation and drinking water needs remain unmet. Crops across 6.38 lakh



acres under the Sagar Left Canal are withering due to the lack of 30-35 TMC of required water. Farmers in Nalgonda, Suryapet, and Kham-

mam districts are facing severe shortages, while drinking water supply for Khammam, Mahabubabad, and Hyderabad is also under threat.

Harish Rao stated that under BRS rule, Telangana's water rights were protected, but the current Congress government has failed to act.

He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of lacking the courage to question AP CM Chandrababu Naidu or pressure the Centre for intervention. He demanded an immediate halt to illegal water diversion from the Sagar Right Canal, Pothireddy Padu, and Muchumarric canals and urged the government to take the issue to the Union Jal Shakti Minister.

BRS leader K. Kavitha also extended her support to farmers, stating

that the Congress government's failure has put Telangana's agricultural sector at risk. She warned that if the state government remains inactive, BRS leaders and farmers will stage a massive dharna in front of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) office. Both Rao and Kavitha held Congress responsible for Telangana's worsening water crisis and called for immediate intervention before the situation spirals out of control.

## Telangana Govt Issues Early Orders for Ramzan Arrangements, Shabbir Ali Expresses Gratitude

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Advisor to the Telangana Government (SC, ST, OBC & Minorities) Mohammed Ali Shabbir has thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for issuing early orders to district collectors for making necessary arrangements for the holy month of Ramzan and Eid-ul-Fitr. He said the move has brought much relief, as the orders were issued more than two weeks in advance, allowing sufficient time for planning and implementation. Shabbir Ali had earlier written to Chief Secretary A. Shanthi Kumari, urging the government to direct district collectors to convene review meetings to ensure smooth



observance of Ramzan across the state. Following his request, the General Administration Department issued a memo to all district collectors, instructing them to hold meetings with officials from various departments, including municipal administration, revenue, panchayat raj, medical, police, and power supply, to make necessary arrangements. Additionally, the Labour De-

partment issued a separate order exempting shops and establishments across Telangana from certain provisions of the Telangana Shops and Establishment Act, 1988, allowing them to operate 24/7 from March 2 to March 31, 2025, for the convenience of the public during the holy month. The order mandates overtime wages for employees working beyond regular hours and ensures compensatory holidays for those working on designated off days.

Expressing gratitude to the state government, Shabbir Ali said, "Issuing these orders in advance reflects the government's commitment to ensuring a hassle-free Ramzan for the people of Telangana. This timely action will help in better coordination of

civic amenities, security, and other essential services, benefiting the entire community."

He further urged officials to prioritise infrastructure upgrades at key religious sites, including Mecca Masjid and Royal Mosque, by replacing worn-out carpets and ensuring the functionality of CCTV cameras for enhanced security. Shabbir Ali reiterated that the state government should ensure proper sanitation, uninterrupted water and power supply, and law-and-order arrangements to facilitate smooth fasting and prayers. He assured that he would continue to monitor the preparations to ensure effective implementation of the directives. rewirtethisnews-format

## MLA Vemula Slams Revanth Reddy Government Over LRS

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Feb . 21



Former Minister and MLA Vemula has accused the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government of repeatedly breaking promises made to the people. Speaking on the controversial Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS), he alleged that the government is now burdening the public with hefty charges after initially avoiding it due to pressure from the BRS party's past struggles. "The Congress government is resorting to extortion in the name of

plans to collect nearly ₹1 lakh per plot under LRS. With around 25 lakh applications for regularization, an equal number of people will be affected. "We demand that the Congress government honor its election promise and implement LRS free of cost without imposing any financial burden on the people," he stated. He also challenged key Congress leaders, including CM Revanth Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Seethakka, Komatireddy, and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, to resign if they fail to implement LRS without

## Uttam Kumar Reddy accuses BRS of spreading falsehoods to defame Congress government

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy accused BRS leaders of spreading falsehoods to defame the Congress government, calling his allegations a desperate attempt to mislead the public. He also blamed the previous BRS government for failing to protect Telangana's water rights and causing massive financial and structural damage to the irrigation sector.

Addressing a press conference at Jala Soudha on Thursday, along with Ministers Komatireddy Venkatreddy and Ponnampallabharathi, Uttam Kumar Reddy ridiculed BRS leaders' criticism of the Congress government. He said, "BRS leaders are repeatedly lying to cover up the



claim that only one pillar collapsed." Uttam Kumar Reddy revealed that the BRS government spent Rs 1.81 lakh crore on irrigation projects but failed to achieve significant ayacut expansion. The funds were acquired through high-interest, short-term loans, placing a huge financial burden on Telangana. Despite spending Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project and Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, not a single acre of land received irrigation water. Long-pending projects like Devadula, Kalwakurthy, Nattampadu, Bhima, Koyal Sagar, SLBC, and Dindi remained incomplete. The Kaleshwaram Project alone, which consumed nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, delivered minimal ayacut and suffered structural failures.

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## TGSRTC set to soon introduce digital payment process

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Paying for the bus fare, that too the exact amount without having to worry for loose change, is going to get much more comfortable with the planned digitisation. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), which tried out the digital payment in some of its services, is now on its way to fully introduce the digital payment process across its bus fleet. This process of online payment system is already

in place in many air-conditioned buses operating in long-distance routes, and has been well-received by the passengers while making life easy for the corporation staff. In the city, a pilot project has also been successful in different bus depots, including in Bandlaguda and Dilukhannagar. It enabled the RTC staff to cut down time in collecting fare and issuing tickets, and also the passengers who now do not have to worry about carrying the exact fare. Officials who started the digital payment process in different buses in the city

have found that each payment through 'QR Code' takes around half-a-minute on an average. In addition to reducing this, they are now focused on overcoming technical problems. RTC has purchased i-TIMS machines to make online payments while checking petty problems. While 10,000 machines are required across the State, 6,000 have been procured in the first phase. RTC's plan is to use it first in the city, and gradually introduce the system in the buses across the State. It is being used on an experimental basis in a few

bus depots. As i-TIMS machines are 'touch screens', the bus conductors have been trained for a period of three months on their usage. Further, based on their feedback, technical issues are being resolved. "We have examined the performance of these automatic ticketing machines on software update, cash transfer to accounts, and identification of the stage where the bus stops, etc. A special team is correcting the technical glitches which were noticed in the trial run," said a RTC official.

## Koppula Iswar Slams Arrest of Electricity Employees

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Former Minister Koppula Iswar has strongly condemned the arrest of electricity department employees who were attempting to submit a memorandum demanding the regularization of their services. He described the arrests as an attack on democracy and a violation of workers' rights, sparking widespread outrage among employees and labor unions.



ment's actions, stating that arresting employees for expressing their grievances is undemocratic and unjust. "These employees, who have dedicated years of service as artisans, are the backbone of the electricity department. Denying them regularization and then arresting them for seeking

justice is a grave injustice and a crime against workers," he asserted. The former minister also took aim at the Congress-led state government, accusing it of imposing restrictions on employees and failing to uphold its election promises. He pointed out that despite assurances made during the

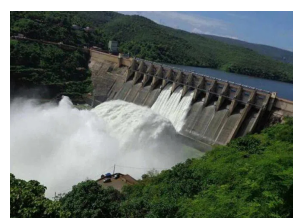
campaign, no tangible steps have been taken to regularize artisan workers. "The government must stop imposing unnecessary restrictions on employees and focus on fulfilling its promises," Iswar remarked, highlighting the growing frustration among workers. Koppula Iswar demanded the immediate release of the arrested employees and urged the Congress government to take concrete measures to address their concerns. He emphasized that many artisan

workers have been serving on a contractual or temporary basis for years without job security or adequate benefits. The regularization of artisan employees has been a persistent demand in the state, with workers and unions repeatedly calling for job stability and equal pay for equal work. Iswar stressed that providing them with permanent employment would not only offer financial security to thousands of families but also improve efficiency and morale within the electricity department.

## Telangana government makes a strong case of its deprivation at crucial KWDT hearing

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Telangana counsel CS Viswanathan presented the case of the State highlighting the deprivation of its due entitlement before the KWDT-II for the second day on Thursday as part of the final round of hearing. His arguments were mostly based on the Supreme Court judgement on the Cauvery Tribunal Award. Several paragraphs of the Supreme Court verdict were read in support of his arguments. He said there are certain similarities between the Cauvery and Krishna basins as both



were water-short basins. Demand for water is more than the supply in both the basins. Telangana could have benefited from an irrigation point of view had a canal system through gravity been taken up earlier from Alamatti, Narayanapur and Tungabhadra dam. The viability of lift schemes was explained in detail stressing that lifts can support irrigation for

at least a single crop. Lifts can make water available for farmers in the basin area. Introduction of short duration variety in place of samba variety was stressed. He favoured growing crops requiring less water. Realistic crop water requirements needed to be assessed based on scientific methods as suggested by the Cauvery Tribunal. It was submitted that return flows generated in the Telangana region were allocated to the Andhra region in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. But now they should be given back to Telangana.



# BRS will break locks if Telangana Cabinet fails to honor the 125ft Ambedkar statue by April 14: Kavitha

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that he has no role in the SC classification process. She accused both PM Modi and CM Revanth Reddy of failing to act on the issue, emphasizing that the classification only progressed due to a Supreme Court verdict. Speaking at a Dalit Bandhu Sadhana Samiti meeting at her residence,

Kavitha reminded that former CM KCR had already passed a resolution in the Assembly regarding SC classification and sent it to the Centre during the BRS regime. She warned the Congress government against creating divisions among Dalits and demanded an immediate and fair classification process. Kavitha strongly condemned CM Revanth Reddy for disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, pointing out that he did not even garland the 125-

ft Ambedkar statue. She demanded that the entire Telangana Cabinet visit and pay respects to the statue before Ambedkar's birth anniversary on April 14. She warned that if they failed, Dalit activists would take action. "If a Chief Minister cannot even honor Ambedkar, how will he understand the struggles of the poor?" she questioned. She also criticized the Congress government for failing Dalits, pointing out that they initially



promised ₹12 lakh per family under Dalit Bandhu but later reduced it to ₹10 lakh. Kavitha alleged financial misman-

agement under Revanth Reddy's rule, claiming that Telangana's economy has deteriorated and turned into a debt-ridden

state. Kavitha questioned why the Congress government had failed to release Dalit Bandhu funds for the re-

maining 18,000 Dalit families already sanctioned support under KCR's leadership. While the budget allocated ₹33,000 crores for SC welfare, only ₹9,800 crores have been utilized, exposing the Congress government's insincerity toward Dalit empowerment. Former Minister Koppula Eshwar praised KCR's leadership, stating that he was the only leader with the vision and courage to uplift Dalits permanently. He recalled

that KCR planned to spend ₹57,000 crores for Dalit empowerment and questioned whether Congress would ever introduce such a scheme. BRS leaders demanded the immediate release of the Shameem Akhtar Commission report, timely disbursement of Dalit Bandhu funds, and an end to Congress' false promises. They warned that they would not remain silent while the Congress government neglects SC classification and Dalit welfare.

## Balakampet Residents Demand Action on Civic Woes Near Nature Cure Hospital

Locals Raise Alarm Over Garbage Dumping, Illegal Parking, and Safety Hazards

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Residents of Balakampet, in close proximity to Nature Cure Hospital, have voiced mounting frustration over a slew of unresolved civic issues plaguing their neighbourhood. Despite lodging repeated complaints with the authorities, including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), local police, and traffic officials, no tangible action has been taken, compelling the community to escalate their plea for immediate intervention. A major grievance is the rampant garbage dumping by residents of nearby bastis, which has turned the area into a breeding ground for mosquitoes and even snakes. The resulting sanitation crisis has sparked serious health concerns



among locals. "We've been asking GHMC for a designated garbage bin for months, but nothing has been done," said a resident, urging the civic body to step up efforts to restore hygiene in the locality. Adding to the woes, the overnight parking of travel vehicles near the Government School has become a hotspot for anti-social activities. Residents report that individuals indulging in drinking and substance abuse have made the area unsafe, particularly for

schoolchildren and pedestrians. Complaints to the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Panjagutta, have fallen on deaf ears. The community is now pressing for "No Parking" boards to curb this growing menace and ensure public order. A blind curve near the school has emerged as an accident-prone zone due to speeding vehicles. With pedestrian safety hanging in the balance, residents have appealed to GHMC for the urgent installation of a speed



breaker to avert potential tragedies. "It's only a matter of time before something serious happens," warned a concerned local. The unchecked consumption of alcohol in public spaces near the school has further rattled the neighbourhood, disrupting peace and posing risks to residents. Despite lodging multiple complaints with the SR Nagar police, no action has been forthcoming, leaving the community exasperated. They are now demanding stringent enforcement

of safety regulations to clamp down on this nuisance. With their patience wearing thin, Balakampet residents are hopeful that highlighting these issues will jolt the authorities into action. They seek swift measures to address the garbage crisis, parking violations, traffic hazards, and public disturbances, aspiring for a safer and cleaner locality. The ball now lies in the court of GHMC, traffic police, and law enforcement to respond to this mounting civic distress.

## Water meant for use in Telangana region used for projects in Andhra area, KWDT-II told

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Telangana on Thursday, in its arguments before the Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal-II, said the state could have benefited had a gravity canal system been implemented at the Almatti, Narayanpur, and Tungabhadra dams in the upstream reaches of River Krishna in Karnataka. Continuing to present Telangana's case before the tribunal in Delhi, state's senior counsel C.S. Vaidyanathan said the return flows generated in Telangana region were allocated to Andhra region by the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government. This water should have been given to Telangana projects, he said. Telangana also stressed on the Supreme Court judgment on the Cauvery Tribunal award, drawing parallels between



Cauvery and Krishna river basins describing both as 'water short basins'. In both basins, the demand is more than the available water. The Cauvery Tribunal had suggested introduction of short duration variety of crops that require less water, but realistic crop water requirement needs to be assessed based on scientific methods as suggested by the Cauvery Tribunal. The KWDT-II is expected to conclude the hearings on Friday.

## Telangana State Women's Congress Celebrates Milestone Achievement

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

The Telangana State Women's Congress achieved a historic milestone by securing the top position in the country with 1,00,150 memberships. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, a grand event was held at Gandhi Bhavan, where women gathered in large numbers, singing and playing music in jubilation. Mogili Sunita Rao, a key leader in women's empowerment, played a crucial role in bringing women together and strengthening the Telangana Women's Congress. Under her leadership, the organization has reached an unprecedented milestone, making it the top state in terms of membership. Sunita Rao expressed her pride, stating that this victory belongs to every sister who joined the movement. She emphasized that these memberships were not merely numbers but the result of dedicated hard work by every member. She also acknowledged the collective effort that ensured women received recognition and a strong political platform. She praised the support and motivation provided by Sunita Akkagaru, who anchored



the membership drives across districts, helping Telangana Women's Congress stay ahead. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from women across districts, with band performances, firecrackers, and cultural programs. Certificates of recognition were awarded to various district representatives. Key attendees included District Presidents Neelam Padma, R. Lakshmi, Anuradha, Indira M., Lakshmi Parvatamma, Sarala, Ushasri, Kavitha, and several other leaders. The event was attended by organizing secretaries, district and mandal committee members, block and town presidents. This milestone marks a significant step in empowering women in Telangana, proving their strength and unity in politics.

## Rekha Gupta will deliver the promises people of Delhi and exceed their expectations as CM: Srilatha Reddy

Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Feb . 21

BJP's senior leader and Surya pet district president Mrs Srilatha Reddy stated in her Media statement complimented Delhi CM Smt Rekha Gupta .After assuming the CM charges.The Telangana BJP state unit extends heartfelt congratulations to Smt. Rekha Gupta on her historic swearing-in as the Chief Minister of Delhi. This marks a monumental achievement for the party, as it is the first time in 27 years that BJP has formed the government in the national capital.



Furthermore, Smt. Rekha Gupta becomes the only woman to assume the role of Chief Minister during the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.BJP's suryapet district president also take immense pride in Smt. Rekha Gupta's inspiring journey—from starting as a dedicated Karyakartha to rising as the Chief Minister of Delhi. This

remarkable growth exemplifies the unique opportunities for leadership and empowerment within the BJP, where dedication, hard work, and commitment lead to unprecedented success.She says that.The people of Delhi have given a decisive mandate, entrusting BJP with the responsibility of governing the city-state. We are confident that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Smt. Rekha Gupta will deliver on the promises made to the people of Delhi and exceed their expectations as Chief Minister.

## Bandi says those who holds the party positions must strive hard for the party



Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Feb . 21

Kukatpally Congress Party Incharge Bandi Ramesh opined that everyone who has taken the positions should strive for the development of the party to the full-fledged mode. MD Salim, who was recently elected as the president of the constituency from Youth Con-

gress wing, received the party certificate With the hands of Bandi Ramesh at the party office in Bala Nagar on Thursday February 20. The pivotal leaders Yugender, Madhu Goud, Aslam, Kittu, Bharat, Narender, Rangaswamy, Pranathi, Balaraj, Parvez, Venkatesh, Thomas and others were participated in this programme.

## BRS Leader Ravinder Yadav Prays for KCR's Return as CM at Tirumala

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Serilingampalli BRS senior leader Ravinder Yadav visited the Tirumala temple on Thursday and performed special pujas, praying for KCR to become the Chief Minister of Telangana once again. Speaking to the media, he stated that the people are dissatisfied with CM Revanth Reddy's governance, alleging that the Congress government has failed to fulfill its promises. He empha-



sized that Telangana witnessed remarkable development under KCR's leadership, with Hyderabad emerging as a cosmopolitan city and an IT hub due to KTR's

efforts. Ravinder Yadav accused the Revanth government of neglecting development and prioritizing commissions over governance. He alleged that corruption has spread across sectors, with officials harassing people for commissions in various jobs. Expressing confidence in BRS's prospects, he asserted that the party will secure victory in all upcoming elections and reclaim power in Telangana.



## Vijender Gupta to be Delhi assembly Speaker



**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 21

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vijender Gupta is likely to be appointed as Speaker of the Delhi Assembly while Mohan Singh Bisht is likely to be the deputy speaker, according to sources. Vijender Gupta, who was the Leader of Opposition in the assembly, is MLA of Rohini. He won the assembly constituency with a margin of more than 37 thousand votes, beating Aam Aadmi Party's Pradeep Mittal. Gupta has been the president of Delhi BJP too, along with a Delhi Development Authority member, and a former chairman of MCD's standing committee.

Meanwhile, BJP's Mohan Singh Bisht won with a margin of more than 17 thousand votes, beating out AAP's Adeel Ahmad Khan. Bisht has been a five time MLA from Karawal Nagar assembly constituency. This is his sixth time, winning the Mustafabad constituency. He has consistently won the assembly elections

since 1998 whenever he contested. He only lost once in 2015 to BJP's Kapil Mishra. Meanwhile, BJP's Shalimar Bagh MLA Rekha Gupta will be taking oath as Delhi's Chief Minister today. Gupta has served as general secretary of BJP Mahila Morcha in Delhi and as a member of its national executive committee. In these roles, she initiated numerous campaigns for the welfare of marginalized communities and women.

Speaking to ANI on Thursday the CM designate said, "It is a miracle, it is a new motivation and a new chapter. If I can be the CM, this means ways are open for all the women... Anyone who has been corrupt will have to give an account of each and every rupee." Along with Rekha Gupta, six other ministers, including Parvesh Sahib Singh (Deputy CM), Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra, and Pankaj Kumar Singh, will take the oath.

## Rekha Gupta Sworn In as Delhi CM Announces Rs 2,500 monthly to women By March 8



**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 21

Rekha Gupta, the newly appointed Chief Minister of Delhi, made several significant announcements and commitments following her swearing-in ceremony on Thursday.

Gupta assured that the BJP government will fulfill its poll

promise of providing Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance to women. The first installment of this support will be credited to their accounts by March 8, which is observed as International Women's Day.

Emphasizing her commitment to delivering on the BJP's election promises,

Gupta stated that fulfilling the dreams of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the responsibility of all 48 BJP MLAs in the capital. The swearing-in ceremony, held at Ramlila Maidan, was attended by Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other dignitaries. Six other ministers also took the oath alongside Gupta.

Gupta brings a strong background in politics and public service to her new role. She has served in various capacities, including as the President of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) and as a municipal councillor. Known for her work on developing basic facilities and initiatives for the wel-



fare of marginalized communities and women, Gupta's elevation to the post of Chief Minister is seen as a significant step in the BJP's focus on women empowerment. She is the only woman among the present BJP Chief Ministers.

In her address, Gupta vowed to hold corrupt individuals accountable and asserted that

they will have to answer for every rupee misused. She also expressed her commitment to working as a team with all 48 BJP MLAs to fulfill the party's promises. Expressing her gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, the BJP leadership, and the people of Delhi, Gupta described her appointment as a "miracle" and a "new

chapter" marking the beginning of a transformative period for women in politics.

These announcements and commitments highlight Gupta's dedication to fulfilling the BJP's election promises and her focus on women empowerment and accountability in governance.

## Tesla's India Entry: High Anticipation Amid Challenges

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 21

Tesla's entry into India has been a topic of much anticipation and speculation. Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, has hinted at the company's plans to enter the Indian market on several occasions. In October 2020, Musk indicated that Tesla's entry into India was likely to happen in 2021. This was further confirmed by Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, who stated that Tesla would commence its India operations in early 2021.



The initial plan was for Tesla to import its vehicles as Completely Built Units (CBUs), with the Model 3 expected to be the first model to hit Indian roads. The price of the Model 3 in India was anticipated to start around Rs 55 lakh, with higher variants costing significantly more. However, Tesla faced several

challenges, including high import duties and the lack of a robust charging infrastructure in India. Despite these hurdles, Tesla's entry into India was seen as a significant step for the country's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem. The company registered Tesla Motors India and Energy Private Limited in Bengaluru in January

2021, marking its first official step towards launching in the country. As of February 2025, Tesla is preparing to make its long-awaited entry into India by shipping a few thousand cars to a port near Mumbai in the coming months. This move is expected to galvanize India's EV market.

## UP government presents Rs 8.09 lakh crore budget, largest in state history

**Lucknow**  
WUT | Feb . 21

Aiming for a trillion-dollar state economy, the Yogi government 2.0 presented its fourth annual budget (2025-2026) of Rs 8.09 lakh crore, the largest in the state's history. Overall, it was the ninth budget presented under the current government, which has been in power since 2017, and the second-last of Yogi 2.0 before the 2027 state assembly polls. Presenting the annual budget for the financial year 2025-26 in the Assembly on Thursday, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna described it as a significant step towards the state's economic growth and social welfare.

"This budget is 9.8 per cent higher than the 2024-25 budget, meant to accelerate UP's economic growth. The budget has been designed with a focus on strengthening the state's economy, boosting industrial and infrastructural development, creating employment opportunities, expanding the horizon of education, and also making the state an Artificial Intelligence hub by establishing an Artificial Intelligence City," said the minister. He reiterated the UP government's commitment to propel the state towards becoming a USD 1 trillion economy in sync with its vision of contributing effective-

tively to the national economic growth story. While allocating 22 per cent of the total budget to infrastructure development, 13 per cent to the education sector, 11 per cent to agriculture and allied sectors, 6 per cent for healthcare, and 4 per cent to social security programmes, the capital outlay stands at about 20.5 per cent of the total estimate.

Khanna also said the UP government had prepared the budget with a main focus on 10 significant sectors, including infrastructure, industry, IT and electronics, health and family welfare, education, tourism, urban development, financial services, energy, capital investment, and agriculture and cadre services. The 22 per cent allocation of the total budget to strengthen basic infrastructure will be used for road construction, industrial expansion, transport improvements, and attracting investments.

For education, 13 per cent of the budget has been set aside to enhance learning facilities. It proposes to set up ICT labs and smart classes in primary and higher secondary schools, along with digital libraries and smart classrooms in government polytechnic colleges. Special schemes have also been proposed to promote research and development in the state.

## Over 50 lakh Nepali devotees take holy dip

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 21

Over 50 lakh devotees from Maa Janaki's birthplace Nepal have taken a holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam at the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, an official statement said. The Maha Kumbh celebrations have sparked immense enthusiasm in Nepal with devotees from the neighbouring country bringing holy 'akshat' (rice) and other sacred offerings from Janakpur, Maa Sita's birthplace and the in-laws' place of Lord Ram, to present to Bade Hanuman Ji, it said.

At the same time, they are carrying back Ganga water and soil from Sangam, which they consider an invaluable spiritual



heritage. The deep faith of Nepalese devotees in Bade Hanuman temple and Akshay Vat is evident in their rituals and reverence. Besides participating in the holy bath at Sangam, the Nepalese devotees are increasingly drawn to visiting Shri Ram in Ayodhya and Baba Vishwanath in Kashi. The sacred sand and Ganga water from Sangam are being taken back to Nepal, where they are used in various religious ceremonies, the statement said.

## TRUMP WARNS ZELENSKY TO SETTLE WAR OR RISK LOSING UKRAINE EUROPE

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 21

In a stark warning, former President Donald Trump cautioned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday that he needs to swiftly negotiate an end to Russia's invasion or risk losing his country. This escalation in rhetoric comes amid growing tensions between the two leaders and increasing friction between the U.S. and Europe over Trump's approach to resolving the conflict. Trump's harsh words for Zelenskyy have drawn criticism from both Democrats and some Republicans in the U.S., where support for Ukraine's defense against

Russian aggression has been bipartisan. Zelenskyy accused Trump of falling into a Russian disinformation trap, prompting a rebuke from Vice President JD Vance about the risks of publicly criticizing the president.

In a lengthy post on his Truth Social platform, Trump referred to Zelenskyy as a "dictator without elections" and criticized the Ukrainian leader for involving the U.S. in a costly war. "Think of it, a modestly successful comedian, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion Dollars, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War

that he, without the U.S. and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle," Trump wrote.

The U.S. has committed approximately \$183 billion in aid to Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022, according to the U.S. special inspector general overseeing the assistance. Trump accused Zelenskyy of misusing this aid and taking advantage of the Biden administration. Zelenskyy responded by stating that Trump was echoing Russian disinformation. "We have seen this disinformation. We understand that it is coming from Russia," Zelenskyy said. U.S. and Russian officials met in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to discuss a potential settlement to the war,

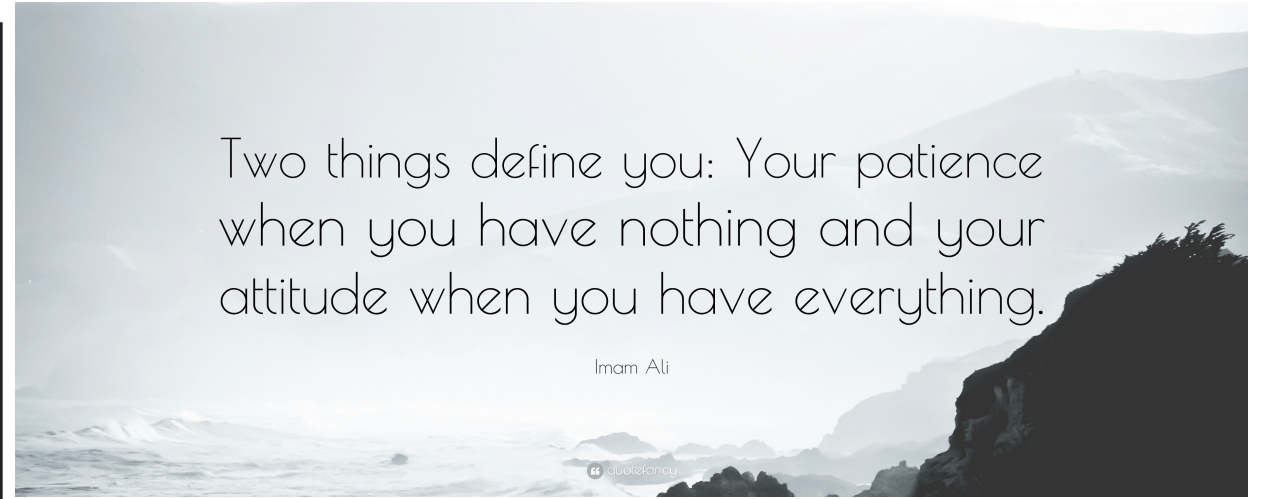
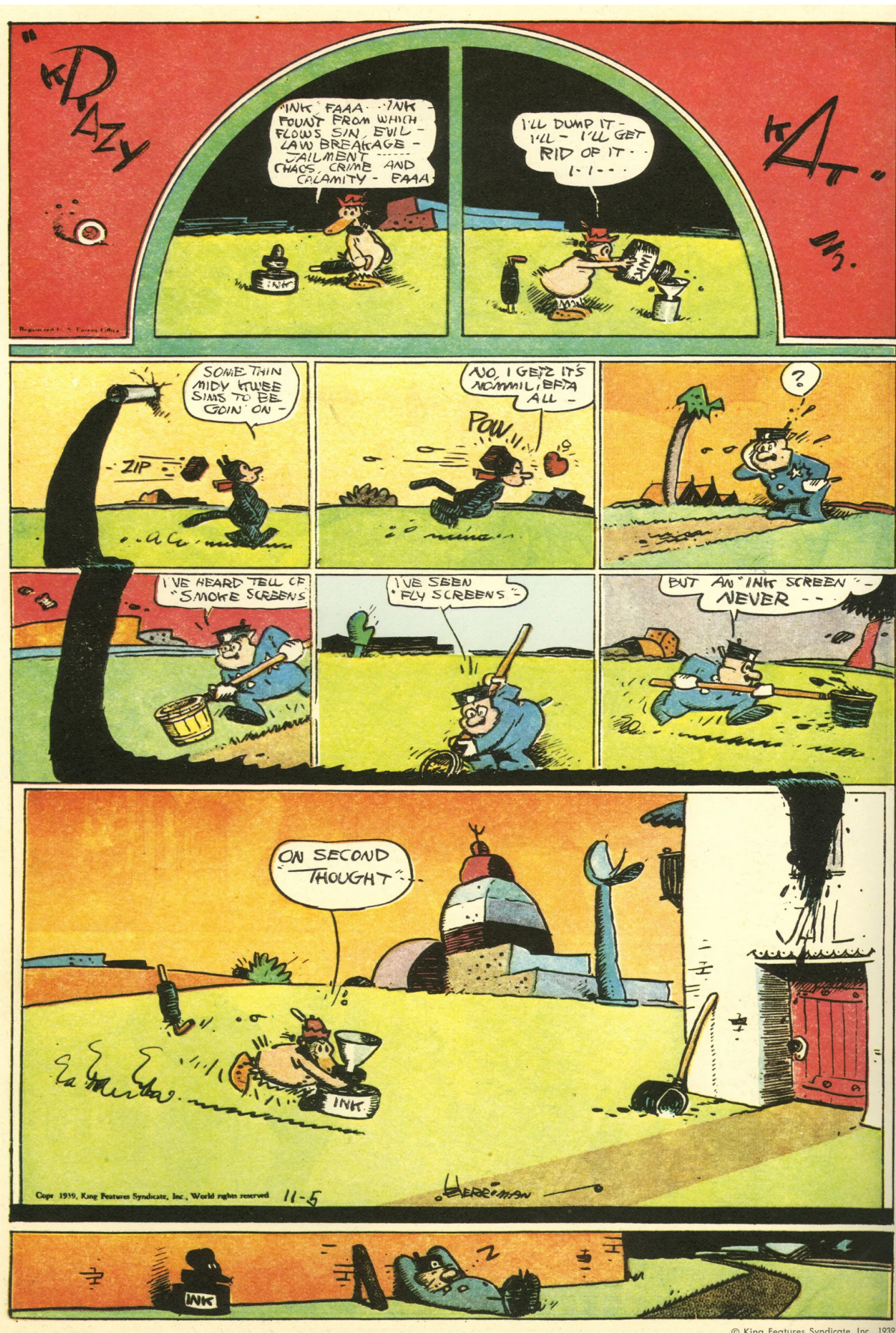
notably excluding Ukrainian and European officials. Trump urged Zelenskyy to act quickly. "Zelenskyy better move fast or he is not going to have a Country left," Trump said. Trump's rhetoric has been met with strong criticism from both sides of the aisle. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called Trump's comments "disgusting," while Senator John Kennedy (R-La.) disagreed with Trump's suggestion that Ukraine was responsible for the war. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) accused Trump of parroting Putin's talking points.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) urged giving the Trump admin-

istration space to seek a resolution. "The president speaks for himself," Thune said about Trump's rhetoric. "What I want to see is a peaceful result, a peaceful outcome." The administration has also expressed frustration with Zelenskyy for not signing an agreement to give the U.S. access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals. Trump criticized the Ukrainians for walking away from the deal during his speech in Miami. Retired U.S. Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, met with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv on Wednesday. Kellogg emphasized Trump's understanding of the human suffering caused

by the war. "The human suffering caused by the war is a tragedy that we cannot ignore," Kellogg said. "We need to find a way to end this war and bring peace to Ukraine and Europe."





Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything.

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### TOXICITY OF BODY STANDARDS

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

From fairness cream commercials to Bollywood's obsession with slim figures, we've grown up in a world that defines 'perfect' in narrow, often unattainable ways. This fixation isn't new; ancient texts often glorified physical beauty as a sign of virtue, and colonial influences equated fairness with power and privilege (Vijaya & Bhullar, 2022).

In modern times, the media continues to amplify these rigid ideals and shape a society where appearance often overshadows individuality and self-worth. These standards aren't just unrealistic; they're damaging (Gelles, 2011). A recent Netflix documentary on Yo Yo Honey Singh, a name that transformed India's music

scene, sheds light on just how brutal these expectations can be.

Honey Singh's story is one that millions can relate to, even if they aren't celebrities. At the peak of his career, he was loved by fans. But when he took a break due to mental health issues and gained weight from medication, everything changed. His fans began trolling him mercilessly. Social media was flooded with derogatory comments, mocking memes, and hashtags that questioned his relevance and talent. Instead of empathy, he was met with criticism and hate comments.

This painful chapter of his life reveals the toxic relationship we have with body image. In this article, we will explore body image issues in India through the lens of Honey Singh's journey

as depicted in the Netflix documentary. The documentary shows how Honey Singh struggled with bipolar disorder and alcoholism. "When I looked in the mirror, I didn't see myself anymore," he said in the film. He wasn't just battling his mind; he was also fighting the world's expectations.

But perhaps the saddest part was his reaction. Instead of focusing on healing for himself, he decided to lose weight to please the public and look 'acceptable' again. While getting healthy is always good, the reason behind his decision makes it complicated. It is a multilayered complexity where the action of losing weight was positive, but the intention behind it was rooted in external pressure rather than self-motivation (Puhl & Suh, 2015).



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The Editor

## Brief Insights

ED attaches Rs 5.67 cr assets of Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company



The directorate of enforcement (ED), Hyderabad zonal office, on Wednesday, February 20, provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 5.67 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, for the illegal export of Tramadol by the city-based pharmaceutical company called Lucent Drugs Private Limited.

The attached assets include land, building and factory premises belonging to the company situated in Telangana's Sangareddy district.

The ED initiated an investigation based on a complaint filed by the Narcotic Controls Bureau (NCB), Bangalore zonal unit under section 36A of the NDPS Act, 1985 for contravention of psychotropic substances, illegal export from India, contravention of orders made under the NDPS Act and forgery of records and documents relating to the various export authorizations undertaken by the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company.

The investigation revealed that Lucent Drugs Private Limited allegedly manufactures and exports Tramadol to its overseas clients including Pakistan. The pharmaceutical company, initially received a NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the Central Bureau of Narcotics to export Tramadol to Pakistan. But this was stopped after the NOC was cancelled.

However, the promoters and directors of the pharmaceutical company continued to illegally re-export Tramadol, sending 13,800 kgs valued at approximately Rs. 4.12 crore to Pakistan.

This was done via two other pharmaceutical companies – Denmark-based CHR Olesen Pharmaceuticals, which exported 5000 kgs of Tramadol valued at approximately Rs.1.33 crore and a Malaysia-based company SM Biomed. This way, the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company allegedly generated and received Proceeds of Crime (POC) totalling approximately Rs. 5.46 crore in its bank accounts through the illegal export of Tramadol to Pakistan. Further investigation is under progress.

Tramadol is a painkiller used to treat moderate to severe pain. It belongs to the opioid analgesic class and works by blocking pain signals in the brain. Often misused as a recreational drug, especially in illegal markets.

# SHE Teams Apprehend 247 Offenders at Numaish 2025

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

The SHE Teams of Hyderabad City Police took stringent action against harassment and misconduct at the Nampally Exhibition, Numaish 2025, which was held from January 3 to February 17. A total of 247 offenders were apprehended during the event, out of which 223 were adults and 24 were minors. Authorities registered 37 petty cases, leading to two offenders receiving two-day convictions. Additionally, 33 individuals were

fined Rs 1,050, while one person was fined Rs 50. Another individual faced two days of simple imprisonment along with a Rs 50 fine. Apart from these cases, 190 individuals were warned and counseled before being let off, and 20 cases are still pending for further disposal.

Numaish 2025 recorded an impressive footfall of 19.72 lakh visitors, drawing large crowds of shoppers from Hyderabad and neighboring states. The annual exhibition remains a significant attraction, particularly



among women, with Ladies' Day standing out as one of its most cherished traditions. Introduced in 1940 by the last Nizam of Hyderabad, this special

day allows only women and boys under the age of ten to enter, creating a safe and comfortable environment for female shoppers. The event

features an extensive variety of stalls showcasing clothing, handicrafts, household items, and regional specialties, making it a much-awaited shopping destination every year.

To ensure the safety and security of women, Hyderabad SHE Teams actively monitored public spaces at the exhibition, swiftly responding to complaints and taking preventive measures against harassment. They continue to urge citizens to stay vigilant and report any incidents through multiple channels, in-

cluding Dial 100, the WhatsApp helpline at 9490616555, social media platforms, or by approaching the nearest SHE Teams office. Their efforts emphasize the commitment of Hyderabad Police to maintaining a safe and harassment-free environment for women in public spaces. The initiative serves as a strong deterrent against misconduct while reinforcing the importance of community vigilance in ensuring women's safety across the city.

## Telangana High Court raps HYDRAA for high-handedness

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Thursday came down heavily on the HYDRAA for its repeated high-handed actions.

"This court does not have any issue with HYDRAA, all that is expected from HYDRAA is to follow the rule of law," Justice Lakshman said. "People

are panicked of HYDRAA," he commented. As directed by the court, Inspector of HYDRAA Rajashekar appeared before court in person to explain his actions with regard to demolishing a tin shed in the property of petitioner Alagari Praveen at Muthangi village in Patancheru mandal of Sangareddy district.

Not satisfied with the re-

sponse submitted by the Inspector, the judge warned that he would direct initiation of disciplinary proceeding against HYDRAA authorities who are acting high-handedly without following due procedure of law.

The judge, observing that the Panchayat Secretary had granted three permissions in November 2023 to carry out construction, questioned the Inspector

why no action was taken against the Panchayat Secretary. "How did the Inspector come to the conclusion that the petitioner is at fault when he has not conducted a proper inquiry or considered the explanation submitted by the petitioner," he asked.

HYDRAA counsel Katica Ravindar Reddy assured the court that HYDRAA would be more

careful in following the procedure. He said the petitioner fraudulently occupied the land, earmarked for a park, with political support. Perusing the statement of the Panchayat Secretary which read he had granted permission under pressure and coercion, the judge opined that this statement seems to be written under coercion.

The judge observed that

the Inspector acted in complete violation of the procedure established under the law and warned he was inclined to stay the GO 99 if such unreasonable and arbitrary actions were repeated by the HYDRAA. The judge directed the Inspector to file a detailed response by the next date of hearing which has been scheduled for March 3.



## Reginaa Cassandra Expresses Gratitude for 'Vidaamuyarchi' Team



Actress Reginaa Cassandra, who played one of the antagonists in the Ajith Kumar-starrer 'Vidaamuyarchi', has taken to Instagram to express her gratitude towards the entire team. She praised actor Ajith Kumar for his inspiring approach to breaking stereotypes and living life passionately. In a heartfelt post, Reginaa shared her excitement about playing an antagonist that the audience loves, describing it as an exhilarating experience. She began by thanking director Magizh Thirumeni for his confidence in her and his graceful handling of situations. She then thanked Ajith Kumar, saying, "Your love for breaking notions and stereotypes, and encouraging everyone to live life to the fullest, is so addictive. Thank you for the beautiful memories."

Reginaa also praised co-star Trisha, calling her journey an inspiration, and complimented Arjun Sarjaa for his unique swag. She had special words for actors Arav and Nikhil Nair, appreciating their camaraderie and familiarity with the film's setting. The actress extended her gratitude to the film's technical team, including cinematographer Om Prakash and music director Anirudh. She thanked her dubbing engineer, Kothandham, for making long dubbing sessions enjoyable. Reginaa concluded her post by thanking the entire crew, including the local Azerbaijani team and her own staff. She expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunity and the valuable lessons she learned from the experience. "Thank you to every one of you," she wrote. "Your love has made me look at every hurdle as a blessing in disguise. That, for me, is my biggest learning."

## Rishab Shetty to Film Epic War Sequence for 'Kantara: Chapter 1'

Mumbai WUT | Feb . 21

Rishab Shetty is gearing up to film an ambitious war sequence for the upcoming movie 'Kantara: Chapter 1'. According to a source close to the production, this epic action scene will be shot over an extensive period of 45 to 50 days in the rugged mountain region of Karnataka. The sequence, described



as one of the most ambitious war scenes ever filmed, will be shot in a remote location with limited facilities, adding authentic-

ity and challenge to the production. Shetty and the crew spent a month living in this isolated area to capture the raw intensity of the sequence, ensuring a grand and immersive cinematic experience.

"Hombale Films' 'Kantara: Chapter 1' features one of the biggest war sequences ever filmed," the source revealed. "Rishab Shetty will dedicate over 45-50 days to shoot this intense portion in the mountain region of

Karnataka."

Set during the reign of the Kadambas of Banavasi, 'Kantara: Chapter 1' is written and directed by Rishab Shetty and produced by Vijay Kiragandur under Hombale Films. The film serves as a prequel to the 2022 film 'Kantara' and stars Shetty and Jayaram in the lead roles. Filming began in November 2023, with the first look and teaser released on November 27.

## SMFG India Credit Sets Guinness World Record for Largest Cattle Welfare Lesson



New Delhi WUT | Feb . 21

SMFG India Credit has achieved a Guinness World Record for conducting the 'Largest Cattle Welfare Lesson (Multiple Venues)', with 517 participants across six locations in India. This achievement was a key highlight of the 7th edition of Pashu Vikas Day (PVD), the country's largest one-day cattle care initiative. Held across 500 locations in 16 states, the event benefitted 1,50,000 cattle and 40,000 cattle owners. With 65-70% of India's rural population dependent on agriculture and allied activities, cattle play a crucial role in their livelihood. Recognizing this, SMFG India Credit celebrated PVD under the theme 'Mera Pashu Mera Parivar', emphasizing the importance of livestock in rural households.

Over 6,000 employees actively participated, reaffirming the company's dedication to rural welfare.

Mr. Shantanu Mitra, CEO & MD, stated, "With 1000+ branches across India, primarily in Tier-2+ locations, we focus on financial inclusion through tailored solutions. This Guinness World Record is a testament to our employees' dedication. Pashu Vikas Day continues to evolve, enhancing its impact beyond cattle care."

Mr. Swaminathan Subramanian, COO, added, "This recognition strengthens our resolve to uplift communities through sustainable socio-economic initiatives. We are proud to make history and remain committed to rural empowerment."

PVD has previously been recognized by the World Records Union, Limca Book of Records, Best of India Records, and the World Book of Records for hosting the largest one-day cattle care camps. This Guinness World Record further cements SMFG India Credit's commitment to impactful rural outreach.

## Telugu Megastar Chiranjeevi Celebrates Marriage Anniversary En Route to Dubai

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi is celebrating his marriage anniversary with his wife Surekha while traveling to Dubai. In a heartfelt post on X (formerly Twitter), the actor shared two pictures from their flight and expressed his deep affection for his wife.

"Celebrating our wedding anniversary on a flight with some very dear friends en route to Dubai," Chiranjeevi wrote. He described Surekha as his "strength, emotional anchor, and the wind beneath my wings," crediting her for



helping him navigate through life's uncertainties.

The actor further expressed his gratitude towards Surekha, stating, "Her presence is a constant comfort and an amazing motivator. Just tak-

ing this opportunity to express a bit about what and how much she means to me! Thank you, my soul mate - Surekha!!" He also thanked friends, fans, family, and well-wishers for their warm

wishes.

However, Chiranjeevi recently faced criticism for his comments about wanting a grandson to continue his family legacy. The actor mentioned that his home feels like a "ladies' hostel," as he is surrounded by granddaughters. His son, actor Ram Charan Tej, and wife Upasana have a daughter, Klin Kaara Konidela. Chiranjeevi's remarks about hoping for a grandson to carry forward the family legacy sparked a debate on social media, with many criticizing him for his perceived sexist comments.

## First schedule of Lavanya Tripathi, Dev Mohan's 'Sathi Leelavathi' completed

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Ifirst schedule of the Lavanya Tripathi and Dev Mohan-starrer 'Sathi Leelavathi' has been completed, announced the makers.

Lavanya Tripathi, who has recognised for her diverse roles, and Malayalam actor Dev Mohan are playing the lead roles in the film. The film is being produced under the joint banner of Durgadevi Pictures and Trio Studios, and presented by the prominent production house Anandi Art Creations.

Being made as Production No. 1, the movie is being directed by Tatineni Satya, known for films like Bhemili Kabaddi Jattu and SMS (Shiva Manasulu Sruthi). The film is being produced on a grand scale by Naaga Mohan and Razesh



Recently, the puja ceremony for this movie was held, and the team is currently completing the shooting smoothly. Key scenes featuring the lead actors were filmed during the first schedule, which took place in Hyderabad.

The makers plan to finish the shooting without delay and release the movie as a special summer treat. The film is being made as a feel-good movie to cater to all audiences and impress viewers from all walks of life.

## Malayalam superstar Mohanlal confirms 'Drishyam 3' with post on social media

Mumbai WUT | Feb . 21

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal is set to reunite with director Jeethu Joseph for 'Drishyam 3.' Their 'Drishyam' and 'Drishyam 2' were massive hits and have been picked by film industries of different languages in India. On Thursday, Malayalam cinema icon announced the news with a photo of himself with Jeethu Joseph and Antony Perumbavoor. Sharing the post on social media, he wrote, "The Past Never Stays Silent Drishyam 3 Confirmed!"



#Drishyam 3. The post went viral in no time with fans expressing their happiness. 'Drishyam', which was released in 2013, is a crime thriller film written and directed by Jeethu Joseph. It also starred Meena, Anisiba Hassan, Esther Anil, Asha Sharath, Siddique, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Roshan Basheer and Neeraj Madhav. It was produced

by Antony Perumbavoor under Aashirvad Cinemas. The film follows the struggle of Georgekutty and his family, who come under suspicion when Varun Prabhakar, the son of the IG Geetha Prabhakar, goes missing. The film ran in theatres for more than 150 days.

It also became the longest-running film in the United Arab Emirates, running for 125 days. The film remained the highest-grossing Malayalam film of all time until it was surpassed by 'Pulimurugan' in 2016.

## Ranveer Singh Named Skoda Auto India's First-Ever 'Brand Superstar'

Mumbai WUT | Feb . 21

In a significant milestone, Skoda Auto India has announced Bollywood powerhouse Ranveer Singh as its first-ever 'Brand Superstar'. This strategic partnership aims to drive the brand's entry into new markets in India with people-centric campaigns, aligning with Skoda's aspirational and entertaining image.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director of Skoda Auto India, highlighted the significance of this association, stating, "This partnership goes beyond launching world-class products. It's about revamping every aspect of our business, including how we engage with customers and fans." Ranveer Singh's dynamic personality and energy resonate with Skoda's fun-to-drive and entertaining cars. The actor expressed his excitement, saying, "I am thrilled to be Skoda Auto India's first-ever brand superstar. This col-



laboration reflects a shared commitment to excellence, and I look forward to contributing to the growth of Skoda Auto in India." The first campaign featuring Ranveer Singh and the newly launched sub-4-metre SUV, the Kylaq, will premiere soon. A brand-centric film is also planned for the end of March, offering fans and customers the chance to meet Ranveer Singh and Skoda Auto India's management later this year. This partnership aligns with Skoda Auto India's growth strategy, aiming to

sell 100,000 cars annually by 2026. The brand showcased an impressive lineup at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, including the Elroq and Enyaq EVs, Kodiaq luxury 4x4, Octavia vRS, and Superb luxury sedan. Skoda plans to expand its reach to 350 touchpoints by the end of 2025, further strengthening its presence in India. With Ranveer Singh as the brand superstar, Skoda Auto India is poised to attract new customers and drive significant growth in the dynamic Indian automotive market.

## Rashmika Mandanna Rises to Pan-India Stardom with Box Office Success

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 21

Rashmika Mandanna, the versatile actress, has further cemented her position as one of India's most sought-after stars with the success of her latest Hindi film, Chhaava. Producer Lagadapati Sridhar praises her, stating, "She is undoubtedly a pan-India star and has attained the numero uno status." Rashmika's ability to seamlessly transition between diverse roles has been a key factor in her success. She has portrayed the quintessential wife opposite superstars like Allu Arjun in Pushpa: The Rule,



Ranbir Kapoor in Animal, and now Vicky Kaushal in Chhaava. Sridhar notes, "Earlier, directors preferred heroines to put on weight for wife roles, but Rashmika has redefined the norm. She effortlessly shifts from a glamorous, mini-skirt-clad lover

to a graceful, saree-draped wife, making even traditional roles look stylish and captivating. Sridhar predicts that Rashmika is on track to become one of India's busiest multilingual actresses. He believes she will be more selective about Telugu films, choosing star-studded

projects while expanding her presence in Bollywood, giving leading Hindi actresses tough competition. Having already made a mark in Tamil cinema with Varisu alongside Vijay, Rashmika is set to take on more Tamil projects. At just 28, Rashmika has

achieved significant stardom and continues to expand her fan base, earning the title of 'National Crush.' Sridhar highlights her exceptional dancing skills, which, combined with her acting talent, will propel her to even greater heights. Capitalizing on the immense popularity she gained from Pushpa: The Rise, Rashmika has strategically positioned herself in Mumbai and Chennai, securing top-tier projects across industries. Sridhar concludes, "Language and regional barriers are fading, and Rashmika is making the most of this pan-India wave, racing ahead to the top."



## CITY CLICKS

## National Ee Baha Se India 2025 Competitions Kick Off at BV Raju Institute of Technology (BVRIT)



Chief Guest Mr. Simona Adelia Popescu (4th from left), HR VP Asia Cluster and HR Head India, Renault Nissan Technology & Business Centre, India; Joint Inauguration by Mr. Shivraj Kumar (4th from right), Territory Manager Hyderabad, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Mr. Mayank Chandra (2nd from right), Assistant Editor, Author Professional, inaugurating the 11th edition of the eBAJA SAEINDIA 2025, jointly by The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) INDIA, Hyderabad, and BV Raju Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, today, also seen were (L-R) Mr. Praveen Khaitan, Co-Chairman, eBAJA, BAJA SAEINDIA; Dr. K. V. V. Vishnu Raju, Chairman, BAJA SAEINDIA; Mr. Ravindra Babu, Vice Chairman, Sri Venka Educational Society; Mr. Rahul Subramanian, Chairman, Organizing Committee, BAJA SAEINDIA; and Mr. Mahesh Singh, Joint Convener, eBAJA, BAJA SAEINDIA. eBAJA is a global inter-college electrifying All-Terrain Vehicle racing challenge that represents the most promising engineers for their technical skills and problem-solving capabilities. The competition attracts participants from premier institutes like IITs, NITs, Global automotive giants scout for top talent at the event.

BVRaju Institute of Technology (BVRIT) in Narsapur, Medak, Telangana, is hosting eBAJA 2025 - Fusion 4 Future, a prestigious national ATV endurance test and racing championship. The event, organized by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) INDIA, marks its 10th anniversary and has drawn over 80 teams from 15 states, including participants from NITs, IITs, universities, and colleges.

The five-day event, backed by major automobile and EV companies, provides participants with practical experience and potential employment opportunities. Notable speakers at the inauguration included Sri K V Vishnu Raju, Chairman, and Sri Aditya Vissam, Secretary SVES, who highlighted the event's potential to open doors for participants. Sri Ravi Chandran Rajgopal, Vice Chairman SVES, welcomed the teams, emphasizing the platform's role in nurturing passion and learning.

BAJA SAEINDIA offers engineering students hands-on experience with real-world challenges, as teams design, build, and race all-terrain vehicles evaluated through various events. The competition has grown significantly, becoming a national and international platform for young engineering talent.

Founded in 1997 by Padmabhusan Dr. B.V. Raju, BVRIT is renowned for its excellence in education and innovation. Part of the Sri Vishnu Educational Society (SVES), the institution offers state-of-the-art labs and centers of excellence, providing students with resources to innovate and conduct research. BVRIT's commitment to academic excellence and hands-on learning is evident in its hosting of eBAJA SAEINDIA 2024 and 2025, underscoring its dedication to fostering innovation and practical learning experiences for students.

## Mithali Raj's Analysis on Amul Cricket Live on JioHotstar



Mithali Raj discussed the crucial final over for Delhi Capitals, noting that despite needing more runs than balls remaining, fielding lapses by UP Warriorz aided Delhi Capitals in chasing down the target.

Raj highlighted Annabel Sutherland's supporting role alongside Meg Lanning, especially after Delhi Capitals lost Jemimah Rodrigues. Sutherland's 40-run stand with Marizanne Kapp was vital in stabilizing the innings.

Mithali Raj praised Marizanne Kapp for her all-rounder performance, noting that despite a tough day with the ball, Kapp made a significant impact with the bat. Her partnership with Sutherland was instrumental in guiding the team to victory.

Raj commended Meg Lanning for her record number of half-centuries in the TATA WPL. Lanning's innings showcased her ability to play straight and find boundaries, particularly when new bowlers came on.

Mithali Raj noted the improved partnership between Meg Lanning and Shafali Verma, emphasizing their ability to maintain momentum by following boundaries with quick singles, preventing pressure build-up.

Raj anticipates an intense rivalry week in Bengaluru, highlighting the importance of the match between RCB and MI. With RCB already on four points, a win for MI would level the points, making the tournament even more exciting.

## Champions Trophy 2025: Confident Afghanistan face South Africa, who aim to shed 'chokers' tag

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb. 21

Debutants Afghanistan will aim to continue their impressive rise in white-ball cricket, while South Africa will once again attempt to shed the 'chokers' tag when the two sides kick off their Champions Trophy campaign here on Friday.

The inaugural Champions Trophy in 1998, which was called the Knockout Trophy at that time, remains the only ICC men's senior title that South Africa have secured despite having produced some of the world's greatest cricketers, especially in limited-overs format. The Proteas boast of a well-balanced squad with a formidable batting lineup. While skipper Temba Bavuma, Tony de Zorzi, Rassie van der

Dussen, and Aiden Markram will anchor the top order, the big-hitting trio of Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and Tristan Stubbs are well-equipped to provide the final flourish. South Africa's biggest challenge heading into the tournament is their depleted bowling attack as key pacers Anrich Nortje, Nandre Burger, and Gerald Coetzee ruled out due to injuries. Known for his pace, aggression, and the knack of striking at crucial moments, Kagiso Rabada will be the Proteas' key weapon in both the



powerplay and death overs. Marco Jansen, too, will be expected to step up significantly. His ability to build pressure and deliver impactful spells will be crucial. Meanwhile, Lungi Ngidi will be looking to rediscover his rhythm and confidence after a below-par showing in the recent tri-series. In the spin department, Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi will have vital roles.

Since the 2023 ODI World Cup, South Africa have won only four of the 14 ODIs they have played. They enter the

tournament on the back of a six-match losing streak. But one cannot overlook the fact that they were not able to field a full-strength team in any of these games due to multiple reasons. Clubbed alongside an off-colour England, injury-plagued Australia and Afghanistan, South Africa have a good chance of advancing to the knockout stage. But the Afghans could prove to be the proverbial banana peel. The war-torn nation has emerged as strong contenders to make the semi-finals. Their impressive performances in recent ICC events include dominant wins over England, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in the 2023 ODI World Cup and reaching the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup last year.

He wasn't able to open the batting in the second innings, forcing Saud Shakeel to take stance as a stop-gap opener. Zaman batted at No.4, scoring scored 24 off 41, but seemed visibly struggling during his knock. Pakistan lost the game by 60 runs.

## Pakistan team leave for India clash in Dubai without injured Fakhar Zaman



The Pakistan cricket team left for Dubai for the marquee Champions Trophy clash against arch-rivals India without opener Fakhar Zaman, who suffered an injury during the opening match against New Zealand here on February 19. The stalwart suffered a muscle strain while fielding in the New Zealand innings and remained away from the field for most part of the innings. The 34-year-old suffered the injury while chasing a ball to the boundary in the first over of the contest.

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## Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bereaved as his father passes away hours before Khel Ratna

New Delhi  
WUT | Feb. 21

Asian Games champion shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's father R Kasi Viswanath died of cardiac arrest on Thursday morning.

Satwik, currently in the national capital for the 43rd PSPB Inter-Unit badminton tournament, was scheduled to receive the prestigious Khel Ratna award on Thursday. His father, a retired physical education teacher, was set to travel to join him for the ceremony but tragically passed away before



he could make the trip. "It is extremely sad and unfortunate that Satwik has lost his father this morning," said a source close to the family. The 24-year-old from Amalapuram will depart

for Andhra Pradesh this afternoon to be with his family. Satwik, who forms a formidable men's doubles pair with Chirag Shetty, has been a trailblazer in Indian badminton. The duo, which won

gold at the 2022 Asian Games, the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and the 2023 Asian Championships, is the only Indian doubles pair to hold the No. 1 spot in the BWF World Rankings and win a BWF World Tour Super 1000 title.

In 2023, Satwik also set a Guinness World Record for the fastest badminton smash by a male player, reaching a speed of 565 km/h. He had shared a heartwarming video on social media featuring his father unwrapping his Guinness World Record certificate.

## MS Dhoni opens up on his IPL future



Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb. 21

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the legendary former Indian cricket captain, has addressed speculations about his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL) just weeks before the upcoming season, set to commence on March 22. The 43-year-old, who led India to victories in the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2007 T20 World Cup, as well as the 2013 Champions Trophy, last played for the national team in June 2019.

Dhoni, who retired from international cricket in August 2019, continues to play for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the IPL. Despite being away from international cricket for nearly six years, Dhoni's retirement from the IPL may not be imminent. He expressed his desire to enjoy playing cricket with the same innocence he had as a child.

"I've retired since 2019, so it will be quite some time. What I've been doing in the meantime is I

just want to enjoy cricket for the last few years that I will be able to play," Dhoni said during the launch of his app powered by Single.id. Dhoni emphasized his commitment to giving his best for the Indian cricket team during his international career. He advised young players to prioritize their goals and focus on what is beneficial for their cricket careers.

"For me as a cricketer, I always wanted to perform for the Indian cricket team because not everybody gets a chance to represent the country," Dhoni stated. "You always need to figure out what is good for you. When I was playing, I made sure that cricket was a whole for me—nothing else mattered."

Dhoni will now play as an uncapped player in the IPL, having spent more than five years as a retired player from international cricket. His dedication and passion for the game continue to inspire fans and fellow cricketers alike.

## Rohit Sharma Becomes Second Fastest to Reach 11,000 ODI Runs After Virat

Dubai  
WUT | Feb. 21

India captain Rohit Sharma has become the second fastest batter, after Virat Kohli, to reach 11,000 runs in One-Day Internationals (ODIs). This milestone was achieved during India's Champions Trophy match against Bangladesh on Thursday. Rohit hit a boundary off Mustafizur Rahman in the fourth over of India's chase of 229, marking his 11,000th run. He reached this feat in his 261st innings, making him the second fastest behind Kohli, who achieved it in 222 innings. Rohit is now behind Sourav

Ganguly (11,363 runs) in the list of highest ODI run-scorers, with Sachin Tendulkar leading with 18,246 runs. Virat Kohli, with 13,963 runs, is just 37 runs shy of becoming the third player to score 14,000 ODI runs. Kumar Sangakkara is second on the list with 14,234 runs.

Rohit is also second in hitting the most sixes (338) in ODIs, behind Shahid Afridi (351). India boasts six batters in the top 15 list of ODI run-scorers, including Rahul Dravid and MS Dhoni. Rohit Sharma's achievement underscores his consistency and impact in the ODI format, cementing his status as one of the game's greats.



## Ranji Trophy 2024-25: Jaymeet Patel, Siddharth Desai's efforts put Gujarat on brink of entering final

Ahmedabad  
WUT | Feb. 21

A resilient 72-run unbroken partnership for the eighth wicket between Jaymeet Patel and Siddharth Desai, following a commanding 148 from opener Priyank Panchal, kept Gujarat on the brink of a third Ranji Trophy final as they finished day four at 429/7 in response to Kerala's 457 after penultimate day's play here on Wednesday.

Jaymeet, displaying immense patience and temperament, re-

mained unbeaten on 74 from 161 deliveries, curbing his natural strokeplay. His innings, which included just two boundaries, exemplified his determination to grind out a crucial innings under pressure. Desai, offering staunch support, was unbeaten on 24 from 134 balls, making full use of his reprieve on 11.

The left-handed duo showed remarkable composure, battling through 36.4 overs as Gujarat trailed by just 28 runs with three wickets in hand heading into the final day. With the

first-innings lead likely to decide the contest, Jaymeet and Desai would look to inch closer to Kerala's total and push their team into the Ranji Trophy final after 2016-17 when they had won their maiden title. Gujarat had also advanced into the Ranji final in 1950-51 when they finished runners-up.

Kerala started the day strongly. Domestic stalwart Jalaj Saxena led the act with his clever spin bowling. Manan Hingrajia (33) was the first to fall in the morning session, adding just three runs to his overnight total be-

fore Jalaj trapped him leg-before.

Panchal followed soon after, falling agonisingly short of 150 as Jalaj struck again. He got out for 148 (237 balls, 18x4s, 1x6) that proved a major setback for the home side. Wicketkeeper-batter Urvil Patel (25) was the third victim of the morning, stumped after being deceived by Jalaj's flight.

Jalaj was the backbone of Kerala's bowling effort, sending down a herculean 61 overs. He bowled unchanged in the morning session and took all three

wickets to fall before lunch. By lunch, Gujarat had slipped to 325/5, with Kerala sensing an opportunity to take control and gain that crucial first-innings lead.

Skipper Chintan Gaja (2) fell immediately after the break, once again to Jalaj, who ended the day with figures of 4/137 in a marathon 61-over bowling spell, which included 12 maidens. With Gujarat reeling at 357/7, still trailing by 100 runs, the onus was on Jaymeet and Desai to script a fightback.





CPI (M-L) New Democracy activists took out a demonstration rally from Sundarayya Park in Bagh Lingampally to Dharna Chowk at Indira Park in Hyderabad, demanding that the Revanth Reddy-led government fulfill its six guarantees. The protest was led by the party's official spokesperson, Comrade J. V. Chalapati Rao. Central committee members, including Comrades Sadineni Venkateswar Rao, state leaders Avunuri Madhu and K. Govardhan, AIKMS national leader V. Koteswar Rao, POW national leader G. Jhansi, IFTU General Secretary T. Srinivas, POW National Convener V. Srinivas, AIKMS State General Secretary Mandal Venkanna, IFTU State General Secretary M. Srinivas, and PDSU National Leader Mahesh, participated in the demonstration

## Utilise Funds in 40 Days, CM Revanth Directs Officials

CM reviews budget utilisation, urges departments to raise spending to 85% before fiscal year-end

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

With less than 40 days left for the financial year 2024-25 to conclude, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed the finance department to expedite the release and utilisation of funds to meet budgetary targets. During a review meeting on Thursday, he assessed the utilisation of funds allocated in the previous year's Budget and noted that only 70 per cent had been used so far. He urged departments to increase this figure to at least

85 per cent in the remaining period.

Revanth Reddy criticised the previous BRS government for inflating revenue projections while simultaneously increasing expenditure estimates, leading to financial strain and spill-over liabilities. He emphasized the Congress-led government's commitment to realistic budgeting for better financial stability and efficient fund allocation.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over lower-than-expected spending by some departments despite the availability of



sufficient funds. While he was satisfied with commercial tax collections, which stood at ₹26,725 crore out of the budgeted ₹33,449 crore (80 per cent), he

stressed the need for improvement. He advised officials to focus on departments that had utilised less than 50 per cent of their allocated budgets

and ensure effective financial management in the final stretch of the fiscal year.

A Comptroller and Auditor General report for April-January revealed that government expenditure stood at ₹1,78,947 crore out of ₹2,54,431 crore, amounting to 70 per cent of the Budget. Under the previous BRS government, the average fund utilisation was 82 per cent, with fluctuations across years. The lowest utilisation was 51 per cent in 2023-24 until November when the Congress took over. In contrast, states like

Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala exceeded their budgetary estimates, achieving expenditure levels between 100 per cent and 116 per cent.

Revanth Reddy urged officials to ensure funds are effectively allocated, prioritising development projects that directly benefit the public. He also stressed improving commercial tax collections and closing the budget-expenditure gap, which averaged 20 per cent during the BRS era, compared to only five per cent in other states.

### Unseasonal Rains Surprise Hyderabad Residents



Hyderabad experienced light showers on Tuesday, catching residents off guard with unexpected rainfall ahead of summer.

Weather enthusiasts predict more rain in parts of South Hyderabad, including Hayathnagar, LB Nagar, Nagole, Uppal, Vanasthalipuram, Kothapet, and Ramanthapur. Other areas such as Golconda, Bandlaguda, Rajendranagar, Falaknuma, and Chandrayangutta are also expected to receive light showers, which may persist for another hour.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad's evening update, the city will have a partly cloudy sky with mist or hazy conditions in the morning. The maximum temperature is expected to be 35.4°C, while the minimum will be 22.1°C. IMD India attributes the rains across the two Telugu states to a surface depression in the Bay of Bengal, moving northeast. Heavy rains are expected in the northeastern states, while Hyderabad may see light showers and stormy winds over the next few days.

The latest weather radar map indicates localized rainfall in Hyderabad, with moderate to heavy showers expected in the southeastern parts, including Ibrahimpatnam and Vanasthalipuram. As Hyderabad transitions from winter to summer, the city is likely to experience a mix of summer-like heat, winter chill, and unseasonal rains in the coming week. Meanwhile, city authorities, including the electricity department, are gearing up for the summer season. It remains to be seen how intense this summer will be for Hyderabad.

### Fire breaks out in textile showroom in Hyderabad's KPHB

A major fire broke out in a textile showroom near the KPHB Metro Station on Thursday night. No casualties were reported, police said. Officials suspect a short circuit could have caused the fire. Local residents noticed fire and thick smoke from the top floor of the showroom, which is surrounded by commercial complexes, and alerted the fire department and police.

Two fire engines were rushed to the spot and doused the fire within an hour. The store was full of cotton, fiber and cloth material due to which thick smoke engulfed the surrounding areas, triggering panic among the residents.

The people present in the showroom and the adjacent buildings rushed to safety. Officials said the cost of the property damage was yet to be estimated. The police are investigating.

### GHMC approves major road, flyover expansion projects in Hyderabad

Major infrastructure initiatives, property acquisitions, and budget allocations finalized for citywide development.

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), during its eighth standing committee meeting at the Command Control Room, approved several major infrastructure projects aimed at urban development. The GHMC sanctioned the acquisition of over 380 properties to facilitate multi-level flyovers and road widening at KBR Park, Jubilee Hills, Khajaguda, and other key junctions.

Each GHMC zone will receive ₹25 crores for developmental activities, including parks and sports facilities, to enhance public amenities. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) was granted for 5.37 acres of government land to TGSRTC for constructing



the Midhani Bus Station and Depot. The lease extension for the Telangana Government Special Protection Force at Buddha Bhavan was also approved.

An MoU with Lighthouse Community Foundation was sanctioned to conduct training programs for unemployed youth and women at the Borabanda GHMC Community Hall.

The committee approved several infrastructure projects, including ₹22.17 crore for a floodwater canal at Banjara Hills, ₹6 crore for a 100 mm pipe-

line from Chilukanagar to Kaveri Nagar, ₹3.09 crore for e-office application work via RailTel Corporation India Limited, ₹2.26 crore for procuring 1,600 CCMS boxes, and ₹7.4 crore for an RCC box drain project from Darusalam to Chaknawadi culvert.

Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi chaired the meeting, emphasizing the need for cooperation in executing development projects. GHMC Commissioner Ilambarthi stressed the importance of coordination between officials and public representatives for effective governance.

Earlier, the GHMC council approved an ₹8,440 crore budget for 2025-26, with funds allocated for citywide development. The revised budget for 2024-25 stood at ₹8,118 crore.

### KTR urges Telangana HC to quash pending cases against him

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

KT Rama Rao, the BRS working president and MLA from Sircilla constituency, filed two petitions seeking High Court intervention to quash the cases pending against him before the designated court for the MP and MLA cases at Nampally.

The cases arise out of the crime registered against him at the Banjara Hills police station. The March 27, 2024, complaint alleges that Rama Rao had passed comments on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy about collecting ₹2,500 crore from contractors and builders and sent it to Delhi. The complaint also states that Rama Rao said Revanth Reddy would join the BJP after the Lok Sabha elections, therefore damaging the reputation of the



Chief Minister, disturbing peace and promoting enmity between parties. Another criminal case was registered by the Musheerabad police for participating in the roadshow at Musheerabad and the procession allegedly had no permission. Rama Rao's petitions challenged the chargesheets filed in both the crimes before the Nampally court, contending that the cases were baseless and lack any material or evidence to subject him to undergo the criminal proceedings. The matters are expected to be heard on Friday.

### Hyderabad police seize 1196 tons of illegally transported sand

The Hyderabad police have seized 1196 tons of illegally transported sand in an operation conducted during February 14-19.

The operation was carried out as per the Telangana chief minister A. Revanth Reddy's orders. The police registered 26 cases and arrested 57 accused during the operation in Hyderabad. Eight vehicles used for the transportation of sand were also seized by the police.

The drive was taken up after the Telangana mines and geology department announced its aim to supply 1 lakh Metric tons of sand.

### CM Revanth Reddy appears before court on campaign-related cases

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

Chief minister A. Revanth Reddy appeared before the Special Court for MLAs and MPs at Nampally on Thursday, February 20, in connection with three cases filed against him for the statements he made during the election campaign as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president before the 2023 assembly elections. There were cases filed against him during his election



campaign at Begum Bazar police station, Nalgonda II Town police station, and Kowdipally police station in Medak district.

All the cases were from the 2023 election year, with charges like criminal intimidation, threatening a public servant, uttering ob-

scene words in public, making statements that promote enmity between groups, intentional insult to provoke someone to break peace, disobedience to orders given by public servants, and wrongful restraint. TPCC legal cell vice-president Tirupathi Varma, who represented Revanth Reddy, argued that the ruling BRS government at the time, had foisted false cases against him while he was serving as the TPCC president.

### GHMC Launches Cleanup Drive at Shah Hatim Lake to Combat Mosquito Menace

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has initiated a major cleanup operation at Shah Hatim Lake in response to the rising mosquito menace in the area. The drive, spearheaded by AIMIM and Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, aims to curb the spread of diseases like dengue and malaria caused by mosquito breeding in stagnant water and unchecked water hyacinth



growth. As part of the initiative, GHMC is actively removing water hyacinth and deploying drones to spray anti-larval chemicals, ensuring effective mosquito control. Officials have also announced that similar measures will be under-

taken at Balkapur Nala and the Musi River, which are facing similar issues.

While local residents have welcomed the efforts, experts emphasize the need for long-term solutions, including regular lake maintenance, public awareness campaigns, and community participation, to prevent future outbreaks.

The success of this drive will depend on sustained efforts by both the government and citizens to keep water bodies clean and mosquito-free.

### HYDRAA razes Hyderabad's Pariki Lake encroachments

Hyderabad WUT | Feb. 21

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) enforcement teams demolished unauthorized structures in Pariki Lake of Hyderabad's Quthbullapur on Thursday, February 20.

The Pariki Lake Conservation Committee has lodged a complaint with HYDRAA commissioner AV Ranganath, alleging

encroachment on the 60-acre lake. In response, HYDRAA launched a full-scale investigation, coordinating with revenue, irrigation, and municipal departments.

Following the probe, demolitions were carried out in the FTL area of Pariki Lake in Hyderabad, where unauthorized constructions were identified.

Meanwhile, the committee reported that Balakrishna, a purported local leader, was illegally



selling government land and plots within the lake's FTL perimeter through notarized agreements.

On February 18, HYDRAA excavations uncovered hidden

waters of Bathukamma Kunta Lake, which was believed to have been lost to encroachment.

On Tuesday, February 18 after digging through the thick layers of soil, Bathukamma Kunta Lake began to emerge, reigniting hope for the revival of the once-vital water body. "If all the soil that has been filled over the years is removed, the pond will be filled with water once again," Hyderabad residents stated.

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