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**WEATHER**

MAX: 29.7°C  
MIN: 19.6°C  
RH: 50%  
RAINFALL: 0MM  
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY  
MAX/MIN temp. 30/20°C

### Brief Insights

#### Suryakiran Aerobatic Team: Showcasing India's Aerial Precision and Pride

The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, better known as the "Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force," is renowned for its precision, skill, and teamwork. This elite team, flying the striking red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, will showcase a series of jaw-dropping maneuvers. From the graceful loop and the thrilling barrel roll to the gravity-defying inverted flying and the crowd-favorite DNA maneuver, every performance is a testament to the pilots' unmatched expertise and coordination. What makes the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team truly special is its role in inspiring the youth of the country to aspire to careers in the Defence Forces.

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#### BJP Faces Voter Fury Over UGC Rules Before UP Polls

The University Grants Commission's (UGC) updated notification against caste-based discrimination has turned into a major headache for the BJP, with its own "core vote bank" breathing fire against the saffron party. The recently updated and notified UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations 2026, to revise the 2012 anti-discrimination regulations, is being labelled as "betrayal" to the general category, "promoting presumption of guilt" and "creating further division" within the Sanatan Dharma. The UGC notified the 2026 regulations earlier this month, updating its 2012 regulations. Among the revised rules, "caste-based discrimination" is defined as discrimination "only on the basis of caste or tribe" against SC/STs and OBCs. It removed a provision for punishments for false complaints, which was there in the 2012

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## Modi Showcases \$500 Billion Energy Opportunities at India Energy Week

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Inviting global investors to participate in the country's growing energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India's energy sector offered investment opportunities worth \$500 billion. Virtually addressing a gathering during the inauguration ceremony of India Energy Week in Goa, Modi urged investors to invest in sectors like refining, LNG value chain infrastructure, city gas distribution, and oil and gas exploration. Men-



tioning India is a land of immense opportunities for the energy sector, Modi noted that India was among the top five exporters of petroleum products in the world, with export coverage extending to more than 150 countries. Emphasizing that India is actively working on global partnerships across every sector, the

Prime Minister said that in the energy sector alone, there are vast investment opportunities across different areas of the energy value chain. Modi highlighted that India has significantly opened up its exploration sector and referred to the deep-sea exploration initiative known as the "Samudra Manthan" mission. He stated that by the end of this decade, India aims to raise investments in the oil and gas sector to USD 100 billion, with a target of expanding the scope of exploration to one million square kilometers.

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**BJP Demo Over Pending Dues For 22,000 Retirees: P2**

**Hyderabad Police Launch AI-Based Duty Allocation System for CAR Unit: P8**

**BRS Alleges Large-Scale Graft in Singareni Tenders: P3**



## India, EU Ink Trade Deal

### "Mother of all deals" ushers opportunities for India, Europe: PM Modi

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a "landmark and historic" step, India and the European Union on Tuesday announced the conclusion of negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement, under which 93 per cent of Indian exports will enjoy duty-free access to the 27-nation bloc, while the import of luxury cars and wines from the EU will become less expensive. The FTA will be formally signed later this year after "legal scrubbing" of the document on a "fast-track" basis and efforts are on to enable it to come into force by the



end of this year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the FTA as "the largest Free Trade Agreement in India's history, a new blueprint for shared prosperity" and the "start of a new era", while terming bilateral ties as a "partnership for global good". Following the 16th

India-EU Summit here, co-chaired by Modi along with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president Antonio Costa in New Delhi, both sides also inked a Security and Defence Partnership (SDP) that will create new opportunities for co-de-

velopment and co-production of defence platforms and boost maritime defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, with an obvious eye on China. The two sides also unveiled a "Towards 2030: A Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda", which is a roadmap for bilateral strategic ties covering all aspects. Another major pact was an MoU on "Comprehensive Framework for Cooperation on Mobility" that will facilitate the movement of students, researchers, workers and highly skilled professionals.

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## Civic Polls on Feb. 11; Results on Feb. 13

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Election Commission (SEC) on Tuesday announced that municipal elections will be held on February 11, and counting of votes on February 13. Elections will be held through ballot papers, and on party symbols. Elections will not be held for the GHMC whose term ends on February 10. The polls will cover seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities. Indirect elections for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in municipal corporations



Municipal Elections Scheduled: State Election Commissioner Rani Kumudini announced during a press conference held at the State Election Commission office in Hyderabad

and chairperson and vice-chairperson in municipalities will be conducted on February 16. Notification for the polls will be issued

on Wednesday and filing of nominations will commence immediately.

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 3

## HYDRAA asks BHEL not to obstruct Rayasamudram Cheruvu works

**HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath has asked BHEL not to obstruct the beautification of Rayasamudram Cheruvu, stating that lakes are public assets. He said development works would proceed without demolishing houses or inconveniencing the public.**



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency Commissioner AV Ranganath has asked Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) not to hinder the proposed beautification works of Rayasamudram Cheruvu in RC Puram mandal. Though the lake falls under BHEL's purview, Ranganath said guidelines clearly state that lakes are public property. Despite the government sanctioning funds for development of the lake, BHEL man-

agement was obstructing the works, citing encroachments into the lake in the name of development, he said. Accompanied by officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, the Irrigation Department and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Ranganath inspected the lake. The lake, spread over about 120 acres, has the potential to be developed into a major recreation spot, he said. Speaking to reporters, Ranganath, citing Supreme Court judgments and various Acts, said

BHEL should not intervene in the matter as lakes are community assets, even if they fall within gated communities. He said HMDA or other stakeholders were empowered to take up modernisation works. Stating that BHEL officials lacked clarity on this aspect, Ranganath said HYDRAA would write to the BHEL Chairman and Managing Director. Following requests from local residents urging the agency to take up beautification works, he would also write to the government in this regard. The Commissioner said plans were in place to develop the lake into a recreation spot, with facilities such as a children's play area, a walking track along the lake and treatment of the water.

## SIT Grills Santosh Kumar On Phone tapping

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Special Investigating Team (SIT) on Tuesday questioned former BRS MP Joginpal Santosh Kumar, a nephew of former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, for about eight hours at the Jubilee Hills ACP's office in connection with the illegal phone-tapping case. Following the SIT's notice, Santosh Kumar appeared at 3 pm for questioning. The SIT sought more information on the reasons for appointing main accused T. Prabhakar Rao as the special intelligence bureau chief. Investigators said he was examined as a person acquainted with certain facts and circumstances related to the phone-tapping case. The SIT also asked him whether he knew about the unauthorised phone-tapping. The former MP is a confidant and nephew of Chandrasekar Rao. His appearance before the SIT comes days the questioning of senior BRS leader T.



Harish Rao on January 20 and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on January 23. Before heading to the SIT office, Santosh Kumar met Rama Rao. The case pertains to allegations of illegal interception of phones of more than 600 persons, including opposition leaders — among them Revanth Reddy — judges, journalists and film personalities. The main accused in the case is former SIB chief T. Prabhakar Rao, along with several other police officials, who were earlier arrested for allegedly tampering with and destroying evidence linked to the surveillance operations.

## Gold, silver continue to touch new highs

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices surged to record highs on Tuesday, amid persistent weakness in the US dollar and expectations of rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. MCX gold February futures rose 1.48 per cent to Rs 1,58,343 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, MCX silver March futures rose 6.56 per cent to Rs 3,56,670 per kg. Earlier in the day, gold had peaked to Rs 1,59,820 per 10 grams, up 2.4 per cent, before profit-taking eased the price level. International markets also saw gold and silver touching record highs, as geopolitical risks drove investors to safe-haven assets. Renewed fears of a government shutdown in the US and President Donald Trump's new threats of 25 per cent tariffs on South Korean automobiles, lumber, and pharmaceutical imports added fuel to trade ten-

sions. Trump also warned Canada of a 100 per cent tariff if it makes a deal with China. US gold futures April contracts rose around 1 per cent to \$5,113.70 per troy ounce as the dollar index eased by 0.1 per cent, making bullion cheaper in overseas currencies. Persistent safe-haven demand, steady central-bank accumulation, and expectations of accommodative global monetary conditions continue to underpin prices. COMEX Silver has surged beyond the \$99 mark, registering fresh lifetime highs. Meanwhile, the two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) in the US this week is expected to hold interest rates steady but traders expect at least two rate cuts later in the year. "Market focus has now shifted to the upcoming Federal Reserve decision, although speculation around political pressure on the central bank .

## Sexual Harassment Allegations Surface Against Jana Sena MLA

**KADAPA**  
Wakeup telangana

Serious allegations of sexual harassment have been levelled by a woman against Railway Koduru Jana Sena legislator and government whip Arava Sridhar. As of now, no formal complaint has been lodged with the police. According to allegations made by a woman in a video statement that was released online, the MLA reportedly subjected her to sexual exploitation for nearly one-and-a-half years. Videos, photographs, WhatsApp chats, and reels purportedly

linked to the allegations have gone viral on social media platforms. In her video statement, the woman claimed that Sridhar first contacted her through Facebook after becoming MLA and later allegedly intimidated her into submitting to him. The woman alleged that the MLA sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions, forced her into a relationship and she became pregnant as a result. She claimed that she was compelled to undergo an abortion against her will. According to her, Sridhar had promised to marry her. She was living sep-

arately from her husband, and the MLA allegedly pressured her to seek a divorce. She also alleged that the MLA threatened to kill her three-year-old son if she did not comply with his demands and warned her of serious consequences if she spoke out. The YSRC has demanded the immediate arrest of the MLA and called for an inquiry by an independent agency, raising the issue on the social media platform X. Visuals purportedly linked to the allegations continue to circulate widely on social media.

ESTD 1960.

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaage baar baar aage

5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## ₹2,000 Cr Retirement Dues: BJP Targets Telangana Govt

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday demanded that the Telangana government immediately release long-pending retirement benefits to state government pensioners, alleging that delays amounting to over ₹2,000 crore have pushed many retirees into severe financial distress. BJP leaders claimed that nearly 40 retired employees had died due to stress caused by non-payment of dues. Addressing a dharna at Indira Park in Hyderabad, BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao recalled assurances made by Deputy Chief Minister



Bhatti Vikramarka in March 2024 that ₹700 crore would be released every month to clear all pending retirement bills within a year. Rao alleged that the government had failed to honour this commitment even months later. Rao also criticised the Congress government for failing to fulfil several other prom-

ises, including the ₹4,000 monthly unemployment allowance, resolving alleged irregularities in TGPSC examinations, clearing pending salaries of university staff, and releasing committed funds such as ₹1,000 crore for Osmania University. He urged government employees, retirees, pensioners, and youth to

support the BJP in the upcoming municipal elections, stating that the party would continue its "dharmayudh" until justice is delivered. Highlighting the challenges faced by serving employees, Rao said the movement was not limited to pensioners but also included government staff facing job insecurity and unfulfilled expectations even after the formation of Telangana state. He added that promises made by the previous BRS government—such as settling all retirement benefits on the day of retirement and providing a government vehicle escort home—remain unimplemented. BJP parliamentary board

member Dr. K. Laxman accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of prioritising personal ambitions, alleging that he was pursuing studies at Harvard University while ignoring the suffering of retired employees. BJP MLA K.V. Ramana Reddy stated that both the BRS and Congress governments had failed retirees, noting that nearly 22,000 retired employees are still awaiting their dues. BJP MLCs Anji Reddy, A.V.N. Reddy, and Malka Komraiah also participated in the protest, demanding immediate clearance of PRC arrears, five pending DA instalments, gratuity, commutation, GPF, GIS, and leave encashment.

## Central Hyderabad Is Most Fire-Risk Zone, Says Study

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Central Hyderabad has emerged as the area that is most prone to fire accidents, according to a spatial study that mapped urban fire incidents using Geographic Information System (GIS)-based hot-spot analysis. The study was authored by Veena Rapparthi, Durgesh Kurmi and Kethoori Venkatesh from the department of geography, Osmania University, Institute of Excellence in Higher Education, Bhopal, and Nizam College. It has been published in the 'Asian Journal of Geographical Research'. "Our analysis confirms that fire incidents in Hyderabad are not randomly



distributed but form statistically significant clusters," the authors stated. "The central zone consistently records the highest concentration of fire incidents." The study, which analysed fire accident data from the Hyderabad fire department between January 2017 and December 2024, found that careless smoking (41.94 per cent) and electrical faults (39.06 per cent) were the leading causes of fires. "Ageing electrical infrastructure

and high power demand play a major role in urban fire risk," it said. "The Central Zone alone accounts for 64.86 per cent of very high-risk areas, followed by the North East Zone at 42.56 per cent," the authors noted. Between 2017 and 2024, Hyderabad recorded 4,406 urban fire incidents. The highest annual incidents were reported in 2018 (789 cases) and 2023 (777 cases). Monthly data showed peaks in March, April and January, while the lowest incidents occurred during the monsoon months. Summer (March-May) accounted for 35.20 per cent of total fires, followed by winter (December-February) at 29.84 per cent.

## T govt teacher suspended for promoting private school

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A government teacher in Telangana's Khammam was suspended on Monday, January 26, for allegedly promoting a private school in a social media post. The assistant teacher, Bhukya Gautami, who is employed at the Mamillagudem High School, was accused of neglecting her duties. She posted a video



expressing grievance over the matter on social media and encouraged admissions in private schools. Following the incident, Khammam District Education Officer Chaitanya Jaini issued orders placing the teacher under suspen-

sion. According to reports, despite previous warnings regarding the promotion of a private school's admissions and making reels during school hours, Gautami did not pay heed. Hence the suspension order was issued. In her Facebook video, the teacher broke down in tears, complaining that she was being trolled on social media with harsh comments, and appealed to netizens to stop trolling

her. Gautami said she made Instagram reels out of ignorance and due to a lack of guidance, while promising never to do so again. She further stated that the teaching job was her main source of livelihood and that she would not do anything that jeopardised it. Gautami claimed that she had distributed books and taken special classes to teach English to students because of her commitment.

## BRS MLA protests shifting of Sangareddy Sub-Registrar office

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The State government's attempt to shift Sangareddy Sub-Registrar's Office to Patancheru constituency in the name of building an integrated registration office drew strong opposition from different quarters. Officials said the State government had decided to build a model registration office by integrating nearby sub registration of-



ices across the State. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy will lay the foundation for the construction of the integrated registration office at Kardhanur in Patancheru constituency on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, BRS MLA Chinthu Prabhakar wrote a letter to the Minister stating that the government must withdraw any proposal to shift the Sangareddy SRO to Patancheru.

Prabhakar said Sangareddy had a registration office for decades. Since the district headquarters and neighbouring mandals are witnessing rapid development, he said there will be increased registration activity in Sangareddy in the coming years. The BRS MLA added that people here will face difficulties traveling to Patancheru for registration of land.

## BJP Kisan Morcha Demands Stern Action Against Organized Motor Theft Syndicates

**RAMADUGU**  
Wakeup telangana

State Vice President of BJP Kisan Morcha, Singireddy Krishna Reddy, has issued a strong warning to the authorities over the rising menace of organized agricultural electric motor thefts, describing the situation as a grave failure of law enforcement and a direct assault on the livelihoods of farmers. Reacting to the large-scale theft of electric motors from Laxmipur village in Ramadugu mandal on Republic Day night, Mr. Krishna Reddy visited the affected farmlands on Tuesday along with senior farmer leader Mavuram Mallikarjuna Reddy. During the visit, he held detailed discussions with the victimized farmers—Mudiganti Kaladhar Reddy, Kethireddy Laxma Reddy, Nareddy Madhukar Reddy, Miryala Tirupathi Reddy, and Dasari Yugandhar Reddy—and assessed the extent of the losses suffered by them. Following the inspection, a formal representation was



submitted to Ramadugu Sub-Inspector K. Raju, urging immediate registration of cases and swift recovery of the stolen motors. The Sub-Inspector reportedly assured necessary action. Mr. Krishna Reddy strongly criticized the police for repeatedly branding such thefts as "petty offences," stating that this misplaced leniency has allowed organized criminal syndicates to flourish unchecked. He demanded that all such cases be treated as organized crimes and investigated with the seriousness they warrant. Accusing scrap dealers of

acting as silent partners in the crime, he asserted that the illegal trade in stolen copper, aluminum, and iron has become the backbone of the theft racket. He demanded that history sheets be opened against both the offenders and the scrap merchants facilitating the crime, and that strict surveillance be imposed on scrap yards. Recalling a similar incident last year in Peddakurmapalle, Mr. Krishna Reddy expressed anguish that despite the arrest of the accused, the police failed to recover the stolen motors, leaving farmers without justice. He

warned that such administrative lapses would no longer be tolerated. Pointing out that 27 agricultural motors were stolen within a single month in the Choppadandi Circle, he termed it a shocking indicator of collapsed policing and a total breakdown of night surveillance, forcing farmers to live under constant fear and uncertainty. Alleging the active movement of inter-district theft gangs operating across Mallapur (Dharmaram Mandal), Choppadandi, and Jagtial districts, Mr. Krishna Reddy called upon the Karimnagar Police Commissioner to personally intervene. He demanded the immediate constitution of special task teams, enhanced night patrolling, and a time-bound action plan to recover stolen property and restore faith among the farming community. BJP leaders, affected farmers, and local villagers participated in the programme and unanimously demanded decisive action, accountability, and justice for the farmers

## Hyderabad resident dies in Medaram after treatment delay



A resident from the city, Gnaneshwar, died in Medaram allegedly due to delay in extending treatment by local officials on Tuesday. The 31-year-old had gone to Medaram on January 23 to eke out a livelihood by taking up different jobs. However, on Tuesday, Gnaneshwar suddenly fell unconscious and his friends rushed him to the health centre in TTD Kalyana Mandapam, reports said. While the doctors were extending treatment to him, there was a disruption in power supply. Accordingly, the doctors could not extend treatment in time and Gnaneshwar breathed his last, as per the reports.

## BRS Alleges Large-Scale Graft in Singareni Tenders

**BRS delegation meets Governor, seeks CBI probe into Revanth's kin 'link' to Singareni tenders**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Upping the ante in the battle against what it termed large-scale graft in Singareni tenders, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, not content with his brothers allegedly cornering land under the controversial Hyderabad Industrial Land Transfer policy, was now attempting to hand over Singareni Collieries to his brother-in-law. Launching a scathing attack on Revanth Reddy, BRS working president KT Rama Rao alleged that the Chief Minister's brothers were involved in a HILT scam involving 9,200 acres and now, Singareni tenders were being offered to his brother-in-law under the guise of a site visit certification clause. "When a clarification was sought over Chief Minister's brother-in-law Srujan Reddy's involvement in the Singareni tender irregularities, there was no reply from the Congress government," Rama Rao said, adding that concerned over a series of serious instances of corruption and financial irregularities under the Congress government in the State, a BRS delegation had met Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at Lok Bhavan. "An appeal has been made to the Gov-



ernor to direct Union Minister of Coal G Kishan Reddy to order a probe, either by the CBI or a sitting judge, into the Singareni tenders and to prevent further loss of public money," Rama Rao told the media after meeting the Governor. The BRS submitted a memorandum along with documentary evidence related to the alleged misuse of public funds, irregular tendering processes and inflated project costs in mining and solar power projects undertaken by Singareni. The Governor assured that the facts would be verified, said Rama Rao, adding that if justice was not delivered, the BRS under the aegis of TBGKS would conduct programmes to create awareness among Singareni employees over what it described as large-scale plunder in the company and the government's failure to provide credible explanations despite repeated disclosures by BRS leaders, including former minister T Harish Rao. Rama Rao raised pointed questions over the site visit certification clause in

tender processes, stating that such a clause had never existed in Singareni or in coal mines elsewhere in the country. Questioning why tenders that earlier attracted bids below estimates were cancelled and later re-issued with the new clause, he alleged that the process had resulted in costs rising well above projected values. Demanding that the State government release a comprehensive White Paper, detailing the number of companies that conducted site visits over the last nine months, communications received by Singareni, certificates issued and the criteria used for selecting contractors, Rama Rao also questioned whether contractors were being selectively favoured and sought clarification on alleged links between beneficiaries and relatives of the Chief Minister. On solar power projects, he pointed out that while the national average cost ranged between Rs 2.50 crore and Rs 3 crore per megawatt, Singareni projects in Telangana were tendered at nearly Rs 7 crore per megawatt.

## All India Tiger Estimation 2026 survey completed in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The All India Tiger Estimation 2026 tiger census survey has been successfully completed by the Forest department in the State and, as per preliminary statistics, 994 pieces of evidence pertaining to the presence of tigers and other carnivorous animals were found across Telangana. The survey was conducted using scientific methods across the State for six days from January 19 to 25. Forest department

officials said the exercise was completed in all beats of 32 districts, excluding Mulugu district due to the Samakka Saralamma Jathara festival. During the survey, some unfortunate incidents were reported. A forest watcher died of a heart attack while on duty, one person was injured in a sloth bear attack and another volunteer suffered a fracture in the leg. Despite these challenges, forest staff and volunteers worked in coordination and completed the survey within the stipulated time. As part of the exercise, a carni-

vore sign survey was conducted for over 15 kilometres and a transect survey of two kilometres per day was carried out to estimate the density of forest flora and prey animals. The information collected at the field level was recorded in the M STRIPES ecological app and uploaded to the Wildlife Institute of India remote server to enable detailed analysis, validation and reporting of the data in standard formats, a press release from the department said. According to preliminary statistics, 994 pieces of evidence related to

the presence of tigers and other carnivorous animals were found across the State. Officials also identified evidence of 552 mega herbivorous animals, while signs of other wild animals were recorded in large numbers. Officials said that 4,512 Forest department personnel and 1,677 volunteers from across the country participated in the survey. The exercise revealed that the conservation measures being implemented by the Telangana Forest Department are yielding positive results, they claimed.

**Congress Cadre Asked To Highlight Welfare Schemes In Municipal Poll Campaign**

SC and ST welfare minister Adhuri Laxman on Tuesday urged Congress cadre to intensify door-to-door campaigning and highlight the state government's welfare schemes to ensure victory for party candidates in the forthcoming municipal elections. Addressing a Congress preparatory meeting for the municipal elections at Devarakonda in Nalgonda district, the minister said the welfare initiatives implemented by the Congress government had benefited farmers, senior citizens, women and persons with disabilities. He said the government was also implementing development programmes while maintaining a balance between welfare and infrastructure growth. Adhuri Laxman said the Congress government was working with a clear strategy to ensure that the benefits of development reached the poor. Expressing confidence, he said the party would win all 20 wards in the Devarakonda municipality. Devarakonda MLA Nenavath Balu Naik said the Congress government had prioritised addressing civic issues in Devarakonda municipality after coming to power. He appealed to voters to support Congress candidates to accelerate development works in the town. District Congress Committee (DCC) president Punna Kailash Netha called upon party leaders, workers and affiliated organisations to work in unison to secure victory in the municipal elections. He expressed confidence that the Congress wave would continue in the district during the local body polls.

**Civic Polls on Feb 11; Results on Feb 13**

**State Election Commission issues schedule for polls to municipalities and corporations.**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Election Commission (SEC) on Tuesday announced that municipal elections will be held on February 11, and counting of votes on February 13. Elections will be held through ballot papers, and on party symbols. Elections will not be held for the GHMC whose term ends on February 10. The polls will cover seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities. Indirect elections for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in municipal corporations and chairperson and vice-chairperson in municipalities will be conducted on February 16. Notification for the polls will be issued on Wednesday and filing of nominations will commence immediately. State Election Commissioner I. Rani Kumudini released the election schedule at a press conference on Tuesday and stated that the model code of conduct had come into force with immediate effect in all areas going to polls and would remain in force till February 16. The elections will cover 2,582 wards in 116 municipalities and 414 wards in the seven municipal corporations, totalling 2,996 wards across 32 districts. Kumudini said that elaborate arrangements had been made to ensure free, fair and transparent elections, including web-casting facilities in all the 8,203



polling stations across the state. A total of 52.43 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise, including 26.80 lakh women voters, 25.62 lakh male voters and 640 voters in the 'others' category, reflecting a significant participation of women in the electorate. As many as 16,031 ballot boxes are being readied, along with 137 strong rooms and 136 counting centres to facilitate smooth conduct of polling and counting. After the declaration of results, the elected ward members of the urban local bodies will be administered the oath of office at 11 am on February 16. A special meeting for the election of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons in municipalities and Mayors and Deputy Mayors in municipal corporations will be held thereafter at 12.30 pm. Kumudini said the State Election Commission had reviewed the preparedness of the administration before announcing the schedule through a video conference with Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy

and other senior officials. She asserted that all necessary measures were being taken to maintain law and order and ensure voter confidence during the election process. Additional DGP (law and order) Mahesh Bhagwat, who also addressed the press conference, said that the police had identified 1,926 sensitive and 1,302 hyper-sensitive polling stations out of the total of 8,203. Additional forces would be deployed in these areas and flag marches would be conducted to instil confidence among voters. He said that in communally sensitive regions such as Nirmal, Bhainsa, Nizamabad and Bodhan special security arrangements would be put in place. Bhagwat noted that elections under the Bharat Future City limits would be conducted in Rangareddy district, covering Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam, Moinabad and Shankarpally. Bhagwat said the police would enforce the model code strictly and seize any cash exceeding ₹50,000 found without proof. He stated that rowdy-sheeters and history-sheeters would be bound over with immediate effect and directed that all licensed weapons must be surrendered at the respective police stations. He added that the police force would intensify checks to prevent the illegal transportation of cash, liquor and freebies. **Poll data**

Municipalities and municipal corporations going for polls: 123  
Municipal corporations: 7  
Municipalities: 116  
Voters: 52.43 lakh  
Men: 25.62 lakh  
Women: 26.80 lakh  
Others: 640  
**Reservations**  
Total wards: 2,996  
BC (General): 463  
BC (Women): 391  
SC (General): 254  
SC (Women): 190  
ST (General): 147  
ST (Women): 40  
Unreserved (General): 647  
Unreserved (Women): 864  
**Infrastructure:**  
Polling Stations: 8,203  
Ballot boxes: 16,031  
Strong rooms: 137  
Counting centres: 136  
**Municipal corporations**  
heading for polls:  
Karimnagar: 66  
Ramagundam: 60  
Nizamabad: 60  
Mahbubnagar: 60  
Mancherial: 60  
Kothagudem: 60  
Nalgonda: 60  
Important dates  
Election notice, nominations: Jan. 28  
Last date: Jan. 30  
Scrutiny: Jan. 31  
Candidates list: Jan. 31  
Appeals: Feb. 1  
Disposal of appeals: Feb. 2  
Withdrawal: Feb. 3  
Final list: Feb. 3  
Polling: Feb. 11  
Re-polling, if any: Feb. 12  
Counting: Feb. 13  
Indirect election of mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons: Feb. 16

**Dirty Water Puts People's Health At Risk In Nagole**

The health of people from Sri Lakshmi Nagar and Srinivas Nagar (Vishalandhra Colony) in Mansoorabad, Nagole division, is at risk after they used contaminated water supplied by the water board. According to residents, there has been a change in water colour for nearly a month, and the issue has worsened over the last four days. "We have given complaints, but there is no proper response from officials. The contaminated water is visible very clearly," said K. Vamshi Krishna, a resident. One of the residents, Kanakamedala Nageswar Rao, said that unknowingly his family consumed contaminated water, leaving his wife and him with diarrhoea and fever. "Although I recovered, my wife is still suffering," he complained. The issue, as per the residents, is not new, as they faced a similar problem last year that was resolved after a prolonged delay. J. Sunitha Reddy, another resident, said the water contamination was first observed around 20 days ago by residents of Road No. 2 in Sri Lakshmi Nagar. "Several people used the dirty water unknowingly. Now, we have cleared the water from the sump and cleaned it with bleaching powder. We bought water cans from outside for our drinking needs," she added.

**Shaik Rafath Jahan Appointed National Working President of AIMIM Inquilab**

**Appointment Signals AIMIM Inquilab's Push for Grassroots and Inclusive Leadership**



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The All India Majlis-E-Inquilab-E-Millat (AIMIM Inquilab) has appointed Ms. Shaik Rafath Jahan as its National Working President, marking a significant leadership development within the party. The appointment was made by the National Body of AIMIM Inquilab and formally approved and signed by Mr. M. A. Qavi Abbasi, Advocate, National President, in accordance with the party's constitution and rules. A native of Hyderabad, Telangana, Shaik Rafath Jahan is known as a committed and dynamic leader with a strong record of public service, social justice advocacy, and inclusive development. Her active grassroots engagement is reflected in her

participation in the Jubilee Hills MLA by-poll election. In her new role, she will focus on strengthening the party's organisational structure nationwide, driving all-round party development, and serving the people with discipline, integrity, and dedication. She will also strictly adhere to the party's code of conduct and uphold the Constitution and laws of India in all public actions and statements. The party leadership has expressed full confidence that her leadership will help expand AIMIM Inquilab's outreach, particularly among women, youth, and marginalized communities. The appointment underscores the party's commitment to capable, experienced, and people-centric leadership.

**Private Schools Resent State's Demand For Financial Reports**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government's notices to unaided private schools seeking audited financial statements in the state have stirred unease among school managements, with many questionings why institutions receiving no government aid were being asked to open their accounts to official scrutiny. The notices also warned of action in case of non-compliance. Managements of schools catering largely to working-class and lower-income families said the move has added to financial and administrative pressure. "Academic oversight is one thing. Fi-



nancial supervision without (the government providing) any aid or support is another," said M.S. Farooq, advocate and office-bearer of education bodies that represent minority and budget schools. "The courts have repeatedly drawn a line between regulation and financial control." According to school managements, unaided institutions already functioning on thin margins, with

many running at break-even levels. They argue that mandatory audits, especially when coupled with threatening language, place a disproportionate burden on schools that are not funded, subsidised, or compensated by the state in any form. "The government does not come to the rescue of teachers when salaries are delayed, or enrolments fall, or costs rise. So the question that the schools are asking is what is the basis for demanding detailed financial disclosures when there is no financial relationship with the government," asked Kareemullah Khan, teacher and association member.

**India's Power Sector Surges To 500 GW Capacity**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

India's power sector has transitioned from 1 lakh MW generation in 2000 to a power-surplus stage of 5 lakh MW (500 GW) in 2025, with projections to reach 1,000 GW by 2030, said Dileep Nagesh Rozeekar, executive director of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. Speaking at a stakeholders' engagement and roadshow for the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, scheduled in New Delhi from March 19-22 with participants from over 50 countries, Rozeekar outlined the roadmap for a \$10 trillion economy by 2032. The



plan includes industrialisation, urbanisation, and e-mobility, supported by Power Grid's proposals for 47 GW battery energy storage, 36 GW pumped hydro storage, 600 GW non-fossil fuel capacity, and 71 GW dedicated green hydrogen production. The business outlay is pegged at ₹3,06,600 crore for global energy integration.

**Jampana Pratap Seeks Blessings for Cantonment Welfare at Annavaram**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap on Tuesday offered special prayers at the revered Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Swamy Temple here, seeking peace, good health, and prosperity for the Cantonment community he has long represented. Speaking to the media after performing the Satyanarayana Swamy Vratam, Pratap said his visit was driven by a deep sense of responsibility toward public welfare. "My foremost prayer is for the people of the Cantonment to live peaceful, stable, and prosperous lives. Community progress begins with harmony and collective well-being," he remarked. The early-morning visit saw Pratap accompanied by his family, including his wife Jampana Vidyavathi, also a former Cantonment Board member. The family



participated in traditional poojas and rituals in accordance with temple customs. Emphasizing the connection between service and spirituality, Pratap noted that divine blessings strengthen one's commitment to public life. "When intentions are sincere, faith gives us the strength to serve better," he added.

**Education Breaks Poverty Chains: Governor**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Jishnu Dev Varma today distributed laptops to women tutors of the Akshaya Vidya Foundation at Lok Bhanu, underscoring the government's commitment to inclusive education and digital empowerment. He said access to knowledge breaks the chains of ignorance and poverty, while education unlocks individual potential and strengthens resilient communities. Highlighting the constitutional mandate under Article 21A, which guarantees free



and compulsory education for children aged 6-14, the Governor commended Akshaya Vidya Foundation for its dedicated service to underprivileged children. He noted that the laptops would significantly enhance teaching

effectiveness, promote digital inclusion, bridge learning gaps, and prepare students for the demands of the digital economy. Praising Rimini Street for its corporate support, the Governor said such partnerships play a

vital role in expanding educational opportunities. He also lauded the women tutors for their commitment, stating that their work nurtures confidence, creativity, and curiosity among marginalized students. Emphasizing the broader national vision, he remarked that empowered students and a strong education system form the foundation of Viksit Bharat. Investments in teachers, technology, and inclusive learning, he added, are essential to building a future-ready nation where no child is left behind.

**The Vysya Crown Pageant – Grand Finale Celebrated in Style at Hyderabad**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Grand Finale of The Vysya Crown Pageant – Ms & Mrs Vysya Contest 2025 was held with grandeur on January 26 at Quake Arena, Kondapur, Hyderabad. The prestigious event brought together elegance, confidence, culture, and empowerment, making it one of the most notable community pageants of the year. Founded by Emmadi Shiva Kumar and Sinduri Vuppala, The Vysya Crown was envisioned as a unique platform to cele-



brate leadership, individuality, and professional excellence among Arya Vysya women. Addressing the audience, Shiva Kumar emphasized that the initiative aims to build confidence and

create inspiring role models within the community, while Sinduri Vuppala highlighted its focus on real stories of resilience and ambition. The finale featured 30 finalists—15 each in the

Ms and Mrs categories—selected from five states through a rigorous audition process. The contestants impressed the jury with their poise, talent, and cultural pride. The crowning ceremony was led by Nandini Gupta, Femina Miss India World 2023, adding prestige to the evening. A celebrity jury and a high-energy performance by Roll Rida further elevated the celebrations. The event marked a proud milestone for the Arya Vysya community and set a strong foundation for future editions.

## World Not Ready For Rise In Extreme Heat: Scientists

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana



Nearly 3.8 billion people could face extreme heat by 2050 and while tropical countries will bear the brunt cooler regions will also need to adapt, scientists said Monday. Demand for cooling will "drastically" increase in giant countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Nigeria, where hundreds of millions of people lack air conditioning or other means of beating the heat. But even a moderate increase in hotter days could have a "severe impact" in nations not used to such conditions like Canada, Russia and Finland, said scientists from the University of Oxford. In a new study, they looked at different global warming scenarios to project how often people in future might experience

temperatures considered uncomfortably hot or cold. They found "that the population experiencing extreme heat conditions is projected to nearly double" by 2050 if global average temperatures rise 2C above preindustrial times.

But most of the impact would be felt this decade as the world fast approaches the 1.5C mark, the study's lead author Jesus Lizana told AFP. "The key take away from this is that the need for adaptation to extreme heat is more urgent than previously known," said Lizana, an environmental scientist. "New infrastructure, such as sustainable

air conditioning or passive cooling, needs to be built out within the next few years to ensure people can cope with dangerous heat."

Prolonged exposure to extreme heat can overwhelm the body's natural cooling systems, causing symptoms ranging from dizziness and headaches to organ failure and death. It is often called a silent killer because most heat deaths occur gradually as high temperatures and other environmental factors work together to undermine the body's internal thermostat. Climate change is making heatwaves longer and stronger and access to cooling -- especially air conditioning -- will be vital in future.

The study, published in the journal Nature Sustainability, projected that 3.79 billion people world-

wide could be exposed to extreme heat by mid-century. This would "drastically" increase energy demand for cooling in developing nations where the gravest health consequences would be felt. India, the Philippines and Bangladesh would be among biggest populations impacted. The most significant change in "cooling degree days" -- temperatures hot enough to require cooling, such as air conditioning or fans -- were projected in tropical or equatorial countries, particularly in Africa. Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan, Laos and Brazil saw the biggest rise in dangerously hot temperatures. "Put simply, the most disadvantaged people are the ones who will bare the brunt of this trend our study shows for ever hotter days," urban cli-

mate scientist and research co-author Radhika Khosla told AFP. But wealthier countries in traditionally cooler climates also "face a major a problem -- even if many do not realise it yet", she added. Countries like Canada, Russia and Finland may experience steep drops in "heating degree days" -- temperatures low enough to require indoor heating -- under a 2C scenario. But even a moderate rise in hotter temperatures would be felt more acutely in countries not designed to withstand heat, the authors said. In these countries, homes and buildings are usually constructed to maximise sunshine and reduce ventilation, and public transport runs without air conditioning. Some cold-climate nations may see a drop in heating bills, Lizana said.

## Outrage In MP: Republic Day Feast Served On Waste Paper Scraps In Govt School

**BHOPAL**  
Wakeup telangana

Authorities of a government-run high school in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar district threw all hygiene norms in the air by serving the 'Republic Day feast' to the children on waste paper scraps on January 26, triggering public outrage. The Maihar district collector Rani Batad took serious note of it after a viral video capturing the incident came to her notice on Tuesday. The video showing the students of government high school, Bhatigawa, being served the feast, comprising 'puri' and 'halwa', organized on the occasion of the Republic Day on January 26, on waste paper scraps and torn pages of notebooks and textbooks went viral on social media on Tuesday, inviting criticism from several quarters.

District project coordinator Vishnu Tripathi conducted a probe into the incident and submitted his report to the district collector, official sources said. Based on the probe report, the district collector has sent a proposal to the commissioner, Rewa, to place the



school in-charge principal Sunil Kumar Tripathy under suspension, a senior district officer said. This apart, one-month-salary of the local block resource coordinator has been deducted, he added.

According to the district collector, a show cause notice has been issued to the official in charge of the midday meal scheme in the district panchayat. The collector also issued a directive to the district education officials to ensure that hygiene and dignity of the children in the schools are not compromised at any cost and warned them of stringent action if there will be any lapse into it. The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress shared the video on social media, terming it as an insult not only to the students but also to the education system.

## Very Deep Poverty In Britain Hits Record High, New Report Finds

**LONDON**  
Wakeup telangana

Poverty in Britain has deepened, according to a report released on Tuesday, with approximately 6.8 million people now living in "very deep poverty", the highest level in three decades. "Very deep poverty" refers to households with an after-housing-costs income below 40% of the UK median, amounting to around 16,400 pounds (\$22,446.68) a year for a couple with two young children.

The report by Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), which conducts research aimed at solving poverty in Britain, said the overall poverty rate in the UK fell slightly from 24% in 1994/95 to 21% in 2023/24, but "very deep poverty" edged up from 8% to



10%, now accounting for almost half of everyone in poverty. Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), The report said child poverty has also climbed, with 4.5 million children in poverty, rising for the third year in a row.

It follows Finance Minister Rachel Reeves' November decision to scrap a two-child limit on welfare payments in April, a move that officials estimate will cost 3.1 billion

pounds aimed at reducing child poverty rates by increasing benefits for families. The cap, introduced by the Conservative government in 2017, has meant many low-income families do not receive further benefits when they have a third child or subsequent children.

The JRF welcomed the removal of the two-child limit but cautioned that it "cannot be the only step", warning that with-

out further action in the government's strategy to end child poverty, progress is likely to stall. According to the report, children remain disproportionately affected by poverty, along with people with disabilities, while certain minority groups, such as Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities in Britain, experience particularly high poverty rates. Reacting to the report, John Bird, founder of the anti-poverty charity Big Issue, described the findings as "bad news for society". Britain's economy grew by a stronger-than-expected 0.3% in November, its strongest monthly rise since June. Inflation, however, rose more than forecast to 3.4% in December but is expected to slow sharply soon.

## Suryakiran Aerobatic Team: Showcasing India's Aerial Precision and Pride

**HARIDWAR**  
Wakeup telangana

The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, better known as the "Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force," is renowned for its precision, skill, and teamwork. This elite team, flying the striking red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, will showcase a series of jaw-dropping maneuvers. From the graceful loop and the thrilling barrel roll to the gravity-defying inverted flying and the crowd-favorite DNA maneuver, every performance is a testament to the pilots' unmatched expertise and coordination.

What makes the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team truly special is its role in inspiring the youth of the country to aspire to careers in the Defence Forces. Through their breathtaking performances, the team leaves a lasting impression wherever they



flying, waving the Tiranga with pride across the horizon. Their displays evoke a deep sense of patriotism and symbolize excellence and discipline in service of the nation.

SKAT was established in the year 1996. The team holds the coveted title of being the only nine-aircraft aerobatic team in Asia, and is one of the elite few aerobatic teams in the world. This exceptional team has performed over 700 displays across India, while also representing the professionalism of the IAF at international air shows in

countries such as China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, and the UAE.

Suryakiran team consists of 9 Hawk Mk 132 aircraft license manufactured in India by HAL flying in extremely close proximity at a distance of less than 5 metres. There are 14 pilots in the team. The team leader is a Su-30 MKI pilot Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi. The Deputy Leader is Group Captain Sidhesh Kartik. Other pilots include Wing Commander Jasdeep Singh, Squadron Leader Sanjesh Singh, Squadron Leader

Rahul Singh, Wing Commander Ankit Vashisth, Squadron Leader Vishnu, Squadron Leader Diwakar Sharma, Squadron Leader Gaurav Patel, Squadron Leader Edward Prince, Squadron Leader Lalit Verma, Wing Commander Rajesh Kajla, Wing Commander Tejeshwar Singh. Their technical team is led by Wing Commander Abhimanyu Tyagi, Wing Coordinator Sandeep Dhayal and Flight Lieutenant Manil Sharma.

The team's commentator and administrator is Flight Lieutenant Kanwal Sandhu. All members live by the team's motto "Sadaiva Sarvottam" meaning Always the Best! SKAT embodies the spirit of excellence. The pilots undergo intensive training to master complex aerobatic manoeuvres, with their expertise and flawless coordination forming the foundation of the close formation flying.

## Maharashtra Cabinet Clears Metro, Ring Road, Highway Projects

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana



The Maharashtra Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure on Tuesday approved the 35-km Metro Line-8 connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports, the 66.15-km Nashik City Ring Road, and a revised four-lane highway project in Gadchiroli aimed at facilitating mineral transport. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis directed that land acquisition and statutory clearances be completed before execution and that all projects be finished within three years to prevent cost overruns.

The meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure, chaired by the Chief Minister at Mantralaya, was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and senior officials, including Chief Secretary Rajesh Agarwal. The committee approved Metro Line-8 linking Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at

Andheri (East) with Navi Mumbai International Airport. Officials said the 35-km corridor will include 9.25 km of underground sections and 24.64 km of elevated stretches, with a total of 20 stations -- six underground and 14 elevated.

The project will require the acquisition of 30.7 hectares of land at an estimated cost of Rs 388 crore. The total estimated cost of Metro Line-8 is Rs 22,862 crore, an official from the Chief Minister's Office said. The Chief Minister instructed that all procedures related to land acquisition and statutory approvals be completed before execution, with land acquisition to be completed within six

months. Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya, he said the Metro project was targeted for completion within five years, but the government aimed to finish it within three-and-a-half years.

Mr Fadnavis said Metro Line-8 would also connect Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at Kurla, link two major railway junctions and integrate with three other metro corridors. The project will be implemented under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, with equity participation of 20 per cent each from the Centre and the State, while the remaining 60 per cent will be arranged by the private partner. The committee also approved the 66.15-km Nashik City Ring Road project, costing Rs 3,954 crore, in view of the upcoming Kumbh Mela. As a special provision, work orders have been issued after completion of 50% of land acquisition.

### India Showcases.....

Von der Leyen also announced an India-EU partnership in the innovation and start-up sector for science and research with a European "funding firepower" of 100 billion euros, amid the announcement of "launch of exploratory talks for India entering into an association agreement with Horizon Europe Programme", which is the "largest global public research programme".

Both the sides announced the "launch of negotiations for an India-EU Security of Information Agreement that will facilitate the exchange of classified information and pave the way for a stronger cooperation in areas related to security and defence", setting up of an EU Legal Gateway Office in India aimed to enhance skill mobility, and "Constitution of a Green Hydrogen Task Force". Addressing Modi in her media remarks, von der Leyen exclaimed on the FTA: "We did it. We delivered the mother of all deals."

Pointing out that "India has risen" and referring to both the EU and India as "giants", she said the FTA between the world's second-largest economy (taking into account the 27-nation EU as

a bloc) and India, the world's fourth-largest economy, would bring together Indian "skills, services and scale" and European "capital, technology and innovation" in a "win-win" situation. In a thinly-veiled dig at the United States for its trade tariffs, she said the FTA would also "reduce strategic dependencies when trade is being increasingly weaponised". At a media briefing later, commerce minister Piyush Goyal, who is credited with the successful negotiations from the Indian side, said other labour-intensive sectors to benefit from the Indian side also include marine products, chemicals, plastic and rubber goods, furniture, sports goods and toys.

### Telangana Focused..

The Prime Minister further noted that more than 170 blocks have already been awarded, and the Andaman and Nicobar basin is emerging as the next hydrocarbon hope. Underlining that several reforms have been undertaken in the exploration sector, including reducing the 'No-Go' areas, Modi said that suggestions received during previous editions of India Energy Week have been incorporated into changes in Acts and

Rules. "Companies investing in the exploration sector are certain to see increased profitability," he said. Highlighting another distinctive strength of India that makes investment in the energy sector highly beneficial, Modi stated that India possesses a very large refining capacity and currently ranks second in the world in this regard. The Prime Minister said that soon India will become the number one country globally in refining capacity and said that India's present refining capacity stands at around 260 MMT per annum, and continuous efforts are underway to raise it beyond 300 MMT per annum, a major advantage for investors. Highlighting that LNG demand in India is continuously rising and the country has set a target to meet 15 percent of its total energy demand through LNG, the Prime Minister stressed on the need to work across the entire LNG value chain and India is undertaking large-scale efforts in transportation. He said that India is working to build the vessels required for LNG transportation domestically, supported by a recently launched ship-building program worth seventy thousand crore rupees. He underlined that numerous investment opportuni-

ties have been created in constructing LNG terminals at Indian ports, as well as in regasification projects.

### BJP Faces.....

As the protests against the contentious notification grew louder, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan maintained that "no one will be subjected to harassment and there will be no discrimination". "I want to assure everyone that no one will be subjected to harassment and there will be no discrimination. No one will have the right to misuse anything in the name of discrimination. Whether it is the UGC, the Government of India, or the state government, it will be their responsibility," he said.

"I assure you that whatever system or arrangement is made in India will be within the framework of the Constitution. As far as this issue is concerned, it comes under the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, and I want to reassure you that no injustice, oppression, or discrimination will be committed against anyone," the education minister said in Rajasthan. The impact of the minister's assurance is yet to be seen.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Petitioner has power of choice: HC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice E.V. Venugopal of the Telangana High Court on Tuesday observed that the Registry of the High Court cannot take objection to the array of parties chosen by the writ petitioner. The judge overruled objections in this regard raised by the Registry, where an additional public prosecutor was arrayed as a party in a writ petition. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Sothuku Rajaiah challenging the police in not acting on the representation and not filing a criminal petition in the ongoing proceedings, to call for the

nodal officer of the telecom company to produce call data and tower location of the accused for the intervening night when a murder took place to secure retirement and dependent employment benefits of the deceased. After hearing senior counsel, the judge took on file a judgment of the apex court that echoed the age-old theory that the petitioner was the dominus litis, the master of the suit, and had the right to choose the array of parties. The judge directed the Registry to take necessary steps to ensure implementation of a recent verdict of the Supreme Court in this regard.

### Village Merger With Chevella Municipality Challenged

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court admitted a writ plea challenging a government order on the merger of Urella with the Chevella municipality. The panel comprising Aparesh Kumar Singh and G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a writ petition filed by Suniganti Vittalaih, deputy sarpanch of Urella who contended that the impugned merger was illegal and unsustainable. Counsel for the petitioner contended that under the Municipalities Act, a village can be included within municipal limits

only if it fell within a three-kilometre radius and that the mandatory statutory procedure prescribed for such inclusion had not been followed in notifying the village as a part of Chevella municipality. He argued that no notification was issued either for constituting a gram panchayat or for initiating the process of merger, despite repeated representations made by the villagers and local representatives. He contended that Urella was a hamlet with a population of around 3,000 and would lose its independent status and be reduced to a mere municipal ward if the impugned merger is.

### RTAs Ask Campuses to Implement Helmets Rule

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The transport department has urged educational institutions across Telangana to enforce a strict 'No Helmet, No Entry' rule for two-wheeler riders as part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month. Officials said the campaign, which has already covered 52 colleges and schools, aims to instil road safety awareness among young people. The department is emphasising helmet use, citing data that in 2024 alone, 3,137 people in Telangana died in two-



wheeler accidents where helmets were not worn. Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) are conducting sessions with students, using pictures and statistics to highlight the severity of crashes. Officials noted that in more than half of all fatal accidents, riders were not wearing helmets. Cyberabad

police reported that 82 per cent of deceased riders in 2024 were without helmets. In 2025, the city recorded 449 two-wheeler deaths, mostly linked to riders not wearing helmets or using poor-quality ones. M. Purshotam Reddy, RTO, Hyderabad, said: "As per the ministry of transport's instructions, we

have covered 52 colleges and schools so far. We created awareness on road safety, the importance of helmets and seat belts, vehicle condition, and the dangers of overspeeding." He added that schools were specifically urged to discourage minor driving, warning students and parents that it is a punishable offence. "We have requested colleges and universities to make it mandatory that riders wear helmets before entering campuses. This will ensure regular use of helmets," Reddy said.

### Food suppliers to SW Educational institutions move HC for bills

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice Renuka Yara of the Telangana High Court directed the state to consider the claim of long-pending bills payable to traders supplying social welfare educational institutions. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by G. Ashok and four traders from Nagarkurnool district, engaged in supplying vegetables, fruits, milk and other eatables to the institutions. It was the case of the petitioners that despite having supplied provisions during the period from March to September 2019, their bills amounting to

about ₹15.59 lakh were not cleared by the authorities. It was contended that several representations were submitted to the officials seeking release of the pending amounts, however, the respondent authorities failed to take any action or pass orders on the same. Justice Renuka Yara disposed of the writ petition directing respondents to consider the representation submitted by the petitioners addressed to the Telangana Social Welfare Residential School, Lingala, Nagarkurnool district, and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law within a period of four weeks.

### Women's Commission summons to lady advocate stayed by HC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

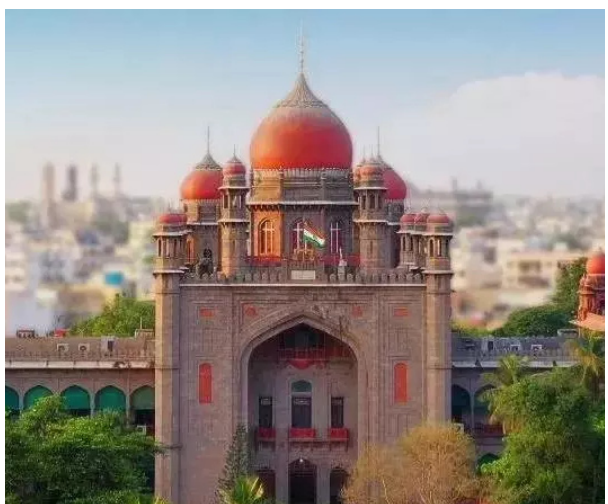
Justice Surepalli Nanda of the Telangana High Court stayed proceedings of State Commission for Women and Child Welfare summoning an advocate over a complaint filed by her mother in a matrimonial matter. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by a woman advocate, assailing the proceedings whereby the commission directed the station house officer to produce her before it on 27.01.2026. It was argued that the complaint before

the Women's Commission was lodged by the petitioner's mother solely on the ground that the petitioner had married against her will, and that the commission lacked jurisdiction to summon the petitioner in such circumstances. The summons she said amounted to misuse of statutory powers by the Women's Commission. The judge stayed all further proceedings pursuant to the impugned order until due process of notice is followed and posted the matter for further hearing.

## Status Quo Ordered for Secunderabad Temple Works amid Legal Challenge

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

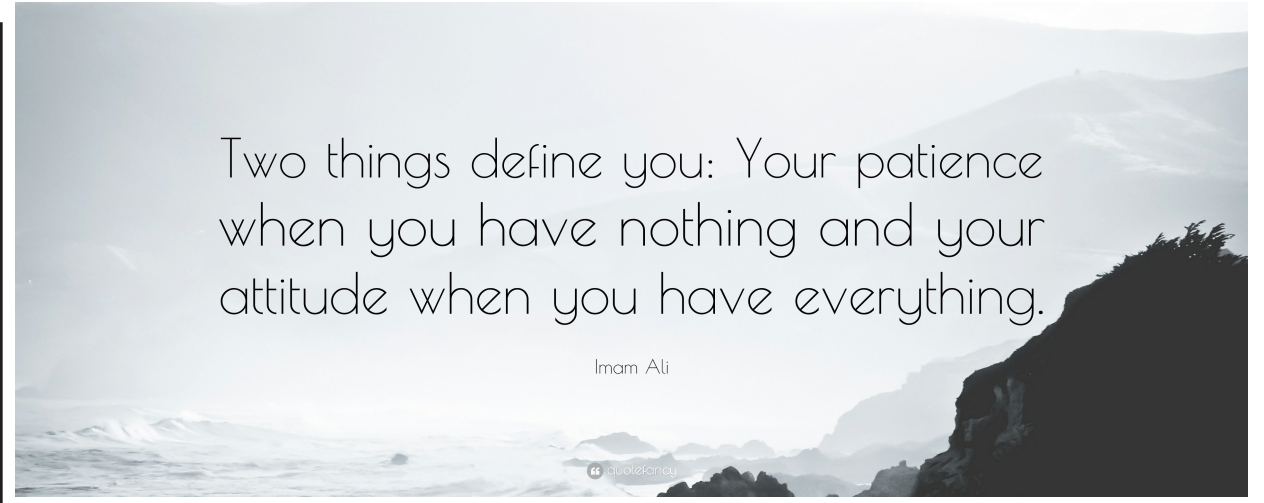
The Telangana High Court on Tuesday directed maintenance of status quo with regard to the reconstruction works of Sri Kanyakaparameshwari Temple on Somasundaram Street in Secunderabad and called upon the respondents to file their counters with details of the ongoing construction work. Justice Surepalli Nanda passed the interim direction while hearing a writ petition filed by Nagilla Srinivas, president of the Telangana Temple Conservation Society, who questioned the legality of the reconstruc-



tion, allegedly being carried out on government land without requisite authority or statutory permissions. Appearing for the petitioner, senior counsel L. Ravichander submitted that the temple had historically been managed

by a committee since the Nizam era. He stated that the Kanyaka Parameshwari Devasthanam Sanstha, registered in 1901, continued the management until 2017. He informed the court that a committee was consti-

tuted in 2023 and that disputes subsequently arose between the rival groups, each claiming to be the legitimate managing committee of the temple, leading to multiple criminal cases. Senior counsel submitted there were several disputes and misappropriation of temple funds and these were brought to the notice of the commissioner of endowment department from 2017 onwards, but no action was initiated. The court was informed that the old structure had been demolished and reconstruction had commenced despite the absence of lawful permissions.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### AMID GEOPOLITICAL FATIGUE, A STRATEGIC RESET FOR INDIA

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The global landscape which has entered 2026 appears shaped by three corrosive forces -- fatigue, uncertainty and recalibration. Since the Covid-19 pandemic years of 2020-21, international politics has functioned in a state of permanent crisis management. Wars have dragged on without resolution, institutions have weakened, and strategic

patience has worn thin. For India, this moment marks the end of a relatively benign external environment and the beginning of a far more demanding phase of statecraft.

The early years of the current decade offered India strong geopolitical tailwinds. Most Western capitals, particularly Washington and Brussels, viewed India as a natural strategic partner in balancing a rising China. That alignment provided diplomatic space, technology access and political support. By 2025, however, those winds had shifted decisively. India now faces persistent headwinds -- economic, strategic and diplomatic -- that demand a sober reassessment of its global posture. Fatigue and uncertainty in a fractured

world: The international system today is afflicted by what can only be described as conflict fatigue. The prolonged Russia-Ukraine war has exhausted Western attention, strained European economies, and distorted global energy and food markets. Simultaneously, sustained instability in West Asia -- exacerbated since 2023 -- has hollowed out diplomatic bandwidth and injected volatility into critical maritime corridors.

In this environment, uncertainty has become the defining condition. Great powers remain active, but not decisive. Alliances exist, but lack coherence. Rules endure in theory, yet are selectively applied in practice. For a country like India -- deeply integrated into global trade, energy flows and technology ecosystems -- this disorder is no longer just an abstraction. It is a daily economic and strategic reality.

The major theatres of global conflict now function as structural disruptions rather than episodic crises. Eastern Europe continues in a bitter stalemate, while West Asia has evolved into a complex shadow war involving states, proxies and non-state actors. Temporarily on halt, these conflicts

are no longer geographically contained; the uncertainty ripples through insurance markets, shipping lanes and supply chains. The consequences are tangible in our case. Disruptions along the Red Sea and Persian Gulf have raised freight and insurance costs for India's trade. The uncertainty over connectivity projects, including segments linked to the International North-South Transport Corridor, has complicated export ambitions.

These pressures underline a larger truth -- India's economic trajectory is increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical instability far beyond its immediate neighbourhood.

Perhaps the most closely watched shift of the past eighteen months has been the cooling of India's relations with the United States. The partnership remains significant, but its tone has changed. Washington's renewed emphasis on transactional approach -- visible in tighter trade policies, selective technology controls, sharper immigration norms -- has introduced friction into what was once portrayed as a near-automatic convergence.



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## India-EU FTA: Mercedes-Benz India CEO says no price cuts possible on 'Made in India' models

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The India-EU FTA will strongly drive technological innovation within the Indian automotive sector, Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said on Tuesday, while ruling out any price reduction of the company's vehicles in the foreseeable future after the deal.

Terming the Indo-EU FTA as a historic achievement for India, Iyer said the pact reiterates the "rising relevance of the Indian economy at a global stage". "The FTA is also expected to



strongly drive technological innovation and sustainable growth within the Indian automotive sector, with a sharp focus on future mobility. Saying that, the final implications of the FTA can only be determined once the fine print of the agreement

is available to us," he added.

On the impact of the FTA on prices of vehicles, Iyer said, "With more than 90 per cent of Mercedes-Benz India's sales volume comprising 'Made in India' locally manufactured models, and only

around 5 per cent of sales coming via CBU imports from the EU, we do not foresee any price reduction for Mercedes-Benz vehicles from the FTA, in the foreseeable future".

"We will continue our focus on value addition to customers through local production and competitive pricing, making world-class vehicles in India, for Indian customers."

Mercedes-Benz India pointed out that the depreciating rupee against the Euro would continue to pose a challenge for European carmakers in India.

The rupee had depreciated by 19 per cent in

2025 compared to the euro, which is expected to erode any benefit arising from lower duty import for CBUs in the next couple of years.

Stating that Mercedes-Benz has always advocated free trade, he said it brings down trade barriers, leverages the mutual strengths of global economies, and mitigates supply chain uncertainties.

"With the Indo-EU FTA, India's economic growth should get a strong boost as borders open up, presenting opportunities in new markets, fostering bilateral trade, and creating job opportunities," Iyer noted.

## Stock markets bounce back after falling in early trade

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty recovered their early lost ground and were trading higher on Tuesday morning, tracking a firm trend in global markets and buying in blue-chip bank stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 417.68 points to 81,120.02 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 111.1 points to 24,937.55.

However, soon after both the benchmark indices bounced back and were trading in positive territory. The BSE benchmark quoted 298.06 points higher at 81,814.74, and the Nifty traded 91.85 points up at 25,151.15.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Adani

Ports, UltraTech Cement, Bharat Electronics, Tata Steel, NTPC, State Bank of India and Tech Mahindra were among the biggest gainers.

Axis Bank climbed over 4 per cent after the firm reported a 4 per cent growth in its December quarter net profit to Rs 7,010.65 crore against Rs 6,742.99 crore in the year-ago period.

However, Kotak Mahindra Bank dropped over 4 per cent after its third quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Hindustan Unilever and ICICI Bank were also among the laggards.

Top leaders of India and the European Union will on Tuesday announce the conclusion of negotiations for a landmark trade deal,

firm up a strategic defence pact and unveil a broader vision to navigate the geopolitical turbulence and trade disruptions.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 4,113.38 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 4,102.56 crore, according to exchange data.

Equity markets were closed on Monday for Republic Day.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded higher. US markets ended higher on Monday.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.72 per cent to USD 65.12 per barrel.

## Former AWS, Google Leader To Head Databricks Marketing In APJ

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Databricks, the Data and AI company, has appointed Jeremy Cooper as Vice President of Marketing in Asia Pacific & Japan (APJ), further strengthening its leadership bench as the company continues its growth momentum across the region. His appointment underscores Databricks' commitment to meeting surging demand for data and AI in APJ.

Jeremy brings more than 20 years of experience as a global marketing leader across high-growth cloud and enterprise software companies. Most recently, he led Marketing for Amazon Web Services (AWS) across Asia Pacific and Japan, where he oversaw regional go-to-market strategy and



drove strong pipeline and growth across enterprise, public sector, partner and startup segments.

Prior to AWS, Jeremy held senior global marketing leadership roles at Salesforce, Google and LinkedIn, where he helped build category-defining brands and scale global go-to-market programs. This combination of deep cloud expertise and global brand-building experience positions him to help Databricks capture the next wave of AI-driven growth in APJ. Based in Australia, Jeremy will lead APJ marketing strategy and

execution, expanding Databricks' presence and driving revenue growth and pipeline generation across the region.

"Jeremy's appointment comes at a pivotal moment for Databricks and our customers in Asia Pacific & Japan," said Joseph Puthussery, Vice President of Global Demand Generation & Field Marketing, Databricks. "He brings a rare mix of deep cloud experience, brand-building expertise, and a great blend of regional and global experience that will be instrumental as we help more organisations in APJ unify and scale their data and AI. I'm excited to partner with Jeremy as he builds a world-class marketing organisation in APJ and accelerates the next phase of our growth in this strategically important region."

## London to Pune Shopfloor

### Why Globally Educated Youth Are Choosing Retail Training

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

An increasing number of globally educated Indian youth are choosing frontline retail training over traditional corporate entry roles, signalling a shift in how young professionals view career readiness. Degrees may open doors, but hands-on customer experience is emerging as a critical differentiator in today's organised retail sector.

This trend is clearly visible in Samsung's DOST Sales Programme, a structured retail skilling initiative that blends classroom instruction with real-world shopfloor exposure. The 2026 cohort stands out for its diversity, featuring partici-

pants with international degrees who have deliberately opted for ground-level retail experience to build practical skills.

Retail today is no longer limited to selling products. Shopfloor professionals are expected to guide informed customers, resolve doubts instantly, and build trust in a highly competitive environment. Programmes like DOST focus on customer handling, product knowledge, communication, and retail operations—skills often missing from conventional academic education.

For Quazi Faizan Afroz Akhlaque Uz Zama (27), an MBA graduate from Amravati University, the programme has

bridged the gap between theory and practice.

"The hands-on exposure taught me how to manage real-time customer situations and make informed decisions confidently," he said.

The presence of candidates with global exposure has drawn particular attention. Rashneet Kaur Chhabra (26), a University College London graduate with a Master's in Architecture, is currently training in Pune. She says the programme offered insights that classrooms could not. "Retail in India is relationship-driven. Learning to build trust with customers has given me a human understanding of business that will be valuable even in global markets."

Similarly, Tushar, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Technology, Sydney, reflects a growing belief among youth that frontline experience can accelerate long-term career growth rather than delay it. Industry leaders say this shift highlights a broader employability challenge. While graduates are academically qualified, many lack preparedness for customer-facing, performance-driven roles. Structured retail skilling programmes are helping convert education into experience and experience into opportunity.

"With its five-month, industry-first training framework, Samsung DOST addresses the urgent need for job-ready

retail talent," said Shubham Mukherjee, Head, CSR & Corporate Communications, Samsung Southwest Asia, noting a sharp rise in enrolments this year, including candidates with international education.

As India's organised retail sector expands, demand for professionals who can combine product expertise with trust-building skills continues to grow. For many globally educated young Indians, starting on the shopfloor is no longer seen as a step down—but a strategic move. In today's economy, career growth is increasingly defined not by titles, but by the ability to perform under pressure—one customer at a time.

## India's Adani Signs Pact With Brazil's Embraer To Build Planes

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's Adani Group and Brazilian plane maker Embraer signed a deal Tuesday to build aircraft in India, as the world's most populous nation seeks to become a global aviation hub. The two firms aim to establish an "assembly line", according to a joint statement, and will collaborate in airplane manufacturing, the broader aviation supply chain and pilot training. "The proposed ecosystem is geared towards supporting domestic demand while generating significant direct and indirect employment," the statement said, without providing financial details.

The pact offers Adani -- a sprawling ports-to-power conglomerate run by billionaire Gautam Adani -- a key opportu-

nity to boost its aerospace business. For Embraer, the world's third-biggest aircraft maker, the deal gives it a foundation to expand its growing footprint in India. India's air force currently operates Embraer jets including the Legacy 600 and the "Netra" AEW&C aircraft based on its ERJ145 platform.

"India is a pivotal market for Embraer," Arjan Meijer, president and CEO of Embraer Commercial Aviation, said in the statement, adding the partnership combined the firm's aerospace expertise with "Adani's strong industrial capabilities". Embraer said in October that it ended the third quarter of 2025 holding unfilled orders for 490 aircraft after closing several major deals.

## With Duster Unveil, Renault to Bring New Models Every Year

**PUNE**  
Wakeup telangana

French carmaker Renault has an ambitious plan to target 3-5 per cent market share by 2030 with new car launches every year after its volumes fell to under 1 per cent in India. "It is important to be present with new models, not only every two years, but every year, with new models," said Fabrice Cambolive, Chief Growth Officer Renault Group & CEO Renault brand. "As part of the Renault plan, Renault is entering a new era of international development (outside of Europe) in markets where the brand has historically been established," he noted.

Renault said it will invest €3 billion to launch eight new models outside Europe, including five vehicles from the C and D-segments to position the brand in the segments creating most value by



2027. "Outside Europe, Renaults aims to sell one vehicle out of three in electric or hybrid versions by 2027," the company said, adding that this product offensive will be achieved with two platforms creating value for customers and that will enable the brand to be more competitive.

A new Renault Group modular platform which is ultra-flexible and multi-energy dedicated to four different regions: Latin America, North Africa, Türkiye and India. Launch of the Duster facelift on Monday, which has been re-engineered

with a turbo engine and a strong hybrid powertrain on a locally adapted platform, marked the first major step in its accelerated strategy. The re-introduced iconic Duster SUV in India in its third-generation avatar, brings modern design, hybrid powertrains and advanced technology.

The new Renault Duster re-enters the fiercely competitive mid-size SUV segment in the world's third biggest car market as the automaker is prioritizing targeted investment and product expansion as part of a broader global strategy.

## Hi-Pro Feeds Completes Six Years of Success, Launches 'Carniva 36/7'

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hi-Pro Feeds India Private Limited, a leading name in aquaculture nutrition, celebrated its 6th anniversary with a grand Employee Awards Ceremony held at Hotel The Plaza, Begumpet. The event marked an important milestone in the company's journey and brought together industry leaders, government officials, and employees under one roof. Telangana Fisheries Cooperative Societies Federation Chairman Mettu Saikumar and Ranga Reddy District Fisheries Officer Ms. Poornima attended the programme as chief guests, lending prestige to the occasion. Company leaders Mohammad Shahabuddin Akmal and Ayesha Fatima were also present.

Celebrating six years of steady growth and innovation, Hi-Pro Feeds took the opportunity to honour



its best-performing employees for their dedication and significant contribution to the company's success. The awards ceremony highlighted the organisation's belief that its workforce is the backbone of its progress. Speaking on the occasion, founder Mohammad Shahabuddin Akmal reflected on the company's journey, stating that Hi-Pro Feeds' success was built on trust, teamwork, and the continuous support of farmers, employees, and business partners. He reaffirmed the company's strong commitment to delivering high-quality products and reliable services to the aquaculture com-

munity. A major highlight of the event was the official launch of "Carniva 36/7," a premium floating feed specially developed for carnivorous fish. Designed using advanced nutritional science, the feed contains 36 per cent high-quality protein and 7 per cent fat, making it ideal for species such as Chital, Pabda, and Singi.

Carniva 36/7 can be used throughout the entire life cycle of fish, from the fingerling stage to harvest. It supports improved weight gain, better muscle development, and superior feed conversion efficiency, while also helping to reduce pond pollution.

## SRK to Narrate Lion King Fireworks Show on Disney Adventure Cruise

Disney Adventure is set to make a grand splash as Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan will lend his voice to the fireworks show, "The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky", during the cruise's inaugural sail in Singapore on March 10. Khan, according to Disney Cruise Line's announcement on Tuesday, will lend his inimitable voice and storytelling power to the Disney Adventure, the latest ship in Disney Cruise Line's fleet, leading guests on a heart-warming journey.

"The Lion King" will always hold a special place in my heart, and its timeless messages of bravery and hope continue to resonate across generations. With my family and I having been a part of this incredible story before, narrating this new reimagining feels like a full-circle moment and a true passion project. "The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky" is a tribute to the power of family and community and perfectly mirrors the magic that those vacationing onboard the Disney Adventure will experience. I can't wait for fans and families to join in



this beautiful celebration of the circle of life," said Khan, who has voiced Mufasa in the Hindi-language version of Disney's "The Lion King" (2019) and "Mufasa" (2024). Based on one of Disney's most beloved films, "The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky" will invite families and friends to gather atop the ship to marvel at the extraordinary symphony of stunning pyrotechnics, dramatic lighting, and iconic music. Besides being in for a visual treat, guests onboard can also expect to be

taken on a vibrant musical journey as the show will feature beloved songs from The Lion King films, including "Circle of Life," "Hakuna Matata," "He Lives in You," and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?". The musical score for the show will be brought to life with original arrangements of songs recorded by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, featuring the unique harmonies of the Ndlovu Youth Choir from South Africa. "Welcoming Shah Rukh Khan as the nar-

ator of the all-new 'The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky' fireworks show brings a unique and meaningful addition to the guest experience on the Disney Adventure.

"As we introduce Disney Cruise Line to the region, collaborating with a talent who has long been part of iconic Disney storytelling and is widely recognised across Asia and beyond allows us to bring this beloved story to life in a new and exciting way that resonates with our guests," said Sarah Fox, vice-president and regional general manager, Southeast Asia, Disney Cruise Line. "The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky", she added, will be featured on select evenings at sea, during both three-night and four-night voyages. The Disney Adventure is Disney Cruise Line's first ship to homeport in Asia. It is scheduled to sail on three- and four-night voyages designed with only days at sea and something for everyone to enjoy onboard, from entertainment, to dining, to exciting retail offerings and more.

## Rani Mukerji Is One for the Ages: Ranbir Kapoor



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor says he always felt Rani Mukerji is one of the greatest actors in India and someone who has defined the industry through her work. Ranbir fondly spoke about his "Saawariya" co-star, who re-

cently completed 30 years in the industry. Following her debut in 1996, the actor is known for featuring in films such as "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Hum Tum", and the "Mardaani" film series. "Rani is the co-star of my first film 'Saawariya', and she is the first person who told me that if I worked hard, I would go a long

way. I will never forget that interaction because it gave me so much confidence when I needed it the most. I have seen her as a person closely, I have seen her work closely and have been bowled over by her grace, charm and brilliance," Ranbir said in a statement. The actor noted Rani's choice of projects has shaped "how women are portrayed on the screen".

"It is really amazing to see the entire industry come forward to celebrate 30 years of her iconic legacy. I have always felt that Rani is one for the ages, one of the greatest ever actors in India and someone who has defined our industry through her work. Her choice of projects and roles have shaped how women are portrayed on the screen today," he

said. "Thank you Rani for the movies, the memories, the nostalgia and the powerhouse performances. She is an entertainer who has dedicated her life to make people happy and I don't have words to describe the impact her films have had on me," he added.

Rani will next feature in "Mardaani 3", which is set to release on January 30. The film is directed by Abhiraj Minawala and produced by Aditya Chopra. While "Mardaani" exposed the grim realities of human trafficking and "Mardaani 2" explored the disturbing psyche of a serial rapist who challenged the system, "Mardaani 3" delves into another dark and brutal reality of our society, further strengthening the franchise's legacy of impactful, issue-based storytelling.

## Tirupati Girl Wins Forever Miss Andhra Pradesh Title

**TIRUPATI**  
Wakeup telangana

Gamana Sathwika, a resident of Tirupati, was felicitated after winning the title of Forever Miss Andhra Pradesh at the grand Forever Universe and India Grand Finale held at Zee Studio in Jaipur.

The felicitation ceremony was organized by TDP MLA from Venkatagiri, Kurugondla Ramakrishna, who honoured the title winner in the presence of several eminent personalities. Speaking on the occasion, Gamana Sathwika said that over 5,000 con-



testants from across India participated in the beauty pageant conducted by Forever Star India, out of which only 250 contestants were selected for the final round. She expressed happiness over her achievement and thanked Forever Star India

Founder Rajesh Agarwal and Director Jaya Chauhan for their guidance and support. MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna congratulated Gamana Sathwika and appreciated her for bringing pride to Andhra Pradesh through her achievement.

## Arijit Singh to Quit Playback Singing

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a move that has stunned fans and rattled Bollywood's music ecosystem, Arijit Singh has announced that he is stepping away from playback singing, effectively drawing the curtain on one of the most dominant eras in Indian film music. The announcement came quietly but decisively at the start of 2026 through a text-only post on Instagram. After wishing his followers a Happy New Year, Singh revealed that he would no longer be taking on any new assignments as a playback vocalist. "I am calling it off," he wrote, describing his journey as a "wonderful" one, brief words that carried enormous weight.

While the message sounded final, it does not signal a complete exit from music. Singh



is expected to honour all his existing commitments and complete songs already in the pipeline. However, going forward, he plans to shift his creative focus away from mainstream cinema. According to reports, the singer wants to explore independent music and work on his own terms, describing his future self as "a small little artist," free from the pressures of the commercial film industry.

The reaction from fans has been immediate and emotional. Social media platforms are awash

with tributes, playlists, and memories of his countless chart-toppers, with many calling it a heartbreaking and ominous start to 2026 for Bollywood music. Industry watchers are also grappling with the implications, acknowledging the void his absence will create in film soundtracks. As the shock settles in, one thing is already clear. Whether in films or beyond them, Arijit Singh's voice has shaped a generation, and Bollywood will never quite sound the same again.

## Kumble Backs Varun Chakaravarty as India's Key Spinner for T20 World Cup

**LADAHAK**  
Wakeup telangana

Legendary spinner Anil Kumble has endorsed Varun Chakaravarty to lead India's spin attack in next month's T20 World Cup, citing his ability to handle evening dew better than wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. The tournament, scheduled from February 7 to March 8 across India and Sri Lanka, could pose challenges for spinners in late-evening matches due to wet conditions. Speaking on JioHotstar, Kumble said dew "is certainly going to play its part" but noted that Chakaravarty's grip and pace make him well-suited to adapt. "I don't think dew will bother him much. With a wet ball, I don't see Varun struggling too much," Kumble said. He also highlighted Axar Patel as another spinner likely to remain unaffected, while Kuldeep Yadav's wrist-spin style may make it slightly more difficult for him, though he is experienced in such conditions.

India's spin trio of Varun, Kuldeep, and Axar have all been performing consistently in recent months, strengthening the team's prospects. Kumble emphasized that Chakaravarty



stands out as the biggest asset among the tweakers for the upcoming tournament. The former captain also expressed confidence in India's chances of defending their T20 World Cup title, a feat no team has achieved in the tournament's history. "Winning back-to-back titles is not easy, especially in T20s. But India is in great form, with a strong squad capable of handling any situation. They should qualify for the semi-finals, and from there, it's anybody's game," he said.

Kumble's backing comes as India leads 3-0 in a five-match series against New Zealand, further showcasing their readiness. He concluded, "India has a great chance to win the World Cup and make it truly special by defending the title." With experience, form, and a strong spin lineup, India enters the T20 World Cup with high expectations, while Varun Chakaravarty could emerge as the key player in navigating the challenges of evening dew.

## M. Ganesh Wins U-14 Kumite Grand Title

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

M. Ganesh of Nayak Budokan Karate Academy emerged as the Grand Champion in the Under-14 Years Boys Kumite Category at the Star Budokan Karate Championship 2026, held at SS Convention Hall, Shamshabad. His impressive performance highlighted exceptional skill, discipline, and determination.



The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from young karate athletes and show-

cased a high standard of sportsmanship and competitive spirit. Ganesh's victory brought great

pride to his academy, coaches, and supporters. The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Ali Masquate Sir and NBKA President Mr. P. Ganesh Nayak Sir, who personally congratulated the young champion and motivated all participants to pursue excellence in martial arts. Organizers and officials extended heartfelt congratulations to M. Ganesh and wished him continued success in future competitions.

## Das Anjaneya Temple Celebrates 5th Anniversary with Grand Pooja

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

DDas Anjaneya Bhavani Shankara Temple, located in RRNB Colony, Falaknuma, celebrated its 5th anniversary with great fervor and devotion. The landmark occasion was marked by a grand pooja, abhishek, and anna prasadam, drawing devotees and well-wishers from across the community.

The event was meticulously organized under the guidance of Master Ganesh Nayak, founder of NBKA, who has been instrumental in the

temple's growth and outreach. Distinguished participants included R. Prakesh Naik, Pantulo Radha Krishna Damoodar Acharya Garu, Ravi Naik, Jeevan Naik, Shanker Naik, V.S. Raju, and many others who actively contributed to the success of the program.

The celebrations reflected the temple's core values of faith, unity, and service, fostering a spirit of togetherness among the devotees. The day concluded with the distribution of anna prasadam, leaving everyone spiritually uplifted.



## HMWSSB cuts four illegal sewerage connections Kakatiya Hills

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) on Tuesday, January 27, removed four illegal sewer connections in Kakatiya Hills and issued notices to four others. Some apartment owners under the jurisdiction of the Operation and Maintenance Division-15 had taken sewerage pipeline connections without permission, the Water Board said.

This caused excessive sewage to overflow on the main road, which was noticed during a recent visit by local officials. After receiving orders from Managing Director Ashok Reddy, officials removed the sewerage pipeline connections.

The MD has appealed to consumers to get their illegal drain and sewer connections regularized and has asked managers of hospitals, hotels, bakeries, malls, and other commercial and multi-storey building complexes to install silt chambers. He has warned that criminal cases will be registered against anyone who illegally takes drinking water tap and sewerage pipeline connections without permission from the Water Board officials. To inform HMWSSB of illegal connections, the public can contact the vigilance team on phone numbers 998998100 and 9989987135.

## Locals heat up gau rakshaks for attacking cattle traders near Hyderabad Airport

Tension prevailed at Shamshabad (near Hyderabad Airport) on Tuesday, January 27, when a group of self-proclaimed gau rakshaks (cow vigilantes) allegedly attacked cattle traders transporting bovines, triggering a scuffle with the local community. The incident occurred under the Hyderabad Airport police station limits at around 12 noon.

According to RGIA Airport police, the gau rakshaks from Puranapal and Rajendranagar intercepted the vehicle travelling towards Shamshabad and launched an attack.

At this, nearby locals confronted the gau rakshaks, leading to the clash. On information, police reached the spot and dispersed both groups.

RGIA police told that a case against a few locals has been registered. "Two gau rakshaks received minor injuries. Based on their complaint, we have lodged an FIR under Sections 162(2) (assault), 118(1) (causing hurt or grievous injuries), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 193(3) (unlawful assembly leading to riots) and 190 (unlawful assembly) of the Bhariya Nyay Samhitha (BNS)," the Station House Officer said, adding further investigations are on to identify the individuals.

The officer also said that the cattle traders had left the scene when the police arrived.

Nearly two weeks ago, on January 14, Hyderabad witnessed tense communal moments at Puranapal Darwaza when a tattered flexi board and a damaged deity idol were allegedly found inside the Mysamma Temple by an unknown person. What followed was utter chaos after an angry mob stomped and wrecked nearby graves, chanting "Jai Shri Ram" slogans. A religious flag was also damaged.

## Telangana Cyber Security Bureau arrests six from Kerala and Bengaluru

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau on Tuesday, January 27, said it has arrested six persons—three each from Kerala and Bengaluru, as part of its ongoing investigation into cybercrimes. The accused include five mule account holders who received commissions and allowed their bank accounts (to be used by the main fraudsters) to receive proceeds of cyber fraud and to transfer money obtained from unsuspecting victims through cybercrimes besides an agent.

The six accused were arrested in connection with three cases registered in Telangana related to "digital arrest" fraud and online trading fraud, committed by the main fraudsters. By careful preparation, thorough information analysis and synchronized field operations, two dedicated teams apprehended the six persons—three from different places in Kerala and the other three from Bengaluru, TGCSB Director Shikha Goel said. Efforts are on to trace and apprehend the absconding accused.

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau urged the public to stay vigilant and report anyone asking to use their bank accounts for transferring money under the guise of avoiding tax issues, as such requests may be linked to fraud or illegal activities

## Telangana to Be Developed as a Modern Urban State, Says Bhatti

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday said the government aims to develop Telangana as a modern urban state with a significant increase in employment opportunities.

Addressing a media conference after distributing tricycles to the disabled at Madhira in Khammam district, he said that as per the Vision 2047 document, the goal is to achieve a \$3-trillion economy and make Telangana competitive with the world.

He said the government has formulated the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE) and Rural Agriculture Re-



gion Economy (RARE) policies to develop the state holistically. Through the RARE model, the state government aims to establish agriculture-allied industries, creating employment and income opportunities in villages located near municipalities. At the same time, the value of agricultural produce would increase systematically in municipalities, he added.

He said municipalities and municipal corporations, except Greater Hyderabad, have been divided into multiple clusters, and comprehensive development plans

have been prepared for their implementation. He recalled that Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) have been established in all constituency headquarters to provide skill development training to the unemployed in accordance with job market requirements.

The Deputy Chief Minister said interest-free loans worth ₹6,000 crore have been distributed to women through MEPMA in municipalities to ensure that women in urban areas become economically self-reliant. He said that several development and welfare programmes with diverse plans of the state government are aimed at improving the lives of poor and middle-class families living in urban areas.

## Hyderabad Police Launch AI-Based Duty Allocation System for CAR Unit

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Police on Tuesday, January 27, launched a generative AI-driven duty allocation system for the City Armed Reserve (CAR) unit, marking a major shift towards technology-enabled policing.

City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said the initiative aims to reduce administrative workload and ensure transparent, objective postings, allowing officers to focus more on core policing duties. He added that the AI model will bring fairness and efficiency to the deployment process.

Developed in just two months, the new system replaces the manual duty allocation method. It



uses the Hungarian Method, a score-based algorithm that considers factors such as seniority, number of days in reserve, rewards, disciplinary history, and health scores to allocate duties.

The platform also automatically generates personalised posting orders and enables instant communication with personnel through an AI-powered chat interface, streamlining coordination and reducing delays. So far, the system has processed 1,796 applications and allocated 208 postings across key categories, including the Secretariat, Chief Minister's Office, Traffic Department, and interceptor vehicle units.



The Hyderabad Centre of the Builders Association organized a flag hoisting ceremony at the Madhapur Builders Association office, marking the occasion with the presence of senior office bearers and members. The national flag was hoisted by S. Srinivas Rao, Chairman, Hyderabad Centre. The event was attended by Srikanth Reddy, Secretary, Ashwin Tyagi, Treasurer, Bhoopender Singh, former Chairman, Chandra Shekar Reddy, former Chairman, Sachitananda Reddy, All India Treasurer, and S. N. Reddy, former All India Chairman, along with BAI members.

## Child Safety Boost: QR Wristbands for Medaram Jathara Pilgrims

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

To ensure child safety during the Sannakka-Saralamma Jathara, the Hyderabad Police, in collaboration with Vodafone Idea, on Tuesday (January 27) launched a special stall at the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) to issue QR code-enabled identification wristbands for chil-

dren travelling to the festival.

Each wristband carries a unique QR code linked to the child's details, including the child's name, parents' or guardian's names, contact numbers, and residential address. Authorities said the initiative will help quickly trace children in case they go missing during the massive tribal gathering.

Inaugurating the stall, Golconda Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) G Chandra Mohan said the wristbands would play a crucial role in reuniting lost children with their families by simply scanning the QR code. He urged all parents and guardians travelling through MGBS to obtain the wristbands to ensure a safe and worry-free pilgrimage.

The Sannakka-Saralamma Jathara, regarded as Asia's largest tribal festival, will be held in Medaram, Telangana, from January 28 to 31. The biennial event is expected to attract more than 1.5 crore devotees from Telangana and neighboring states including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

## Medical Aid to 11,625 Devotees at Medaram

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

More than 11,625 devotees have received medical treatment so far at hospitals and health camps set up for the Sannakka-Saralamma Jathara at Medaram, scheduled from January 28 to 31. The health department has deployed three hospitals, 72 medical camps, 35 ambulances and 40 bike ambulances, sup-

ported by 3,199 personnel including 544 doctors, to ensure uninterrupted medical services. Health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha directed officials to take all precautionary measures so that devotees do not face any health-related difficulties. He instructed that even minor ailments be attended to immediately and specialist doctors be deployed at the 50-bed hospital at Gad-

delu, mini hospitals and key medical camps. The minister reviewed preparedness with senior officials including principal secretary Dr Christina Z. Chongthu and director of public health Dr Ravinder Naik. Officials said adequate medicines, consumables and equipment have been stocked. A six-bed hospital near Jampanna Vagu and a mini hospital at an English medium school have been set up.

## 100 dogs killed, 50 dumped in forest, alleges NGO

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Stray Animal Foundation of India has alleged that nearly 100 stray dogs were brutally killed and 50 others relocated in two separate incidents in Nagarkurnool and Siddipet districts. In the first case, around 100 dogs were allegedly killed in Thummaipally village of Nagarkurnool district, reportedly under

the direction of the village sarpanch. The NGO's cruelty prevention assistant, Mudavath Preethi, lodged a complaint with Charapaka police station. Police officials said an FIR is under process.

In another incident, about 50 stray dogs were allegedly captured from Boppapur village in Dubbaka mandal of Siddipet district and relocated to a nearby forest area, which

the NGO said violates animal protection laws. A complaint was filed at Bhoompally police station by Adulapuram Goutham, another cruelty prevention manager of the organisation. Police confirmed that an FIR is also being processed in this case.

The NGO has urged officials to conduct fair and strong investigations into both incidents.

## Dundigal Woman Loses ₹1 Crore to Cybercrooks in Stock Market Fraud

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A homemaker from Dundigal, upon urging by self-proclaimed stock trading experts, invested ₹20,000 in stock market trading in December last year. She received a small profit. She then invested ₹49,000 and again received returns. Encouraged, she began investing larger amounts. By the second week of January, she had invested ₹1.09 crore, routing the money via bank accounts and payment channels shared by the group admins.

The scam came to light after the victim tried withdrawing the money, but was told that her account was frozen and that several other "penalties" should be paid to be able to defreeze it. She reached out to the Cyberabad cybercrime police during the

weekend. The victim told the police that she was added to a WhatsApp group in December last by self-proclaimed experienced stock market traders and promised her high returns. They shared fake screenshots claiming that several members had earned substantial profits by following their recommendations, police said.

Hyderabad Police Arrest Four in Bihar and Bengal for Providing Mule Accounts in ₹2.58 Crore Scam The Hyderabad cybercrime police arrested four persons for providing 'mule' bank accounts to carry ₹2.58 crore that fraudsters had cheated from the wife of a CBI former joint director. The accused had allegedly provided the accounts on a commission basis to a Myanmar-based cyber fraud syndicate.

## Congress Aims to Win 80% Votes in Municipal Elections

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The ruling Congress has set an ambitious target of winning more than 80 per cent of the municipalities and municipal corporations in the municipal elections scheduled for February 11, banking heavily on the welfare schemes and development programmes implemented by the Revanth Reddy-led government over the past two years. With the elections being fought on party symbols and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy himself holding the municipal administration portfolio, the polls have assumed added political significance for the party.

The Congress leadership is viewing these elections as both a referendum on its governance and an opportunity to consolidate its growing influence among urban voters. The party is keen to sus-



tain its winning momentum in Telangana, which began with the 2023 Assembly elections that ended the decade-long BRS rule and brought the Congress to power for the first time in India's youngest state. It was followed by a strong performance in the May 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where the party secured eight of the 17 seats, and further gains in the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly by-election in 2024 and the Jubilee Hills by-election in 2025. More recently, Congress-backed candidates won about 66

per cent of the gram panchayats in the elections held in December 2025. Against this backdrop, the municipal polls are being seen as a crucial test of public approval for the government, which completed two years in office in December 2025.

In preparation, the Congress has adopted a structured and data-driven approach to candidate selection by engaging three independent survey agencies. The state has been divided into three regions, each entrusted to a separate agency for assessing the winning pro-

spects of aspirants in municipal corporations and municipalities. One agency has been assigned the areas falling under the Chevella and Malkajgiri parliamentary constituencies, another has been given responsibility for northern Telangana and the Hyderabad region, while the third is covering the municipalities in the southern parts of the state. Applications from aspirants have already been received division-wise from all corporations and municipalities, and the lists are being scrutinised based on parameters such as popularity, public support and winnability. Revanth Reddy has repeatedly stated that tickets would be given only to candidates with strong prospects of victory, a message that has also been conveyed clearly to the ministers in charge of various districts.

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