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Brief Insights

Tragic Road Accident Claims 10 Indian Army Lives in J&K's Doda

A sombre cloud descended over Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday after ten Indian Army personnel lost their lives and several others were injured in a devastating accident in eastern Doda district. The tragedy unfolded at the 9,000-foot-high Khanni Top along the treacherous Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road, a high-altitude route frequently used by the Army to access forward operational posts between J&K and Himachal Pradesh. The bullet-proof Casspir vehicle, carrying 17 soldiers on an operational movement, reportedly skidded off the narrow mountain road and plunged several hundred feet into a deep gorge. According to officials, the driver appeared to have lost control while navigating the steep, weather-affected stretch, causing the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle to roll down the slope. The impact was catastrophic. A swift joint rescue operation by the Indian Army and local police teams led to the recovery of four bodies from the mangled

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TN Polls: EC Allots Whistle For Vijay, Battery Torch For Kamal Hassan

Ahead of the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, the political parties of veteran actors Vijay and Kamal Hassan have been allotted their respective symbols by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The whistle symbol has been allotted to Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), headed by actor Vijay. Whereas, the battery torch symbol has been allotted to Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), the party headed by Kamal Hassan.

"I am directed to state that the application of the following registered unrecognised political party(s) for concession in the allotment of a common symbol to its candidates being set up at the forthcoming General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal,

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Phone-Tapping Probe a Political Smokescreen, Says KTR: P3

Imam Hussain (A.S.)

The Eternal Light of Truth and Sacrifice

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The birth anniversary of Imam Hussain ibn Ali (A.S.), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is a moment to reflect on values that define humanity—truth, justice, and sacrifice. Born on 3rd Shaban, Imam Hussain (A.S.) was raised in the household of prophethood, shaped by moral excellence, compassion, and unwavering faith.

From an early age, he stood as a voice for the oppressed and a guardian of ethical principles. His life reached its most defining moment at Karbala, where he refused to bow before tyranny and injustice. Despite facing over-

whelming odds, Imam Hussain (A.S.) chose martyrdom over compromise, teaching the world that dignity and righteousness are worth any sacrifice.

His stand at Karbala was not driven by political ambition but by a commitment to preserve the true spirit of Islam—justice, equality, and moral integrity. Imam Hussain's message continues to inspire people across religions and cultures, reminding us that silence in the face of injustice is itself a form of wrongdoing.

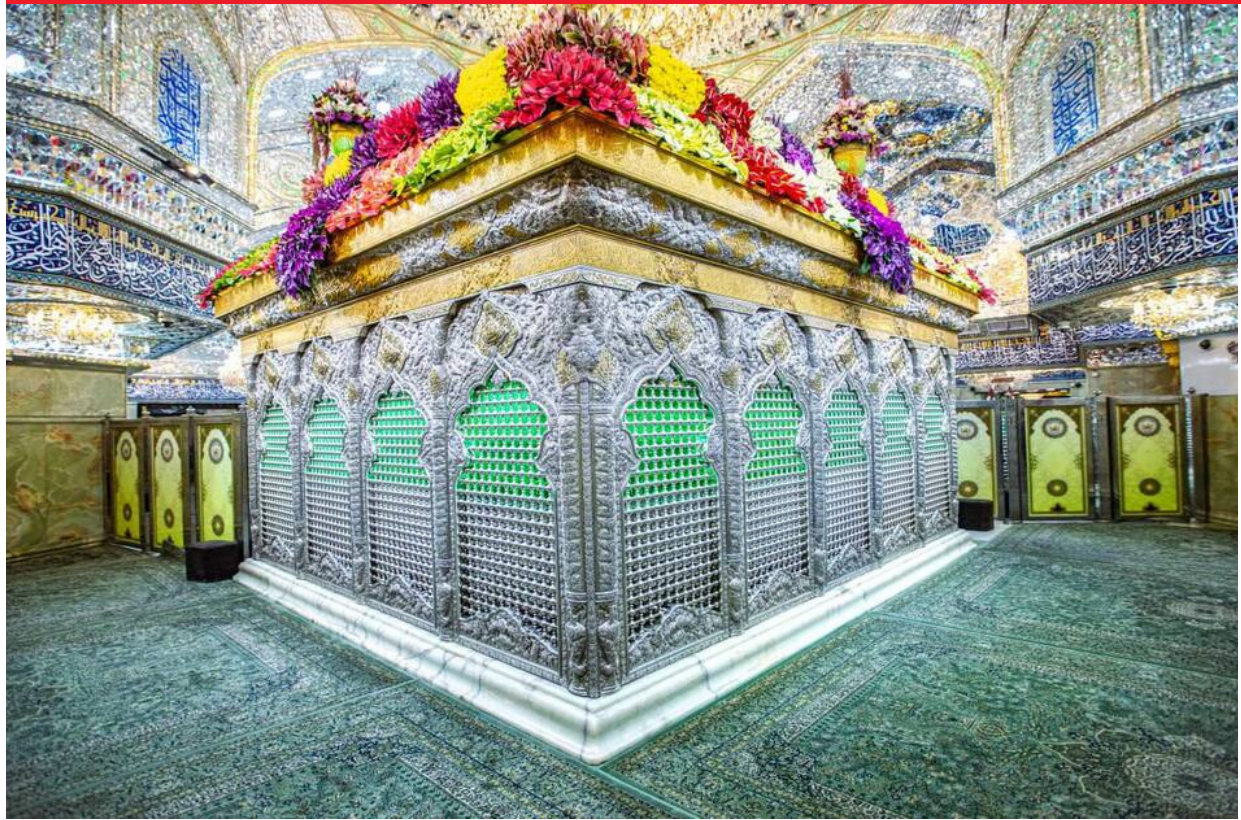
On his birth anniversary, we honor Imam Hussain (A.S.) by embracing his values and striving to uphold truth, justice, and humanity in our daily lives.

The 20-Year Political Journey of Apperaddy Mukesh: P3

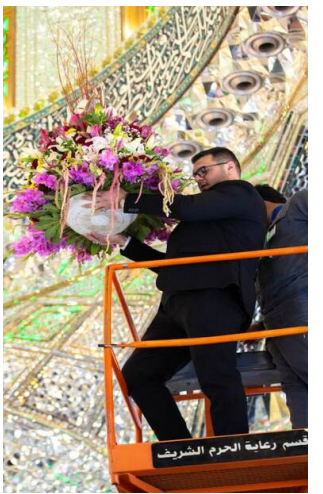
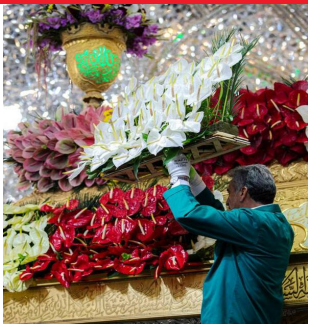
Kishan Reddy Orders Naini Bid Probe: P2



Birth Anniversary of Imam Hussain (a.s.)



Floral wreaths decorated the holy shrine of Imam Hussain (A.S.) on the occasion of his birth anniversary.



Centuries-old Katora Houz at Golconda turns garbage dumping yard, Hydraa plans for revival

Neglect and garbage dumping have degraded the historic Katora Houz near Golconda Fort. NGO SAHE, along with HYDRAA and archaeology officials, has begun restoration efforts.



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Sewerage inflow has severely damaged the reservoir's original structure and water quality, while residents in the surrounding areas have been using it as an informal dumping site, turning the heritage

water body into a cesspool. Katora Houz is a protected monument under the Central Archaeological Department.

In an effort to restore the historic structure, Hyderabad-based NGO Society for Advancement of Human Endeavour (SAHE) has initiated re-

vival measures and approached the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) for collaboration.

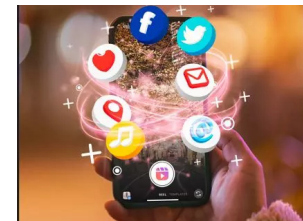
SAHE founder and water conservationist Kalpana Ramesh told Telangana Today that the NGO plans to undertake a compre-

hensive restoration of Katora Houz with the support of multiple government agencies, including HYDRAA. She said the revival process would involve shifting utilities and sewerage lines, followed by large-scale removal of accumulated garbage and solid waste from the water body.

She added that once the water body is cleaned and restored, beautification and conservation works could be taken up to preserve its heritage value. Meanwhile, HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath visited Katora Houz along with officials from the Department of Archaeology and representatives of the NGO.

The team discussed measures to protect the water body, including the installation of iron fencing to prevent further dumping of garbage.

AP Considering Australia-Like Social Media Ban for Kids



Andhra Pradesh is studying Australia's ban on children under 16 years of age from using social media, its minister in charge of technology and human resources said. "As a state, we are studying Australia's under-16 law, and yes, I believe we need to create a strong legal enactment," Nara Lokesh told Bloomberg News on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Lokesh said he strongly felt that youngsters under a certain age should not be on social media "because they don't understand what they are seeing." India has implemented parental controls for minors accessing social media but the federal government is yet to express any opinion on wider restrictions.

SIT Summons KTR In Phone Tapping Case

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the illegal phone-tapping operation during the previous BRS regime has summoned BRS working president and former minister K.T. Rama Rao for questioning at 11 am on Friday. The questioning of Rama Rao is crucial because all the political leaders summoned by the SIT till now, including former minister T. Harish Rao, to a great extent were victims of phone-tapping. For the first time, the SIT could explore the possibility of Rama Rao's involvement in the decision-making with regard to the tapping of phones by the erstwhile BRS government.

The then-Special Investigation Bureau (SIB) officials under the BRS government intercepted mobile phones of political leaders, celebrities, Tolly-



wood actors, journalists and judges. Rama Rao was served notices under Section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which allows the investigating officer to summon witnesses, suspects, or even "potential accused."

The SIT's notice to Rama Rao came a day after his brother-in-law and former minister T. Harish Rao was grilled for more than seven hours. "Even Harish Rao was not spared from the tapping and we provided him the details during the questioning," a senior police official said adding that Rama Rao would be perhaps the first person to appear before SIT, other than the officials who were already

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Solution To World's Problems Lies In Indian Tradition: Amit Shah

HARIDWAR Wakeup telangana

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday highlighted that Indian tradition and culture offer solutions to the world's problems, while attending the "Shatabdi Samaroh 2026" to mark the birth centenary of Param Vandaniya Mata Bhagwati Devi Sharma. The event, organised by the All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, also marked the centenary of the Akhand Jyoti, a flame

that has been continuously burning for over a century. The Union Minister, accompanied by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, also offered prayers at Gayatri Teerth-Shantikunj, where the Akhand Jyoti is located.

"Today, while here at the Akhand Jyoti Sammelan, I am feeling the unbroken energy and eternal light. My heart knows how much light and consciousness I will take from here. This is the confluence of faith, spirituality, and culture. Shriram Sharma res-



urrected these three by choosing character building. He did the work of enlightening the soul," Amit Shah said.

Praising Chinmay Pandya, grandson of AWGP founder Shriram Sharma Acharya, for taking a vow of nation-building, Shah further highlighted that those who believe in Sanatan Dharma, Indian cul-

ture, and history not only recognise but also have the conviction that the solution to the world's problems lies in Indian tradition. "Today, I am here salute Chinmay (Pandya). Today, as he has taken the vow of nation building is great. Those who know Sanatan Dharma, Indian culture, Indian history, all those not only recognise but have a conviction that the solutions for the world's problems, if they are anywhere, then it is in Indian tradition," Shah said.

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

Gunman at Large After Three Killed in Australia

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Australian police said they were hunting for a gunman on the run after three people were shot and killed Thursday in a small, lakeside town in the country's east. Officers warned people to stay indoors in the country town of Lake Cargelligo, 450 kilometres (280 miles) west of Sydney. New South Wales police said they found a man and woman dead in a vehicle after responding to reports of shots being fired in the town in the late afternoon. A second shooting soon

afterwards killed a woman and wounded a man who was reported to be in a "critical condition" in hospital. "At this stage, police have identified an offender who is still at large," said Andrew Holland, New South Wales police assistant commissioner. "We have a large search in the area currently underway. We are requesting that people remain indoors," he told reporters.

The gunman is believed to have fled in a vehicle, Holland said. Police declined to comment on the relationship between the gunman and the victim.

Advertisement for ASTORIA HOTEL Hyderabad Laziz Biryani. ESTD-1960. ek baar khaage baar baar aage. 5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

SIT Summons KTR In Phone Tapping Case

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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sion-making with regarding to the tapping of phones by the erstwhile BRS government. The then-Special Investigation Bureau (SIB) officials under the BRS government intercepted mobile phones of political leaders, celebrities, Tollywood actors, journalists and judges. Rama Rao was served notices under Section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which allows the investigating officer to summon witnesses, suspects, or even "potential accused." The SIT's notice to Rama Rao came a day after his brother-in-law and former minister T. Harish Rao was grilled



for more than seven hours. "Even Harish Rao was not spared from the tapping and we provided him the details during the questioning," a senior police official said adding that Rama Rao would be perhaps the first person to appear before SIT, other than the officials who were already made accused, whose phones might have been spared. Crying foul over the SIT notice, Rama Rao described them as a diver-

sionary tactic meant to shield administrative failures of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Comparing the investigation with daily soap operas on television, Rama Rao said he would cooperate with the investigating agencies but would not accept political harassment. He also dragged in the names of senior officials including Director-General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy, questioning the rationale behind sparing them from the probe despite holding crucial positions during the time when the phones were tapped. In the notice, the SIT officials referred the case registered by the Punja-

gutta police and said that, during the course of investigation, it had come to the notice of the investigation officer that Rama Rao was acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and his personnel examination was necessary for the purpose of investigation. "In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 160 of the CrPC, K.T. Rama Rao is directed to appear before the investigation officer on Friday at 11 am at the Jubilee Hills assistant commissioner of police (ACP) officer for examination in connection with the investigation," the SIT said in the notice.

Bhatti Inspects Indiramma Houses in Adilabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday inspected the construction of Indiramma houses and an Anganwadi centre at Devguda village in Uttoor mandal of Adilabad district, and interacted with local residents. During the visit, he reviewed the implementation of various welfare schemes, the quality of nutritious food being served to pregnant women at Anganwadi centres, and the functioning of pre-primary schools launched by the State government. He directed beneficiaries to maintain construction quality and complete Indiramma houses within the stipulated timeframe, while asking officials to ensure there are no delays in releasing funds. Bhatti also met villagers



Laxmi Bai and Gangubai, recalling that they had arranged food for him during his People's March padayatra in 2023 and had highlighted local issues during the yatra. He invited them to Praja Bhavan to spend time with his family and assured arrangements for their visit. Addressing the media, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government had allocated Rs 17,000 crore under the SC and ST sub-plan after reviving it, alle-

ging that it was neglected during the previous BRS regime. He said quality power supply was being ensured and advised consumers to dial 1912 for assistance with electricity-related issues. He further announced that tenders would soon be called for road widening between Uttoor and Asifabad under the HAM scheme, and said a bridge had already been sanctioned at Anarpalli in Kerameri mandal.

Kishan Reddy Orders Naini Bid Probe

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Coal and mines minister G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday announced a two-member team from the Union coal ministry — deputy director-general Chetna Shukla and director (technical) Marapalli Venkateshwarlu — would visit Singareni Collieries and investigate the Naini coal block tender cancellation and other related issues. The move follows a



controversy over the cancellation, with the BRS demanding a CBI probe. At a media briefing, Kishan Reddy said the Centre was ready to investigate all irregularities in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) over the past 14

years of BRS and Congress rule — if the state government formally requested it. Kishan Reddy clarified that the coal mining tenders typically required self-declared site visit certificates from bidders, but the Congress government had mandated project authority certification and denied the same to all 17 visiting companies. Kishan Reddy accused both the current government and the previous

government of "killing Singareni" by failing to modernise mining practices and withholding payment of Rs 47,000 crore in dues to the company. "The KCR family hijacked the company, rendering the board defunct and awarding tenders and contracts to cronies," he charged. BRS leaders splurged CSR funds on luxuries like sofas and swimming pools, pushing up the SCC's debts to Rs 32,000 crore, he alleged.

How can BRS MLA be invited to Cong internal meet: Jeevan Reddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a fit of rage, former minister and senior Congress leader T Jeevan Reddy walked out of a meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Wednesday, January 21, objecting to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Jagtial MLA M Sanjay Kumar's presence. Speaking to reporters outside the office, Reddy



asked how the party allowed an outsider to join an internal meeting. "Why is a member of an Opposition party (BRS) attending this meeting?" he charged. Sanjay Kumar is one of

the 10 BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress soon after the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections. The pink party approached the Supreme Court, asking for their disqualification since they won on a BRS ticket. On January 16, the apex court gave a two-week deadline to Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar to file a status report on the adjudication of disqualifica-

tion pleas against BRS MLAs. Previously, the Speaker provided a green chit to seven MLAs — Arekapudi Gandhi, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, T Prakash Goud, Tellam Venkat Rao, Kale Yadaiah, and Pocharam Srinivas Reddy — stating no conclusive evidence was found. However, he reserved his judgment on M Sanjay Kumar.

Telangana Signs Big Deals in Davos

The MoUs and partnerships reflected the state government's focus on building a future-ready economy aligned with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, which aims to transform Telangana into a \$3-trillion economy by 2047.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana recorded a major milestone at the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos by signing multiple memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and securing investment commitments worth nearly Rs 30,000 crore, highlighting the state's position as a fast-emerging global investment destination. The MoUs and partnerships reflected the state government's focus on building a future-ready economy aligned with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, which aims to transform Telangana into a \$3-trillion economy by 2047. The outcome at WEF in Davos came close on the heels of the Telangana Rising Global Summit in Bharat Future City in De-



cember 2025, where investment commitments of Rs 5.75 lakh crore were secured, underscoring sustained global confidence in the state's policy framework, governance model and growth strategy. The state government signed a major MoU with Rashmi Group, a prominent Indian industrial conglomerate, entailing an investment of Rs 12,500 crore to set up a steel production unit in Telangana. The project has the potential to create around 12,000 direct and indirect jobs and significantly strengthen the state's

manufacturing ecosystem. The collaboration also opens opportunities in green manufacturing, circular economy practices, energy-efficient steelmaking, waste heat recovery and sustainable resource utilization, aligning heavy industry growth with Telangana's net-zero aspirations. The state also entered into an MoU with Blaize, a California-based company specialising in energy-efficient AI hardware and full-stack software solutions. The agreement focuses on accelerating Telangana's initiatives in electronics,

semiconductors and artificial intelligence, with particular emphasis on scaling Blaize's existing R&D and engineering centre in Hyderabad. This partnership strengthens Telangana's ambition of becoming a global hub for AI innovation, advanced hardware development and next-generation computing infrastructure. Telangana also signed an MoU with Dubai Multi Commodities Centre to explore cooperation for startup development, cross-market exposure and ecosystem building. This agreement will help Telangana startups access international markets, global mentorship networks and investment opportunities while strengthening Hyderabad's position as a global startup hub.

Hyderabad to see early signs of summer season next week

Residents of Hyderabad are likely to start witnessing early signs of summer season next week as temperatures are likely to increase. Night temperatures are also likely to increase. A weather enthusiast, T. Balaji, who is known for accurate forecasts said that only 14 more days of winter season are left. According to him, the day temperature is likely to rise above 31-32 degrees Celsius by the end of January. He also said that the night temperatures are likely to be in the range of 14-16 degrees Celsius for the next 4-5 days and thereafter it will rise. Currently, the highest minimum and maximum temperatures recorded in the city are 19.5 and 29.5 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are recorded in Khairatabad. Though the weather enthusiast forecasted that Hyderabad is likely to witness the first sign of summer season soon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not issued any forecast related to the season.

Delhi Metro To Help Sate To Takeover HMR Operations

The decision follows a decision taken by the recent state cabinet meeting held at Medaram to expedite the process and ensure completion before March 31, ahead of the close of the current financial year 2025-26.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The state government is preparing to appoint the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as a technical consultant to expedite the takeover of Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) Phase-I operations from L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd (L&TMRHL), official sources said. The decision follows a decision taken by the recent state cabinet meeting held at Medaram to expedite the process and ensure completion before March 31, ahead of the close of the current financial year 2025-26. The government is keen to streamline the transition in a time-bound manner while addressing financial, legal and technical complexities associated with the Metro Rail takeover. Already, the government has appointed IDBI Bank as the financial and legal advisor to oversee aspects related to outstanding dues, liabilities, contractual obligations and valuation. IDBI Bank has submitted its comprehensive report to the officials, outlining the financial claims payable to L&T and other related economic parameters. Based on this assessment, discussions between Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) and L&T are expected to progress toward finalising agreements and formal documentation.



Officials said the report provides a crucial foundation for negotiations and safeguards the government against future disputes. The decision to bring in DMRC as a technical consultant arose after it was found that agencies evaluating financial and legal matters lacked the specialised expertise required to assess the metro rail's complex engineering and operational systems. The Hyderabad Metro project is highly technology-driven, involving advanced infrastructure and integrated systems that demand detailed scrutiny. DMRC, with its extensive experience in metro rail construction, operations and management across multiple cities, is expected to conduct a comprehensive technical due diligence audit. Official sources said the scope of the technical evaluation will include critical components such as rolling stock, electric traction systems, signalling technology based on Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC), stations, depots, opera-

tional control centres and maintenance practices. The consultant will also assess asset conditions, system performance, safety standards and long-term sustainability. An official order appointing DMRC is expected to be issued shortly. A high-level committee led by Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao is overseeing the entire process, with the objective of completing the review and facilitating the takeover by March 31, in line with the deadline set by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. However, senior officials acknowledged that the complexity of contracts and technical assessments could take two months time, as meticulous examination is essential to avoid future legal or operational complications. The Cabinet has directed officials to submit a detailed report on the way forward, including timelines and modalities for completing the takeover. This report will be placed before the Cabinet in its next meeting scheduled for February for approval.

MLC Dayakar Slams KTR Over Phone Tapping Allegations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior leader Dayakar, MLC, on Tuesday strongly criticized KTR, alleging misconduct, evasive behavior, and misuse of power. Speaking at a press briefing, Dayakar said KTR's visible agitation while answering questions only deepens suspicion about alleged phone tapping and other irregularities.



Dayakar clarified that phone tapping conducted for national security, state security, or intelligence purposes is understood and accepted by the public. "However, secretly tapping the phones of or-

dinary citizens, political leaders, and opponents is illegal, and investigations are bound to follow," he said. Pointing to KTR's defensive response, Dayakar asked, "Why get agitated when asked who the thief is? If there is nothing to hide, why appear nervous?" He argued that such behavior during a press conference clearly indicates guilt. The MLC went on to allege that

public wealth was misused, leaders were bribed, and phone tapping was allegedly used as a tool to intimidate others. He also noted that KTR failed to answer even questions raised by his own sister, raising further doubts about his actions. Dayakar warned that those who engage in wrongdoing cannot escape accountability through threats, intimidation, or evasive state-

ments. "It is better to speak carefully and responsibly rather than resort to idiotic or reckless talk," he said, urging political leaders to maintain transparency and integrity in their actions. Concluding his remarks, Dayakar emphasized that public office comes with responsibility, and attempts to conceal illegal activities or intimidate others will not go unnoticed.

TGSRTC, TGSPDCL Plan EV Charging Infrastructure For 2200 Electric Buses In Greater Hyderabad

The southern power discom along with TGRTC have decided to establish electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 25 depots within the GHMC limits, two at Suryapet depot and one each at Sangareddy and Nalgonda districts. TGRTC officials estimated a power demand of about 124 megawatts, with discussions focusing on substation infrastructure and electricity line laying. In line with government directives, the RTC is gearing up to deploy 2,200 electric buses across the GHMC limits. Power and RTC officials held a coordination meeting on Thursday at the headquarters of the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TGSPTDCL) to streamline electricity connections for the required EV charging points.

TGSRTC vice-chairman and managing director Y. Nagi Reddy announced plans for a large-scale rollout of electric buses in Greater Hyderabad this year. He assured that the corporation would provide space at available sites for switching stations or substations. TGSPDCL chairman and managing director Muzaffar Ali Faruqi directed officials to process RTC's applications, prepare estimates by February 1, and begin work promptly. The meeting saw participation from Redco vice-chairman and managing director Anila, TGSPDCL directors V. Shivaji, Dr B. Narasimulu, and Chakrapani, TGRTE executive directors M. Rajasekhara and Munishekar, along with chief engineers and superintending engineers from TG Transco and TGSPDCL.

The 20-Year Political Journey of Apperaddy Mukesh

From Student Activist to State-Level Leader: Two Decades of Grassroots Service and Public Commitment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad has witnessed numerous political careers shaped by circumstance and opportunity; however, only a few leaders emerge through sustained grassroots struggle, ideological commitment, and unwavering loyalty. Apperaddy Mukesh stands out as one such leader, whose journey from student activism to state-level political responsibility spans nearly two decades of uninterrupted public service. Apperaddy Mukesh entered public life in 2006, beginning his political career with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) through its student wing, the Telugu Nadu Students' Federation (TNSF). From the outset, he displayed strong organizational ability, leadership skills, and a deep connection with students and youth, quickly establishing himself as an active and committed student leader.

In 2008, under the guidance of senior leader Sri Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Apperaddy Mukesh was appointed Narayanguda TNSF Incharge. This responsibility marked a significant phase in his political growth, positioning him as a reliable and effective student organizer in Hyderabad. Recognizing his dedication and performance, the party elevated him in 2010 to the position of TNSF Greater Hyderabad Vice President.

His political stature continued to rise in 2012, when he was appointed Andhra Pradesh TNSF State General Secretary, while also serving as Greater Hyderabad TNSF Incharge. In these roles, he played a crucial part in strengthening the student organization across the state, mobilizing youth, addressing educational issues, and lead-



Apperaddy Mukesh

ing several student movements.

Throughout his student political career, Apperaddy Mukesh actively fought for the rights of students and unemployed youth, raising his voice on issues related to education, fee structures, examinations, scholarships, and employment opportunities. His involvement in democratic agitations and protests led to multiple arrests, and he spent time in jail on several occasions while leading movements for public causes—reflecting his willingness to face personal hardship in pursuit of people's rights.

Following the leadership of Sri Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Apperaddy Mukesh later joined the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), now known as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). His commitment and organizational experience were soon recognized at the state level. In 2017, under the leadership of TRSV President Sri Gellu Srinivas Yadav, he was appointed TRSV State Vice President.

In a rare demonstration of trust and confidence, Apperaddy Mukesh was

subsequently entrusted—under the guidance of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR)—with Incharge responsibilities of five key Assembly constituencies:

- Khairatabad
- Sanathnagar
- Rajendra Nagar
- Nampally
- Jubilee Hills

Managing multiple constituencies simultaneously, he worked tirelessly to strengthen party cadres, coordinate organizational programs, and expand the party's grassroots presence. His consistent performance, discipline, and loyalty ensured continued confidence from the party's top leadership.

Beyond organizational politics, Apperaddy Mukesh is widely known for his commitment to public welfare, particularly in the areas of youth education, employment awareness, and support for economically weaker sections. He has consistently stood with the poor, offering assistance during crises and raising issues related to public welfare, civic amenities, and social justice.

With nearly 20 years of active political life, Apperaddy Mukesh's journey reflects perseverance, grassroots leadership, and struggle-based politics rather than power-driven ambition. From student movements to state-level responsibilities, his career remains rooted in public service.

As Telangana's political landscape continues to evolve, Apperaddy Mukesh remains a leader shaped by the streets, the students, and the struggles of the common people—a committed voice for youth, a steadfast supporter of the poor, and a dedicated worker for public welfare.

Over 17 Drug Samples from Telangana Found Not of Standard Quality: CDSCO Data

Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) laboratories in Telangana have identified 12 drug samples as 'not of standard quality (NSQ)' during a recent testing, while the Drugs Control Laboratory of Telangana (DCLT) have found five to be in this category. Findings are part of the monthly NSQ reports compiled by the CDSCO, based on samples tested by Central Drug Testing Laboratories (CDTLs) and state drug control laboratories, including DCLT.

The Telangana-specific NSQ cases include commonly used medicines such as pantoprazole, cefpodoxime proxetil, diclofenac potassium, aceclofenac-paracetamol combinations, pregabalin with nortriptyline, and other formulations. These samples failed quality tests related to dissolution, description, assay, impurity levels, or misbranding, as per Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) standards.

Several samples tested by DCLT were flagged for non-compliance, while others were tested at CDTL Hyderabad and CDSCO laboratories. The manufacturers of the NSQ drugs are located across multiple states, including Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Haryana, and Uttarakhnad, indicating that the issue is not confined to a single region.

Phone-Tapping Probe a Political Smokescreen: KTR



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday alleged that the Congress-led Telangana government is using the phone-tapping investigation to deflect attention from administrative failures and protect Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He claimed the probe selectively targeted opposition leaders while ignoring serious allegations in coal contracts, AMRUT projects, and Gachibowli land deals.

Addressing party workers, KTR described the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe as a "daily television serial" lacking credibility. Notices, he said, were issued to BRS leaders for political gain, while senior police and intelligence officials who oversaw surveillance—such as DGP Shivadhar Reddy, former DGP Mahender Reddy, ex-DGP and Home Secretary Jitender, and former intelligence chief Ravi Gupta—were not summoned.

KTR stressed that surveillance has existed under every government—from Nehru to Modi—and func-

tions within police systems, not at ministers' discretion. He challenged the government to produce a single official confirming opposition leaders' phones were not tapped and criticized selective media leaks with no formal press briefings.

Highlighting political retaliation, he said a notice to T. Harish Rao followed allegations of irregularities in Singareni coal contracts involving the Chief Minister's relatives. He demanded SIT probes into alleged corruption by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Srujan Reddy, and AMRUT projects, and questioned why no central action followed Supreme Court findings on ₹10,000-crore Gachibowli land irregularities.

Criticizing the government's two-year record, KTR said promises like women's financial aid and six guarantees remain unfulfilled. He reiterated that BRS leaders committed no wrongdoing, would cooperate with SIT, and urged officials to assure the public that surveillance exists only for law and order—not partisan politics.

Congress-BJP Using SIT to Distract from Coal Scam: Srinivas Goud

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister Srinivas Goud alleged that SIT notices issued to KTR are a tactic by Congress and BJP to divert public attention from the coal scam. He called the move a "drama" orchestrated because both parties cannot confront BRS in the public arena.

Goud criticized Union Minister Kishan Reddy's claim of being unaware of the coal scam as "laughable," noting that the SIT was formed long ago but only became active after the scam surfaced. Despite a court ruling against conducting inquiries, Goud said that officials are summoning



people daily to create a diversion, which he claimed the public recognizes as bogus.

He emphasized that BRS leaders will cooperate with the SIT, asserting, "We have not done anything wrong... justice will prevail... we have faith in the courts," and accused the Congress government of issuing threats. Goud also called for police action regard-

ing reports of Congress ministers' phones being tapped.

On political matters, he highlighted internal disputes in the Congress government, including attempts to remove Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti and Minister Komatireddy. He predicted BRS victories in upcoming municipal elections, citing continued dominance in the Sarpanch elections, and challenged the government to conduct ZPTC elections.

Goud concluded by condemning the Congress government for failing the people, unemployed youth, and women, warning of potential public backlash.

Water Connection Cut In Banjara Hills For Repeat Wastage

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) officials disconnected a domestic water connection in Banjara Hills after the house owner was found wasting drinking water for the second time. The owner was also fined ₹10,000 for the violation. HMWS&SB managing director Ashok Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against anyone misusing or wasting potable water supplied by the Board.

Officials said the same house owner had earlier been fined ₹10,000 for water wastage. The incident occurred on Road No. 12, Banjara Hills,

where a drinking water sump overflowed on September 3 last year, causing water to flow along the road for nearly a kilometre. Following complaints, the local operations and maintenance division inspected the premises, issued a notice and imposed a fine as per the managing director's instructions. The owner was also warned that the water connection would be disconnected if the violation was repeated.

On Wednesday, while travelling along the Banjara Hills main road, Reddy noticed water leakage on Road No. 12. After verifying records, officials confirmed that the same premises had earlier been penalised for negligence leading to water wastage.

BJP Telangana Promises More SC Reservations in GHMC Divisions

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

leaders of the All India Ambedkar Yuva Sangham and the National Ambedkar Sena, along with Aatmakuri Kranti Kiran, State President of the BJP SC Morcha, submitted a representation to N. Ramachandra Rao, President of BJP Telangana, regarding Scheduled Caste (SC) reservations in Greater Hyderabad. The leaders requested that the current allocation of 23 divisions out of 150 reserved for SCs be increased to 48 divisions out of 300. Additionally, they proposed that one of the constituencies in Khairatabad, including Somajiguda, Erramanzil, Amberpet, Malakpet, Uppal, Nampally, Jubilee Hills, or Yakutpura, be designated as an SC-reserved seat to ensure equitable representation. Ramachandra Rao responded positively, assuring the delegation that he would discuss the matter



with the state government and pursue legal avenues if required.

The event saw participation from several prominent leaders, including Kadam Vinay Kumar, State President of All India Ambedkar Yuva Sangham; Mane Sridhar, National President of National Ambedkar Sena; Rajesh, State President; Satiri Praveen Kumar, State Vice President; Bapanapalli Pramod Kumar, State Treasurer; Tallari Sunil Kumar, President of Khairatabad Constituency; and Narsing Rao, a leader of the Mal Welfare Association, highlighting strong community support for the initiative.

New Chariot Donated for Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavams in Bowenpally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

G. Madhusudan Reddy, MLA from Hyderabad, has spoken out on the unfolding investigations into the misuse of power by certain political figures. He highlighted that phone tapping is a serious crime and that the Kalvakuntla family is alleged to be the perpetrator, subject, and instigator of this illegal surveillance. According to Reddy, businessmen and public representatives were specifically targeted, and the ongo-



ing inquiry is now bringing all these misdeeds to light.

Reddy criticized Harish Rao for delivering rambling public speeches after attending the SIT inquiry, describing it as a typical pattern of BRS leaders—making empty

statements publicly while privately seeking leniency. He pointed out that Harish Rao reportedly pleaded with SIT officials to allow his son to board a flight, instead of facing the inquiry courageously. SIT, he noted, posed several critical questions to Harish Rao to uncover the truth.

Reddy emphasized that such attempts to cover up mistakes will not succeed. He questioned why BRS leaders feel guilty when asked straightforward questions, pointing out that SIT issued notices because there is ev-

idence suggesting KTR's involvement. Reddy stressed that KTR must appear before the inquiry and face the questions posed.

He further warned that BRS leaders are experts at diverting public attention, but such tactics cannot hide wrongdoing. The manipulation of lives through phone tapping, he said, is unacceptable. Reddy concluded with a strong message: anyone committing a crime, including phone tapping, will ultimately face the law and cannot evade justice.

Pearson, AI CoLab Join Telangana's AI Innovation Hub

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led 'Telangana Rising' delegation signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with renowned multinational education and publishing company Pearson, during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. The UK-based company showed interest in expanding its presence in AI skilling and credentialing in the state. Pearson will support the government in AI initiatives for the Global AI Academy being set up under Telangana AI Innovation Hub (TAIH) through its expertise in



curriculum design, learning content, assessment frameworks, and globally recognised credentialing, subject to mutually agreed commercial arrangements. The Chief Minister said Telangana envisioned becoming the state of future-ready skilled talent by training youth in AI. He congratulated the delegation on signing the MoU. IT minister D. Sridhar Babu welcomed the de-

velopment and called for a full-fledged ecosystem to support the state's plans to build the AI City in Hyderabad. "Telangana hosts all the Big Tech companies. We have the talent, ecosystem and infrastructure to be the epicentre of AI."

Special Chief Secretary (ITE&C, Industries) Sanjay Kumar said, "We will work together with Pearson in the years to further

our pursuit of becoming a state with high-skilled talent." The government will facilitate clearances necessary for the project to ensure speedy implementation. Similarly, AI CoLab, which stands for 'Collaborative Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Research and Education' of Georgetown University, will collaborate with Telangana on applied research and capacity-building initiatives in AI, primarily aligned to the healthcare domain. The MoU will facilitate training and education programs to build a future-ready talent pipeline in AI and data science, as well as collaborative applied research in healthcare.

India Absent at Signing Ceremony of Trump's Board of Peace

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India was among the countries which were not present when US President Donald Trump unveiled his "Board of Peace" in Davos on Thursday that seeks to work towards bringing lasting peace to Gaza and possibly resolve global conflicts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among numerous global leaders that the US President has invited to join the board that was announced under the second phase of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza strip. France, the United



Kingdom, China, Germany and many other leading nations also skipped the signing ceremony for Trump's "Board of Peace". Trump hosted the ceremony on the margins of annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss mountain resort. India is yet to take a call on it, people familiar with the matter said when asked about

Trump's invite to PM Modi. New Delhi is considering various aspects as the initiative involves sensitive issues, it is learnt. India has been pushing for a "two-State solution" to the Palestine question with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders. The countries

that joined the Board of Peace included Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Egypt, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. A number of countries including Germany, Italy, Paraguay, Russia, Slovenia, Turkiye, and Ukraine have remained non-committal on the invitation. Trump's "Board of Peace" is being projected by Washington as a new international body to usher in peace and stability in Gaza and beyond, triggering speculations that it could throw a challenge to the United Nations. Origin-

nally, the new body was to be tasked to oversee governance and coordinate funding for Gaza's redevelopment as the strip was devastated during the two years of Israeli military offensive. However, the "charter" of the board says it is "an international organisation that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict". It also says durable peace requires pragmatic judgment, common sense solutions, and the courage to depart from approaches and institutions that have too often failed.

EC, Not Voters, Decides Now Who's Next In Power; Book, Poetry Over SIR By TMC Chief

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the Election Commission (EC) of taking over the role of the voters in deciding the party to be brought to power. Speaking at the inauguration of the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair, Ms Banerjee also blamed the EC's special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list for the death of 110 people out of fear and stress in the state. She alleged, "The rule was earlier that people, instead of the EC, would decide who would come to power or not. Now the EC, before polls, is de-



termining who will be brought to power. This means curb on democratic rights." The CM claimed, "It can't happen. All should protest this. I should not stay silent just because my house is safe while my neighbour's house is on fire. I can't live happily if people in my area are unhappy." She also pointed out the voters' plight due to the SIR. "We should not forget the harassment of the people. They are made to wait in queues for five-six hours daily. Logistic discrepancy never ex-

isted in SIR. It is happening only in Bengal and no other state even after the draft list was out," Ms Banerjee argued. She then revealed she has written a book and a set of poems over the SIR. The Trinamul Congress supreme added, "I have published 153 books so far. Nine more will be out this time. One of them speaks a part of my political life. Another is about the harassment of SIR. Since this year is '26, I have penned 26 poems which will be out under the title of SIR." "I write very little. You can call it negligible. I'm not wise. I'm simple, considering myself a less important person just like someone from the down-trodden."

4 SSUBT Corporators in KDMC Untraceable, Party Blames Shinde Faction

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

The political situation in the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation continues to be volatile after the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) alleged that their four corporators have been detained by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. The allegations came a day after its ally MNS announced its support to the Eknath Shinde-led party in the KDMC. In the 107-seat KDMC, the Shinde Sena has won 53, BJP 50, Shiv Sena (UBT) 11, MNS five, Congress two and NCP (SP) one. However, the Raj Thackeray-led MNS extended its support to the Shinde Sena strengthening the latter's claim for the mayor's post. After the KDMC results, four corporators of the Shiv Sena (UBT) have



been missing. They were also absent in the meeting that called for the selection of the party group leader in the KDMC. Due to this, Shiv Sena (UBT) could form a group of only seven corporators. However, Shiv Sena (UBT) party's District President Alpesh Bhoir alleged that the four corporators are being held captive by the MNS and Shiv Sena (Shinde) and they have not yet joined any group. Expressing concern about the whereabouts of

their four corporators, Bhoir said, "These corporators have been calling us repeatedly, expressing their grievances. They are saying they are being kept against their will. We have information that they are currently in the custody of people associated with the Shinde faction and MNS," said Shiv Sena (UBT) party's District President Alpesh Bhoir. Bhoir further said, "We have no intention of forming any alliance or political agreement with

the Shinde faction or MNS. The corporators have contacted us and clarified their position. Therefore, we demand that those who have custody of these corporators should immediately bring them before the media and clarify their stance." Meanwhile, a day after his party joined hands with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in the KDMC, senior MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar said that "anything can happen in politics." On the Shiv Sena-MNS tie-up in Kalyan-Dombivli, Nandgaonkar said, "We had authorised the local leadership to take decisions, and it was done accordingly." He, however, added that the party is contemplating action against the local leadership over the tie-up with the Eknath Shinde-led outfit.

Solution To World's Problems Lies In Indian Tradition: Amit Shah

HARIDWAR
Wakeup telangana

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday highlighted that Indian tradition and culture offer solutions to the world's problems, while attending the "Shatabdi Samaroh 2026" to mark the birth centenary of Param Vandaniya Mata Bhagwati Devi Sharma. The event, organised by the All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, also marked the centenary of the Akhand Jyoti, a flame that has been continuously burning for over a century. The Union Minister, accompanied by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, also offered prayers at Gayatri Teerth-Shantikunj, where the Akhand Jyoti is located. "Today, while here at the Akhand Jyoti Sammelan, I am feeling the

unbroken energy and eternal light. My heart knows how much light and consciousness I will take from here. This is the confluence of faith, spirituality, and culture. Shriram Sharma resurrected these three by choosing character building. He did the work of enlightening the soul," Amit Shah said. Praising Chinmay Pandya, grandson of AWGP founder Shriram Sharma Acharya, for taking a vow of nation-building, Shah further highlighted that those who believe in Sanatan Dharma, Indian culture, and history not only recognise but also have the conviction that the solution to the world's problems lies in Indian tradition. "Today, I am here salute Chinmay (Pandya). Today, as he has taken the vow of nation building is great. Those who know Sanatan Dharma, Indian culture, Indian history, all those

not only recognise but have a conviction that the solutions for the world's problems, if they are anywhere, then it is in Indian tradition," Shah said. Praising the contribution of Shriram Sharma for connecting people with such traditions, including Gayatri Mantra, Gayatri Sadhana and more, he urged the millions connected to "move forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm." "Today, Pandit Ram Sharma connected millions of people with the Gayatri Mantra, Gayatri Puja, and Gayatri Sadhana. Now, it is the responsibility of these millions of people to move forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm under the leadership of Chinmay Pandya for the next hundred years," Shah urged. The All World Gayatri Pariwar has over 100 million members, thousands of global cen-

tres for social reform. The society is a "modern adaptation of the age-old wisdom of Vedic Rishis," who propagated the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family). The organisation was founded by Yug Rishi Vedmurti Taponishth Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya, and later emerged as a "mass movement for the great transformation of the era", according to the AWGP. The Gayatri Tapobhumi was first established in Mathura in 1953, after Shriram Sharma completed over 24 years of "Gayatri Sadhana". Chinmay Pandya is the grandson of Shriram Sharma Acharya, who is also the Pro Vice Chancellor of the Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya University (DSVV). After studying medicine in London, he returned to India and DSVV in 2010.

Security Forces Tighten Cordon As Operation Intensifies

SEOUL
Wakeup telangana

A fresh clash erupted in the wooded Singhpura-Chatroo belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday as security forces re-established contact with a group of Islamic militants after a tense three day lull. Officials said the renewed gunfight began early in the morning when troops, acting on fresh intelligence inputs, intensified their search in the dense forests of the region. The militants, believed to be hiding in the rugged, heavily wooded terrain, opened fire as the forces closed in, triggering a fierce exchange that continued for hours. The latest confrontation marks the continuation of an operation that first began at the weekend, when an encounter in the same area claimed the life of a paratrooper Havildar Gajendra Singh and left seven soldiers



injured. The militants had managed to slip away under the cover of thick vegetation and steep slopes, prompting security forces to launch an extensive cordon and search operation across the higher reaches of Chatroo. Additional reinforcements were rushed in, and the area has remained under tight surveillance ever since. The encounter that led to these casualties had unfolded in the mountainous forests of a region that has seen a worrying uptick in militant activity in recent months. During the ongoing operation, security forces also uncovered a suspected militant hideout, though officials have not yet disclosed what was recovered from the site. January 18 gun bat-

tle at Singhpura had been particularly intense, leaving eight soldiers—including a Junior Commissioned Officer—injured. Three critically wounded personnel were airlifted for specialised treatment. Officials said many injuries resulted from grenades hurled by militants as they attempted to break the tightening security cordon. The firefight erupted after troops, acting on credible intelligence, launched a deliberate search operation in the rugged hills. As the cordon closed in, militants opened heavy fire, leading to a prolonged exchange that lasted several hours. Officials believed the group includes two to three foreign militants linked to the Pakistan based Jaish e Muhammad (JeM). The militants reportedly fired indiscriminately and lobbed multiple grenades in a desperate attempt to break free, but security forces maintained a firm grip on the area.

Telangana Rising.....

A swift joint rescue operation by the Indian Army and local police teams led to the recovery of four bodies from the mangled vehicle, while nine injured soldiers were pulled out alive. However, despite urgent medical intervention, six of the critically wounded personnel later succumbed to their injuries, raising the death toll to ten. The injured were initially rushed to the Sub-District Hospital in Bhaaderwah for stabilisation. Several among them, including at least three in critical condition, were subsequently airlifted to the Army Command Hospital in garrison town of Udhampur where the Army's Northern Command headquarters are located for specialised treatment. Officials noted that between seven and ten soldiers sustained injuries of varying severity, and senior medical teams are closely monitoring their recovery. The tragedy has sent shockwaves across the country, prompting an outpouring of grief and solidarity. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, in a post on 'X' said he was "deeply saddened" by the unfortunate incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the be-

reaved families of the soldiers. He said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Doda in which we lost 10 brave soldiers of the Indian Army. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families." He added, "The injured soldiers are receiving medical care and all necessary directions have been given to ensure the best possible treatment. The nation stands with our Armed Forces and their families in this difficult hour." Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed deep anguish, calling the loss "heartbreaking and unfortunate." He emphasised that the supreme sacrifice of the soldiers would forever remain etched in the nation's memory. He also confirmed that the injured had been airlifted for advanced care and directed authorities to ensure the highest level of medical support. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also conveyed his condolences, praising the rapid rescue and evacuation efforts and wishing strength to the bereaved families. The Army's Nagrota (Jammu)-based 16 Corps also known as White Knight Corps- termed the incident "unfortunate," noting that the vehicle slipped off the road while negotiating treacher-

ous terrain amid adverse weather conditions. In a post on 'X', it said, "In an unfortunate incident, an Army vehicle carrying troops for an operation, slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather, in the general area of Doda. There are multiple casualties, including fatal. The injured have been evacuated for further treatment." **TN Polls: EC.....** "I am directed to state that the application of the following registered un-recognised political party(s) for concession in the allotment of a common symbol to its candidates being set up at the forthcoming General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry 2025-26, under the provisions of Para 10B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, have been accepted by the Commission," according to an order by the secretary of the ECI to the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer. The allotment and usage of symbols is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The symbols are also available for allotment as "free symbol" to other candidates in the

constituencies where the parties do not actually set up their candidates. Moreover, the parties could also lose their symbols if they do not meet the requirement of a minimum number of candidates, that is, winning in 5 per cent of the total Assembly constituencies. Both parties are set to debut in the upcoming assembly polls, vying to gain power by unseating the incumbent Dravidra Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). All the political parties have started gearing up for the elections, with AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami already announcing the party's first phase of the party's poll promises on January 17. The AIADMK's election promises include the Women's Welfare Kulavilakku Scheme, under which a monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,000 will be provided to all ration card-holding families, credited directly to the bank account of the woman head of the family. Vijay, the founder of TVK, himself has been embroiled in controversy, already facing questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding the Karur stampede.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Man Pays Rs 60.9L, Gets Back 1,193

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A 41-year-old medical representative from the city was allegedly cheated of Rs 60.9 lakh after being promised of high returns through stock market trading. He was allowed to withdraw Rs 1,193, he told the Malkajgiri cybercrime police in his complaint. In November last, he had responded to an investment-related application while browsing through social media. Following this, he was added to WhatsApp group that projected itself as a professional trading and investment circle where members shared

screenshots of the so-called profits. The victim was contacted by a woman who posed as an investment adviser and guided him to register on multiple trading platforms through shared links. Initially, he was encouraged to invest small amounts and allowed to withdraw Rs 1,193. Encouraged by this, he invested in what he was led to believe were stock opportunities and the trading dashboard showed large profits. When he attempted to withdraw the funds and was asked for additional payments. In all he paid '60.92 lakh before he realised it was a scam.

Joint Raids Net Rs 9 Lakh in Penalties for Vehicle Violations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Vigilance and enforcement department officials, along with teams from the transport, mines and state tax departments, conducted joint raids at various locations and collected penalties amounting to about Rs 9 lakh from vehicle owners for violations. Vigilance and enforcement director general Shikha Goel said the Warangal unit, in coordination with officials from the transport, state tax and mines departments, carried out route inspections on the outskirts of Jangaon district. During the drive, 120 vehicles were checked and penalties were imposed on 21 vehicles for violating statutory norms. According to officials, the transport department imposed penalties of about Rs 1.77 lakh for non-payment of tax and overloading, while the mines department levied penalties of around Rs 20,000 for vehicles operating without valid transit permits. The state tax department imposed penalties of approximately Rs 7.24 lakh for GST evasion.

Nampally Sri Ram Hanuman Worship Place is Temple Not Mutt: HC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice K. Sarath of the Telangana High Court ruled that Sri Ram Hanuman Mutt, Nampally, is a temple and not a Mutt and upheld the orders passed by the Endowments Department classifying it as a temple under the Telangana Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act. The judge dismissed the plea and upheld the Gazette Notification issued on September 21, 1989, which notified the institution as a temple under Section 6(c)(ii) of the Act, and rejected the plea of petitioner seeking its reclassification as a mutt under Section 6(d). The judge dismissed the plea of the writ petitioner and upheld the Gazette Notification issued in September 1989, which notified the institution as a temple under the Endowments Act, and rejected the plea of petitioner seeking its reclassification as a Munder Section 6(d) of the Act. The petitioner would contend that the institution originated as a Mutt founded by a Mahant, followed a spiritual line of succession, and contained samadhis within its premises, which according to the petitioner established

its monastic character. The petitioner also argued that the Endowments authorities acted arbitrarily in treating the institution as a temple, that the revision filed by a devotee suffered from delay, and that such devotee lacked locus standi to challenge the recognition of the Mahant. Rejecting these contentions, the judge relied on Munthakab records (1345 Fasli), Gazette notifications, and departmental records, which consistently described the institution as a Hanuman temple. Counsel for the Respondent, B.Mangal Naik vehemently argued that in the Munthakab of

1345 Fasli, the institution is clearly described as a temple, not a mutt and the petitioners herein are misrepresenting facts to grab temple property under the guise of calling it a Mutt. The judge ruled that the Assistant Commissioner of Endowments lacked jurisdiction to recognize a Mahant for a temple and that the 1995 proceedings recognizing anyone as Mahant were void, ultra vires, and without authority of law. It was further observed that once an institution stands notified as a temple, the question of appointing a Mahant does not arise.

tion and its processes, not from personal stature," he said. According to Prof. Katta, such positioning aligns with established principles of organisational theory, including role-based authority, distributed leadership, and accountability—key factors contributing to continuity and resilience in cadre-based organisations. He noted that Shri Sinha's leadership style, rooted in organisational discipline and collective functioning, distinguishes the BJP from leader-centric political models that often weaken institutions and create instability during leadership transitions. He further stated that the

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

Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

PM MODI'S REMARKS HIGHLIGHT BJP'S INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP MODEL: PROF. YUDHVEER KATTA

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The recent remarks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the appointment of the new National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) underline the party's emphasis on institutional leadership over individual prominence, said Prof. Yudhveer Katta, Scientist, IIT Madras alumnus and Convener of the BJP Intellectual Cell, Telangana.



In a statement issued here, Prof. Katta observed that the Prime Minister's public acknowledgment of the authority of the party president, while referring to himself as a karyakarta, reflects the BJP's long-standing organisational ethos. He said the elevation of Nitin Nabin Sinha as National President exemplifies this ethos, given his deep organisational experience, ideological clarity, and sustained engagement within the cadre-based framework of the party. "This is not merely symbolic. It reinforces the principle that leadership legitimacy in the BJP flows from the institu-

leadership transition within the BJP should be viewed as an internal, merit-based process grounded in ideological training and grassroots organisational work. "Shri Sinha's rise reflects the BJP's commitment to leadership development through sustained organisational contribution and functional competence, enabling leadership renewal without disrupting ideological or strategic coherence," he said.

Prof. Katta also highlighted the relevance of generational leadership in India's rapidly evolving socio-political context. He noted that Shri Sinha represents a leadership attuned to contemporary governance challenges and organisational modernisation, while remaining firmly anchored in the party's core ideological framework.

Concluding his remarks, Prof. Katta said that the Prime Minister's comments convey a broader message for governance and public institutions, emphasizing that sustainable progress depends on leaders who strengthen institutions and uphold collective purpose.



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IT Staffer Loses Rs 2.14 Cr To Online Stocks Scam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A 44-year-old software employee from TNGO Colony allegedly lost Rs 2.14 crore in an online stock trading fraud, lured by a woman he met on social media in December last year. Police, citing from his complaint, said that the woman allegedly claimed that she was earning profits through stock trading and persuaded him to participate. The complainant said that he was asked to download a trading application and register an account. On December

12, he allegedly made an initial investment of Rs 31.5 lakh, after which the application displayed profits. Encouraged by this, he transferred another Rs 42.27 lakh in multiple subsequent transactions. When he attempted to withdraw the amount, he was told to pay 30 per cent tax on the profits, purportedly to a foreign authority. Believing the profits shown on the app to be genuine, the complainant borrowed money from colleagues and family members and sold some assets to make the payments.

Distress Call Alerts Police, Exposes Murder-Suicide

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A call for help from a man led the Jagadgirigutta police to a house where three members of a family had allegedly killed their 18-year-old disabled daughter and attempted suicide. While the incident occurred on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, it came to light on Wednesday evening, Jagadgirigutta inspector Kranthi Kumar said. Police said the family's 23-year-old son, Nithin, informed one of his friends about the suicide attempt.

The friend rushed to the apartment and shifted Nithin, his father, 54-year-old contractor Satish, mother Aamani to a private hospital. The hospital authorities informed the police. When police reached the flat, located in Vijayanagar Colony, they found the body of 18-year-old Ravali in a decomposed condition. The body was shifted to the Gandhi mortuary for postmortem examination. According to the police, the family had ensured that Ravali was dead, and then attempted to die by suicide thrice.

Telangana HC Directs Gitam University To Pay Rs 54 Crores for Power Supply

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has directed the Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) University, Hyderabad to deposit Rs 54 crore within three weeks, representing 50 per cent of the outstanding electricity dues, as a precondition for restoration of its power supply. A division bench comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar issued the condition while partly allowing a writ appeal filed by the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL, souther discom).

On December 19 last, the southern discom had disconnected one of the four service connections available to the university on the ground that around '108 crore in electricity dues were un paid by VBC Ferro Alloys Ltd. The company runs from the University premises and both are governed by the same management. When the university challenged the action, a single judge bench had directed the TGSPDCL to restore the power supply without imposing any condition. Challenging the same, the southern discom preferred an appeal. N. Sridhar Reddy, standing counsel for TGSPDCL, argued that the single judge ought not to have granted in-

terim relief to the university without directing payment of any portion of the outstanding dues. He submitted that the dues had accumulated over a long period and that it was standard practice to insist on payment of at least 50 per cent of arrears as a condition for reconnection. It was also contended that the single judge had relied upon submissions made through a memo without affording the appellants an opportunity to respond, rendering the order unsustainable in law. GITAM University argued that the chairman and secretary of the university had only 2.17 per cent of the shareholding of VBC Ferro Alloys Ltd. Further,

they submitted that the university was ready to give an undertaking to pay the entire amount if the relationship between the university and VBC Ferro Alloys Ltd was established. The division bench, after considering the submissions, held that unconditional restoration of power supply despite huge outstanding dues was not justified. While not completely setting aside the relief granted to the university, the bench modified the order by directing GITAM University to deposit '54 crore, being 50 per cent of the outstanding dues, within three weeks.



Indigo Profit Fall 78% on Dec Flight Disruptions, Labour Costs

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's biggest airline, IndiGo, on Thursday reported a sharp fall of 78 per cent in December quarter net profit as massive flight cancellations (in December) and implementation of the new labour code besides currency movements related to dollar-denominated future obligations took a toll on its earnings. The airline reported a net profit of Rs 549 crore in the October-December quarter, compared with Rs 2,449 crore earnings in the year-ago period. The company in a statement said that it took a hit of Rs 1,546.5 crore in the third quarter. This included Rs 577.2 crore due



to massive flight disruptions witnessed during early December and another Rs 969.3 crore on account of the implementation of new labour laws. The airline faced one of its worst flight disruptions, resulting in approximately cancellation of 2,507 flights between December 3 and 5 triggered by stricter Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDLT) rules for pilots. Another

1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country, the regulator said in a statement on January 20. IndiGo was slapped with a fine of Rs 22.2 crore for the flight disruptions, which it has accounted for in exceptional items. Currency movement related to dollar-based future obligations aggregated to Rs 1,035 crore in the De-

ember quarter. "The DGCA has also directed the Company to furnish a bank guarantee of Rs 50 crore under the IndiGo Systemic Reform Assurance Scheme ('ISRAS'). The release of bank guarantee is, in phased manner, subject to DGCA's verification as prescribed under the scheme," IndiGo said in its Q3 release.

Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo said, "Despite these operational disruptions, IndiGo delivered a topline of around 245 billion rupees in the December quarter, reflecting a growth of around 7 per cent with a reported profit of around 5 billion rupees and an underlying profit excluding exceptional items and forex of 31 billion rupees." "Our long-

term fundamentals remain strong, backed by our expanding fleet, growing domestic and international network. As we look ahead, we remain committed to reliability, operational excellence and enhanced customer experience," he added.

Looking ahead, the airline expects aircraft capacity additions to moderate to about 10 per cent, down from the 19 per cent, as deliveries have been aligned with a reduced flight schedule following a 10 per cent cut imposed by the DGCA, resulting in 200 fewer flights. The company's consolidated profit in Q3 FY25 was Rs 2,448 crore. In Q2FY26, IndiGo had reported a loss of Rs 2,582 crore.

Jeep Meridian Now Comes With Sliding 2nd-Row Seats

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Jeep, the American iconic car brand, on Thursday introduced the new Meridian SUV with sliding second-row seats priced from Rs 30 lakh at the Mumbai showroom. The sliding second-row seats feature is available on the Limited and Overland variants of the Meridian model. "The introduction of sliding second-row seats on the Limited and Overland variant is a direct response to customer feedback seeking greater third-row comfort, especially for families travelling together," said Kumar Priyesh, Business Head and Director - Automotive Brands, Stellantis India. The sliding function al-



lows for a longitudinal displacement of 140/130 mm, improving the usable space in the third row. The seats now offer a 23-degree torso angle and can recline up to 12 degrees.

The new seat configuration allows sliding travel of 310 mm (40% seat) / 290 mm (60% seat) with a forward tilt of 33 degrees, allowing for better ingress and egress. The exterior of the new Me-

ridian features Jeep's signature 7-slot grille, LED headlamps and two-tone alloy wheels.

The interior gets a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster and a 10.1-inch touchscreen infotainment system. The SUV is also equipped with features such as a panoramic sunroof, dual-zone automatic climate control, 12-way powered and ventilated front seats, and ADAS.

Gold, Silver ETFs See Sharp Fall Of Up To 24 pc

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver Exchange Traded Funds crashed up to 24 per cent on Wednesday after the global tensions eased and cooled off gold and silver from their record high levels. The heightened speculative activity in gold and silver ETFs in the recent sessions led to a sharp fall in the asset class. Silver prices in the Multi Commodity Exchange were down by around 3 per cent to Rs 3,07,950 per kg levels on Wednesday after global tensions eased following the US President Donald Trump's statement that he would not impose tariffs on eight European nations scheduled to take effect on 1 February with the progress made in talks with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Greenland. Gold prices eased during early trade, but regained record high levels.

However, compared to the MCX and COMEX prices, the fall in gold and silver ETFs in India was much sharper. Tata Silver ETF crashed almost 24 per cent, Edelweiss Silver ETF and Mirae Asset plunged 22 per cent, and Nippon India Silver ETF shed 20 per cent. Nip-



pon India Gold Bees ETF prices were down 11 per cent. Tata Gold ETF too was down 12.7 per cent. According to analysts, Indian gold and silver ETF prices have been moving faster than the MCX and COMEX prices on the back of speculative buying. In the recent sessions, the ETFs were carrying high premiums on speculation that the Union Budget would increase the duties on gold and silver imports. In the past session, Indian silver was trading near \$107 per ounce, almost \$13 above the COMEX price of around \$94. The easing of geo-political tensions led to heavy selling of ETFs. However, ETF prices made some recovery after the market prices gained some lost ground. Silver was trading at \$93.4 per ounce levels in the international market and gold at \$4826 per ounce.

NIFTY EPS Seen Growing 14.8% CAGR; Budget to Push Structural Reforms: PL Capital

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Indian equity markets have turned largely range-bound after surrendering most of their recent gains, weighed down by rising global geopolitical risks and persistent tariff-related uncertainties involving the US, according to PL Capital's India Strategy Report. Despite near-term volatility, the brokerage maintains a constructive medium-term view, citing resilient domestic demand and supportive macro fundamentals.

PL Capital notes that NIFTY has remained largely flat over the past couple of months as global power realignments and prolonged tariff disputes have heightened business un-

certainty. However, domestic indicators continue to show sustained traction into 3Q and beyond, supported by policy-led tailwinds such as interest rate cuts, GST rationalisation, income tax relief, low inflation and normal monsoons. Mr. Amnish Aggarwal, Co-Head Institutional Equities at PL Capital, said that economic momentum is expected to remain intact as the benefits of cumulative 125 bps repo rate cuts, decade-low inflation, tax relief measures and improving consumer sentiment carry forward into

the next year. He added that with the FY27 Union Budget approaching, the government's focus is likely to remain on structural reforms, while the scope for major tax concessions appears limited following last year's significant tax and GST changes.

Accordingly, PL Capital has marginally revised its NIFTY earnings estimates, cutting FY26 and FY27 EPS by 2.6% and 2.4%, respectively, while raising FY28 EPS by 1%. Despite this, NIFTY EPS is projected to grow at a healthy 14.8%

CAGR over FY26-28. Valuing the index at a 3% discount to its 15-year average P/E, the brokerage has revised its 12-month NIFTY target to 28,814 from 29,094 earlier.

In the near term, PL Capital remains cautious and expects large-cap stocks to continue outperforming. Domestically focused sectors such as banks, NBFCs, autos, select consumer staples, jewellery, defence, durables and metals are expected to lead performance.

On the demand front, 3QFY26 has shown

mixed trends. Auto and jewellery demand remained strong, while consumer durables, apparel and footwear saw uneven recovery. Rural demand continues to outpace urban demand, though urban sentiment has improved steadily in recent months.

Looking ahead to Budget FY27, PL Capital expects a continued emphasis on infrastructure and structural reforms, with moderate increases in capital expenditure and a likely double-digit rise in defence allocations. While the government will aim to adhere to its fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP, the brokerage cautions that a minor slippage cannot be ruled out amid weaker tax collections and higher interest outgo.



PL Capital
PRABHUDAS LILLADHER

India Becomes Second Largest Overseas Market for US Tourism

BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

Travel from India to the US is witnessing sustained and robust growth, with India emerging as the second-largest overseas source market for the US, Brand USA president and CEO Fred Dixon said. Dixon was in Bengaluru as part of his visit to India for the 12th edition of Brand USA Travel Week. He noted that the growth underscores the increasing sophistication and spending power of Indian travellers, as well as their growing appetite to explore destinations beyond traditional US gateways.

"We're thrilled that travel to the United States from India continues to grow at a really incredible pace. We're up 40 per cent in terms of visitation volume since before the pandemic, since 2019," Dixon told PTI. He added

that 2025 marked the second consecutive year of strong recovery, with more than two million Indian visitors travelling to the US. "We just finished the second year, 2025, with more than two million Indian visitors to the United States, which has now made India the second-largest market into the United States from overseas," Dixon said, calling it "an incredible feat" and a testament to the strength of the Indian travel market.

While New York, California and Florida continue to be the most popular destinations for Indian travellers, Dixon said repeat visitors are increasingly venturing deeper into the country. "India is now in the top 10 source markets for most US destinations, if not the top five," he said, noting that this reflects how widely Indian travellers are now exploring the US.

Doctors Warn: Steroid Misuse Fueling Silent Glaucoma Risk

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Doctors across India are expressing serious concern over the increasing and often unsupervised use of steroids, warning that it has become a significant trigger for secondary glaucoma—a sight-threatening eye disease that can cause irreversible blindness. Steroids frequently used for allergies, skin conditions, respiratory illnesses, and even as over-the-counter eye drops can silently raise intraocular pressure when used for extended periods, leading to gradual damage of the optic nerve without noticeable early symptoms.

India is estimated to have 12-13 million people living with glaucoma, contributing nearly one-sixth of the global burden. Globally, the disease affects around 75-80 million individuals and is projected to cross 110



million by 2040. Alarmingly, nearly 85-90% of glaucoma cases in India remain undiagnosed due to its slow and symptom-free progression.

"We are observing a clear rise in steroid-induced glaucoma, especially among patients using steroid medications or eye drops without medical supervision," said Dr. KKS Chakravarthy, Head - Clinical Services, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Vijayawada. "The major risk is that patients feel fine initially, while eye pressure increases silently, causing permanent vision loss." Experts note that improved diagnostic tools, an ageing population, and rising rates of diabetes

and myopia have contributed to higher detection rates. However, a growing proportion of cases are linked to preventable causes such as steroid misuse. Glaucoma primarily affects individuals over 40 years, though younger cases are also emerging. Doctors emphasize that good eyesight does not rule out glaucoma and urge high-risk groups, particularly diabetics and long-term steroid users, to undergo regular eye examinations. As part of an awareness initiative, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital is offering free glaucoma work-ups for diabetic patients across India until 15 February 2026.

Aum of Gold Loan NBFCs To Cross Rs 4 Lakh Crore by FY27

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Assets under management (AUM) of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) specialising in gold loans is set to log a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40 per cent between this fiscal and next, surpassing Rs 4 lakh crore by March 2027, according to a Crisil Ratings report. The surge in the AUM of NBFCs will be driven by elevated gold prices, a shift towards secured credit and an evolved regulatory environment, outpacing the CAGR of 27 per cent clocked between fiscals 2023 and 2025.

"Gold prices soared 68 per cent in the first nine months of this fiscal to an all-time high. This enhances collateral values, enabling lenders to scale up disbursements." Furthermore, amid limited



availability of credit from segments such as unsecured lending, borrowers are looking out for other sources of funding. To capitalise on these lending opportunities, gold-loan NBFCs (both large and mid-size ones) have been expanding their market presence, despite stiff competition from banks. Says Aparna Kirubakaran, Director, Crisil Ratings, "Large gold-loan NBFCs, having an established brand image, are scaling up their portfolio across existing branches. Meanwhile, their mid-sized counterparts are adopting a dual strategy of expanding their branch network as well as operat-

ing as originating partners for large NBFCs and banks. These efforts, combined with strong demand amid elevated gold prices, have boosted business per branch for gold-loan focused NBFCs by around 40 per cent over the last two fiscals. "Their average AUM per branch stood at Rs 14 crore in the first six months of this fiscal compared to Rs 10 crore in fiscal 2024". On the regulatory front, streamlining of loan-to-value (LTV) norms for lower-ticket size gold loans, applicable from April 1, 2026, is expected to provide additional headroom to NBFCs for lending.

Bhajan Clubbing in an Age of Burnout

Bhajan clubbing may look like a cultural revival, but it feels more like a movement. Part singalong, part meditation, these gatherings replace strobe lights with rhythm, alcohol with chai, and distraction with shared stillness. The crowd is telling: 18- to 26-year-olds sit shoulder to shoulder with those aged 35 and above, united not by nostalgia, but by participation. As sibling duo Prachi and Raghav, better known as Backstage Siblings, move seamlessly between bhajans and old Bollywood favourites on stage, the audience sings along—often louder than the performers themselves. What began as small living-room sessions of around 70 people in Kolkata has grown into a nationwide tour, helping popularise bhajan jamming among Gen Z and millennials



searching for meaning beyond mainstream nightlife. "We see bhajan jamming as a paradigm shift that's unfolding right now and is here to stay," say Prachi and Raghav. "It goes beyond embracing culture. It's about embracing yourself, finding a pause in a hectic, chaotic world, and giving yourself an hour to simply be present." Keshavam is pushing the format further. Blending bhajans with modern rock, the group has been drawing full houses to

its bhajan clubbing events, or sankirtans, across cities. Formed two years ago and fronted by singers Lovish Sheetal and Prakriti Sharma Arora, the band believes the movement is more than a passing trend. "EDM and hip hop give adrenaline," the band says. "Bhajans give emotion, belonging, and meaning. When presented with the same production value and intensity, they hit even harder. Bhajan clubbing lets people feel proud of their roots without feeling boxed in. It's not about replacing playlists, it's about expanding them." Ironically, what began as a niche social media curiosity has emerged as a new cultural language for a generation that lives much of its life online. Psychologists note that growing up in a digital-first world of constant stimulation,

FOMO, and dopamine-driven scrolling has left many young people craving two essentials: inner calm and genuine human connection. Seeking grounding without rigid religious structures, many are finding meaning in bhajan satsangs and bhajan clubbing, which now make clear psychological sense. Clinical psychologist and life coach Dr Kanan K Chikhal says the format allows young people to experience spirituality without sermons. "One can feel devotion without being told what to believe," she explains. "The modern, high-energy formats blend bhajans with club-style beats this generation is already used to. The experience offers grounding without preaching, and a sense of belonging to one's roots in a unique way."

Pawan Kalyan Hails Chiranjeevi's Remarkable Body of Work

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

For over four decades, Megastar Chiranjeevi has remained close to the hearts of audiences, continuing to entertain them with the same passion and energy through his acting, comedy, and dance. This latest success adds yet another feather to his illustrious filmography. Pawan Kalyan extended special appreciation to director Anil Ravipudi (@AnilRavipudi) for delivering yet another Sankranti blockbuster. He also expressed his delight at watching Megastar Chiranjeevi and Victory Venkatesh (@VenkyMama) share screen space, calling it a truly mem-



orable experience.

He further praised music director Bheems Ceciroleo (#BheemsCeciroleo) for composing energetic and impactful music that elevated the film. Congratulations were

also conveyed to the producers, Sahu Garapati (@sahugarapati7) and Sushmita Konidela (@sushkonidela), for backing a film that struck a strong chord with audiences. Pawan Kalyan also extended

his best wishes to Nayanthara, Shine Screens (@Shine_Screens), and Gold Box Entertainment (@Gold-BoxEnt) for being part of this successful journey.

On the professional front, Pawan Kalyan is eagerly awaiting the release of his upcoming cop drama Ustaad Bhagat Singh, directed by Harish Shankar. The film is expected to hit theatres in April this year. Additionally, he has partnered with People Media Factory to produce content-driven films aimed at raising the bar of Telugu cinema. With multiple commitments lined up, Pawan Kalyan is set to remain busy both as an actor and a producer.

'Peddi' Likely To Be Postponed for 'Dhurandhar 2'

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The second half of the Dhurandhar saga is ready for release on March 19. There are constant rumours of other films, ready for release around the same time, from the South too, being postponed.

When spoken to, Dhurandhar director Aditya Dhar very clearly stated there was question of postponing the release date of Dhurandhar 2. This brings us to Ram Charan's Peddi which is scheduled for March 27, eight days after Dhurandhar 2. There are very strong rumours of Peddi being postponed by a few weeks to avoid a clash. Although there is no offi-



cial announcement as yet, multiple sources have confirmed that Ram Charan is in no mood to risk a debacle at this stage of his career. He would rather wait than face formidable competition.

'Sinners' Makes Oscar History With Record Nominations

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Ryan Coogler's blues-steeped vampire epic "Sinners" led all films with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday, setting a record for the most in Oscar history. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters showered "Sinners" with more nominations than they had ever bestowed before, breaking the 14-nomination mark set by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land." Along with best picture, Coogler was nominated for best director and best screenplay, and double-duty star Michael B. Jordan was rewarded with his first Oscar nomination, for best actor.

Paul Thomas Anderson's father-daughter revolutionary saga "One Battle After Another," the favorite coming into nominations, trailed in second with 13 nominations of its own. Four of its actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn — were nominated, though newcomer Chase Infiniti was left out in best actress. In those two top nominees, the film academy



put its full force behind a pair of visceral and bracingly original American epics that each connected with a fraught national moment. Coogler's Jim Crow-era film — the rare horror movie to win the academy's favor — conjures a mythical allegory of Black life. In "One Battle After Another," a dormant spirit of rebellion is revived in an out-of-control police state.

Both are also Warner Bros. titles. In the midst of a contentious sale to Netflix, the 102-year-old studio had its best Oscar nominations morning ever. As the fate of Warner Bros., which Netflix is buying for \$72 billion, hangs in the balance amid a challenge from Paramount Skydance, Hollywood is bracing for potentially the largest realignment in the film industry's history. The 10

films nominated for best picture are "Bugonia," "F1," "Frankenstein," "Hamnet," "Marty Supreme," "One Battle After Another," "The Secret Agent," "Sentimental Value," "Sinners" and "Train Dreams." Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein," Josh Safdie's "Marty Supreme" and Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value" all scored nine nominations. The nine for "Marty Supreme" included a third best actor nod for 30-year-old Timothée Chalamet, the favorite in the category he narrowly missed winning last year for "A Complete Unknown." With Jordan and Chalamet, the nominees are Leonardo DiCaprio for "One Battle After Another," Ethan Hawke for "Blue Moon" and Wagner Moura for "The Secret Agent."

Hardest Job After PM's: Tharoor Lauds Gambhir, He Responds

NAGPUR
Wakeup telangana

India coach Gautam Gambhir has rejected the widely held assumption that he holds "unlimited authority" in team selection and expressed his amusement at being "pitted against his own" after Congress MP Shashi Tharoor described his role as "hardest job after the Prime Minister's". Tharoor, an avid cricket fan himself, shared a selfie with Gambhir ahead of the first T20I against New Zealand in Nagpur and expressed his admiration for the manner in which the former India opener is performing in his current job despite the relentless scrutiny. "In Nagpur, enjoyed a good & frank discussion with my old friend @GautamGambhir, the man with the hardest



job in India after the PM's! He is being second-guessed by millions daily but stays calm & walks on undaunted. A word of appreciation for his quiet determination and able leadership. Wishing him all success - starting today!" Tharoor tweeted. Gambhir responded late last night and fleetingly touched upon some of the

chatter that has dominated his tenure. "Thanks a lot Dr @ShashiTharoor! When the dust settles, truth & logic about a coach's supposedly "unlimited authority" will become clear. Till then I'm amused at being pitted against my own who are the very best!" Gambhir wrote on 'X'. Since Gambhir took charge of the Indian

team, the side has seen major changes across all three formats. From appointing Suryakumar Yadav as India's T20I skipper to the retirements of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin from Test cricket, the team has undergone significant transition. Shubman Gill was also appointed captain of the Test and ODI side during this time. Amid all this, there is never-ending speculation about Gambhir's equation with senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, both of whom are only playing ODIs after retiring from Tests and T20Is. Gambhir has also been under pressure for India's poor recent home Test record, including whitewashes against New Zealand and South Africa.

Still Hopeful of Justice From ICC: Bangladesh Refuse to Budge on T20 WC

DHAKA
Wakeup telangana

A defiant Bangladesh on Thursday refused to send its national cricket team for next month's T20 World Cup in India after the ICC rejected its demand for a change of venue, effectively paving the way for Scotland to take the country's place. Bangladesh had been served an ultimatum by the world body on Wednesday to either agree to travel to India or risk being replaced as there was no credible threat to the safety of their players, officials or fans there.

The country was given time till Thursday to make its decision. Scotland is next in line based on team rankings for the tournament starting February 7. However, taking a hard-line position Ban-



gladesh's sports advisor Asif Nazrul, after a meeting with national team players, announced that the ICC's assessment was not acceptable to them. "While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis..." Nazrul said in a press conference while declaring that the country won't play in India.

"...we are not convinced that they can ensure the safety of our entire team, journalists, and spectators. "We are not giving up hope yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka," he added. Bangladesh are due to play four games in India (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai). The country raised security concerns after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was

ousted from the IPL on BCCI's instructions for unspecified "developments all around." "It is crucial to weigh the loss of not playing against the potential catastrophe of pushing players, fans, and journalists into a risky regional political situation. This is a government decision, as the state is responsible for determining whether its citizens face security risks abroad," Nazrul asserted. The ICC on Wednesday refused to accept its security concerns, saying that the Bangladesh Cricket Board was repeatedly linking its participation in the tournament to a "single, isolated and unrelated development concerning one of its player's involvement in a domestic league."

270 held for drunk driving during New Years' sent to jail

As many as 270 individuals arrested for drunk driving across the city during the 2026 New Year celebrations have been convicted and sent to jail, the Hyderabad Traffic police released a statement on Thursday. These arrests were made between December 24 and December 31 last year. Earlier, as many as 1,198 people were booked for similar offences in Hyderabad from December 31 to January 1, 2026. Of this, 1,042 were two-wheeler riders, 51 were three-wheeler drivers and 105 were driving four-wheelers and other heavy vehicles. The Hyderabad Traffic Police has reiterated that drunk driving is a serious offence and a major threat to public safety, warning that violations will be dealt with strictly and without any leniency. The police said special enforcement drives will continue to ensure road discipline and save lives.

Azmet Jah launches book featuring rare photos of Eighth Nizam



Azmet Jah, the Ninth Nizam of Hyderabad, released a book titled "H.E.H. Mir Barkat Ali Khan Mukarram Jah Bahadur: The Life and Times of the Eighth Nizam of Hyderabad" on Thursday, January 22, containing over 250 rare and previously unseen photographs, historic documents and personal memorabilia. The book is authored by conservation architect and author Anuradha S Naik and published by the Chowmahalla Palace Trust. Many images in the book are drawn from the Chowmahalla Palace Collection and the personal collection of the immediate family of H.E.H. Mukarram Jah, a press release said. The majority of the later family photographs were taken by Prince Azmet Jah, a trained cinematographer and the present head of the Asaf Jahi family. The book accompanies a special exhibition curated by Anuradha Naik Associates, which was inaugurated on October 6 last year, at Chowmahalla Palace to mark the birth anniversary of the eighth Nizam. The proceeds of the book sale will contribute to the scholarship schemes of the HEH Mukarram Jah School located in the Purani Haveli Palace. Set up in 1987, the school continues to provide education in the ICSE stream to nearly 3000 boys and girls. Trustee of the Mukarram Jah Trust for Education and Learning, Nawab MA Faiz Khan and author Anuradha Naik were present at the unveiling event.

Devotees Gather to Celebrate Imam Hussain's (A.S) Birth Anniversary

Religious scholars address devotees during a spiritually uplifting gathering at Baitul Qayam (ATFJ), Purani Haveli.

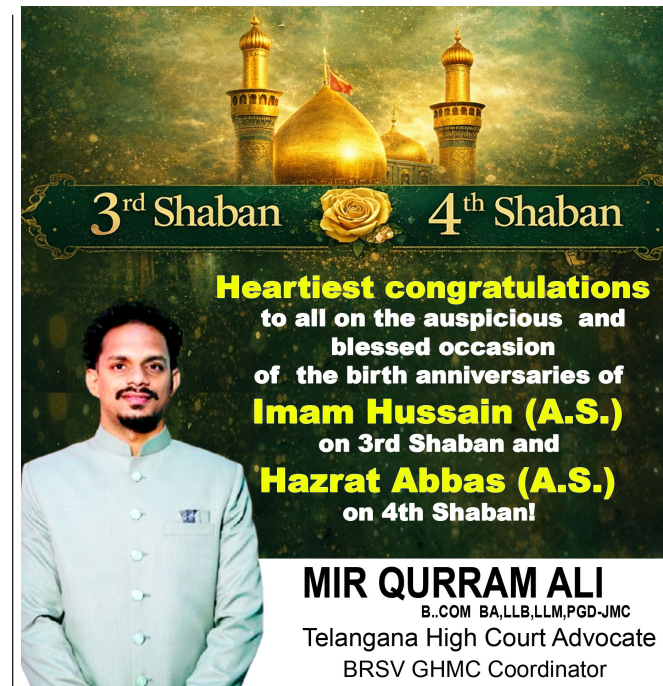


Wake up telangana Zaffer Abedi

The religious congregation titled "Jashn-e-Zahoor-e-Hujjatullah Imam Hussain (A.S) and Zahoor-e-Nasirullah Hazrat Abal Fazlil Abbas (A.S)" was held on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Hussain (A.S) on 2nd Shaban (Thursday, 22 January) at Baitul Qayam (ATFJ), Purani Haveli, drawing a large gathering of devotees. The programme

featured scholarly addresses by Syed Abbas Hussain Sahab Qibla and Syed Hyder Hussain Sahab, who highlighted the life, spiritual stature, and timeless message of Imam Hussain (A.S) and Hazrat Abal Fazlil Abbas (A.S), emphasizing values of justice, loyalty, and steadfastness in the face of oppression. Participants described the gathering as spiritually enriching and well organized. Separate

seating arrangements were made for women to ensure convenience and decorum. The event was organized under the supervision of Anjumane Al-Mukthar and Anjumane Al-Hussain (A.S). On behalf of the organizers, Abbas Qibla expressed sincere gratitude to all devotees, scholars, and volunteers whose cooperation contributed to the successful conduct of the programme.



Jashn-e-Shah-e-Karbala Celebrated at Bibi Ka Alawa



On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), Anjuman-e-Shah-e-Karbala organized Jashn-e-Shah-e-Karbala at Bibi Ka Alawa, Dabeerpura, Hyderabad. Maulana Syed Hyder Zaidi is seen cutting the cake during the celebrations. MLC Riyazul Hassan Affandi, former SETWIN Chairman Mir Inayath Ali Baqri, Anjuman President Raza Ali, Group-e-Khazmi President Mohammed Raza Zaidi, Syed Abid Ali Razvi, Mir Mehdi Ali Parvez, along with other eminent personalities, were present on the occasion.

TGSRTC to establish fast-charging stations across Hyderabad

As part of the government's push for electric mobility, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is preparing to operate 2,200 electric buses and will be setting up charging stations across 25 bus depots across the Greater Hyderabad region. TGSRTC and the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) held a coordination meeting on Thursday, January 22, to discuss arrangements for providing power connections to the electric vehicle charging stations. Two charging points will be established at Suryapet, Sangareddy and Nalgonda depots. According to RTC officials, nearly 124 megawatts of power supply will be required for this project. The meeting also deliberated on the infrastructure and procedures for laying electricity lines to support the stations. TGSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy said efforts are being made to introduce electric buses on a larger scale in the Greater Hyderabad region within this year. From the corporation's side, space will be arranged at available locations for setting up switching stations or substations required for the charging stations, he added. Further, the TGSPDCL Chairman & Managing Director Musharraf Faruqi instructed electricity officials to examine the applications submitted by TGSRTC, to prepare estimates by February 1, and commence the work.

Habitual Traffic Offenders in India Can Now Lose Licence After Five Violations

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Starting January 1, drivers found guilty of five or more traffic violations within a single year may have their driving licence suspended, under a new amendment to the national Motor Vehicles Rules. The change aims to curb habitual offenders and improve road safety. The Regional Transport Office (RTO) or District Transport Office (DTO)



has the authority to cancel licences. However, offenders will first get a formal opportunity to present their case. The rule counts offences over a rolling one-year period, with previous cycles not affecting future assessments.

Earlier, only 24 serious offences—such as vehicle theft, assaulting passengers, dangerous speeding, overloading, or abandoning a vehicle—could lead to disqualification. The new provision broadens the scope, including common violations like not wearing a helmet or seatbelt and jumping red signals, which can now cumulatively trigger licence suspension.

GHMC clears 7,265 tonnes of solid waste in special sanitation drive

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) sanitation wing has cleared 5,406 metric tons of waste and removed 1,859 metric tons of construction waste, totalling 7,265 metric tons of extra waste. The GHMC in a press



release on Thursday said the special sanitation programme has so far been undertaken in 4,430 areas, points, foot-over-bridges

(FoBs), flyovers, garbage vulnerable points (GVPs) and parks within the 300 wards under GHMC's jurisdiction. As part of the drive, students were educated on separating wet, dry and hazardous waste and disposing of it in designated bins, with the aim of helping transform Hyderabad into a clean city.

Owaisi urges govt to rescue 16 Indians enslaved on Myanmar-Thailand border

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday, January 22, requested External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to ensure the rescue of nearly 16 Indians, including three from Hyderabad, who were enslaved on Myanmar-Thailand border after being promised jobs. Owaisi said he got the information about Mir Sajjad Ali, a resident of Osman Nagar, currently incarcerated at the Myanmar-Thailand border. "Two others with him (Mir Sajjad Ali) are from Maula Ali and Banjara Hills," the AIMIM chief



said. The Hyderabad MP in a post on 'X' said: "I have received a distressing message: at least 16 Indian nationals, including three from Hyderabad, were promised jobs in Thailand but taken to the Myanmar-Thailand border and enslaved". They are forced to work 18-20 hours daily, physically punished, and deprived of passports, phones, and medical facilities, he said. Owaisi urged Jaishankar to intervene urgently and ensure the rescue of all Indians.

Godrej to Invest ₹150 Crore to Expand Its Dairy Plant

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Godrej Group has unveiled plans to expand its dairy operations in Hyderabad, announcing an investment of Rs.150 crore to enhance its Creamline Dairy plant. Godrej Jersey will construct a new facility on its 40-acre site to process value-added products, including curd, buttermilk, and flavored milk. The announcement came during a meeting at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, where IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy met Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries. Discussions covered mul-



multiple strategic topics, including integrating artificial intelligence in oil palm agriculture and the expansion of the dairy plant in Hyderabad. The new dairy processing unit is projected to generate over 300 direct jobs within three years, alongside significant indirect employment in allied sectors such as logistics, procurement, and agriculture services. Godrej operates several dairy processing

centres across southern India, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. During the meeting, the government encouraged Godrej to explore large-scale infrastructure projects in the upcoming Bharat Future City, particularly in residential zones. Both delegations agreed that developing social infrastructure in the Future City would benefit

both the state and the company. Minister Sridhar Babu welcomed Godrej's visit to Hyderabad to further strengthen collaborations and advance proposed projects. Earlier, Godrej Agrovet had announced a Rs.300-crore Integrated Oil Palm Complex in Khammam district, featuring a crude palm oil mill, an R&D centre, and provisions for a future refinery, underscoring the company's continued investment in agribusiness and food processing sectors. This expansion aligns with Godrej's broader strategy of enhancing value-added product offerings while contributing to employment generation and regional economic growth in southern India.

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