



WAKE UP TELANGANA



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Brief Insights

Telangana paying heavy price for BRS' sins on Krishna: Uttam



Telangana's water woes are a creation of the BRS regime, particularly with reference to projects on River Krishna, as the then government did not take any steps to complete 16 reservoirs, which, between them, could have stored up to 100.541 tmc ft of water, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said. "By adding 2.468 tmc ft capacity of the existing Dindi reservoir, which was to be part of the Sri Ramaraju Vidyasagar Rao Dindi lift irrigation scheme, the total capacity lost on account of BRS government's neglect comes to 103.009 tmc ft.

CONTINUE:P8

Mission Shakti to be renamed as 'Subhadra Shakti'



In a significant development for women's empowerment in Odisha, the state government is considering renaming its flagship Mission Shakti initiative as 'Subhadra Shakti.' Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida hinted at the potential re-branding during a recent interaction, sparking widespread speculation. The anticipated change aligns with the launch of the 'Subhadra Shakti Mela,' scheduled to commence on Saturday evening in Bhubaneswar. This grand event will bring together women from self-help groups (SHGs) across the state, showcasing their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

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CM Revanth Launches Several Development Works in Narayanpet District: P2

Revanth Blames KCR for Krishna Water Diversion by AP

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 22

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, accusing them of failing on all fronts and compromising Telangana's interests. Addressing a public meeting

in Narayanpet on Friday, he alleged that Rao had played a key role in the diversion of Krishna river water to Andhra Pradesh and was now shedding "crocodile tears" over the issue.

Revanth Reddy said that Chandrashekar Rao had colluded with former chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy before the bifur-



cation of the state and later with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as Chief Minister of AP. He accused Chandrashekar Rao of facilitating the transfer of Krishna water to Rayalaseema

Congress Betrayed Public on LRS Promise, Says Bandi Sanjay: P3

through the Pothireddy-padu and Rayalaseema lift irrigation projects, stating, "When YSR diverted Krishna water, KCR's party was part of YSR's government. When Jagan diverted Krishna water, Rao was Telangana's CM. He even hosted Jagan at Pragathi Bhavan, permitting him to divert water. His priority was amassing

wealth through commissions rather than safeguarding Telangana's water rights." Revanth Reddy also criticised Chandrashekar Rao for agreeing to a Krishna water allocation of only 200 tmc ft to Telangana while allowing Andhra Pradesh to receive 500 tmc ft (thousand million cubic ft). **CONTINUE:P8**

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Over Palamuru Development: P2



Indian students fear as Canada tighten rules

Canada has introduced stricter immigration rules allowing officers to cancel temporary resident documents, including work and study permits, under certain conditions. The changes have sparked anxiety among Indian immigrants, particularly students and workers.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), officers can now revoke electronic travel authorisations (ETA) and temporary resident visas (TRVs) if an individual becomes "inadmissible," provides false information, has a criminal record or is deemed unlikely to leave Canada after their authorised stay.

The regulations also extend to permanent residents, allowing authorities to cancel residency if a document was issued in error or the individual has passed away. The stricter rules have unsettled many Indian students in Canada, many of whom fear the impact of these stricter regulations. Mohd. Fazal, a 24-year-old student from Hyderabad studying in Vancouver, said, "My family invested so much to send me here. It's scary to think they can cancel our residency and send us back."

Modi calls for leaders with vision

New delhi WUT | Feb . 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday emphasised the urgent need for energetic leaders who can effectively tackle global complexities while safeguarding India's interests on the world stage.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) Leadership Conclave 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in the

national capital. Stressing that future leadership goes beyond the mere exercise of power, the Prime Minister noted the importance of innovation and impact. He underscored the necessity to develop "better citizens" for nation-building and "excellent leaders" across every sector, pointing out that India's 140-crore population demands capable leadership at all levels. Modi announced plans for a new, expansive SOUL campus near



Gujarat's GIFT City and highlighted the institution as a key milestone in the journey towards a "Viksit Bharat." Citing Swami Vivekananda, he recalled the leader's vision of

transforming India with a core group of 100 dedicated individuals, urging the country to strive forward with similar resolve. He praised Gujarat's success story — though limited in natural resources, the state flourished due to human capital and robust leadership.

Stressing that India is emerging as a global powerhouse, the Prime Minister said the country needs world-class leaders with a "global approach and

local mindset," prepared for strategic decision-making, crisis management, and futuristic thinking. Modi envisioned SOUL as a platform to foster critical thinking, risk-taking, and solution-oriented approaches. He called for leaders who set trends rather than follow them, ensuring that India's progress in diplomacy, technology, policy-making, and entrepreneurship resonates worldwide.

Bhatti Urges Quick Use of Rs 3k Cr for SC, STs

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 22

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to complete within two months, pending self-employment schemes and developmental works worth Rs 3,000 crore for beneficiaries from the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) communities.

He also told them to clear arrears of rent and diet charges of social welfare hostels. Chairing a pre-budget review meet-



ing with officials from the BC, SC, ST, and minority welfare departments, Bhatti urged them to formulate comprehensive plans for the development of forest land. He said that youths from the BC, SC,

ST communities had faced hardships under the BRS government and stated that the current administration was committed to their welfare. The government is ready to spend Rs 3,000 crore in the next two months to complete the schemes, he informed.

Bhatti sought details on pending dues for social welfare hostels, residential schools and gurukuls and instructed officials to submit bills regularly to the finance department to ensure their timely clearance. **CONTINUE:P3**

CM Revanth Launches Several Development Works in Narayanpet District

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the construction of 72,045 Indiramma houses for the poor in the first phase across Telangana, apart from development works, during his visit to Narayanpet district on Friday. As part of the Indiramma housing scheme, the state government will provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each beneficiary to construct their own homes in phases. The first installment of Rs 1 lakh will be credited to the beneficiary's bank account upon completion of the basement, with the remaining amount disbursed. **CONTINUE:P2**

Trump calls 'voter turnout' grant kickback, India says probe is on

New delhi WUT | Feb . 22

US President Donald Trump has claimed that a US\$ 21 million grant for boosting "voter turnout" in India under the previous Biden administration was part of a "kickback" scheme, drawing a sharp response from the Indian government. Calling the revelations "deeply troubling," India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that the matter is being investigated by "relevant agencies," amid concerns about foreign interference. Speaking at the Re-



publican Governors Association meeting in Washington, DC on Thursday, Trump questioned the rationale behind the US Agency for International Development (USAID) funding for India's elections. "Why do we need to spend US\$ 21 million for voter turnout in India? We've got enough problems of our own," he remarked, adding that the unclear nature of such allocations "means there's a kickback."

This marks the third time in a week that the US President has raised doubts about the grant. In New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government is examining whether the funding was indeed directed to India or, as some reports suggest, to Bangladesh. "It would be premature to comment further until the full details are clear," he added. On Friday, media reports cited a BJP leader and lawyer calling for scrutiny of Veena Reddy, an American national who headed USAID in India from 2021 to 2024.

CONTINUE:P4

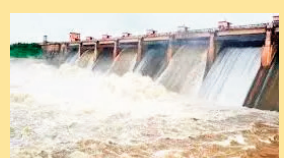
AP Already Used More Than Its Share, Telangana Tells KRMB

New delhi WUT | Feb . 22

Telangana has demanded that the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) immediately stop Andhra Pradesh from drawing any more Krishna river water from the Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem reservoirs.

In a letter to KRMB chairman Atul Jain on Friday, Telangana's irrigation principal secretary Rahul Bojja said: "As on today, AP has already utilised (Krishna water) far in excess of its entitlement as per KRMB records and therefore the state (AP) cannot draw any waters from the common reservoirs."

The letter followed a meeting Bojja, Telangana irrigation department engineer-in-chief (general) G. Anil Kumar, and chief engi-



neer of the Nagarjunasagar project, had with the KRMB chairman on Friday. Though the KRMB had called for an urgent meeting with Telangana and AP on Friday, AP wrote to the board saying it could not attend the meeting and sought a postponement. The formal meeting was rescheduled to Monday.

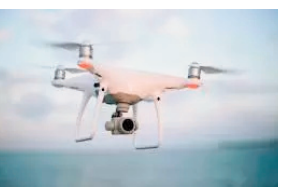
Telangana also placed its indent for water from the river till July this year. As per the indent, the state has said it will require 90 tmc ft of water till the end of this May to meet irrigation needs, and another 17 tmc ft to meet drinking water needs till May 31.

CONTINUE:P4

Army Ramps Up Anti-Drone Capabilities With New Radars

New delhi WUT | Feb . 22

The Indian Army Air Defence (AAD) is strengthening its anti-drone warfare capabilities amid the increasing use of unmanned aerial vehicles in modern conflicts, by acquiring new radars, directed energy weapons, air defence guns, and smart ammunition for real-time detection and destruction of even nano drones. Lt Gen Sumer Ivan D'Cunha, Director General of Army Air Defence, explained that the AAD is procuring Low-Level Light Weight (LLLW) radars capable of detecting drones with a radar cross-section as small as 0.01 square metres, at a range of up to 6-



7 km, thus giving defence forces ample time to neutralise threats.

The Army is also developing the ability to differentiate between friendly and hostile drones using artificial intelligence through the Akashteer Air Defence Control and Reporting System. To counter more advanced drones such as loitering drones using radio frequency channels, the Army plans to enhance its jamming and cyber takeover capabilities. Beyond these measures, the AAD is expanding its inventory of directed energy

weapons: it has seven laser-based systems already and intends to buy nine more with a range of one kilometre, alongside issuing a request for information for high-power microwave weapon systems. The Army is set to introduce a successor to its existing L-70 and ZU-23 mm guns by July 2026, initially acquiring 220 units capable of firing fragmentation ammunition against drones.

In terms of missile systems, two additional regiments for the Akash air defence missile system have been contracted, and the Army expects an enhanced First-Off Production Model for high-altitude trials within 45 days

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IITH launches data offload research unit



The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) launched the world's first data acceleration and offload research facility to tackle data transfer delays — a major inefficiency in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) processing. AI and ML systems require vast amounts of data, but a significant portion of processing time is lost as these systems wait for data to move across networks. Research suggests that up to one-third of AI processing time is wasted due to these delays. The new facility at IITH aims to address this by improving the speed, security, and efficiency of data movement, a critical factor in AI-driven applications.

The centre, set up in collaboration with Marvell Technology, will provide researchers, students, and industry professionals with access to advanced semiconductor technologies, including data processor units (DPUs), network interface controllers (NICs), compute express link (CXL) processors, and high-performance switches. These technologies manage how data moves between servers, processors, and storage devices, playing a crucial role in AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, the university said in a statement.

Telangana Urges KRMB to Halt Andhra Pradesh's Krishna Water Drawal

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Telangana has demanded that the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) immediately stop Andhra Pradesh from drawing additional Krishna river water from the Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam reservoirs. In a letter to KRMB chairman Atul Jain on Friday, Telangana's irrigation principal secretary Rahul Bojja stated that Andhra Pradesh had already ex-

ceeded its entitlement as per KRMB records and should not be allowed to withdraw more water from the common reservoirs.

The letter followed a meeting between Bojja, Telangana irrigation department engineer-in-chief (general) G. Anil Kumar, and the chief engineer of the Nagarjunasagar project with the KRMB chairman on Friday. Although the board had called for an urgent meeting with both states on the same day, Andhra Pradesh



informed KRMB that it could not attend and requested a postponement. The formal meeting was rescheduled to Monday. Telangana also sub-

mitted its indent for Krishna water usage until July, stating that it would require 90 TMC ft for irrigation until the end of May and an additional 17

TMC ft for drinking water needs until May 31. Furthermore, the state estimated a need for another 9 TMC ft for drinking water purposes from June 1 to

July 31, bringing the total request to 116 TMC ft.

Earlier this week, KRMB stated that Telangana had the option of utilizing 131 TMC ft of Krishna water, while Andhra Pradesh was allocated 27 TMC ft. However, the combined water availability in the Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs is currently around 90 TMC ft before reaching the minimum drawdown level (MDDL). With mounting pressure from Telangana farmers for

water releases to save standing crops, the state also accused Andhra Pradesh of drawing 10,000 cusecs of water from the Nagarjunasagar right canal.

As water levels continue to drop in the reservoirs, the issue has sparked a political controversy. The ruling Congress party, along with the opposition BRS and BJP, have engaged in a heated debate, accusing each other of failing to safeguard Telangana's water interests.

CM Revanth Reddy Launches Several Development Works in Narayanpet District

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the construction of 72,045 Indiramma houses for the poor in the first phase across Telangana, apart from development works, during his visit to Narayanpet district on Friday. As part of the Indiramma housing scheme, the state government will provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each beneficiary to construct their own homes in phases.

The first installment of Rs 1 lakh will be credited to the beneficiary's bank account upon completion of the base-ment, with the remaining amount disbursed as and how the construction



progresses. Reddy laid foundation stones for several infrastructure projects including for the construction of Narayanpet government medical college and hostel at a cost of Rs 130 crore; Young India integrated residential schools complex, costing Rs 200 crore; government nursing college worth Rs 26 crore and a 100-bed unit costing Rs 40 crore. He also inaugurated academic blocks of the medical college, built at a cost of Rs 56 crore.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation of the Tunkimetta-Narayanpet road and Kothakonda-Maddur road at a cost of Rs 296 crore and launched the construction of high-level bridges on Appakalle-Gundamal road and Maddur-Lingalched road. Revanth Reddy launched road development projects, including Kalburagi (Gulbarga)-Kodangal, Ravulapalli-Maddur, and Kosgi-Daulatabad stretches, at a cost of Rs 193 crore. A foundation stone laid for CRR (construction of rural roads) roads in Narayanpet constituency, costing Rs 12.70 crore.

He inaugurated Dhanwada and Narayanpet rural police station buildings, built at a cost of Rs 5.58 crore; opened Marikal mandal parishad office complex, constructed at a

cost of Rs. 7 crore; inaugurated a petrol pump run by zilla mahila samakhyas of Women SHGs, valued at Rs 1.23 crore. Reddy also interacted with students of the government medical college. "The establishment of this medical college is a testament to the sincerity of the Congress government, which is committed to developing infrastructure in the new medical college for the benefit of students," Reddy said.

Referring to Dr B.R. Ambedkar, he noted, "Ambedkar said that development is achieved only when the benefits of welfare schemes reach the needy. The Congress MLAs are fully aware of people's needs, and the government is at the forefront of making education accessible to the poor."

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Over Palamuru Development

Hyderabad
R santosh chowdary
WUT | Feb . 22

Former Minister Harish Rao has strongly criticized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of spreading falsehoods about the progress of Palamuru and attempting to distort the achievements made under the previous government.

Harish Rao questioned Revanth Reddy's failure to prevent the diversion of Krishna waters by Andhra Pradesh, stating that instead of addressing this issue, the CM is making baseless allega-



tions. He accused the Congress and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) of neglecting Palamuru in the past, claiming that it was KCR's leadership that transformed the region from a barren land into a green and prosperous area.

"We fought against the diversion of water through Pothireddy padu, but you remained silent for your political ambitions. We protested for 40 days in the Assembly

against Congress' betrayal in river water disputes. Now, you are not only halting the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation project but also trying to take credit for the work we have already done," Harish Rao stated.

He alleged that 90% of the project was completed under the BRS government, but the Congress government deliberately stopped the remaining 10% to deny credit to KCR. He further claimed that if completed, the project would benefit even Revanth Reddy's own constituencies, Kodangal and Narayanpet.

National Ambedkar Sena Strengthens Telangana Leadership with Key Appointments

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Feb . 22

In a significant development, the National Ambedkar Sena has announced key leadership appointments for its Telangana wing, reinforcing its commitment to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice, equality, and constitutional rights.

At a crucial meeting held at the organization's national office, National Ambedkar Sena National President Mallu Sivaram Garu and Manne Sridhar Rao Garu presided over the event, with the esteemed presence of Founding President Mallu Sivaram Garu.

During the meeting, the leadership underscored the importance of



spreading Dr. Ambedkar's ideology and empowering marginalized communities. In line with this mission, Taluka Rajesh was appointed as the Telangana State President, while Gokula Kalyan was named the Telangana State Vice President of the organization.

Speaking on the occasion, Mallu Sivaram Garu expressed confidence in the newly appointed leaders, urging them to actively promote Ambedkar's principles and safeguard the constitutional rights of every citizen. Manne Sridhar Rao Garu empha-

sized the need for dedicated efforts to raise awareness, particularly among the youth, about Ambedkar's teachings and their relevance in today's society.

The Founding President, Mallu Sivaram Garu, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to uplifting underprivileged communities and called on the Telangana team to work tirelessly in addressing social injustices.

In their acceptance speeches, Taluka Rajesh and Gokula Kalyan expressed gratitude for the opportunity and pledged to strengthen the organization's presence in Telangana. They outlined plans for community programs, awareness initiatives, and activities aimed at empowering marginalized sections of society.

BRS Leader Jagadish Reddy Warns of Water Crisis in Telangana

Hyderabad
R santosh chowdary
WUT | Feb . 22

Former minister and senior BRS leader G. Jagadish Reddy accused the ruling Congress government of negligence over Telangana's Krishna River water share. He alleged that while Andhra Pradesh continues to divert water, the state government remains a silent spectator.

Citing former minister Harish Rao's concerns, Reddy warned that unchecked water exploitation could lead to a severe drinking and irrigation cri-



sis. He slammed irrigation minister Uttam Kumar Reddy for making baseless remarks instead of providing solutions, calling his statements scripted and lacking substance.

Reddy criticized Congress for historical injustices against Telangana, both before and after bifurcation. He accused national parties, including Congress and BJP, of conspiring to

deprive Telangana of its rightful water share, naming leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and Revanth Reddy.

He claimed that under former CM KCR, Telangana's irrigation projects flourished, ensuring water security for 17 consecutive crop seasons. However, he alleged that under Congress, key projects like Kalwakurthy, Nettampadu,

and Koil Sagar are struggling for water, blaming the government for mismanagement.

Reaffirming BRS' commitment to protecting Telangana's water rights, Reddy challenged Uttam Kumar Reddy to an open debate and demanded accountability. He also questioned BJP leaders Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay's silence on the issue. Warning of a public revolt if Congress continues to neglect irrigation needs, he urged the government to stop political blame games and take decisive action to secure Krishna waters for Telangana.

Congress Betrayed Public on LRS Promise: Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has accused the Congress government of planning to collect ₹50,000 crore through the Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS), despite promising free regularization before elections. He released videos of CM Revanth Reddy and other Congress leaders assuring people that no charges would be taken. During his visit to Peddapalli for the MLC election campaign, Sanjay criticized the Con-



gress for failing to fulfill promises, including filling two lakh jobs, providing ₹4,000 unemployment allow-

ance, and clearing fee reimbursement dues. He alleged that ₹7,500 crore in unpaid fees had left educational institutions

struggling. Employees and teachers, he said, had been denied rightful PRC benefits, DA arrears, GPF, and gratuity, with ₹8,200 crore pending.

Sanjay also slammed the government for underfunding education, failing to appoint regular headmasters and MEOs, and neglecting basic school infrastructure. He accused ministers of corruption in fee reimbursements and budget allocations.

On BC reservations, he warned against including Muslims in the quota and demanded

Congress leaders protest at Ten Janpath for misleading people. He also challenged CM Revanth Reddy to a public debate on the Union Budget, stating that Telangana received ₹1.08 lakh crore and that Congress was diverting attention with false claims.

Calling on graduates, employees, and teachers to vote in the MLC elections, he said the battle was between Congress' betrayal and BJP's fight for justice. He urged voters to support BJP-backed candidates to expose Congress' failures.

Misuse of SC & ST Welfare Funds: S. Kumar Slams Congress Govt

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

BJP SC Morcha National Secretary S. Kumar has accused the Congress government of betraying Dalits by misusing SC and ST welfare funds. He highlighted the failure of both the BRS and Congress regimes in implementing welfare schemes.

He revealed that SC/ST sub-plan funds were drastically reduced and diverted. In 2020-21, only ₹11,884 crore (71.87%) of the allocated

₹16,534 crore was utilized. In 2023-24, only ₹19,648 crore (53.47%) of ₹36,750 crore was spent. Despite promises to benefit 17 lakh Dalit families, only 1.73 lakh were selected, and only ₹9,894 crore was sanctioned out of the required ₹83,850 crore. Education and employment funds were underutilized. Out of ₹15,233 crore allocated for SC students in 2023-24, only ₹10,396 crore was spent, leaving thousands without scholarships. Welfare hostel and Gu-

rukul school budgets were also poorly implemented. The SC/ST sub-plan remains inactive, and Dalit Bandhu has been completely halted.

For 2024-25, only ₹17,056 crore has been allocated for SC/ST farmers, but nothing has been spent yet. Small farmers receive fewer benefits while big farmers gain more. Illegal cases against SC youth and rising attacks on Dalit communities in Telangana are alarming.

Bhatti Urges Quick Use of Rs 3k Cr for SC, STs

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Directs Officials to Expedite Pending Schemes, Clear Arrears, and Develop Forest Land for Irrigation

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

In a significant move aimed at improving the welfare of marginalized communities, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has instructed officials to ensure the completion of pending self-employment schemes and developmental projects worth ₹3,000 crore for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) within the next two months. During a pre-budget review meeting with officials

from the Backward Classes (BC), SC, ST, and minority welfare departments, Bhatti underscored the state government's commitment to the upliftment of these communities. He pointed out that under the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, youths from the SC, ST, and BC communities faced severe hardships due to delays and lack of proper implementation of welfare schemes. The current administration, he assured, is dedicated to rectifying these issues and ensuring the smooth ex-

ecution of welfare programs without unnecessary delays. Bhatti emphasized the need for officials to clear pending arrears related to rent and diet charges of social welfare hostels across the state. He sought comprehensive details on the outstanding dues for social welfare hostels, residential schools, and gurukuls, instructing officials to submit bills to the finance department regularly. This, he said, would prevent further backlogs and ensure that the institutions responsible

for the education and well-being of SC and ST students function efficiently. To ensure the effective implementation of welfare measures, Bhatti directed ministers, MLAs, and senior officials to conduct routine inspections of social welfare hostels and gurukuls. Regular visits, he stressed, would help identify gaps in infrastructure, food quality, and other essential facilities while ensuring that necessary improvements are made without delay. Bhatti also urged officials

of the SC and ST departments to focus on securing funds under the sub-plan act, which mandates specific budget allocations for the development of these communities. He instructed them to submit utilization certificates for various projects executed under central government schemes, thereby securing additional financial assistance from the Union government for future initiatives. Addressing the issue of forest land distribution to tribal communities, Bhatti emphasized the need for

proper land development to support agricultural and irrigation activities. He directed tribal welfare officials to collaborate with the energy, forest, and horticulture departments to formulate a comprehensive plan for the development of these lands. The proposed plan includes the establishment of solar power plants, which would provide a sustainable source of energy while simultaneously boosting the local economy. Additionally, Bhatti encouraged the cultivation of high-yield crops such as

avocado and bamboo, which have the potential to generate substantial returns within two years. Reaffirming the government's dedication to supporting SC and ST farmers, Bhatti announced the implementation of lift irrigation projects in areas predominantly inhabited by these communities. These projects aim to improve irrigation facilities, ensuring that farmers have access to adequate water resources to enhance agricultural productivity.

V. Srinivas Goud Slams Congress Govt Over Water and Irrigation Issues

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud, along with MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy and Former MLA Anjaiah Yadav, criticized the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of failing to address key issues related to agriculture and drinking water. Goud alleged that the state has returned to past difficulties under Congress rule, with no proper planning for irrigation and water supply. He blamed the govern-



ment for neglecting the stalled Palamuru-Rangareddy project while the Centre continues to delay permissions. He claimed corruption of one lakh crore rupees in the Kaleshwaram project but pointed out that official reports con-

firm 20 lakh acres were irrigated. He questioned whether even a single acre had been irrigated in Palamuru over the past fourteen months, accusing Congress of misleading the public. Goud criticized Congress for failing to rec-

ognize KCR's irrigation projects and for ignoring the submerged Watum pump house issue. He demanded that the Palamuru-Rangareddy project be granted national project status. He urged the government to secure Telangana's rightful share of Krishna waters and challenged Congress to highlight any achievements surpassing KCR's contributions. He accused CM Revanth Reddy of prioritizing personal interests over Telangana's welfare.

He claimed that farmers who voted for Congress now regret their decision. He accused the Congress government of inefficiency, stating that 90% of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project was completed under KCR, yet the Congress has failed to finish the rest. Goud concluded by urging the Congress government to focus on governance rather than political attacks, emphasizing that Telangana deserves better leadership.

Bandi Provided of CM's relief Fund 1.5 lakh sanctioned to Yadagiri

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Feb . 22

Vanarasa Yadagiri aged 50 years residing Vivek Nagar Division, in the Kukatapally Constituency was admitted to Nims Hospital, Panjagutta with knee pain. The doctors advised her to undergo a surgery on her knee. Her grand daughter was contacted to the office of Gottimukkala Venkateswara Rao in the Kukatapally and she applied to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund through the Congress Party In-charge of Kukatapally Constituency Shri Bandi Ramesh. Rs.1.5 lakh have been granted.that LOC letter was given to Yadagiri's grand daughter Ritu on Friday February 21,by the hands of Kukatapally



Constituency Congress Party In-charge Sri Bandi Ramesh and Kukatapally Congress Party Senior Leaders Sri Gottimukkala Venkateswara Rao, On this occasion, Ritu thanked the State Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, Shri Bandi Ramesh Gottimukkala Venkateswara Rao.

Retired Teacher Purushottam Passes Away; Leaders Pay Tribute

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Dr. Nirmala's husband, retired teacher Purushottam, who previously served in the NIMS Health Department, passed away today at NIMS Hospital. Several prominent figures attended to pay their respects and express their condolences to Dr. Nirmala and her family. Among them were Mala Mahanadu National President G. Chennaiyya, former SC/ST Commission member Dr. Boyla Vidyasagar, Everest Global Consulting Services Director Kandula Govind, Mala



Mahanadu State President Burgula Venkateswarlu, and Mala Mahanadu women leaders Sarala and Rama. Their heartfelt presence offered support to the bereaved family during this difficult time.

BRS Leader Praveen Kumar Slams Congress for Political Vendetta

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

BRS leader Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar accused the Congress government of misusing power, alleging increased illegal arrests and harassment of opposition leaders. He warned that suppressing those questioning unfulfilled promises would backfire. He criticized Congress for winning elections with six guarantees but failing to implement them. Instead of good governance, he claimed the government is using police



for political vendetta.

Former minister T. Harish Rao is allegedly being framed in false cases as part of a conspiracy by CM A. Revanth Reddy. Praveen Kumar

pointed to a recent case filed at Panjagutta police station by Chakradhar, calling it politically motivated. Harish Rao, a seven-time MLA known for his work during COVID-19, is being targeted for political gain, he alleged. Praveen Kumar claimed the police threatened and tortured Vamsi, a former Harish Rao staffer, to force a false statement. He called it a disgrace to the police force, warning officers against acting under political pressure. He questioned why the police

acted on a complaint from Chakradhar, who has past cases of sexual assault and fraud. He cited police inaction on attacks against BRS leaders while swiftly filing cases against them, calling it political harassment unseen during KCR's rule. Praveen Kumar warned that power is temporary and that BRS will fight to protect democracy. He demanded increased security for Harish Rao, saying his life is at risk.

Retired Teacher Purushottam Passes Away; Leaders Pay Tribute

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Feb . 21

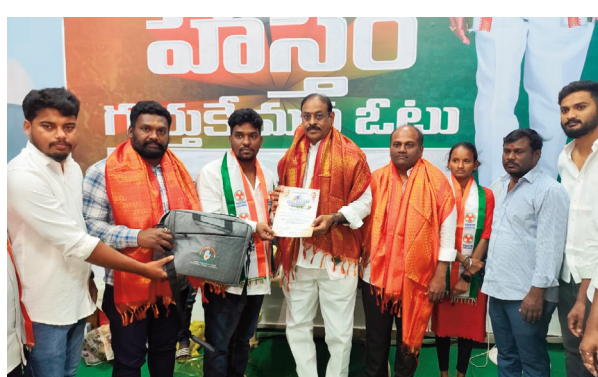
BJP's senior leader and Surya pet district president Mrs Srilatha Reddy stated in her Media statement complimented Delhi CM Smt Rekha Gupta .After assuming the CM charges.The Telangana BJP state unit extends heartfelt congratulations to Smt. Rekha Gupta on her historic swearing-in as the Chief Minister 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 Provided of CM's relief Fund 1.5 lakh sanctioned to Yadagiri



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.

Singireddy Niranjan Reddy Criticizes TG Govt Over Water Issues

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy criticized the Telangana government for neglecting irrigation projects and allowing Andhra Pradesh to misuse Telangana's water resources with NDA support.

Speaking at a media conference, Niranjan Reddy alleged that Andhra Pradesh Chief Ministers Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu are illegally drawing Krishna River waters while the BJP-led central government remains silent. He accused the Congress government of sidelining the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Project despite an investment of Rs. 34,000 crores. He claimed that Rs. 1,000-1,200 crores are needed to complete pending works, but the



government is delaying payments, leading to project stagnation. He accused Congress of spreading misinformation instead of finishing the work. He criticized Congress for alleging Rs. 1 lakh crore corruption in the Kaleshwaram Project, despite Hyderabad benefiting from it. He claimed Congress has failed to deliver promised financial aid to farmers and women and that Telangana, which prospered under KCR, is now declining with increasing farmer suicides.

Niranjan Reddy alleged that AP has used 660 TMC of Krishna water illegally this monsoon, with 10,000 cusecs drawn daily from Nagarjuna Sagar while CM Revanth Reddy remains silent. He urged the government to complete irrigation projects immediately and warned of protests in Delhi if Telangana's water rights are not protected. He asserted that despite misinformation against BRS, people recognize the truth and development under KCR's leadership.

Odisha Government Considers Renaming Mission Shakti as 'Subhadra Shakti'

New delhi
WUT | Feb . 22

In a significant move towards women's empowerment, the Odisha government is contemplating renaming its flagship Mission Shakti initiative as 'Subhadra Shakti.' Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida hinted at the possible rebranding during a recent interaction, generating widespread discussion.

The proposed change coincides with the launch of the 'Subhadra Shakti Mela,' set to commence on Saturday evening in Bhubaneswar. This event will bring together women from self-help groups (SHGs) across the state, offering a platform to showcase their creativity and entrepreneurial skills. The fair, which will run until March 2 at Janata Maidan, will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

With over 300 stalls displaying traditional handicrafts, terracotta, bamboo crafts, hand-woven textiles, organic foods, spices, sweets, and millet-based delicacies, the event aims to highlight the exceptional talents of SHG women. Around 700 women entrepreneurs are expected to participate, reinforcing



ing the goal of economic empowerment and financial independence. The initiative aspires to enable women to achieve the status of 'Lakshmi Didi,' symbolizing financial self-sufficiency. Deputy CM Parida emphasized the importance of this initiative in advancing women's financial empowerment, aligning with the vision of a 'Bikashita Odisha' and a 'Viksit Bharat.' She also underscored the symbolic significance of the name change, associating it with Subhadra, a legendary figure representing strength and empowerment. "The Subhadra Shakti Mela marks a historic milestone for Odisha, celebrating women's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. It reflects the government's commitment to fostering financial independence among women and creating new avenues for their growth and success," Parida stated.

3 Buses Explode In Israel, Cops Call It "Suspected Terror Attack"

New delhi
WUT | Feb . 22

Israeli police said that bombs on three buses exploded in the central city of Bat Yam on Thursday evening, with a local official saying there were no injuries.

Defence Minister Israel Katz accused "Palestinian terrorist organisations" of carrying out the blasts, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was set to hold a security meeting.

"Preliminary report - Suspected terror attack. Multiple reports have been received of explosions involving several buses at different locations in Bat Yam," the police said in a statement.

Three devices exploded on buses

while two were being defused, a police spokesman told AFP. A large number of police were deployed to search for suspects, the police statement said.

"Police bomb disposal units are scanning for additional suspicious objects. We urge the public to avoid the areas and remain alert for any suspicious items," it added.

Tzvika Brot, the mayor of Bat Yam, said in a video statement that there were "no injured in these incidents".

Television footage aired by some Israeli networks showed a completely burnt-out bus and another that was on fire.

Israeli media said that bus drivers coun-



trywide had been asked to stop and inspect their vehicles for additional explosive devices.

- 'Very serious' - A police commander from central Israel, Haim Sargarof said in a televised briefing that the devices used to set off the blasts were similar to those found in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Following the blasts, Netanyahu was set to hold a security meeting, his office said.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been receiving

ongoing updates from his military secretary on the IED (improvised-explosive-device) incidents in the Dan (central) area and will soon hold a security assessment," the office said in a statement.

An official in the prime minister's office said Netanyahu "views the placing of explosives on buses as a very serious incident and will order decisive action against terror elements in the West Bank".

In a separate state-

ment, Katz said he had ordered the military to step up its offensives across the occupied territory, particularly in refugee camps.

"In light of the serious attempted attacks in the Gush Dan (central) area by Palestinian terrorist organisations against the civilian population in Israel, I have instructed the IDF (military) to intensify operations to thwart terrorism in the Tulkarem refugee camp and in all the refugee camps in Judea and Samaria," Katz said in a statement, using the biblical term for the West Bank.

The military has been carrying out near-daily raids in several West Bank

cities and camps for several weeks now targeting Palestinian militants.

Violence in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967, has escalated since the October 2023 outbreak of war in the Gaza Strip.

At least 897 Palestinians including militants have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since the Gaza war began, according to an AFP tally based on figures provided by the Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah.

At least 32 Israelis, including some soldiers, have been killed in Palestinian attacks or confrontations during Israeli operations in the West Bank over the

Congress Demands Sacking of NCP Minister Sentenced to 2 Years Imprisonment

New delhi
WUT | Feb . 21

The Congress on Friday urged the Maharashtra governor to sack state agricultural minister Manikrao Kokate, who has been sentenced to two years jail in a cheating case, from the state cabinet. Newly appointed state Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal demanded that Kokate's membership of the legislative assembly should also be cancelled. "The Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance government has turned into a gang of corrupt ministers. Former Agriculture Minister Dhananjay Munde has crossed all limits of corruption under the guise of helping farmers. Now, Man-



ikrao Kokate has been sentenced to two years in prison by the Nashik District Court for fraudulently preparing fake documents. Given this, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis should learn a lesson and immediately sack Kokate," said Sapkal.

"When Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was convicted in a bogus defamation case, the Secretariat revoked

his MP status overnight, forced him to vacate his government residence, and acted swiftly. Similarly, when former Congress minister Sunil Kedar was sentenced, his MLA post was immediately revoked. But why is there a different justice system for Manikrao Kokate? The government is not acting democratically in this case," he said.

According to Sapkal, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar is shielding both Munde and Kokate.

"Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis must now muster the courage to remove these corrupt individuals from office," he said. Kokate on Thursday was sentenced to two years in prison by a Nashik district court for his involvement in a 30-year-old document tampering and fraud case. The conviction is related to the illegal acquisition of two flats under the chief minister's discretionary quota. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the NCP leader. His brother, Sunil Kokate, was similarly convicted in the case, which dates back to 1995.

"Those In Situation Like Asrani In Sholay ...": Eknath Shinde's Dig At Uddhav

Mumbai
WUT | Feb . 22

Shiv Sena supremo and Deputy Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday targeted his former boss and Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray, saying a wolf does not become a tiger by wearing the skin of a big cat. "Some people have lost their mental balance. They are now talking about breaking heads. But those who are in a situation like Asrani in the movie Sholay should not talk like that. You need to have strength in your wrist to challenge. A wolf does not become a tiger by wearing a tiger's skin," he said at the party rally in Deori in Gondia district of the Vidarbha region.

"They (Shiv Sena UBT) were defeated in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Now they will be defeated in the upcoming local body elections as well," he claimed.

Shinde said that "the beloved sisters, brothers and farmers overwhelmingly supported Shiv Sena and MahaYuti, and voted for them."

"Some had said that not a single MLA of yours would be elected. But in my speech in the Assembly, I had announced that we would get more than 200 seats elected. In the elections, the MahaYuti won 232 seats," he added.

He claimed that during June 2022 and November 2024, the MahaYuti government worked hard, started irrigation projects in Vidarbha and Marathwada and revived the Jalyukt

Shivar Yojana. We started all the schemes that were closed by the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

"Power comes and goes, so also posts which can be obtained again. However, the recognition received as a beloved brother of beloved sisters is greater than all posts," Shinde said, adding: "I will work with full dedication for Maharashtra's development till the last drop of blood. I have never been greedy for a post and a chair and will never be."

Meanwhile, at the press conference in Nagpur, Eknath Shinde strongly criticised the Shiv Sena-UBT saying that those leaders who have left Balasaheb Thackeray's thoughts and those pushing good people out of the party were pushed back by the people in the Assembly elections and made to stay at home forever.

"However, Shiv Sena is the one that carries forward the thoughts of Balasaheb Thackeray and Dharmaveer Anand Dighe. Therefore, leaders, office bearers and activists of different parties from across the state are joining Shiv Sena," he added.

On the email threat that he received, the Maharashtra Deputy CM said: "I am a worker of Balasaheb Thackeray and Anand Dighe. Dance bars were closed when Anand Dighe was there. There were many threats at that time too. When I was the Guardian Minister of Gadchiroli, Maoists gave threats, but the Gadchiroli police did the job of curbing the LWE menace."

"No Plan To Allow Muslim Staff To Leave Early During Ramzan": Karnataka Minister

New delhi
WUT | Feb . 22

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Friday said that there was no proposal before the government, nor had any discussion taken place, regarding allowing Muslim government employees to leave work early during Ramzan.

He was responding to a question on state Congress vice-presidents Y Syed Ahmed and A R M Hussain's petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allow all Muslim government employees to leave work early during Ramzan.

"They would have written a letter, but there is no such proposal before the government. No such



discussions have happened either at the cabinet or otherwise," Parameshwara said.

Responding to such permission in Telangana being criticised by BJP as appeasement politics, he said, "We are not concerned about Telangana." The petition seeks the CM to decide so that Muslim staff can leave work by 4 pm to break their fast, citing governments in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana deciding to allow Muslim employees to leave work an hour early during Ramzan.

TRUMP CALLS 'VOTER TURNOUT' GRANT KICKBACK, INDIA SAYS PROBE IS ON

New delhi
WUT | Feb . 22

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has alleged that a US\$ 21 million grant provided by the Biden administration to boost voter turnout in India was part of a "kickback" scheme, prompting a strong response from the Indian government. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India has stated that the matter is under investigation by relevant agencies amid growing concerns over potential foreign interference.

Speaking at the Repub-

lican Governors Association meeting in Washington, DC, on Thursday, Trump questioned the necessity of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding for Indian elections. "Why do we need to spend US\$ 21 million for voter turnout in India? We've got enough problems of our own," he remarked, adding that such allocations often indicate a "kickback."

This marks the third time in a week that Trump has raised doubts about the grant. The controversy has sparked a diplomatic response from India, with



MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stating that the government is assessing whether the funds were indeed directed to India or, as some reports suggest, to Bangladesh. "It would be premature to comment further until the full details are clear,"

Jaiswal said in a statement on Friday.

In the wake of the controversy, reports have surfaced in Indian media citing a senior BJP leader and lawyer who has called for an investigation into Veena Reddy, an American national who

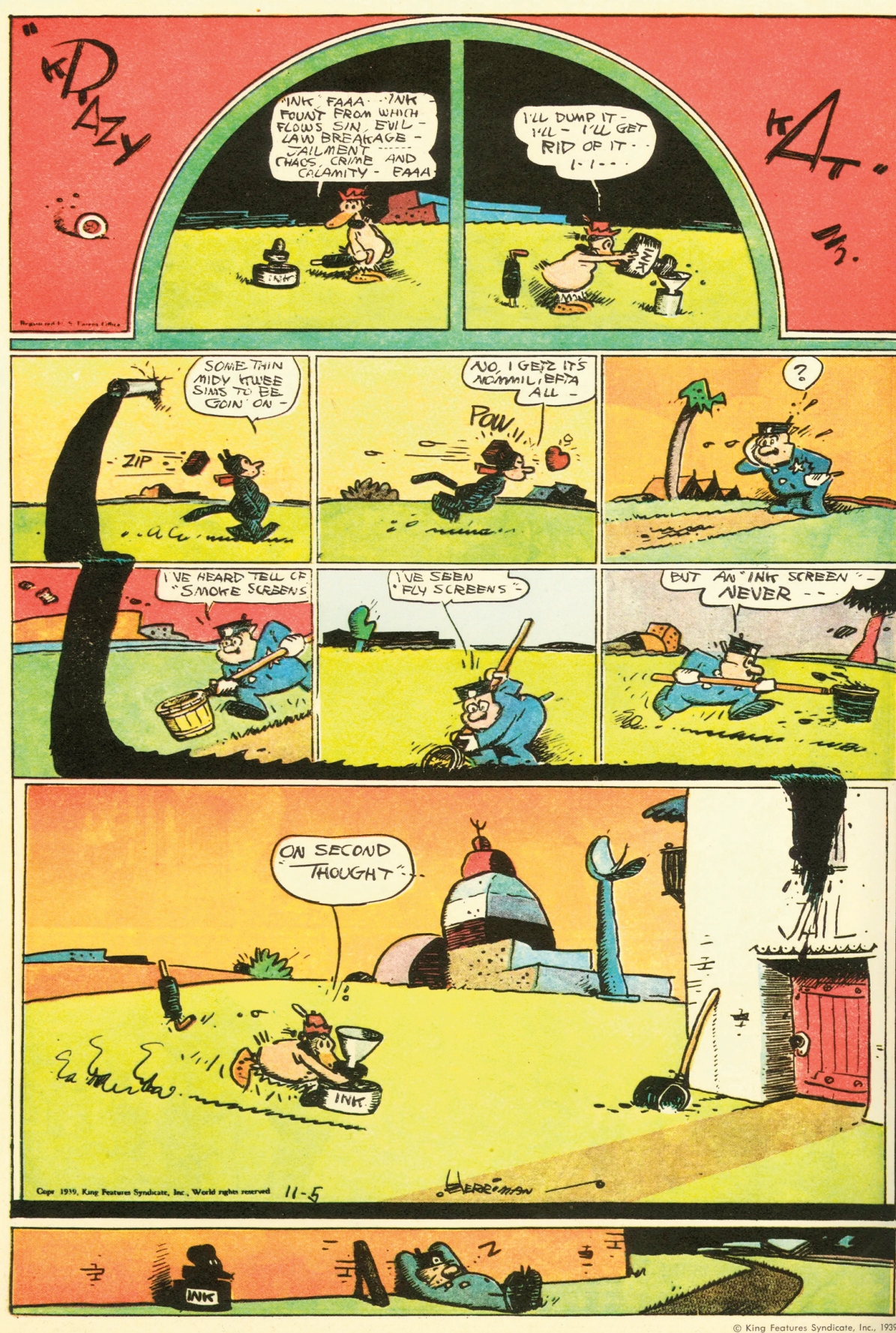
headed USAID in India from 2021 to 2024.

Reddy reportedly left India shortly after the country's Lok Sabha elections last summer, raising further questions about the grant's disbursement and oversight.

The Trump administration has now canceled any future allocations for the contested program, reinforcing its stance against funding election-related activities abroad. USAID, the primary American agency responsible for overseas development assistance, initially earmarked the US\$ 21 million grant under the

previous Biden administration. Meanwhile, officials from both India and the United States are examining allegations that the funds may have been utilized for "regime change" efforts.

In response to the developments, India has issued a strong warning against any form of "coercive or clandestine foreign meddling" in its internal affairs. The MEA reiterated that any interference in India's electoral processes would not be tolerated, and further actions will be determined based on the findings of the ongoing investigation.



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

Imran Ali

EDITORIAL

TOXICITY OF BODY STANDARDS

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

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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Please mention your name, addresses and email id. You can also share photographs or videos about the issue.
The Editor

Brief Insights

HC rejects overtime payment to security printing press employees

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court refused to entertain a writ appeal by employees of security printing press in Hyderabad on payment of overtime allowance. The panel, comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara, heard a writ appeal filed by retired employees. The appellants filed a writ petition challenging an award passed by the central government industrial tribunal, Hyderabad. The writ petitioners also sought a consequential prayer against Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited to compute and release the arrears of amounts payable towards overtime under the Factories Act. It is the case of the petitioner that in spite of their overtime work, payment of allowances and in its lieu, special allowance was denied to the petitioners. It is the further case of the petitioners that the government had high-handedly and contrary to the express provisions of the Factories Act, issued a memorandum stating that the petitioners, on reaching a particular stage in the pay scale attached to the post held by the petitioners, would cease to get the benefit of Section 59 of the Factories Act. The Union government referred the dispute to the tribunal, when the petitioners sought invocation of the provisions of Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act for adjudication of the dispute on merit. However, the tribunal held that the petitioners may not be called as workmen as defined under Section 2 (s) as there is no industrial dispute as defined under Sec. 2(k) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, because the instant case related to the claim for overtime allowance does not come under category of industrial dispute mainly related to even any difference between the employer and the employees over the point of their employment. A single judge junked the challenge to the said order. The single judge, while dismissing the present claim, also pointed out that the 1998 award of the industrial tribunal-II, Hyderabad, has attained finality and few petitioners challenged the same by way of writ petition, which upheld the award. It held that the petitioners are not workmen as defined under the Industrial Disputes Act and Factories Act and then in their writ appeal the appellant sought to withdraw the same with a liberty to approach the appropriate authority under the Factories Act. It was contended by the respondent authorities that petitioners have no locus-standi to agitate the very same issue which has attained finality. While dismissing the claim, the panel speaking through acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul pointed out that the issue raised in the present appeal stood decided in an earlier round of litigation.

"Both Hands Intact" Guideline For Pursuing MBBS Reeks Of Ableism: Court

New Delhi
WUT | Feb. 22

The Supreme Court on Friday said the National Medical Commission (NMC) guidelines requiring students with specified disabilities to have "both hands intact" to pursue MBBS course was "completely antithetical" and reeked of "ableism". A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan observed the guidelines prescribed "both hands intact, with intact sensations, sufficient strength and range of motion" to be essential for eligibility in the medical course.

"This prescription of 'both hands intact...' is completely antithetical to Article 41 of the Constitution; the principles enshrined in the United

Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the salutary provisions of the RPwD Act (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)," said the bench.

The court went on to add, "It also indicates a classification which is overbroad and glorifies 'ableism'. It propagates that persons with typical abilities and with faculties similar to what the majority may have or somehow superior." This was precisely what the Directive Principles of State Policy, the United Nations Convention and the 2016 Act abhor, it added. The top court referred to its verdict passed in October last year which asked the NMC to issue revised regulations and guide-

lines in supersession of the guidelines of May 13, 2019 with regard to admission of students with specified disabilities under the Act with respect to MBBS course.

It said pursuant to the verdict, the NMC assured the top court in another matter that it would constitute a new committee of domain experts to comply with the judgement.

"We direct this matter to be posted on March 3, 2025 to consider whether the National Medical Commission has formulated the revised guidelines in accordance with the judgments of this court..." it said.

The bench in the meantime directed the NMC to file an affidavit explaining the current status. The top court delivered

its verdict on an appeal against a September 2024 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which rejected the claim of a disabled aspirant and upheld the denial of his admission to MBBS course.

The top court said it had on December 12, 2024 ordered the appellant's admission in the Government Medical College, Sirohi, Rajasthan against a seat reserved for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) (OBC) category. The bench gave its reasoning in the judgement delivered on Friday.

It referred to the guidelines over the admission of students with "specified disabilities" under the 2016 Act in MBBS course which constituted appendix H-1 to the Graduate Medical Educa-

tion Regulations (Amendment), 2019, notified on May 13, 2019.

The bench noted while the appellant's disability of 58 per cent rendered him eligible for the course under the PwD quota, the requirement to have the requirement of having "both hands intact, with intact sensations, sufficient strength and range of motion" made him ineligible.

"The 'both hands intact...' prescription has no sanctity in law as it does not admit of a functional assessment of the individual candidate, a matter which is so fundamental in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities," it held.

Such a prescription, said the bench, reeked of ableism and had no place in a statutory regulation. "In

fact, it has the effect of denuding the rights guaranteed under the Constitution and the RPwD Act and makes a mockery of the principle of reasonable accommodation," it said.

The bench observed at the time of hearing the matter in November last year, the top court asked the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, to constitute a committee to examine whether the disability suffered by the petitioner would come in the way of his pursuing medical studies.

The bench said of the six members of the committee, five said they were unable to declare the appellant fit to join the MBBS course and the current NMC guidelines needed revision.

Bar associations accuse bar council of interference in election process

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

A legal dispute has erupted between multiple advocates' bar associations across Telangana and the Bar Council of Telangana over the latter's alleged interference in their election processes. In a move led by the Bar Association of Rangareddy District Court, approximately 25 bar associations have col-

lectively approached the Telangana High Court, challenging the regulatory measures imposed by the Bar Council.

The primary point of contention is the directive issued by the Bar Council of Telangana, which mandates the implementation of uniform model bylaws for all 110 bar associations operating within the state. Many of these associations have long functioned under their own set

of bylaws and are independently registered under the Societies Registration Act. The imposition of these standardized bylaws has sparked opposition, with associations arguing that it disregards their autonomy and established governance structures.

Adding to the discontent, the Bar Council of Telangana has also rejected a proposal put forth by the executive bodies of var-

ious bar associations, which had sought an extension of the tenure of their executive committees from one year to two years. The associations argue that an extended term would ensure better administrative continuity and facilitate smoother governance. However, the Bar Council remained firm in its decision, dismissing the request and instead issuing a memo instructing all bar associa-

tions to conclude their election processes by March 31.

Challenging what they perceive as excessive control by the Bar Council, the affected bar associations have petitioned the Telangana High Court, seeking relief from the imposed regulations. The case was taken up on Friday by Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, who heard the arguments presented and subsequently ad-

joined the matter to February 25. The court has directed the Bar Council of Telangana to file its counter-submissions by then, after which further deliberations will take place.

The outcome of this case is being closely watched by legal professionals across Telangana, as it could set a precedent for the functioning and autonomy of advocates' bar associations in the state.

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Protean Upgrades NPS App: Smarter Retirement Planning for Young Investors

Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Gov), India's largest Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) for the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), has upgraded its pension management app, "NPS by Protean," introducing new features to simplify retirement planning for young investors. Available for Android and iOS, the enhanced app offers an intuitive interface, effortless navigation, and improved security. New users can download the app from Google Play Store and iOS Play Store, while existing users can update to the latest version seamlessly.

With a mobile-first approach, the app streamlines NPS account registration, contributions, and management. New users can register easily via eKYC, Digi Locker, or CKYC. The Retirement Goal Planner helps investors strategize their savings based on personalized financial goals. Security is enhanced with MPIN and biometric login, while activating a Tier II account is now more convenient with a step-by-step guide. Additionally, the "One-Way Switch" feature allows easy fund transfers from Tier II to Tier I accounts.

Commenting on the launch, Suresh Sethi, MD & CEO of Protean eGov Technologies, emphasized Protean's commitment to financial inclusion and innovation. With the government prioritizing pension penetration in Budget 2024-25, the upgraded app arrives at the perfect time as young Indians explore diversified investments. The latest version ensures seamless onboarding, goal-based planning, and an enhanced user experience, empowering individuals to take charge of their retirement savings effortlessly.

Kisna Jewellery Now Available at Tirumala Gold & Diamonds, Guntur



Tirumala Gold & Diamonds is excited to introduce Kisna Diamond and Gold Jewellery at its Laxmipuram showroom through the Shop-in-Shop model. This collaboration offers customers a premium selection of exquisite designs, combining craftsmanship with contemporary elegance.

Expressing his delight, Mr. G. Satyanarayana, Owner of Tirumala Gold & Diamonds, stated, "We are proud to bring Kisna Jewellery to our showroom, providing customers with a diverse range of stunning designs under one roof."

Mr. Mahesh Gandani, Regional Sales Manager of Kisna Jewellery, highlighted the brand's commitment to quality and innovation, emphasizing the leadership of State Head Mr. Nikunj Korat and Area Sales Manager Mr. Shailesh Kamble.

This partnership enhances customer convenience, offering an exclusive Kisna shopping experience within Tirumala Gold & Diamonds. Shoppers can now explore a timeless collection that beautifully blends tradition and modernity.

Kemin AquaScience™ Named Finalist at 15th Aegis Graham Bell Awards

Mumbai
WUT | Feb. 22

Kemin AquaScience™ has been shortlisted for the Aegis Graham Bell Awards for its innovative shrimp health solution, Pathorol. Pathorol fights Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei (EHP), a serious shrimp disease. It boosts hepatopancreas health, improving feed use, growth, and profits for farmers. Sabine Muller, President of Kemin



AquaScience, said:

"Being a finalist proves our dedication to sustainability and innovation. Pathorol™ helps shrimp

farmers naturally manage diseases, improving yields and ensuring a better food supply."

As part of Kemin Indus-

tries, Kemin AquaScience™ creates science-based solutions for shrimp health and nutrition. It works with feed makers and farmers to solve disease and productivity issues.

This honor highlights how scientific progress helps aquaculture and communities. Pathorol™ plays a key role in fighting diseases and environmental risks, securing a strong future for shrimp farming.

Visit Dubai Partners with Gaurav Gupta for Dubai-Inspired Capsule Collection



Mumbai
WUT | Feb. 22

Visit Dubai has collaborated with renowned Indian couturier Gaurav Gupta to unveil a capsule collection celebrating the cultural ties between India and Dubai. The exclusive collection was launched on 15 February at Gupta's flagship store in Kala Ghoda, Mumbai.

Inspired by Dubai's architectural grandeur, cultural richness, and futuristic vision, the collection merges tradition with innovation. Featuring five bespoke designs, it reinterprets the city's landscapes and heritage through couture. The Silver Pearl Gown reflects historic arches and water reflections of Dubai Creek, while the Sculptural Pearl Gown echoes the golden dunes. The Celestial Sculpted Cascaded Gown, adorned with 2,000 crystals, captures the sunlight over Hatta's mountains, and the

Wave-Sculpted Sand Gown embodies the interplay of light and shadow in Dubai's terrains.

Gaurav Gupta described the creation process as an exploration of Dubai's essence, blending craftsmanship with futuristic design. "Dubai thrives on transformation and grandeur, much like our designs," he noted.

Bader Ali Habib, Director of Proximity Markets at Visit Dubai, emphasized the partnership's role in strengthening cultural and creative connections, positioning Dubai as a progressive fashion hub.

Following its Mumbai debut, the collection is available on order at Gaurav Gupta's stores across India and online with a price-on-request option. This collaboration reinforces Dubai's global fashion influence, setting the stage for future designer partnerships.

Artists and Coca-Cola India Promote Waste Awareness at Maha Kumbh 2025

Prayagraj
WUT | Feb. 22

Coca-Cola India, in collaboration with its foundation Anandana and media platform Gaysi Family, has launched an initiative at Maha Kumbh 2025 to raise awareness about waste segregation and recycling. Part of the Maidaan Saaf campaign, the project features artists like Aravani Art Project and Priyanka Gupta, who created illustrated comic panels to promote sustainability and honor sanitation workers. The 12-kilometer stretch of river ghats hosts visually engaging comics, using story-



telling to highlight the significance of proper waste disposal. The initiative also integrates illustrated panels into women's changing rooms made from recycled plastic waste, reinforcing sus-

tainability in daily interactions. Priya Dali, Creative Director, Gaysi Family: "Our goal was to make waste segregation visually accessible and memorable."

Priyanka Gupta, Illustrator: "Comics serve as powerful tools for mass communication and awareness."

Ghana, Aravani Art Project: "Simple, approachable messaging can lead to lasting behavior change."

Saloni Goel, Senior Director, Coca-Cola India: "Maha Kumbh provides a unique platform to inspire large-scale behavioral change."

By blending art and environmental advocacy, this initiative transforms Maha Kumbh into a platform for meaningful, lasting change in waste management practices.

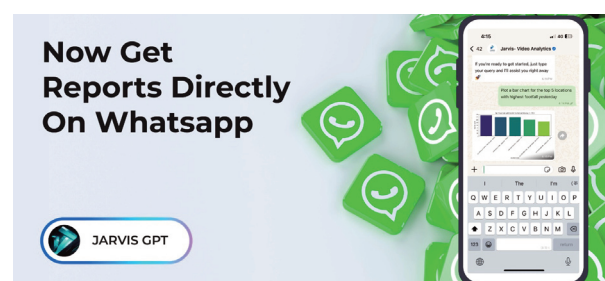
Staqu Unveils Jarvis GPT: AI-Powered Retail Revolution

New delhi
WUT | Feb. 22

Staqu, a leading innovator in AI-driven video analytics, has announced the launch of Jarvis GPT, an advanced AI model designed to transform the retail industry with real-time customer insights, store monitoring, and predictive analytics. Leveraging generative AI, Jarvis GPT empowers retailers to make data-driven decisions, optimize store performance, and enhance the overall cus-

tommer shopping experience.

Building on the success of Jarvis, Staqu's flagship video analytics platform, Jarvis GPT integrates generative AI to process vast amounts of retail data, extract actionable insights, and enable proactive business strategies. The platform is tailored to support retail chains, shopping malls, and independent store owners by offering real-time footfall analysis, customer demographics insights, and behavioral analytics.



Now Get Reports Directly On Whatsapp

With Jarvis GPT, retail businesses can now automate key operational processes, including: Footfall tracking: Generate instant reports on the number of male and female visitors across store locations over specific time frames. Store performance

optimization: Monitor customer dwell time and product engagement to enhance store layouts and inventory management.

Enhanced security: Detect suspicious activities and prevent loss with AI-driven video surveillance. Seamless reporting: Re-

ceive instant analytics reports via WhatsApp for quick decision-making.

Leading businesses, including Raymond, Embassy, WeWork, and Olive, have already leveraged Staqu's video intelligence solutions to optimize their operations. With Jarvis GPT, retailers can ensure better customer engagement, improved security, and data-backed strategic decision-making.

"At Staqu, we believe in bridging the gap between traditional retail

management and AI-powered analytics," said Atul Rai, Co-founder and CEO of Staqu Technologies. "Retailers need intelligent solutions that turn vast amounts of raw data into actionable insights. Jarvis GPT does exactly that—decoding customer behavior, optimizing store layouts, and improving overall operational efficiency. This is not just about adopting new technology; it's about shaping the future of intelligent retail."

Youth-Led Fashion Revolution: Redefining Style with Sustainability

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 21

Woxsen Fashion Week, La Mode, the two-day fashion show by The School of Art & Design at Woxsen University, concluded with great enthusiasm, drawing attention from supermodels, fashion enthusiasts, and industry experts. Indian actor and former supermodel Marc Robinson graced the event as the chief guest. This year's theme, "Seven Deadly Sins with a Surprise," explored human flaws and temptations, using Satan as a symbolic figure. Students translated this concept into bold, dramatic designs, telling compelling stories through fabric, patterns, and textures.

A major highlight was the focus on sustainability, with students repurposing discarded fabrics into stunning outfits. Their innovative approach reinforced the importance of eco-friendly fashion. Dr. Adity Saxena, HOD of the School of Art & Design,



praised the students for pushing creative boundaries while advocating for sustainability, emphasizing how their work sparked meaningful discussions.

Chief Guest Marc Robinson applauded their ability to transform waste materials into high-fashion designs, acknowledging their role in redefining industry norms. Whats Around Hyderabad, a popular Instagram influencer, also attended, further amplifying the event's impact.

A participating fashion design student shared that

La Mode was an opportunity to showcase how sustainability and style can coexist, making a strong statement beyond aesthetics.

The event was further enlivened by a vibrant dance performance by student club volunteers, creating an engaging blend of fashion, music, and entertainment. Woxsen Fashion Week, La Mode, successfully celebrated creativity, sustainability, and innovation, leaving a lasting impression on attendees.

11th Edition of eBAJA SAEINDIA Kicks Off with Record Participation

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

The 11th edition of eBAJA SAEINDIA has set a new milestone with over 85 teams participating, marking the highest turnout in the event's history. A total of 77 teams gathered at B V Raju Institute of Technology (BVRIT), Narsapur, near Hyderabad, for an intense competition showcasing engineering excellence. The event was inaugurated by key industry figures, including Dr. Ravichandran Rajagopal, Vice Chairman of BVRIT, and BAJA SAEINDIA officials—Mr. Balraj Subramaniam, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Dr. K. C. Vora, Advisor, and Mr. Pranav Khartekar, eBAJA Co-



Students showcasing their eBAJA buggy at the Day 2 of 11th edition of the prestigious eBAJA SAEINDIA 2025, hosted by The Society of Automotive Engineers, a globally acclaimed association of engineers; BV Raju Institute of Technology & SAE BAJA INDIA, at BV Raju Institute of Technology, Narsapur, Hyderabad, today. eBAJA is a global inter-collegiate electrically Assisted Vehicle racing challenge that rigorously tests 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.

Convener. The chief guest, Ms. Simona Adelina Popovici, HR VP Asia Cluster at Renault Group, emphasized the synergy between RNTBCI and BAJA SAEINDIA in fostering diversity and inclusivity. She highlighted RNTBCI's commitment to promoting electric vehicle (EV) technology

and supporting all-women teams in the competition. BPCL, a longstanding partner of BAJA SAEINDIA, has now elevated its support by becoming the event's title sponsor. Mr. Shrawan Kumar, Territory Manager, Nizamabad, acknowledged BPCL's 18-year-long association with BAJA and re-

affirmed its commitment to promoting electric mobility. The first day featured key static events, including the Sales Presentation and Cost Evaluation, with standout performances by teams from VIT Bhopal University, AISSMS College of Engineering, Vishwakarma Institute of Information Technology, D.Y. Patil College of Engineering, Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering, and Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women. On the second day, teams underwent rigorous technical inspections, with 52 attempting and 30 clearing the process. Around 25 teams successfully completed the brake test. The top 15 teams also participated in design evaluations

conducted by a panel of 20 automotive industry judges. The Dronacharya Evaluation included faculty advisor group discussions, while the Rainstorm Test assessed vehicle waterproofing and low-voltage leakage to ensure safety and performance. As the competition progresses, teams will face challenges like Acceleration, Maneuverability, Sledge Pull, Suspension & Traction, and the CAE & Sustainability finals. The Faculty Development Program included industrial visits to Mahindra & Mahindra's Zaheerabad plant and Gravton Motor's EV facility. BAJA SAEINDIA continues to be a platform fostering technical innovation, teamwork, and future mobility solutions.

CITY CLICKS

India interested in hosting 2030 Commonwealth Games: Source



India is "interested" in hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and also conduct all those disciplines that were axed from the 2026 edition to ensure that the country's medal tally is not affected when the event is held in Glasgow, a source in the sports ministry revealed on Friday. The last date to submit an 'Expression of Interest' to host the 2030 CWG is March 31 and the ministry source said the process will get underway soon.

"We are interested in hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and a formal interaction has taken place with the Commonwealth Games Federation on this. We have also proposed that all the disciplines that have been removed from the 2026 CWG be held in India," the source said. India last hosted the CWG in 2010. The ministry's push to have the axed events of the 2026 edition in India is a way to ensure that the CWG remains a high medal-yielding competition for the country.

Last year, in a huge blow to India's medal prospects, key sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, cricket and shooting were dropped from the programme by host city Glasgow, which announced a pruned roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly. "We are merely looking to ensure that our medal tally does not suffer. An informal proposal (to have axed disciplines in India) has been put across, we will see how the host city responds to it," the source said.

India had given a similar proposal for the archery and shooting competitions of the 2022 CWG in Birmingham and the CGF, along with the host city, had even approved it by agreeing to add the medals won to the final tally. However, the idea could not be executed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Five controversial India-Pakistan moments in ODI cricket

India and Pakistan prepare for a high-voltage group clash in the Champions Trophy on Sunday in Dubai, cricket fans are reminded of the fierce on-field encounters between the arch-rivals.

Here's a look at five controversial moments that have defined their rivalry in one-day cricket.

1. Miandad's 'Kangaroo Jump' (1992 World Cup, Sydney)

Pakistan's Javed Miandad, known for his aggressive approach, had a heated exchange with Indian wicket-keeper Kiran More during their World Cup clash in 1992. Annoyed by More's excessive appealing, Miandad responded in a unique manner—mimicking the Indian glovesman by jumping like a kangaroo. While the crowd and commentators found humor in the act, Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin was visibly displeased.

2. Prasad's Revenge on Sohail (1996 World Cup, Bengaluru)

In the quarter-finals of the 1996 World Cup, Pakistan's Aamer Sohail was leading the chase against India when a moment of arrogance cost him dearly. After hitting Venkatesh Prasad for a boundary, Sohail pointed towards the direction of the shot in an act of provocation. However, Prasad had the perfect reply, clean-bowling Sohail on the very next delivery, sending the Bengaluru crowd into a frenzy and swinging the momentum in India's favor.

3. Inzamam's Altercation with a Fan (1997, Toronto)

A rare off-field controversy saw Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq lose his cool against an Indian fan in Toronto. Standing at the boundary, Inzamam was continuously heckled with chants of "Aloo" (potato) mocking his physique. Frustrated, he grabbed a bat and stormed into the stands to confront the heckler before security intervened. The incident led to disciplinary action, with Inzamam later admitting that the taunts were deeply personal.

4. Gambhir-Afridi Verbal Clash (2007, Kanpur)

During a heated encounter in 2007, India's Gautam Gambhir and Pakistan's Shahid Afridi were involved in an ugly exchange. Gambhir hit Afridi for a boundary, leading to verbal abuse between the two. The altercation escalated when the batter and bowler collided mid-run, intensifying the tension. The on-field umpire had to step in to separate them. Even post-retirement, both cricketers have continued their rivalry through social media spats.

5. Akhtar vs. Harbhajan Face-Off (2010 Asia Cup, Dambulla)

Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar was never one to shy away from a contest, and his duel with India's Harbhajan Singh in the 2010 Asia Cup was no exception. After bowling a dot ball to Harbhajan, Akhtar taunted the Indian tailender. In response, Harbhajan smashed the six off Mohammad Amir in the final over to seal an Indian victory, celebrating aggressively in front of Akhtar. The two later re-enacted the moment.

High-octane polo action set to unfold in Hyderabad from February 24

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

The premier composite polo facility at Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) is set to host India's largest-ever international arena polo tournament, the HPRC World Arena Polo Championship 2025, from February 24 to March 2.

Featuring top-tier action, the championship will witness participation from two Indian teams alongside international contenders from France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Luxembourg, the UK, and the USA.

Announcing the schedule at a press conference on Friday, HPRC



President Chaitania R. Kumar, Secretary (Admin) Reaz Ahmed, and Indian polo player Arsalan Khan shared details of the grand event. They revealed that 80 top-tier polo horses have been designated for the matches, which will be held under floodlights, with four games scheduled each day.

The championship will be contested across

three categories: the Galaxy Cup, the AMR Cup, and the Telangana Tourism Cup.

Additionally, HPRC will host special exhibition matches, including an international women's arena polo match before the Galaxy Cup final, a 'Best of Best' match before the AMR Cup final, and the HPRC Cup ahead of the Telangana Tourism Cup final. A fashion

show will also be a highlight of the concluding day.

To commemorate the occasion, a special edition magazine featuring in-depth insights about the event, participating teams, player profiles, and the legacy of HPRC will be released on February 24, Chaitania Kumar announced.

The Organising Committee expressed gratitude for the continued support of the media and the generosity of sponsors, including Telangana Tourism, Galaxy Impex, AMR, Deevyashakti Realty, Inhabit, Incred Wealth Management, and Shrewsbury International School.

PCB Chairman asked selectors to review CT squad at least twice: source

New Delhi
WUT | Feb. 22

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi asked the national selectors to review the Champions Trophy squad at least twice before giving his final approval, according to a source. A reliable source in the PCB claimed that Naqvi, while not interfering in purely cricketing decisions, was running the board affairs "with an iron hand."

"When the squad for the Champion Trophy was finalized by the selectors and sent to Naqvi for ap-



proval he sent it back telling the selectors to again review the squad to be sure the best players were selected," the source claimed.

When the selectors sent the squad a second time to Naqvi, he sent it back ask-

ing them to be sure about their decisions, according to the source. "It was only after the third time that the chairman approved the 15-member squad for the mega-event but made it clear to the selectors and team management

they were solely responsible for it," the source said. The national selectors include the team's interim head coach Aaqib Javed, Asad Shafiq, Azhar Ali, Aleem Dar and Hasan Cheema.

"Naqvi, having remained the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab, is running the board affairs with an iron hand and no decision is implemented or executed without his final approval," the source claimed. "He has now mainly brought in his own team of bureaucrats and government officials to run the cricket and board

He is the best version of himself right now: Ponting praises Shami

Dubai
WUT | Feb. 22

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting hailed the resilience of Mohammed Shami, describing his "fantastic" five-wicket haul in India's Champions Trophy opener as evidence of the fast bowler now being the "best version" of himself following a long injury layoff. Shami marked his return



to ICC tournaments with a brilliant 5 for 53, helping India bowl out Bangladesh for 228 on Thursday. He also became the fastest Indian and the second quickest overall to reach 200 ODI wickets during

India's six-wicket victory.

"For him to comeback, get five wickets in first game of the Champions Trophy is fantastic. They are exactly the sort of people you want in your side, the guys who would do anything for you," Ponting told the ICC. "Especially as a captain, you look someone in the eye and ask them to do a job for you, if they are going to do it or they are

not and Shami always seems that sort of guy to me that."

Shami had been sidelined from international cricket for 14 months due to an ankle injury sustained during the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia, which interrupted a remarkable run where he topped the tournament's wicket-taker's chart with 24 scalps.

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.

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 24 off 41, but seemed visibly struggling during his knock. Pakistan lost the game by 60 runs.

Fly Chicken Debuts in Hyderabad

Bringing Norwegian-Style Fried



Ms Elisabeth Strand Vigtel (extreme left), Norwegian Embassy; and Mr Ronny M Gjose (extreme right), CEO, Partner & Co-Founder, Fly Chicken; inaugurating the first store Fly Chicken at Gachibowli, Hyderabad, today, also seen Mr. Kulpreet Sahni (centre), CEO, Fly Chicken India. Fly Chicken is a fast-growing Nordic fried chicken brand known for its crispy, flavor-packed chicken and vibrant, fun identity.

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

Scandinavian fried chicken sensation Fly Chicken has officially arrived in Hyderabad, introducing its bold flavors and globally inspired menu to the city. Known for its crispy, well-seasoned chicken and vibrant dining experience, the brand is set to redefine comfort food for Hyderabad's food lovers. With 20 restaurants in Norway, Fly Chicken is making its global expansion, choosing Hyderabad as its first stop in India. Ronny M Gjose, CEO, Partner & Co-Founder of Fly Chicken, expressed confidence in the Indian market, emphasizing the brand's focus on quality, fresh produce, and bold flavors. Kulpreet Sahni, CEO of Fly Chicken India, known for his work with top hospi-

tality brands, highlighted Fly Chicken as more than just a meal—offering an immersive food experience. Located in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Gachibowli, the Hyderabad outlet spans 3,388 sq. ft. with a 103-seater setup across two floors. The menu features crispy Fried Chicken Wings, Tenders, the Superfly Sandwich, and Hot Chicken Fries, all marinated for 24 hours in buttermilk and pressure-fried for maximum flavor. Signature house-made sauces and options like a brioche or croissant bun further elevate the experience. Launching on February 21, Fly Chicken is offering exclusive giveaways and promotions. The brand plans to open 10 outlets in its first year and expand to 250 locations nationwide within the next 5-7 years. Average meal cost for two: ₹500 (excluding GST). Follow @fly-chicken_india for updates.

Asia Jewels Show 2025 Grand Launch in Hyderabad
Top Actresses & Models Showcase Exquisite Bridal Jewellery

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb. 22

The Asia Jewels Show 2025, one of South India's most glamorous and niche jewelry exhibitions, is set to dazzle Hyderabad with its 56th edition. The grand event will take place at Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, from February 21 to 23, between 10:30 AM and 8:00 PM. Marking its 7th edition in Hyderabad, this exclusive exhibition will showcase never-before-seen masterpiece jewelry designs from top jewelers across India.

Actresses Tejaswi Madivada, Rashi Singh, Kamakshi Bhas-karla, along with top models



and jewelry enthusiasts, will be part of the grand launch, adding glamour to the event. The exhibition will feature an extensive collection of gold, diamond, polki, fusion, traditional, and Victorian jewelry, including wedding, platinum,

kundan, jadau, and precious stone jewelry, among others. Visitors can explore and book exclusive, high-end jewelry ahead of the upcoming wedding season.

Speaking at the date announcement, Mr. Harish



Sachdev, Chief Organizer of Asia Jewels Show, stated that the event is a perfect destination for prospective brides and grooms to shop for exquisite and world-class wedding jewelry, bringing together top jewelry brands from across

the nation under one roof. The exhibition promises a luxurious shopping experience with a dazzling array of international designs and masterpiece collections from India's top jewelry brands.

The Asia Jewels Show 2025 is expected to create a scintillating platform for branded jewelry, offering visitors a chance to witness and own some of the most exquisite and exclusive designs in the industry. The event will take place at Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, from February 21-23, 2025, between 10:30 AM and 8:00 PM.

BJP Will Sweep MLC Polls: Kishan, Bandi



Union minister for coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy accused the Congress governments in Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka of corruption and administrative failure, claiming that they are struggling even to pay government employees' salaries. He criticised the Telangana government for failing to fulfill its electoral guarantees and sub-guarantees, adding that it has not even ensured basic governance to meet people's needs.

Speaking to reporters in Medak, Kishan Reddy predicted that the upcoming MLC election results would reshape the state's political landscape. He claimed the BJP would win all three seats, strengthening the party and putting pressure on the Congress to fulfill its promises. "Intellectuals, teachers, unemployed youth, farmers, farm laborers and women are disillusioned with the Congress government, which has failed to deliver its lofty promises. The State's economy is in crisis and the government is unable to provide pensions to retired employees or release the five pending dearness allowances (DAs) for staff," he said.

Six-Year-Old Boy Rescued After Being Trapped in Lift

A six-year-old boy, identified as Arnav, was rescued after being trapped between a lift and the wall of an apartment complex in Shantinagar, Hyderabad, on Friday. The incident, which occurred around 1:30 PM, created panic among residents, who immediately alerted the authorities.

The Hyderabad Fire Department and Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, along with doctors, rushed to the scene. A Hyderabad police official stated, "The boy was trapped between the lift and the wall, between the ground and first floors." Using welding machines, the rescue teams forced open the lift doors, successfully freeing the child after nearly three hours.

Arnav sustained minor injuries and was immediately shifted to Niloufer Hospital. However, doctors suspect internal bleeding due to abdominal compression between the lift and the wall. He is currently undergoing surgery.

This incident follows a similar occurrence in Hyderabad, where three students were trapped inside a lift at Uppal Skywalk for nearly 45 minutes before being rescued by the police.

400 Varieties of Mangoes Displayed at Exhibition in Hyderabad



Nearly 400 varieties of mangoes were showcased at a special Mango Exhibition inaugurated by Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad. The event, organized by Habson in Rajendra Nagar, highlighted innovative techniques aimed at making mangoes—traditionally a summer fruit—available year-round through controlled freezing technology.

Speaker Gaddam Prasad praised the efforts of Salmani Brothers, who cultivated these mango varieties on 300 acres in Kohir, a historic town 100 km from Hyderabad. He commended their dedication to preserving rare mango species and ensuring their availability throughout the year.

Habson Director Kamal Salmani emphasized that many of the 400 varieties were on the verge of extinction but were revived through natural cultivation methods, avoiding fertilizers and pesticides. He noted that this initiative offers consumers a healthier alternative.

CM Revanth Blames KCR for Krishna Water Diversion by AP

CM accuses Chandrashekar Rao of compromising Krishna water rights, and dares BRS to debate governance records

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, accusing them of compromising Telangana's interests. Speaking at a public meeting in Narayanpet on Friday, he alleged that KCR played a role in diverting Krishna river water to Andhra Pradesh and was now shedding "crocodile tears" over the issue.

Revanth Reddy accused KCR of colluding with

former Andhra Pradesh Chief Ministers Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in facilitating Krishna water transfers. He stated that KCR's government allowed water diversion through the Pothireddypadu and Rayalaseema lift irrigation projects instead of prioritizing Telangana's irrigation needs.

He challenged KCR and BJP leaders, including Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, to a public debate comparing the governance records of BRS (10 years), Modi's tenure at the Centre (11 years), and Congress' one-



year rule in Telangana. He vowed to "rub his nose on the ground" if he lost the debate.

The Chief Minister accused Modi of failing to fulfill key promises made since 2014, including bringing back black money,

doubling farmers' income, and creating two crore jobs annually.

Defending his government's performance, Revanth Reddy highlighted key initiatives such as providing 55,000 government jobs for youth, women-led

Amma Adarsh Schools, 600 RTC buses owned by women SHGs, revival of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation scheme to irrigate 1.7 lakh acres, construction of five lakh Indiramma houses per year with 3,500 per Assembly constituency, and conducting a caste census to enhance BC reservations and address SC categorization.

Revanth Reddy dared KCR to contest local body elections only in villages where the BRS government built 2BHK houses, while Congress would compete in villages where Indiramma houses were built between

2004 and 2014. He claimed that Congress built 25 lakh houses, whereas BRS failed to deliver homes to the poor.

Accusing KCR of neglecting the Palamuru region, Revanth Reddy stated that BRS leaders obstructed the Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irrigation project and were unsettled by the region's progress. He assured that his government would continue development efforts with state funds.

Concluding his speech, he urged people to stand against those who betrayed Telangana's interests, emphasizing his commitment to the state's progress.

Telangana paying heavy price for BRS' sins on Krishna: Uttam

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Telangana's water woes are a creation of the BRS regime, particularly with reference to projects on River Krishna, as the then government did not take any steps to complete 16 reservoirs, which, between them, could have stored up to 100.541 tmc ft of water, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said. "By adding 2.468 tmc ft capacity of the existing Dindi reservoir, which was to be part of the Sri Ramaraju Vidyasagar Rao Dindi lift irrigation scheme, the total capacity lost on account of BRS government's neglect comes to 103.009 tmc ft. All these projects are in the erstwhile unified Nalgonda and Mahbubnagar districts," Reddy said.

In a statement, the minister said that not completing the reservoirs has



"become a big drawback in storing water in Telangana region of Krishna river basin through the Nagarjuna sagar and Sri-sailam reservoirs, which are common to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh." Reddy said "had the BRS government completed the works, Telangana would have got its rightful share of Krishna water, an issue we are facing trouble with now."

The irrigation minister said, "the entire responsibility for the sorry state of affairs for Telangana rests with the then chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, and the then irrigation minister T. Harish Rao. The Congress government is working to complete all the projects in Krishna basin in the next three years and correct the wrongs of the past." The BRS leaders, who served as ministers, have no moral or any other right to speak on Krishna basin projects. The BRS government had no intention of completing them and hence did not release funds for them. The BRS regime also burdened the state with '1.81 lakh crore debt with loans taken for irrigation projects but played the instrumental role in the injustice done to Telangana on Krishna waters issue, he said.

"The BRS government should have completed reservoirs under the SLBC, Dindi lift irrigation and Palamuru Rangareddy lift irrigation schemes. While it did not do this, it also neglected several other projects in various stages of completion in the Krishna basin in the state resulting in the situation today," Reddy said.

Wife catches GHMC official red handed with another woman in Hyderabad

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

A Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) official was caught red-handed by his wife when he was with another woman at Warsiguda in Secunderabad on Friday, February 21.

The wife, Kalyani, grew suspicious when her husband Janakiram, a GHMC joint commissioner, spent long hours away from home citing work-related

issues. Her suspicion grew stronger when he spent long hours over the phone. Kalyani decided to take matters into her own hands and began monitoring his movements.

On Friday, Kalyani along with her relatives arrived at an apartment in Warsiguda and caught the GHMC official with the woman. Upon seeing the two together, a raged Kalyani and her relatives thrashed Janakiram. While he was getting pounded by

the relatives, the alleged woman hid inside the bathroom.

After being alerted, the Warsiguda police reached the spot, rescued them and shifted to the police station.

"Kalyani married Janakiram six years ago. However, she alleged that he harassed her for not having children and started having affairs," the Warsiguda police released a statement.

Hyderabad police raid gambling den in Santosh Nagar, 18 arrested

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

18 accused were arrested by the Hyderabad police task force, in a late-night raid at a gambling den on Thursday, February 20. The police seized a total of Rs 29,490, from the gambling den, along with 108 decks of playing cards, and 16 mobile phones.

The police arrested the organiser, Akbar Hussain, a resident of Phisal Banda of Santhosh Nagar and 17 punters. The arrested have

been identified as Mohammed Kahleel, Mohammed Fayaz, Abdul Rafiq, Mohammed Mahboob, Mohammed Mateen, Mohammed Mateen, Mohammed Feroz, Mohammed Nawaz, Shaik Siraj, Syed Adil, Zubair Khan, Mohammed Ilyas, Mohammed Fareed Khan, Mohammed Riyaz, Syed Baba, Mohammed Minhaj, Mohammed Bin Aslam, and Mohammed Gouse Khan. The arrested men were handed over to the Santhosh Nagar police sta-

tion for further action. Earlier in February, the special operation team (SOT) of Rajendranagar and Moinabad police raided a farmhouse in the Tholkatta locality of Moinabad and apprehended 64 persons including 5 workers for allegedly organising a casino-cum-cockfight.

Officials seized 46 cockfight knives, betting coins and cards, 55 cars, 64 smartphones, 84 cocks and cash amounting to Rs 30,59,620 during the raid.

KCR Invited to Yadagiri Gutta Maha Kumbhabhishekam



Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has been invited to attend the Maha Kumbhabhishekam of the Golden Vimana Gopuram at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Yadagiri Gutta. The event is scheduled to take place on February 23.

A team comprising Yadagiri Gutta Devasthanam's chief priest and temple management officials visited KCR at

his Erravelli residence on Friday to extend the invitation. The priests also bestowed Vedic blessings upon him.

Additionally, KCR was invited to attend the Yadagiri Gutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Brahmotsavam, which will be held from March 1 to 11.

The delegation included temple chief priests Venkateswara Acharya, Narasimha Murthy, and Kiran Kumara-charya, along with DEO Bhaskar and PRO Rajan Babu.

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.

Panipuri seller's 'ATM heist' fails, gets arrested

Hyderabad
WUT | Feb . 22

Moghalpura police on Friday, February 21, arrested a man for attempted robbery of an ATM at the Shalibanda branch of State Bank of India (SBI).

The accused has been identified as Honmane Kashinath, a 24-year-old who sells panipuri in

front of Balaji sweet shop in Aliabad. Kashinath was addicted to online games like Rummy and Roulette and has accumulated a substantial debt of around Rs 30 lakh by taking loans from friends and online loan applications. In a desperate attempt to alleviate this financial burden, he resolved to rob an ATM. On the night of February 14 and 15, he

broke into the Shalibanda SBI ATM using a stone and then used his hands to force open the machine. He extracted the cash box, which he subsequently broke open with the stone. However, finding no cash inside, he discarded the empty box in a nearby garbage container.

On the morning of February 15, when the serv-

ice manager reached the branch he noticed the ATM shutter half closed. After inspection the ATM was found broken and damaged, subsequently, a case was registered on Branch Manager Syed Mahammad Rafi's complaint and police took on an investigation.

Upon analysing CCTV footage it was found that a man had entered the

ATM at around 3:50 am, closed the shutter and stayed inside till 5:05 am. During this time, the suspect forcibly opened and damaged the Automated Deposit cum Withdrawal Machine (ADWM) by attempting to remove the cash cassettes, but was unsuccessful. The suspect then tried to steal the cash retract box containing rejected and counterfeit

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