



# WAKE UP



# TELANGANA

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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**Kohli's knee swelling is not serious, will be back for 2nd ODI: P7**

**Tensions Escalate in Kodangal and Dudiyal Mandal Over Land Acquisition: P2**

**Kavitha Slams BJP and Congress Over PRLIS National Status Denial: P3**



## Brief Insights

**Liquor Likely to Be Cheaper in Star Hotels**



Liquor is likely to be relatively cheap in the bars of even star hotels in Andhra Pradesh. The state government, it is learnt, proposes to reduce the annual licence fee of Rs 67 lakh for such bars soon. Star hotels charge high prices for several brands of liquor in their bars, covering the costs of maintenance, ambience etc. Hence, guzzlers generally prefer other bars where liquor is sold at lower rates. **CONTINUE:P4**

**Modi to co-chair AI Action Summit**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day visit to France on Monday. During the visit, Mr Modi will participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in Paris as a co-chair along with French President Emmanuel Macron, followed by a bilateral meeting with the French President in the southern French port city of Marseille, where the two leaders will inaugurate the new Indian consulate. At a special MEA briefing on Friday evening, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said the Prime Minister will reach **CONTINUE:P4**

## Rahul: Maharashtra voters exceed population

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 8

The Congress, Shiv Sena-UBT, and NCP-SS on Friday alleged major irregularities in Maharashtra's voter lists, claiming that 39 lakh voters were added between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Addressing a joint press conference, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi highlighted that the number of voters added is equivalent to the population of Himachal Pradesh. He demanded transparency from the Election Commission (EC) and urged it to release the voter lists. Gandhi pointed out a discrepancy in Maharashtra's voter data, stating that while the state's adult population is 9.54 crore according to government records, its voter population stands at 9.7 crore. He alleged that this disparity indicates irregularities in the voter registration process. He further noted that 39 lakh voters were added

in just five months after the Lok Sabha polls, compared to 32 lakh added over five years between 2019 and 2024. Gandhi claimed that most of these additions appeared to favor the BJP, as the opposition parties' vote share remained steady during Assembly elections. Rahul Gandhi warned that the lack of transparency from the EC raises serious questions about its impartiality. He said the opposition would approach the judiciary if the EC fails to act, adding, "It is surprising to me that the EC is not ready to give us voter lists. The only reason possible is that something is wrong, and they know it." Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sanjay Raut criticized the EC, stating, "If the EC is alive and not dead, it should answer the questions posed by Rahul Gandhi. Otherwise, it will be construed as a slave to the government." NCP-SS leader Supriya Sule echoed the concerns, urging the EC to bring transparency to the issue. The opposition leaders warned that this issue poses a serious threat to the Constitution and democracy, demanding immediate action from the EC.

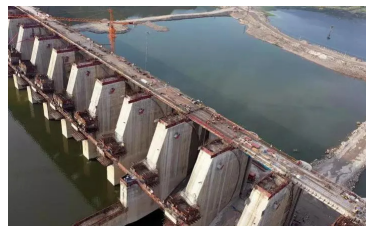


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## Telangana expands Polavaram backwater study

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | Feb . 8

The irrigation department has begun sharpening its focus on analysing the impact of backwaters of Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram irrigation project in Telangana, with more aspects being added to the study that the state government has asked IIT-



Hyderabad to conduct. The irrigation department had on January 29 written to IIT-H to take up the study and submit its report in one month, following a directive from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who had expressed concern over the potential threat Polavaram poses to Sri Sita Ramaswamy temple at Bhadrachalam. The temple town experienced severe flooding in 2022 when the river recorded an inflow of 27 lakh cusecs of water. Among the terms for the

study that were sought in 2016 were a report from the Central Water Commission (CWC) on Polavaram project's backwater impact, and the possible scenarios once the neighbouring state completes construction of the project with a 45.72 metres height and achieves full reservoir capacity. **CONTINUE:P2**

## PM to meet US President Trump next week

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day working visit to the US from February 12 during which he will meet President Donald Trump, the external affairs ministry Friday announced. Addressing a press conference, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi's visit will give further impetus and direction to India-US bilateral relationship. Prior to his US visit, Modi will be in France from February 10-12 to co-chair the AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron. He will also visit Cadarache, the site of the



International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor of which India is a partner, Misri said. "This will be the first visit of Prime Minister Modi to the United States since the inauguration of the second presidential term of US President Donald Trump," he said. "The fact that the Prime Minister has been invited

to visit the US within barely three weeks of the new administration taking office shows the importance of the India-US partnership and is also reflective of the bipartisan support this partnership enjoys in the US," the foreign secretary said. During his visit to France from February 10-12, Modi and Macron will also address the India-France CEOs forum. The prime minister and Macron will travel to Marseille where they will inaugurate the Consulate General of India. The leaders will also visit the war cemetery and pay tribute to the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in World War I. Modi and

Macron will visit Cadarache, the site of the International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). Misri said there has been a very close rapport between Trump and Modi, dating back to the US leader's first term. "There is a clear convergence of interests between the two countries in several areas, including trade, investment, technology, defense cooperation, counterterrorism, Indo-Pacific security, and people-to-people relations," he said. "The 5.4 million-strong Indian community in the US and the more than 350,000 Indian students pursuing higher education in American universities.

## Double bonanza for salaried class, RBI cuts rate after 5 years

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 8

After the significant income-tax relief announced in the Union Budget, India's salaried class received another boost as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut a key interest rate for the first time in five years, in a move that is expected to lower EMIs. The rate cut is expected to bring relief to borrowers, as banks are likely to lower lending rates on home, auto and education loans, and business credit. However, it may also mean that some deposit rates could go down. The RBI's rate-setting



panel, the monetary policy committee (MPC), slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent, the first cut since May 2020. The repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank lends short-term money to banks. While new borrowers will be offered loans at a lower rate, the exact date when the rate cut becomes effective for EMI payers will depend on their respective lenders. Until then, they

will continue to repay their loans at current rates. A lower repo rate means banks can borrow funds at a reduced cost from the central bank, and they are expected to pass this lower cost on to borrowers. Speaking at the monetary policy press conference, newly-appointed RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra said that around 40 per cent of the banks' loans have their interest rates that are linked to the repo rate, and their borrowers will get immediate relief. For loans linked to the marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR), the interest rate change will take effect after six **CONTINUE:P4**

## AAP, BJP trade charges on eve of Delhi poll results

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | Feb . 8

With the Delhi Assembly election results set to be announced on Saturday, the national capital is on edge. On the eve of the counting day, allegations and counter-allegations flew thick and fast with AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal accusing the BJP of trying to "poach" his party's candidates. He also filed a written complaint to lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena. In a post on X, Kejriwal claimed that 16 AAP candidates "received calls from the BJP, asking them to switch sides and promising them ministerial berths and Rs 15 crore each". The L-G has or-



dered a probe into the allegations and officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau met the former Delhi chief minister to record his statement and look into the allegations. The BJP, however, claimed that the AAP leaders were trying to create "panic and a situation of unrest" in Delhi by spreading such "false and misleading information". A meeting of AAP leaders and candidates was also held at Kejriwal's residence on Friday morning. While the meet- **CONTINUE:P4**

## Skyroot plans to offer 'hail rocket' model

**New delhi**  
WUT | Feb . 8

Skyroot Aerospace, a privately-run space-focussed company based in Hyderabad, is preparing to launch Vikram-1, a rocket designed to offer satellite operators the flexibility of booking a launch as easily as hailing a cab. The company is running final tests on its systems, including static fires, separation trials, and pressure tests across multiple locations in India. The rocket will be integrated at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota before its launch later this year. "The experience we are bringing to the space launch industry is like a cab service: Satellite oper-



ators can book a launch as and when they need it, and we will get them to their exact destination in space," said Pawan Kumar Chandana, CEO and co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace. Vikram-1, which is built to deliver payloads of up to 480 kg into a 500 km low-inclination orbit, is part of a modular series of launch vehicles named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. Unlike conventional rockets that require extensive infras-

tructure, it has been designed for rapid assembly and launch within 24 hours from any site. "Rocket science is unforgiving. Even the tiniest deviation in one part can have a significant impact. That's why very few companies globally have succeeded in launching a rocket," said Chandana. The team follows an iterative cycle of designing, testing, and refining to reach the level of confidence required for flight. One of the most recent developments has been the successful test of Kalam-250, the rocket's second-stage engine. The company has also conducted static fires of Stage-2 and Stage-3 solid motors, **CONTINUE:P4**

ESTD. 1960

# Aostoria Restaurant

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

**Ek baar khaoge toh baar baar Aaoge**

5 - 9 - 8 / C Ag Office Road, Opposite To Rbi, Hyderabad



Japanese Firm to Try Biolace Technology for Cleaning Kukatpally Nala



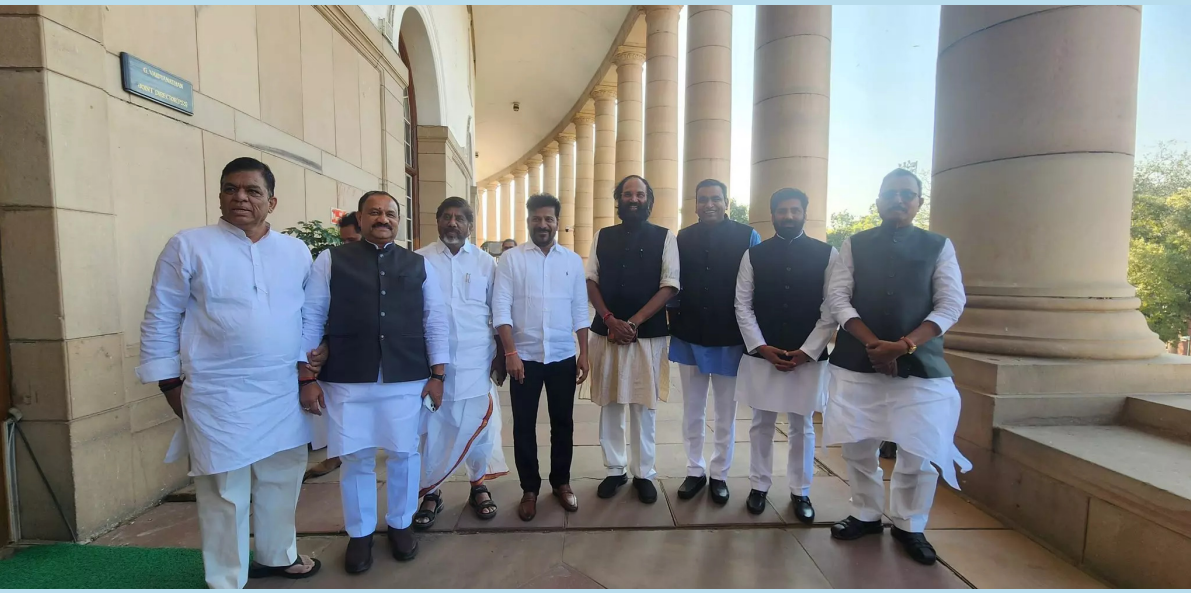
Yet another attempt to clean up the city’s nalas and lakes will begin later this year, when a Japanese firm will try out its biolace technology to clean the water of pollutants in the Kukatpally nala. The Kukatpally nala flows into the Hussainsagar. “The site location has been fixed, and construction should be completed by May,” said Toshihisa Kinoshita from TBR Co. Ltd, Japan, who made a presentation of the technology at a roundtable here on Friday. Kinoshita, from TBR Co. Ltd, Japan, made a presentation on the fibre-based biological treatment and explained its use in sewage treatment plants (STPs) and natural bodies. Kinoshita explained that biolace, primarily used in Japan, allows microbes to attach themselves to fine fibres which are then used to boost purification by biological means. “By having a lot of microbes fixed on these fibres, we use this to clean the water,” he said. Unlike traditional sludge-based methods, biolace increases microbial concentration in sewage treatment plants, improving efficiency and reducing excess sludge. The Musi River, burdened by untreated sewage, industrial discharge, and floating waste, could benefit from this technology, experts said. B.V. Subba Rao, water resources expert and the event’s moderator, questioned how biolace would work in an open river system where only a portion of

Revanth rules out Cabinet expansion

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday ruled out any Cabinet expansion in the near future, stating that senior leaders representing various sections of society would be given appropriate positions in the state Congress. A delegation led by Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretary K.C. Venugopal in Delhi to

discuss party matters. The team is also set to meet Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Saturday. During an informal interaction with mediapersons, Revanth Reddy revealed that the delegation’s visit focused on the appointment of TPCC office-bearers, preparations for local body elections, and discussions on the BC caste census and SC categorisation. He expressed confidence that the TPCC would soon have a robust leadership team to effectively implement the Congress government’s policies and secure victory in



upcoming elections. The delegation reportedly submitted a proposal for creating four working president posts in the Telangana Pradesh Congress Com-

mittee (TPCC). Names proposed include Mohammed Azharuddin, Feroz Khan, and Khureshi from the minority community; Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy,

Rohin Reddy, and Rajender from the Reddy community; Balram, Bellaiah, and Murali from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community; and Sampath Kumar,

Preetham, and Kavvampally Satyarayana from the Scheduled Castes (SC) community. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) will review the proposals and

select one candidate from each community for these positions. Revanth Reddy has invited Mallikarjun Kharge to be the chief guest at a public meeting in Medak district, focusing on the categorisation of Scheduled Caste sub-castes. The event is expected to take place at the end of the month. He also extended an invitation to Rahul Gandhi to attend a public meeting in Suryapet on the BC caste census. The delegation’s discussions are aimed at strengthening the party’s organisational structure and gearing up for the upcoming local body

Telangana Caste Survey: Setting a National Example

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Feb . 8

Telangana State has embarked on a historic and comprehensive caste survey, revisiting the initiative last undertaken during the British era in 1931. This initiative fulfills a key promise made by Rahul Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, reinforcing the Congress party’s commitment to equity and justice for backward communities (BCs). The survey, spearheaded by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka, was initiated through a Cabinet resolution on February 4, 2024, and completed by February 2025 under the Planning Department’s leadership. The implementation of the survey was meticulously planned and executed. The Planning Board, along with key officials like Sandeep Sul-



tania and the Hyderabad Collector, organized the operation into manageable clusters of 150 households each. Over one lakh government employees participated in re-surveying 1.2 crore households across Telangana. This unprecedented exercise aimed to provide accurate and actionable data for the welfare and empowerment of BCs, who make up 56% of the state’s population. However, despite its importance, opposition leaders like KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao abstained from participating in the survey and staged walkouts during Assembly discussions. Their actions cast doubt on their commitment to the welfare of weaker sec-

tions. Similarly, BJP leaders, while vocal about their support for BCs, have failed to deliver measurable results. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remarks on avoiding societal divisions contrast sharply with the BJP’s track record of using religion for political gains. In contrast, Rahul Gandhi has championed the need for an inclusive approach, advocating for the removal of the 50% reservation cap to ensure justice for all marginalized communities. His leadership provides a roadmap for nationwide caste-based initiatives aimed at addressing socio-economic disparities. The Telangana caste survey is more than a data collection exercise; it is a foundational step toward equitable governance. The findings will inform welfare sub-plans, fund allocations, and employment training programs tailored to the needs of marginalized communities.

BRS Leader G. Devi Prasad Criticizes Congress Govt Over Employee Welfare

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Feb . 8

BRS leader G. Devi Prasad, speaking at Telangana Bhavan, strongly criticized the Congress-led government for neglecting retired employees and contractual workers in the state. He highlighted that 8,764 retired employees have not received their dues, causing severe financial hardship and mental stress. "Pensioners are spending sleepless nights, and many are forced to roam the secretariat seeking justice," he said. Devi Prasad pointed out that since March last year, retired employees have not been given their benefits. He compared this to the tenure of former CM KCR, when retirees received their dues on the same day. Some employees have even taken the issue to the High Court in desperation. He also highlighted the plight of contract and outsourcing workers, who are not receiving their salaries on the first



day of the month. Anganwadi and ASHA workers have similarly been neglected, with the Congress government failing to fulfill its promise of a salary hike, even after 14 months. Employees have yet to receive benefits under the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), despite repeated demands. Devi Prasad also criticized CM Revanth Reddy for failing to secure central funds for Telangana in the latest budget, even after making 35 visits to Delhi. On the contentious caste census issue, he noted growing dissatisfaction across the state. Congress MLCs are now demanding that the caste census survey be scrapped.

Tensions Escalate in Kodangal and Dudiyal Mandal Over Land Acquisition

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Feb . 8

The regions of Kodangal and Dudiyal Mandal, particularly Rotibanda Tanda, are witnessing rising unrest as farmers strongly oppose the government’s plan to acquire agricultural land for industrial development. Farmers have voiced firm resistance to parting with their lands, which serve as their primary source of livelihood. The protests, led by the farming community, have triggered large-scale tensions, prompting the deployment of police forces in the area to maintain law and order. On a recent visit, govern-

ment officials conducting a land survey faced stiff opposition. Farmers made it clear they would not relinquish their lands, stating their unwillingness to compromise under any circumstances. Protests in the area have escalated, with women taking the forefront of resistance. In one striking instance, a woman carried a petrol can as a symbol of her desperation and anger over what she perceives as a direct threat to her livelihood. The destruction of properties, including small businesses such as milk booths, has further fueled the outrage. Locals argue that the government’s actions are undermining their basic rights and

destroying their means of sustenance. In a parallel incident, tensions flared in Uppal’s Chilaka Nagar Division after the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) demolished a milk booth near Kalyanpuri Park. The booth, operational for over 20 years, was a vital source of income for its owner and a crucial service provider for the community. The demolition has sparked protests in the area, with locals demanding justice and calling the move unjust. The booth’s removal has heightened frustrations among residents, who view it as an attack on small businesses. Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy has come under scrutiny for his handling of these issues. Critics argue that his policies and actions may have exacerbated tensions. Protesters are accusing the government of prioritizing industrial expansion over the needs of local communities. They argue that agricultural lands and small businesses should not be sacrificed for industrialization. Protesters have outlined key demands, including halting land acquisition for industrial purposes, restoring demolished properties, providing compensation for losses, and ensuring livelihood security for affected communities.

World Economic Forum praises CM Revanth to make the world attention : Dr Satyam srirangam

Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Feb . 8

TPCC official spokes person Dr Satyam srirangam describes World economic forum appreciation letter stated in his Media statement on Friday February 7 . WEF sent letter of appreciation to the CM Revanth Reddy on Friday February 6 in their comprehensive letter. Salute Revanthreddy’s working style in Rising Vision. In their letter full of applauded for Chief Minister’s foresight. A forum where CM’s future plans were appreciated and also noted miracle to make Telangana a trillion dollar economy. Appreciation of



measures taken for better standard of living of people. Rising Telangana-2050 Goal, an honor for leadership excellence Construction of New City, an ambitious plan like Tech and AI hub, has been welcomed by the economic forum. Interested in working together in CM’s future vision projects. Forum is grateful for CM’s visit to Davos. This is an appreciation for investment vision

Etela Rajender Highlights Modi Govt's Achievements, Criticizes Congress

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, during his address in Parliament, emphasized the importance of focusing on positive aspects while discussing the budget. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak and shared his observations from the past eight months of parliamentary sessions. Etela criticized the Congress party for its over 50 years of rule, questioning their achievements in fulfilling Ambedkar’s vision of equal wealth distribution. He pointed out the lack of district-wise and state-wise budget allocations during Congress’s tenure, calling their current statements hypocritical. He praised the Modi government for increasing tax devolution to states from 32% to 42%, allowing greater flexibility for state-level development. He also lauded the central government’s revolutionary decision to provide ₹1.5 lakh crore at zero interest to states for development projects. Focusing on Telangana, he highlighted central assistance for gram panchayats, municipalities, and corporations, including funds for drainage systems, streetlights, sanitation workers, and graveyards. He spoke



about the ₹2,000 crore being spent on developing railway stations in Hyderabad, including ₹450 crore for Cherlapally, urging the state government to allocate ₹100 crore for supporting infrastructure. He also mentioned the expansion of railway lines, including converting single lines to double/triple lines and the construction of a four-lane trunk line from Kazipet to Balharshah. He commended the Modi government’s support for farmers, including ₹11,000 crore assistance and efforts to provide advanced genetic seeds. He also appreciated the introduction of a dedicated ministry for fishermen and the 50% subsidy on cattle schemes, though he pointed out delays in Telangana’s implementation. Rajender highlighted ₹4 lakh crore allocated in the last budget for unemployed youth and criticized state governments for not implementing central schemes like the Vishwakarma scheme. He proposed better monitoring of Indian workers abroad to prevent exploitation, particularly in Gulf countries.

Telangana expands Polavaram backwater study

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

The irrigation department has begun sharpening its focus on analysing the impact of backwaters of Andhra Pradesh’s Polavaram irrigation project in Telangana, with more aspects being added to the study that the state government has asked IIT-Hyderabad to conduct. The irrigation department had on January 29

written to IIT-H to take up the study and submit its report in one month, following a directive from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who had expressed concern over the potential threat Polavaram poses to Sri Sita Ramaswamy temple at Bhadrachalam. The temple town experienced severe flooding in 2022 when the river recorded an inflow of 27 lakh cusecs of water.

Among the terms for the study that were sought in 2016 were a report from the Central Water Commission (CWC) on Polavaram project’s backwater impact, and the possible scenarios once the neighbouring state completes construction of the project with a 45.72 metres height and achieves full reservoir capacity. Also to be studied was the river’s flow from Bhadrachalam

to Dummugudem. The department is learnt to have held discussions with experts from IIT-H on Thursday, following which they added a few more parameters for the study, including various backwater studies of the project by Central Water Commission, Central Soil and Materials Research Station, along with reports on the river’s flows by AP, Telangana and Odisha.

Over the past three decades different studies had projected flood flows in the river ranging from 28 lakh cusecs to 58 lakh cusecs. According to officials, if a 50 lakh cusec flood occurs in the river, the backwaters from the project could extend up to 146 km behind the dam up to Dummugudem in Telangana. During the 2022 floods, Godavari, which recorded 24.5 lakh cusecs flow,

reached a height of 71 feet resulting in submergence of 102 villages in Telangana impacting 16,000 houses. In view of these different figures, the department is learnt to have suggested that the new study in addition to examining the likely flood scenarios and impacts, also look into the submergence scenarios resulting from congestion of local natural drainage.



# Mata Ramai Jayanti Celebrated in Armur with Grandeur

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | Feb . 8

The 127th Jayanti of Mata Ramai was commemorated with enthusiasm at the Ambedkar statue in Armur City under the leadership of Angari Pradeep and Pinja Ashok, representing various social organizations. Addressing the gathering, Ambedkarite leaders highlighted Mata Ramai's sacrifices and contributions to society, describing her as a martyr who endured the loss of her four children for the greater good. They



recalled her pivotal role in supporting movements like the "Mahad Satyagraha" and the "Kalam Mandir Movement," where she provided unwavering assistance to those in need. Mata Ramai was also recognized for offering mental strength and peace to

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during challenging times. Leaders praised her as an inspirational figure who fostered critical discussions between luminaries such as Shahu Maharaj, Prabodhankar Thackeray, and Ambedkar. The event commenced with floral tributes and

garlands placed on a portrait of Mata Ramai. Speakers urged activists to embrace her ideals and continue her legacy. Prominent participants included Kalpana Kadam, Kadapa Pawar, Shilpa Pawar, Anuradha, Padmini, Raju Jadhav, Vikas Pawar, Itwarpet Linganna, Kokkara Bhumanna Madiga, Argula Suresh, Mamata Malaji, and Moolanivasi Malaji. The celebration concluded with a call for unity and dedication to Mata Ramai's teachings and values.

# Companies ready to expand to smaller cities, says Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

IT and industries minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Friday said that companies are willing to expand their operations to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in the state because of the positive ecosystem created by the state government. Announcing a decision by HC Robotics to invest ₹500 crore in smaller cities, the minister said the company will create 500 new jobs this year and increase employment by another 2,000 over the next three years. Centillion Networks has



already launched operations in Karimnagar, and several other companies are following suit by expanding to Tier 2 and 3 cities. With its headquarters in Hyderabad, Centillion Networks and its subsidiary HC Robotics operate in nine countries, specialising in drone technology, drone software, telecommunications, robotics, and aero-

space software development. The company currently employs 2,000 professionals. Replying to a question, Sridhar Babu said that the incentive amount due to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) has accumulated to ₹4,500 crore and has been stuck since 2016. Since assuming office, the Congress government has prioritised

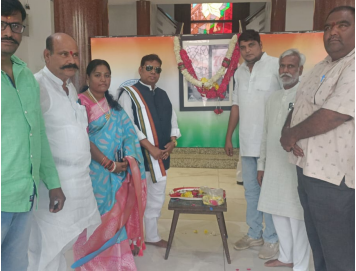
clearing these dues, he said, adding that the government will take over land allotted to industries if it remains unused for unjustifiable reasons and will also take legal action against unauthorised usage. A comprehensive review of the Industrial Health Clinic, which was set up to revitalise struggling industries, is also underway. "If it proves beneficial, we will allocate additional funds to ensure its continued operation," he said. "Of the 18 MoUs signed at Davos last year, 17 are already in motion, and 10 have achieved.

# Mallu Ananthamuramulu's 35th Death Anniversary Commemorated

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | Feb . 8

The 35th death anniversary of Mallu Ananthamuramulu was commemorated today at Gandhi Bhavan and the People's Educational Trust, Suryalok Complex, Gun Foundry, under the leadership of his son Mallu Shivaram. AICC General Secretary Sampath attended as the chief guest and highlighted Mallu Ananthamuramulu's contributions to the

upliftment of Dalits, backward classes, and minorities. Sampath described him as a beacon of hope for marginalized communities, stating, "His efforts for a just and equal society remain unforgettable." KP Sridhar, son of Congress leader Lakshmi Devi, praised Ananthamuramulu's dedication to education, calling it the weapon he used to empower the underprivileged. "He roamed villages, inspired communities, and provided free education, housing, and healthcare to many,"



Sridhar added. Mallu Sena National President Naveen Rani noted that he would have risen to the position of Chief Minister if he were alive, given his leadership as PCC President, AICC General

Secretary, and MP. National Ambedkar Sena Vice President Kalyan Ram called him "a once-in-a-century leader." Nandi Kondala Rao of the A. R. Mallu Foundation highlighted his transformative work in Khammam district, where Dalit families still benefit from his housing and development schemes. Meals were served to hundreds of attendees, as Mallu Shivaram ensured a fitting tribute to his father's enduring legacy..

# The daily Minuguru 2025 Calendar released

Hyderabad  
Prashanth reddy  
WUT | Feb . 8

Minuguru Telugu daily 2025 calendar was released by CPM state secretary John Wesley in Hyderabad on Friday. Later he said that CPM State Secretary John Wesley is happy to release Minuguru daily calendar which has been running successfully uninterruptedly in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for the last four



years. He said that the special calendar with the people recognized in various fields across the world will attract everyone. On this occasion, he congratulated Minuguru Editor-in-

Chief Kalukuri Raju. Saida Furniture head N Kumar, CPM state leaders MD Abbas, Dasharath, Aruna Jyoti and other's were participated in this programme.

# Kavitha Slams BJP and Congress Over PRLIS National Status Denial

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has launched a scathing attack on both the BJP and Congress after the Centre denied national project status to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project (PRLIP). Highlighting the lack of accountability and effort from the two national parties, she described their performance as an "8+8 = 0 Model," referencing the eight MPs from each party representing Telangana. Kavitha accused the BJP-led Central Government of persistent discrimination against Telangana and criticized the Congress for its

**8 BJP MPs + 8 Congress MPs = ₹0 for Telangana. The denial of national status to PRLIP is yet another act of purposeful exclusion by the BJP-led Central Government. Telangana has been consistently marginalized since its formation, and the people are watching. I demand that the Congress-led State Government take a strong stand and ensure that our state's voice resonates in Delhi.**



silence on the issue. "The people of Telangana are watching," she said, adding that despite having 16 MPs from the state, both parties have failed to deliver for the people of Telangana. Recalling the efforts of the previous BRS Government led by former Chief

Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Kavitha stated that over 13 representations were made to the Union Government to secure national project status for PRLIP. However, these efforts were met with continuous neglect and refusal by the Centre.

Kavitha accused the BJP of purposeful exclusion and demanded the Congress-led Telangana Government step up and fight for the state's rightful share. She also highlighted the persistent neglect Telangana has faced in budget allocations, project recognitions, and cultural

matters. She called for greater accountability from the Congress Government in Telangana and urged them to prioritize the aspirations and well-being of the people above political interests. Kavitha also highlighted the efforts of the previous BRS Government in pursuing national recognition for PRLIP, emphasizing the need for similar proactive steps now. Concluding her remarks, Kavitha described the BJP and Congress alliance of neglect as a "collective failure" that has once again left Telangana marginalized.

# Harish Rao Criticizes Government Over Gurukul Food Poisoning Incidents

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Former Minister Harish Rao has expressed outrage over a series of food poisoning incidents in Gurukul schools, particularly the recent incident at the Damaravancha Tribal Gurukul in Mahabubabad district, where several students were hospitalized. Rao accused the Congress-led government of negligence, claiming that these incidents are a result of poor oversight and mismanagement. During the Congress party's one-year tenure, hundreds of food poisoning cases have reportedly occurred in Gurukuls, with numerous students hospitalized and several losing their lives. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had previously assured strict action, including arrests, against those serving adulterated



food to students. However, Harish Rao criticized the government for failing to act decisively, stating, "Revanth Reddy's promises might echo far and wide, but the deteriorating conditions of Gurukuls show that his actions have clear limits." Rao demanded immediate medical care for affected students and urged the government to implement stringent measures to prevent further food poisoning incidents in Gurukuls.

# OU students protest over early exams

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Tension gripped Osmania University on Friday night when a large number of students staged a protest on campus, demanding that the administration postpone the third-semester examinations scheduled to begin on February 18. Students argued that the exams were being conducted before the completion of the syllabus. Protesters pointed out that in several departments, including those in the Science College, nearly 40 per cent of the syllabus was yet to be covered. They insisted that the exams be rescheduled to the first week of March, giving them sufficient time to complete their coursework. "How can we write exams when a significant portion of the syllabus hasn't been taught yet," a first year geography student asked reporters. "In my department, 40 per cent is still pending. On top of that, the administration is enforcing a 70 per cent attendance rule, making it difficult for students to attend coaching for competitive exams, even



when the university itself offers civil services training." Students surrounded the university's administrative building on Friday night, refusing to leave until their demands were met. Many of them continued their agitation without eating since the afternoon, determined to pressurise the authorities into taking action. University registrar Prof. G. Naresh Reddy held talks with the protesters, but students said the discussions did not yield any outcome. They also demanded that students appearing for the National Eligibility Test (NET) be exempted from semester exams until the test is completed.

# Madiga Community Secures 9.8% Reservations: Health Minister

Hyderabad  
R santosh chowdary  
WUT | Feb . 8

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha announced on Thursday that the Madiga community and its sub-castes have been allocated 9.8% reservations following the classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) into three groups by the state government. During a meeting with several leaders of the Madiga community and its sub-castes, the minister outlined the distribution of the reservations, explaining that the community received 0.77% in Group 1 and 9% in Group 2. He emphasized that the Congress government expedited the long-delayed classification process while ensuring no legal complications



would arise. Taking an indirect jab at Manda Krishna Madiga, founder of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS), Narasimha accused certain individuals of opposing SC classification for political gains. "I will not betray the Madigas like they did. The government is committed to categorization and will not shy away from addressing legal challenges if required," he stated. The minister condemned attempts to create divisions between Madigas

and Malas, asserting that the government would stand firm and ensure the implementation of the reservations. He reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to equal rights and justice for all. Narasimha urged the Madiga community to aspire for higher education and professional success, moving beyond traditional roles. "Madigas should not restrict themselves to playing the 'dappu.' They should learn computer languages, pursue higher education abroad, and aim to become officers and entrepreneurs," he said. He concluded by reaffirming the aspiration of the Revanth Reddy-led government to ensure the Madiga community lives with dignity and self-respect.

# Students demand lower answer key objection fee, QR codes on hall tickets

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | Feb . 8

Students appearing for state university entrance exams demanded relief from the steep ₹500 fee for challenging answer key errors, saying it discourages many from raising valid objections. They also urged authorities to introduce a QR code on hall tickets to help locate exam centres easily, as many candidates struggle to find their venues, sometimes missing exams altogether. With thousands of students appearing for entrance tests across Hyderabad, candidates said the ₹500 objection fee was unaffordable, particularly for those from economically weaker backgrounds. "If an answer key has errors, students must be able to challenge it freely," said R. Naik, a student leader. "For many of us, ₹500 is too high. Some might have genuine concerns but won't raise them because



they can't afford it." He and others are calling for the fee to be reduced to ₹200 to ensure fairness in the evaluation process. Many come from rural areas and have difficulty navigating Hyderabad's vast cityscape. They say a simple QR code on hall tickets, which could provide instant navigation to their centres via Google Maps, would be a game-changer. "Every year, some students miss their exams just because they couldn't find the centre on time," said Shiva Krishna, another student representative. "This is completely avoidable. A QR code would solve the problem instantly."



AAP, BJP trade charges on eve of Delhi poll results



New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

With the Delhi Assembly election results set to be announced on Saturday, the national capital is on edge. On the eve of the counting day, allegations and counter-allegations flew thick and fast with AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal accusing the BJP of trying to “poach” his party’s candidates. He also filed a written complaint to lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena. In a post on X, Kejriwal claimed that 16 AAP candidates “received calls from the BJP, asking them to switch sides and promising them ministerial berths and Rs 15 crore each”. The L-G has ordered a probe into the allegations and officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau met the former Delhi chief minister to record his statement and look into the allegations. The BJP, however, claimed that the AAP leaders were trying to create “panic and a situation of unrest” in Delhi by spreading such “false and misleading information”. A meeting of AAP leaders and candidates was also held at Kejriwal’s residence on Friday morning. While the meeting was apparently held to discuss the BJP’s alleged attempt to poach AAP candidates, sources said the party leadership was drawing up a strategy to keep its flock together in the event of a close finish. Earlier, the ACB team which reached Mr Kejriwal’s residence was not allowed to enter, since it could not furnish any “advance notice”. Later in the evening, the ACB issued the notice asking Mr Kejriwal to “join the probe”. The notice also warned of potential legal action (if the allegations are not substantiated), asking Mr Kejriwal to

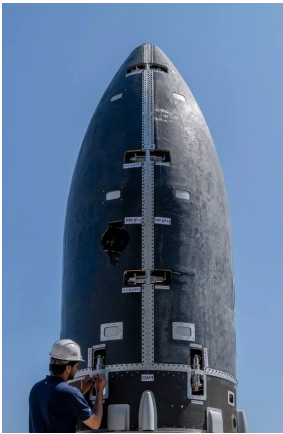
explain why those spreading such allegations should not be prosecuted for creating “panic and unrest” AAP leader Sanjay Singh, who had also made a similar complaint, had recorded his statement with the ACB. Meanwhile, even as the exit polls predicted a BJP victory, some of its own leaders are cautious in their optimism. Saf-ron poll pundits say “there is not likely to be a nail-biting finish... It will be a clear mandate and could go either way”. AAP heavy-weights Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Satyendar Jain are, meanwhile, locked in a sticky wicket as the Congress was reportedly eating into its vote share. For the BJP, if the exit poll predictions hold true and the party secures a comfortable victory, sources indicate the party may propose a woman candidate for the position of chief minister, signalling a potential shift in strategy. The BJP, which has been out of power for in the national capital for nearly three decades, launched a high-octane propaganda blitz on an unprecedented scale. Top party leaders reached out to voters with a mix of promises and freebies. Its campaign focused mainly on corruption and nationalistic sentiments. “The corruption issue resonated deeply and our campaign songs were on the lips of voters,” another BJP leader claimed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the charge, delivering a scathing attack on AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of prioritising personal luxuries over public welfare.

Skyroot plans to offer ‘hail rocket’ model

New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

Skyroot Aerospace, a privately-run space-focused company based in Hyderabad, is preparing to launch Vikram-1, a rocket designed to offer satellite operators the flexibility of booking a launch as easily as hailing a cab. The company is running final tests on its systems, including static fires, separation trials, and pressure tests across multiple locations in India. The rocket will be integrated at the Satish

Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota before its launch later this year. "The experience we are bringing to the space launch industry is like a cab service: Satellite operators can book a launch as and when they need it, and we will get them to their exact destination in space," said Pawan Kumar Chandana, CEO and co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace. Vikram-1, which is built to deliver payloads of up to 480 kg into a 500 km low-inclination orbit, is part of a modular series of launch vehicles



named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. Unlike conventional rockets that require extensive infrastructure, it has been designed for rapid assembly and launch within 24 hours from any site. "Rocket science is un-

forgiving. Even the tiniest deviation in one part can have a significant impact. That’s why very few companies globally have succeeded in launching a rocket," said Chandana. The team follows an iterative cycle of designing, testing, and refining to reach the level of confidence required for flight. One of the most recent developments has been the successful test of Kalam-250, the rocket’s second-stage engine. The company has also conducted static fires of Stage-2 and Stage-3

solid motors, validated the upper-stage liquid engine Raman-II, and completed reaction control system tests. "Data from these tests are positive and meet flight criteria. There are a few major tests that we are looking forward to in the coming weeks and months, including the payload separation test and Stage-1 static fire test," Chandana said. The company has also begun working on rockets with greater payload capacities and is considering reusability. "Vikram-1 will be our workhorse launch

vehicle, with multiple launches scheduled over the years. The rocket is designed such that we can iterate and manufacture it rapidly. Simultaneously, we are also working on future launch vehicles with greater payload (satellite mass) capacity," Chandana said. The study was conducted for just 11 days, from May 29 to June 10, 2023. The amount of waste sent for recycling in these 11 days equates to saving carbon emission that more than two cards would generate.

Modi to co-chair AI Action Summit

New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day visit to France on Monday. During the visit, Mr Modi will participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in Paris as a co-chair along with French President Emmanuel Macron, followed by a bilateral meeting with the French President in the southern French port city of Marseille, where the two leaders will inaugurate the new Indian consulate. At a special MEA briefing on Friday evening, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said the Prime Minister will reach Paris on the evening of February 10 and attend a dinner for heads of state/government attending the summit that will be hosted by the French President at the Elysee Palace. The AI summit on the morning of February 11 is expected to dwell on an ethical, sustainable and inclusive approach to AI and will be attended by heads of state and government, leaders of international organisations, CEOs of small and large companies, repre-



sentatives of academia, non-governmental organisations, artists and members of civil society, according to reports that added that the summit will address five primary themes — public interest in AI, the future of work, innovation and culture, trust in AI and global governance of AI. After attending the summit, Mr Modi will also attend a CEOs forum in the afternoon. Thereafter, he will leave for Marseille and reach there on the evening of February 11, where he will be hosted to a dinner by Mr Macron. The two leaders are expected to hold talks on the strategic partnership between the two nations on issues including trade, defence, maritime security and AI. On the morning of February 12, the two leaders will visit a war cemetery where they will pay homage to Indian soldiers (of the then British

Indian Army) who died fighting to save France during the First World War. The two leaders will also visit the site of the International Thermo-nuclear (fusion) Experimental Reactor (ITER) located in nearby Cadarache. The Prime Minister's visit comes amid India's keen interest in acquiring 26 Rafale-Marine fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy from France and had earlier acquired 36 Rafale fighter aircraft from France for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The new proposed deal could be announced during the visit, while the pact may be inked formally at a later date. With the two nations hailing the success of the first Scorpene submarine construction programme (P75 – Kalvari) that symbolises the model of Make in India and the sharing of naval expertise between companies in the two countries, the two sides are also interested in the proposed construction of three additional submarines under the P75 programme. As per reports, the two deals together could be more than \$10 billion, thereby substan-

tially boosting bilateral defence cooperation. Diplomatic sources were cited by media reports earlier in the day, claiming that announcements are expected in the spheres of defence, small modular reactors, aircraft maintenance, repair & overhaul facilities in India and a bilateral AI roadmap. Diplomatic sources were quoted by media reports as saying, "India is a key partner. France and India relationship is like an alien's, with a big head and small body. The big head is our defence and security partnership, but we need to put flesh on the small body and therefore there will be a lot of conversation on economic co-operation apart from talks on the big defence, security, cyber, civil nuclear and space." According to reports, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) will also be high on the agenda. In the Indo-Pacific region too, France is considering India as a key ally, with a diplomatic source being quoted on China's role as saying, “We don’t want any hegemon in the region."

Liquor Likely to Be Cheaper in Star Hotels



New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

The Andhra Pradesh government is likely to reduce the annual licence fee for bars in star hotels, making liquor more affordable in such establishments. Currently, the licence fee stands at ₹67 lakh, a steep amount that hoteliers argue is significantly higher than neighboring states. Star hotels typically charge premium prices for liquor, factoring in high maintenance and ambience costs. As a result, many patrons opt for other bars that sell alcohol at lower rates. However, with recent policy changes, star hotels are beginning to see a gradual increase in revenues. In response to industry demands, the Telugu Desam Party-led alliance government is considering granting industry status to the hospitality sector. A delegation from the Andhra Pradesh Hotels Association, led by its president RV Swamy, recently met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, urging him to reduce the licence fee to a more manageable level. The delegation highlighted that Andhra Pradesh's ₹67 lakh fee is much higher than

Telangana’s ₹40 lakh and Tamil Nadu and Kerala’s ₹12 lakh. They pointed out that mandatory requirements for star hotels to maintain bars, even at a loss, have worsened their financial situation. Some hotels, such as the Gateway, are reportedly running at significant losses, with 27 out of 47 three-star or higher hotels shutting down due to poor returns. The Chief Minister has directed officials to review the issue. Swamy expressed optimism, stating, “We are confident that the government will consider our request and help us out. We expect the licence fee to be fixed at around ₹20 lakh. If so, we are ready to offer more liquor brands for the benefit of customers.” Hoteliers believe that reducing the licence fee will revitalize the hospitality and tourism sector, attracting more patrons to star hotel bars and improving their financial viability. A decision is expected soon, with stakeholders hopeful for a policy change that balances industry needs and government regulations.

RBI CUTS REPO RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS, REDUCING EMIS FOR BORROWERS

New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

India’s salaried class received a double boost following the Union Budget’s income tax relief, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a repo rate cut for the first time in five years. The rate cut is expected to bring relief to borrowers, as banks are likely to lower lending rates for home, auto, education loans, and business credit. However, deposit rates could potentially decline as a

result. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI, in its latest review, reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%, marking the first cut since May 2020. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to banks. Newly-appointed RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted that about 40% of banks' loans are directly linked to the repo rate, ensuring immediate relief for those borrowers. For loans tied to the marginal



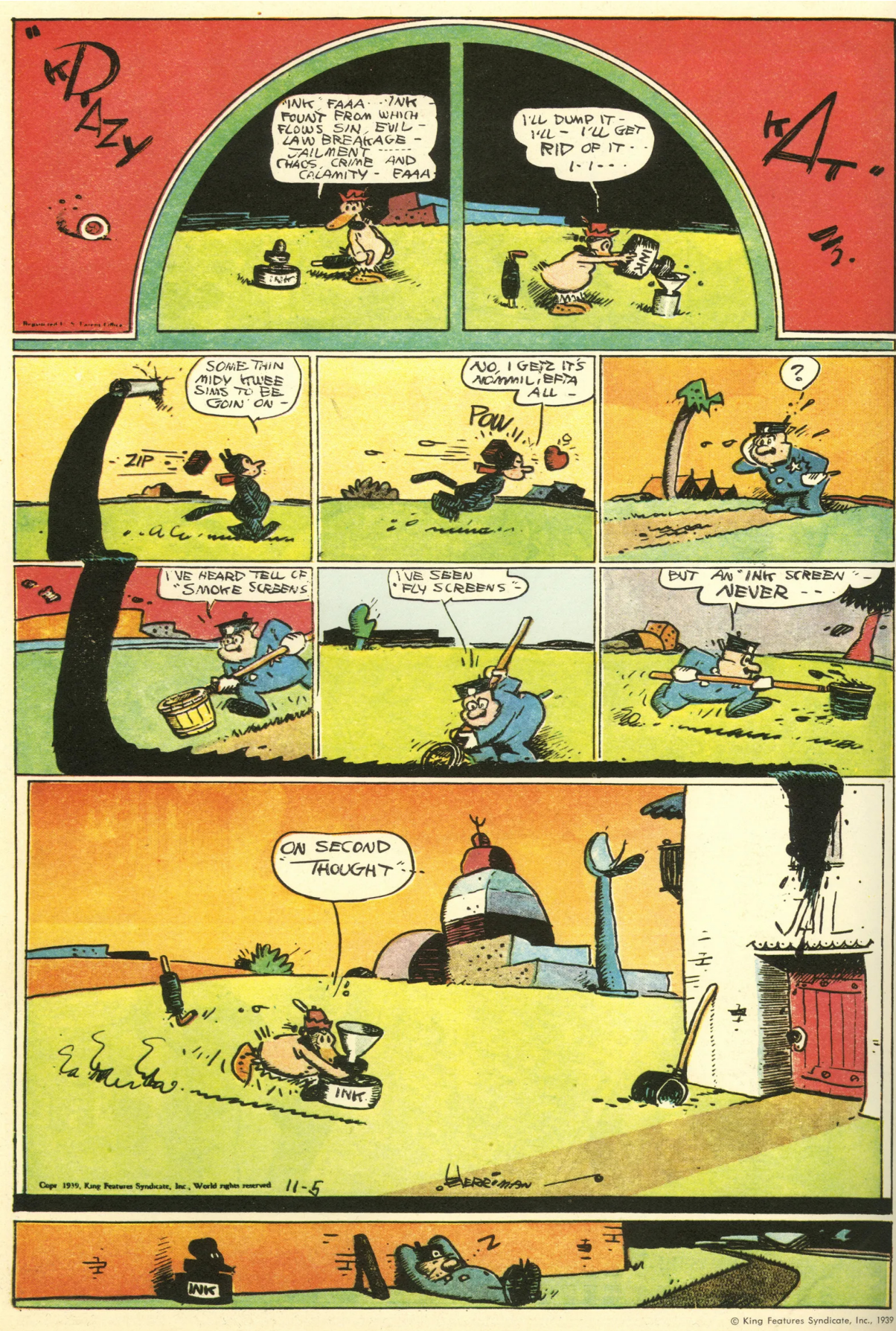
cost-based lending rate (MCLR), the impact will be seen after six months. The rate cut is expected to lower Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) for new and existing borrowers. For instance, a home loan of ₹50 lakh with a tenure of 25 years at a nine percent interest rate currently

has an EMI of ₹41,960. With the new rate of 8.75%, the EMI will drop to ₹41,213, resulting in a monthly saving of ₹747 or ₹8,964 annually. Borrowers will have two options: reduce the EMI or shorten the loan tenure. According to Anil Rego, founder of Right Horizons, reducing the tenure while keeping the EMI unchanged will minimize total interest payments and clear the loan faster. However, borrowers could opt for lower EMIs with

further rate cuts and invest the savings in Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). Senior citizens relying on fixed deposits (FDs) are advised to lock in their funds at current higher rates before banks adjust them downward. Debt mutual funds and corporate bonds could also present better investment opportunities as deposit rates decline. A lower repo rate reduces banks' borrowing costs from the central bank, encouraging them to pass on the

benefits to customers. However, the timeline for EMI changes will depend on individual banks. While this is welcome news for borrowers, depositors may see a dip in returns on fixed deposits in the coming months. This development marks a significant move by the RBI to stimulate economic growth while providing relief to borrowers. Further changes in interest rates will depend on upcoming monetary policy reviews.





EDITORIAL


WELL-BEING FOR THE ELDERLY, BATTLING NEURODEGENERATIVE DIS-

Hyderabad WUT | FEB 8

Staying positive and resilient while facing and experiencing a neurodegenerative disorder can be challenging for the individual as well as their caregivers. While it becomes important to have a cure to numb the symptoms, it is also crucial to look at the factors that will lead to a positive outlook toward the illness and life. According to the World Health Organization, there are more than 55 million individuals globally living with a neurodegenerative disorder, with 60% of them in low and middle-income countries. Newer strategies and counselling to help elderly individuals battle such challenges tend to overshadow the power of social support as an en-

couragement of positive health while facing the challenges of neurodegenerative disorders like dementia and Alzheimer's. Several studies have concluded that social support has facilitated coping, adjustment and adaptation to chronic illnesses (Cotter et al, 2018), and has significantly reduced the risk for a range of diseases, health issues and all-cause mortalities. (Joshi et al, 2024) Social Health Social health includes two elements: social support and social isolation. Social isolation is explained through the number of social interactions and the individual's interaction with their social environment. When people interact, they exchange something, and this 'something' is called social support,

which is embedded in social relationships (Murata et al, 2019). Social support is the subjective component, varying among individuals, which is the extent to which an individual feels that their social needs are met. It can be defined as having four or more relatives or close friends with whom one can discuss their personal matters, essentially, be comfortable with, and could be called upon for help. Related to this, systematic reviews show that better social health results in older individuals having better control over their cognitive functions. It was also stated that poor social health increases the likelihood of an individual's risk of dementia (Joyce et al, 2021), including other disabling and life-shortening disorders .



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**The Editor**

Brief Insights  
4 sentenced to 10 yrs for illegal Alprazolam manufacturing

A local court in Telangana sentenced the four people who were arrested for illegally manufacturing Alprazolam to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a term of ten years and pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh each. In 2017, acting on specific intelligence relating to illicit manufacturing of Alprazolam, a psychotropic substance under NDPS Act, 1985, the officers of DRI Hyderabad Zonal Unit seized 18.55 kilogram of Alprazolam valued at Rs 27,82,500 (approx.) and 619.14 kilogram of in-process material (202.2 kilogram of Stage 4 material and 416.93 kilogram of intermediate material) valued at Rs 4,92,79,800 along with the equipment used for manufacturing alprazolam. The next day, the teams conducted simultaneous searches at 4 locations in Medak and Nalgonda districts, Telangana. The DRI arrested four accused persons and sent them to judicial remand. The investigation was carried out and a complaint was filed before the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sangareddy. The Court conducted the trial and opined that the prosecution had established that the four accused were guilty beyond reasonable doubt for the offences punishable under Section 22 (c), 28 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and convicted them under Section 235(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Telangana HC Warns Against Delays in Margadarsi Financiers Case

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

The Telangana High Court, in the matter concerning the continuation of criminal proceedings against Margadarsi Financiers for allegedly collecting deposits without obtaining prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), reiterated its firm stance on expediting the hearings without any undue delays. The case, which had been remanded to the High Court by the Supreme Court six months ago, came up for hearing on Friday. The Supreme Court had earlier directed the Telangana High Court to decide the matter at the

earliest, emphasizing the need for swift resolution. However, delays arose as the concerned parties were taking additional time to file their counter affidavits, prompting the High Court to express its dissatisfaction with the pace of progress. A division bench comprising Justice Shyam Koshy and Justice K. Sujana presided over the proceedings. The bench took a serious note of the RBI's request for an additional two weeks to submit its counter affidavit, expressing displeasure at the delay, especially in light of the Supreme Court's directive for an expeditious hearing. The bench cate-

gorically stated that it would not entertain any further delays in the matter and directed the RBI to file its counter affidavit within one week. The court then adjourned the hearing to February 14, making it clear that all parties must comply with the deadlines to ensure the case moves forward without further hindrance. During the hearing, former Member of Parliament Vundavalli Aruna Kumar brought to the attention of the bench an issue with the registry. He informed the court that although an order had been passed in October directing the registry to include his name in the

cause list, this directive had not been implemented. The bench took note of the matter and issued fresh instructions to the registry, reiterating the earlier order and directing compliance to ensure his name was included in the cause list. Several senior legal representatives participated in the hearing, highlighting the importance and complexity of the case. Senior advocate Siddhartha Luthra, who represented the Reserve Bank of India, appeared virtually, as did former MP Vundavalli Aruna Kumar and senior advocate L. Ravichander. On the other hand, AP Special Government Pleader Ra-

jeshwar Reddy and Telangana Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwar Rao attended the hearing in person. The mix of virtual and in-person participation underlined the widespread attention the case has drawn and the involvement of prominent legal experts. The case revolves around allegations against Margadarsi Financiers regarding their acceptance of deposits without securing prior approval from the RBI, an act that contravenes the existing financial regulatory framework. The Supreme Court's decision to remand the case back to the Telangana High Court was aimed at en-

suring a thorough examination of the matter and delivering justice without unnecessary delays. However, the slow pace of proceedings due to procedural lapses, including delays in filing affidavits, has drawn criticism from the bench, which is determined to uphold the Supreme Court's directive. The High Court's observations on Friday served as a clear warning to all parties involved that any further delays would not be tolerated. By setting a one-week deadline for the RBI to file its counter affidavit, the bench sent a strong message about the importance of adhering to procedural timelines.

Telangana High Court Rules on Prohibited Properties under Registration Act

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Feb . 8

Justice CV Bhaskar Reddy of the Telangana High Court has clarified that the state government cannot include private properties in the list of prohibited properties unless they fall under the categories specified in Section 22-A of the Registration Act, 1908. Citing the full bench ruling in Vinjamuri Rajagopala Chary and others vs. Prin-



cipal Secretary, Revenue Department, Hyderabad and others, the court emphasized the need for strict adherence to the procedure outlined under Section 22-A. Authorities preparing lists of prohibited proper-

ties under clauses (a) to (d) must explicitly indicate the relevant clause, and registration officers are required to follow these guidelines strictly. Any deviation from the prescribed procedure will be deemed

null and void. The ruling came during the hearing of a writ petition filed by Venkata Subbaiah Thumati and another, who challenged the blocking of a transaction on the Dharani portal. The petitioners

claimed they were allowed to book a slot, prepare a sale deed, and pay a registration fee of ₹30,35,073 for an agricultural property in Survey No. 132/C/B/1/2, measuring 1 acre and 26 guntas in Bachupally. However, the transaction was later barred from completion. Justice Reddy's judgment underscores the importance of transparency and adherence to legal procedures in property registration

Three Die by Suicide in City

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

Two 15-year-old girls were among three persons who died by suicide in the city over a 24-hour period ending Friday. At Uppal, 15-year-old girl allegedly took her life after feeling unwell and consulted a doctor. He prescribed medication for weakness. Her mother, a single parent, dropped her off at home and went to

work. Upon returning in the evening, she found her daughter dead. The suicide of another 15-year-old girl was reported from Secunderabad. Her family had moved to the city from another place for work, but was planning to return. They were at the railway station when the family realised the teen was missing. The father informed the Government Railway Police, who launched a search and found her

body. In Warasiguda, a 25-year-old BSc Nursing student died by suicide after an argument with her boyfriend, Srujan. Residents of Warasiguda, they were in a relationship for four years, police said. They argued over a message found on her phone and he reprimanded her for texting a boy. The police arrested Sreujan for alleged abetment to suicide.



## India’s Largest Classical Music Tour ‘Sitar For Mental Health’ Announced



In a significant boost to India's classical music revival, Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, the youngest and last disciple of the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar, has announced the country’s biggest-ever classical music national tour. Under the banner of Team Innovation Cultural, the tour titled ‘Sitar For Mental Health’ will span 10 cities between April and May 2025.

Presented and produced by Team Innovation, India’s leading live entertainment management company, the tour aims to blend the rich traditions of Indian classical music with contemporary wellness practices. The family-friendly event will captivate audiences in New Delhi, Mumbai, Indore, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Jaipur, and Chandigarh.

The announcement comes amid a growing appreciation for classical music among millennial and Gen Z audiences, as indicated by recent streaming platform data. Following a successful series of performances across the United States and Canada, this tour marks the most ambitious presentation of ‘Sitar For Mental Health’ to date.

Speaking about the initiative, Rishab Rikhiram Sharma stated:

"We are witnessing a fascinating cultural shift where ancient ragas are finding new resonance with contemporary listeners. Classical music is not just surviving in the digital age—it is thriving. Younger audiences are increasingly drawn to its transformative power, recognizing the emotional depth that is often missing in modern music."

Mohit Bijlani, Founder of Team Innovation, emphasized the cultural significance of the tour, adding:

"India is on the brink of a musical renaissance. Classical music has transcended traditional boundaries, evolving into a powerful force in mainstream culture. At Team Innovation Cultural, we are committed to offering audiences authentic and meaningful experiences that blend tradition with innovation."

The 120-minute performances will provide a reimagined concert experience, seamlessly integrating the sitar’s enchanting melodies with sound healing techniques. The tour is designed to create a contemplative and immersive atmosphere, demonstrating the profound impact of classical music on mental well-being.

Tickets and Sponsorship

Tickets for the tour are now live on [www.district.in](http://www.district.in), starting at INR 1,499. The tour is sponsored by HSBC.

## Telugu Film Chamber to Launch Awards for Tollywood

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

The Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce has announced its decision to host an annual film awards ceremony to honor the Telugu film fraternity. This marks the first time a trade body in Tollywood will organize such an event, a practice already established by similar organizations in Kerala and Karnataka.

"For the first time, a trade body will organize film awards in Tollywood," said Prassanna Kumar, Treasurer of the Telugu

Film Chamber of Commerce. He emphasized that Telugu cinema has gained global recognition, tracing its roots back to February 6, the birthday of Telugu cinema, when Bhakta Prahlada, directed by H.M. Reddy, was released as the first Telugu talkie film. He also noted that Kalidasu, released in 1931, featured Telugu dialogues and songs across four reels.

The Chamber's inaugural awards ceremony is set to take place on February 6, 2026. The selection process will be based on films released between



January 1 and December 31 of each year, with awards in over 30 categories, including Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director. "We will adopt certain rules followed by the National Film Awards and Indian

Panorama at film festivals to ensure transparency in the selection process," Kumar stated. With the Telangana government launching the Gadar Film Awards and Andhra Pradesh reviving the Nandi Awards, the

Chamber’s initiative may be perceived as competition. However, Kumar clarified, “We respect state and national awards. Our aim is to remain neutral and recognize Telugu talent without regional bias. In fact, we will also felicitate winners of state and national awards.”

As the apex body representing producers, studios, distributors, and exhibitors, the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce aspires to set a benchmark by organizing a prestigious and independent awards ceremony that truly honors Telugu cinema.

## Sobhita awaits Naga Chaitanya’s Clean-Shaven Look

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Actress Sobhita Dhulipala has showered praise on her husband, Naga Chaitanya, as his much-anticipated film Thandel hits theaters today. Taking to her Instagram stories, Sobhita expressed her excitement for the film’s release while also teasing Chaitanya about his new look. “#Thandel release day! Excitement. I’ve seen you stay so focused and positive throughout the



making of this film. Can’t wait for everyone (and myself) to experience this extraordinary love story on the big screen,” she wrote, sharing a still of Chaitanya from the movie.

Adding a playful touch, she

wrote in Telugu: “Finally, gaddam shave chesthavu... modati sari ni mukham darshanam avuthundi saami @chayakkineni,” which translates to, “Finally, you will shave your beard, and I will get to see your face!” Chaitanya and Sobhita recently tied the knot in a grand wedding ceremony in Hyderabad. Thandel, a romantic action thriller, follows the gripping journey of fishermen from Sriakulam who unknowingly drift into Pakistani waters during a routine fishing expedition.

## RBI Defers LCR Norms by a Year

Mumbai  
WUT | Feb . 8

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) new governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday provided significant relief to banks by assuring that the implementation of the proposed stricter Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), as well as provisioning norms for project finance and Expected credit loss (ECL) would be implemented not before March 2026 and in a phased manner. The new governor said that the step has been taken as the earlier deadline of March 2025 does not give sufficient time for the implementation of these

guidelines. The RBI does not want to cause a disruption in the financial system and will ensure a smooth transition, he added.

Malhotra underlined that while financial stability is important, the "cost of regulations" will also be looked at by the central bank under his leadership so that there is an efficient use of resources. On the ECL, Malhotra said it is only a discussion paper and that there is an overlap with project finance which also focuses on additional provisioning. He added that both the rules will not be implemented before March 31, 2026.

## Samsung Galaxy S25 Series Launches to Record Demand in India

GURUGRAM  
WUT | Feb . 8

Samsung India has announced an unprecedented response to its flagship Galaxy S25 series, securing over 430,000 pre-orders. This marks a 20% increase compared to the Galaxy S24 series, showcasing the growing demand for Samsung’s innovative technology among Indian consumers.

The Galaxy S25 series, featuring the Galaxy S25 Ultra, Galaxy



S25+, and Galaxy S25, offers cutting-edge AI capabilities that provide natural and context-

aware experiences. Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Division, Samsung India, said,

“The Galaxy S25 series has seen strong demand among young, tech-savvy consumers, who

are leading the adoption of Galaxy AI features. Expanding our flagship distribution network to 17,000 outlets has helped us cater to smaller cities.” The smartphones are available in the following colors:

- Galaxy S25 Ultra: Titanium Silverblue, Titanium Black, Titanium Whitesilver, Titanium Gray
- Galaxy S25 and Galaxy S25+: Navy, Silver Shadow, Icy Blue, Mint

In a move to localize its offerings, the Galaxy

S25 series introduces Google’s Gemini Live in India, with Hindi support available from launch. This highlights Samsung’s focus on creating seamless, intuitive AI solutions tailored to Indian users.

Starting today, the Galaxy S25 series is available for purchase at retail stores, on Samsung’s official website, and other online platforms. With record-breaking pre-orders, Samsung reinforces its position as India’s leading electronics brand.

## Maruti Suzuki Smart Finance Crosses 2 Million Customer Milestone

New delhi  
WUT | Feb . 8

Maruti Suzuki Smart Finance (MSSF) has achieved a significant milestone of facilitating over two million car loans in just five years since its inception in 2020. With 28 finance partners offering seamless loan options pan-India, MSSF has transformed the car financing experience for both NEXA and ARENA customers.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, “Five years ago, Maruti Suzuki revolutionized car financing with its digital, end-to-end solution. Today, nearly 50% of our car finance cases are processed through MSSF, showcasing our commitment to enhancing customer convenience through innovative digital tools. Customers can now finance their cars 24x7, from anywhere, making the process simpler and more efficient.” He added, “We deeply appreciate

the support of our finance partners in helping us bring the joy of mobility to over two million customers. Together, we will continue to make car buying a hassle-free and delightful experience.”

MSSF offers a variety of features designed to simplify car loans for customers. These include:

- On-Road Price Configuration for precise cost estimation
  - Credit Score-Based Interest Rates for competitive pricing
  - Pre-Approved and Customised Loan Offers for salaried and self-employed individuals
  - Online Sanction Letters for quick approvals
  - Real-Time Loan Status Tracking for complete transparency
- With its user-friendly platform, MSSF allows customers to design personalized loan plans, choose the best financing solutions, and get loan approvals in less than a day. Since its launch, the platform has attracted over 1.60 crore visitors, cementing its reputation as a leader in the car financing space.

## Mujtaba Hasan Askari Appointed Telangana State Head for Healthcare Professionals – AIPC

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Mujtaba Hasan Askari has been appointed as the Telangana State Head for the Healthcare Professionals Domain under the All-India Professionals Congress (AIPC). Expressing his gratitude to AIPC Chairman Praveen Chakravarty for the opportunity, he vowed to work towards addressing the concerns of healthcare professionals across the state.

In his new role, Mujtaba will focus on improving working conditions and policy support for frontline health workers, including ASHA workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), emergency paramedics, and other medical professionals. He aims to collaborate with the Telangana government to



ensure effective solutions for challenges faced by healthcare professionals, covering various sectors such as medical and dental practitioners, nursing staff, mental health experts, critical care teams, alternative medicine practitioners, and veterinary professionals. Mujtaba Hasan Askari, Founder & Trustee of Helping Hand Foundation (HHF), left a successful career at Infosys Technologies to dedicate himself to public health and social

development. With 14 years of IT experience and 18 years in the development sector, he has worked extensively to make healthcare more accessible, equitable, and affordable. His initiatives include setting up help desk systems in 13 state-run hospitals and establishing over 20 urban primary health centers through international charities and CSR grants, benefiting 6-7 lakh underprivileged citizens annually across more than 100 urban and peri-urban slums.

"Healthcare is a fundamental right, and strengthening public health systems is crucial to addressing health inequities in our country. In my new role with AIPC, I will serve as the voice of healthcare professionals, particularly frontline

health workers such as ASHA, ANMs, emergency paramedics, rural health practitioners, and AYUSH health workers. By empowering them, we can enhance public trust and improve healthcare delivery," said Mujtaba Hasan Askari.

The All-India Professionals Congress (AIPC) is a dedicated platform under the Indian National Congress that brings together professionals from diverse fields to contribute to policymaking and governance. By appointing leaders like Mujtaba Hasan Askari, AIPC continues to strengthen its efforts in shaping healthcare policies, fostering socio-economic reforms, and driving positive change in the country.



CITY CLICKS

From Galle to Grama : Murali's Devotion Beyond Pitch



The anticipation will be palpable at Galle International Stadium. The 2nd and final Test match against Australia is underway, and cricket enthusiasts from around the world have their eyes glued to the event. However, a noticeable absence hung in the air—the world’s highest Test wicket taker (800), Muthiah Muralidaran, would not be present to witness the thrilling showdown or hand over the Warne-Muralidharan trophy to the series winner.

"No, I won't be able to make it," the 52-year-old distinguished former right-arm off-spinner said over the telephone from Colombo. His voice was tinged with regret. "I am leaving for India this week to play a match against India's cricketers," he added, a note of excitement creeping in. "Sathya Sai Grama is hosting a cricket match between Indian and Sri Lankan players on February 8, and being a devotee of Sathya Sai Baba, along with a few Sri Lankan players, I will be participating in the match," Murali explained. This match, hosted under the theme 'One World One Family Cup 2025,' was more than just a game—it was a celebration of unity and humanity.

Muralidaran's ties to India ran deep. He married Madhimalar Ramamurthy, a Chennai native, on March 21, 2005. Madhimalar was the daughter of the late Dr. S. Ramamurthy of Malar Hospitals and his wife, Dr. Nithya Ramamurthy. This connection made Murali not just a son-in-law of India but also a beloved figure in Indian cricketing circles. The upcoming match at Sathya Sai Grama in Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapur district, promised to be a spectacle. Last year, during the first edition of the 'One World One Family Cup,' cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Yuvraj Singh had captained the teams.

Tony de Zorzi, Jordan Hermann Steer Sunrisers into Third SA20 Final



Tony de Zorzi and Jordan Hermann propelled the Sunrisers Eastern Cape into their third successive Betway SA20 Final to maintain their push for a hat-trick of titles. The Sunrisers top-order finally found their rhythm with De Zorzi, having only joined the Sunrisers late into their Season 3 campaign as a replacement for the injured Patrick Kruger, delivering an innings to remember on a balmy night at Centurion.

The Proteas batter showed his international class with a stroke-filled 78 off just 49 balls (11x4, 2x6) that helped the Sunrisers cruise past the Royals' 175/4 with eight wickets to spare. Fellow left-hander Jordan Hermann played his part to perfection during the superb 111-run partnership for the second wicket with De Zorzi that broke both the back of the run chase and the Royals' spirits. Hermann completed the job in style finishing unbeaten on 69 off 48 balls (4x4, 4x6).

It certainly was a special night for the Hermann brothers with Rubin Hermann earlier setting up the Royals' innings with 81 not out off 53 balls. Rubin batted superbly in tandem with the competition's leading-run Lhuan-dre Pretorius (59 off 41 balls) as the pair added 99 runs off 64 balls for the second Royals wicket. It was Pretorius' third half-century of the competition.

Indian Paracyclists Shine at Asian Road & Paracycling Championship in Thailand

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

Indian paracyclists delivered a stellar performance on Day 1 of the Asian Road & Paracycling Championship in Pichit, Thailand, securing four medals and making the nation proud on the international stage. Competing against top athletes from across Asia, the Indian contingent won one gold, two silver, and one bronze medal. Jyoti Gaderiya from Maharashtra clinched gold in the Individual Time Trial - Women's C2 Category, while Arshad Shaik from Andhra Pradesh secured silver in the Individual Time Trial - Men's C2 Category. Jalaluddin Ansari from Bihar won bronze in the same category, and Prashant Arkal from Maharashtra bagged silver in the Individual Time Trial - Men's Handcycling H4 Category. The para-athletes expressed



Indian Paracyclists (2nd row standing with medal) Prashant Arkal, Jalaluddin Ansari, Jyoti Gaderiya and Arshad Shaik; pose with their medals at the Asian Road & Paracycling Championship held at Pichit, Thailand, today.

their joy and gratitude towards their supporters, coaches, and the nation, acknowledging the role of mentorship and training in their success. Their achievements stand as a testament to their dedication and hard work, along with the guidance of coach Aditya Mehta and the support staff at the Aditya Mehta Foundation. Organizations such as Invesco, Alcon, and GMMCO have played a crucial role in providing train-

ing, equipment, and rehabilitation support to India's para-athletes. These victories mark a significant milestone for Indian para-sports and set the stage for bigger challenges ahead, including the World Championships and the 2028 Paralympics. The athletes remain focused on their long-term goal of bringing more laurels to the country.

Real Madrid great Marcelo announces retirement from professional football



New delhi WUT | Feb . 8

Former Real Madrid left-back Marcelo has announced his retirement from professional football, bringing an end to a highly decorated career. The 36-year-old, who spent 16 years at the Spanish giants, confirmed his decision in a video posted on social media on Thursday. Marcelo joined Real Madrid in 2007 at the age of 18 and went on to become one of the club's great-

est players, winning six La Liga titles and five UEFA Champions League trophies. "At 18, Real Madrid came knocking on my door, and I arrived here," he said. "Now, I can proudly say that I am a true 'Madrileño'. What a journey. Real Madrid is a unique club." A key figure in Madrid's golden era, Marcelo formed a formidable partnership with Cristiano Ronaldo, winning four Champions League titles alongside the Portuguese star. The duo played cru-

cial roles in the club's historic La Decima triumph in 2014, ending a 12-year wait for Real's 10th European crown. "My brother, what an incredible career! We have lived a lot together—years of achievements, victories, and unforgettable moments," Ronaldo wrote on Instagram. "More than a teammate, a partner for life." Marcelo made 546 appearances for Los Blancos, scoring 38 goals. He also won two Copa del Rey titles and lifted the FIFA Club World Cup four times. Paying tribute to the Brazilian, Real Madrid president Florentino Perez hailed him as "one of the greatest left-backs in football history." Marcelo was an unused substitute in Real Madrid's 2022 Champions League final victory over Liverpool. His compatriot Vinicius Junior, who scored the winning goal, expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thank you for your advice, your reprimands, and the time spent by your side. We won on the field and are friends off it."

Kohli's knee swelling is not serious, will be back for 2nd ODI: Gill



India vice-captain Shubman Gill has allayed fears around Virat Kohli's fitness, saying the batting stalwart is fine and should be fit for the second One-Day International against England here on Sunday. Kohli, 36, was forced to miss the ODI series opener in Nagpur due to swelling in his right knee, leaving the team in a spot of bother as it went into the final dress rehearsal for the ICC Champions Trophy, beginning in Pakistan and Dubai on February 19. Gill, who scored a clinical 87 in India's four-wicket victory against England in Nagpur, told Disney-Hotstar: "It's nothing serious. He (Kohli) was fine during yesterday's (Wednesday) practice, but he woke up with some swelling in his knee this morning (Thursday). He'll definitely be back for the second ODI." The top-order batter said he did not get carried away while approaching his century, adding that he would have played the shot, which ultimately got him, even if he was in his 60s.

FIFA suspends Pakistan Football Federation



Karachi WUT | Feb . 8

The International Football Federation (FIFA) has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) after it failed to make amendments to its constitution which the world body deemed necessary for smooth and just governance of the sport in the country. The world body said Pakistan would remain suspended until the PFF congress made those amendments. Pakistan football has been run by a FIFA appointed Normalisation Committee since June 2019 which was tasked with holding elections and cleaning up parallel groupings in the

football set-up but it has failed to execute these plans properly. The Normalisation Committee heads and members have changed in the last five but the core issues in the sport in Pakistan still remain. The Normalisation Committee has been at loggerheads with the state-run Pakistan Sports Board which has caused a hold up in the amendments. Earlier this week, the PFF Normalisation Committee chairman Haroon Malik had warned a parliamentary panel that February 15 will be the last day of his tenure and Pakistan risked suspension if it didn't implement the constitutional amendments.

Telangana Photographic Society Announces Annual Show: GALLERIA 2025

A Celebration of Photographic Art and Passion

Hyderabad WUT | Feb . 8

The Telangana Photographic Society (TPS), a collective of renowned and aspiring photographers, is organizing its 5-day annual exhibition, GALLERIA 2025, showcasing exceptional works by over 40 photographers. The exhibition will feature diverse genres such as wildlife, nature, landscape, travel, street, portrait, fashion, and fine-art photography. It aims to celebrate pho-



tography and inspire young enthusiasts to pursue the art. The event will be held at the Chitramayee State Gallery of Art, Madhapur, Hyderabad,

from 7th to 11th February 2025. The inauguration is scheduled for 7th February at 5 PM, with Dr. K. Lakshmi, IAS, Managing Director of Telan-

gana Warehousing Corporation and Director of the State Gallery of Art, as the chief guest. Guests of honor include Mr. Aquin Matthews, Director of the

Indian Photography Festival, and Mr. Madhukar, Registrar of Jawaharlal Nehru Fine Arts University. The program will feature illustrated talks and workshops by acclaimed photographers from across India. On 8th February, Anil Risal Singh will deliver a talk on "Experimentation with Form and Colour," H. Satish will discuss "The Art of Travel Photography," and KV Saravana Kumar will conduct a workshop on portrait photography.

On 9th February, Jayanth Sharma will present "Wildlife in its Natural Habitat," Prashant Manchikanti will lead a workshop on food photography, and Gurinder Osan will share his insights in a talk titled "Why I am a Photographer." Supported by the Department of Tourism, Government of Telangana, this exhibition is open to all and promises to be an inspiring experience for art lovers and photography enthusiasts alike.



### Congress Launches Online Platform for Ration Card Services



The Congress government has introduced a new online system to simplify the process of obtaining and updating ration cards. This initiative aims to make government services more accessible through technology.

The Civil Supplies Department has announced that citizens can now apply for new ration cards or make changes to existing ones, such as updating names or modifying the member list, through the newly launched platform.

Additionally, the popular Meeseva platform will now offer ration card services online. This will enable people to access these services without the need to visit local government offices, streamlining the process and saving time for applicants.

By integrating ration card services into the digital framework, the government hopes to enhance efficiency and accessibility, ensuring that essential services reach citizens quickly and conveniently.

### Congress Condemns Deportations



Telangana Congress activists staged a massive protest at Gandhi Bhavan under the leadership of TPCC, condemning the Trump administration's inhumane and humiliating practice of deporting Indians in handcuffs, labeling them as illegal immigrants. Senior leaders, including government advisor Shabbir Ali, former MP V. Hanumantha Rao, Women's Congress President Sunita Rao, TPCC Senior Vice President Kumar Rao, Feroze Khan and several party workers, participated in the demonstration.

### RTA seizes 15 school buses in Hyderabad's Vanasthalipuram

The Regional Transport Authority (RTA) officials in Vanasthalipuram have seized 15 school buses and vans for multiple violations, including lack of fitness, overloading, use of non-transport vehicles for student transport, and driver unawareness of road safety rules. The crackdown follows the tragic death of a four-year-old girl who was run over by a school bus in Hyderabad's Hayathnagar on February 6. The accident reportedly happened when the bus driver reversed the vehicle as the child was getting out of the minivan. The driver failed to notice her, and she fell under the rear tyre resulting in instant death. As part of a special drive, an RTA team and motor vehicle inspector (MVI) inspected school buses across Vanasthalipuram.

"Several buses belonging to known schools in Hyderabad's Vanasthalipuram were found violating safety norms including overloading students despite clear regulations. We have launched daily inspections to ensure compliance and safety," said the regional transport office official.

According to reports, special teams will now monitor school buses daily during peak hours, focusing on vehicle fitness, driver licensing, and traffic rule adherence particularly preventing overloading and underage driving.

The regional transport office official further clarified that cases will be filed against schools operating unsafe buses in Hyderabad.

### HYDRAA removes unipole hoardings at Shamshabad



Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

HYDRAA removed illegal advertising unipole hoardings on Friday, along a service road leading to Shamshabad village.

Municipal officials supervised the removal, with authorities initially focusing on large hoardings. HYDRAA had identified unipoles installed without ap-

proval and held discussions with municipal officials regarding action.

A HYDRAA official said "We removed unipoles at important locations, particularly those which are obstructing public spaces and violating rules. We will take similar actions against hoardings and unipoles in Shamshabad and other areas soon."

### KTR Invited as Chief Guest to Kellogg India Business Conference 2025

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

BRS Party Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has earned another rare honor. The Vice President of the Kellogg India Business Conference (KIBC), Chenaksha Gorantla, has officially invited KTR to address as the chief guest at the KIBC-2025, scheduled to take place on April 19 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

In his invitation letter, Chenaksha Gorantla lauded KTR's remarkable achievements as Telangana's former IT and Industries Minister, stating that his contributions to the state's industrial progress over the past decade are highly inspiring. He highlighted how KTR has transformed Telangana into a global leader in the industrial and technology sectors, attracting investments from multinational



giants and creating a dynamic startup ecosystem with initiatives like T-Hub, T-Works, and V-Hub.

KTR's efforts have positioned Hyderabad as a global innovation hub, offering unparalleled employment opportunities for the youth in the digital era.

Chenaksha praised the innovative strategies implemented by KTR, which have fostered entrepreneurship and paved the way for sustainable economic growth in Telangana.

letter emphasized that KTR's

leadership in driving technological advancements and integrating them into governance has set an example for the entire country. Business students and young entrepreneurs in the United States are keen to learn from Telangana's successful model of development and the revolutionary changes spearheaded by KTR.

The KIBC Vice President also expressed confidence that KTR's keynote address will inspire students and aspiring entrepreneurs, shedding light on how Telangana achieved unprecedented progress in a short span and offering insights into sustainable development and technological integration in governance.

The invitation stands as a testament to KTR's vision and leadership, which have made Telangana a shining example of industrial and technological excellence on the global stage.

### Kishan Reddy: "Reforms in Coal Sector Are Powering India's Growth and Self-Reliance"

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Union Minister Kishan Reddy emphasized the vital role of the coal sector in achieving India's "Developed India 2047" goals. India is the second-largest coal producer globally, ranks fifth in coal reserves, and is the second-largest coal consumer. The world's second-largest coal mine, Guevara, is in India. Coal powers 74% of the country's electricity generation and is crucial to industries like steel, cement, and aluminum.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership since 2014, significant reforms have been introduced, including transparent coal



block auctions, commercial mining, and coal gasification initiatives. As a result, coal production rose from 609 million tonnes in 2014 to 998 million tonnes in 2023-24. Private sector participation has increased competition, with 184 coal blocks auctioned so far. The government is planning the 12th auction round soon.

The Ministry has focused on improving

transportation and allocation. Railway-based coal transport has risen by 50% since 2014, while policies like Shakti and coal rationalization have reduced costs by Rs. 7,000 crore. Import reduction saved Rs. 30,000 crore in foreign exchange, while Mission Coking Coal is boosting domestic production.

Technological advancements, including AI, IoT, and drones,

have enhanced safety, surveillance, and efficiency. Accidents in coal mines have decreased by 50% since 2013. Environmental sustainability is also prioritized, with over 2.9 crore saplings planted since 2019 and initiatives like mine tourism and water resource management.

The Ministry aims to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030 and expand renewable energy through PSUs like Neyveli Lignite Corporation. With these reforms, India is advancing toward self-reliance in coal, ensuring its availability for critical sectors while prioritizing sustainability and technological progress.

### Sridhar Babu Opposes UGC Norms Again

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Telangana has vowed to resist the UGC Draft Regulations – 2025, which seek to curtail the autonomy of states in higher education, until they are either amended or withdrawn, announced IT & industries minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, while reaffirming that the state will not back down in its fight to protect the federal spirit. Addressing the media here on Friday, Sridhar Babu revealed that six states came together against the draft at a meeting in Bengaluru on August 5. A joint resolution was passed and submitted to the Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The battle is far from over and Kerala will now host the next strategic meet-



ing to mount pressure, he said.

He asserted that the Telangana government will not relent until the Centre either engages in meaningful dialogue with the states or scraps the draft regulations entirely. Telangana invests Rs 4,000 crore annually in higher education, yet the Union government is seeking to strip state authority, which is an 'unconstitutional overreach' that directly violates the spirit of federalism.

### Ward Sabhas in Hyderabad from next week

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

Ward sabhas that are aimed at identifying beneficiaries of government schemes like Indiramma Indlu will commence in the city next week. New applications for Indiramma Indlu will be collected by Praja Palana Seva Kendras (PPSKs), the location details of which will be informed soon. About 10.66 lakh



Indiramma Indlu applications were received in the 150 GHMC wards and eight wards of Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB). Of them, 9.53 lakh applications have been surveyed.

GHMC deputy commissioners have been instructed to accept grievances from people whose data is either not available or are not getting reflected in the Indiramma Indlu mobile app, apart from those whose survey has not been done, as yet. Towards executing the task, 2,823 logins have been created. The number of applications that are still not surveyed is 99,377.

### High water levels give respite to Hyderabad in summer

Hyderabad  
WUT | Feb . 8

The water levels in major reservoirs, which supply drinking water to Hyderabad, are higher this year compared to the same period last year, giving some relief as the city heads into the summer season. Hyderabad gets its drinking water mainly

from Osmansagar, Himayatsagar, Singur, Manjeera, and Nagarjunasagar. According to the data from the HMWS&SB, water at Osmansagar was at 1788.45 feet, up from 1786.30 feet last year. Himayatsagar is at 1761.86 ft, compared to 1760.85 ft yearago. Similarly, Singur showed a slight rise from

the last year's 1,713.58 ft to 1,714.67 ft now, Manjeera reservoir also saw a slight increase from 1,647.5 ft last year to 1,649.3 ft now and the water level of Sripada Yellampalli Project is 479.945 ft, up from 474.859 ft last year. The water level at Nagarjunasagar is at a similar level. Officials, however, are

still cautious. "Although water levels are better than last year, we are not taking any chances. We've made pumping arrangements from dead storage if required and we are strengthening distribution networks to ensure an uninterrupted supply," said an official from HMWS&SB.

"Reservoirs like Man-

jeera, Singur and Osman-sagar have enough water to meet the city's needs. The water we are supplying now will continue throughout the summer without any reduction. The only challenge might be the drying up of borewells, which increases demand, especially in tail-end areas.

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