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Brief Insights

RS Chairman Calls for Decorum, Productive Debate as Budget Session Begins

Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday set the tone for the 217th session of the Upper House, calling upon members to maintain the highest standards of parliamentary decorum while deliberating on the Union Budget 2026-27 and other key legislative proposals. In his opening remarks, Radhakrishnan highlighted India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, poised to become the third-largest soon. "India's growing influence and stature in the global economy make our role as parliamentarians crucial in shaping the nation's economic direction," he said.

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Texas Plans To Probe H-1B Visa Frauds

Major action is underway in the United States to investigate and limit what officials describe as abuse of the H-1B visa system. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has ordered all state agencies and public universities to halt filing new H-1B visa petitions until at least May 31, 2027, while Texas Attorney-General Ken Paxton called for serious investigations into H-1B frauds. Governor Abbott said that the pause on petitions is needed to ensure American jobs are prioritised for US workers, and to respond to reports of misuse of the system. Agencies must now submit detailed reports about how many H-1B visas they filed last year, who holds them and what job roles they fill. Texas Attorney-General Paxton alleged widespread H-1B visa fraud, and his office has issued demands for documents from businesses suspected of using "ghost offices", which are addresses that appear not to be real workplaces, to sponsor visa holders without legitimate jobs. "Abuse and fraud within these programmes strip jobs and opportunities away

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Kavitha Calls for Full Caste Census: P2

KTR condemns SIT notice to KCR: P3



Self-Confident India, a Ray of Hope for the World: Modi

The Prime Minister said the upcoming Union Budget would reflect the government's reform agenda

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted India's strong growth trajectory, describing the start of the current quarter as "very positive" and calling a self-confident India "a ray of hope for the world today." Addressing the media ahead of the Budget Session 2026, the Prime Minister said India has emerged as a centre of global attention. He noted that India and the European Union signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at the beginning of the quarter, reflecting a bright future for Indian youth and promising directions for the country. "This quarter has begun on a very positive note. A self-confident India has



The Prime Minister said the upcoming Union Budget would reflect the government's reform agenda. He reiterated that the government's identity has been built on "reform, perform, and transform," adding that the "Reform Express" has gained momentum due to positive contributions from Members of Parliament.

become a ray of hope for the world today. It has also become a centre of attraction," PM Modi said, referring to the India-EU FTA as a sign of growing global confidence in India.

Emphasising the importance of the agreement, he described it as "Free Trade for Ambitious India, for Aspirational Youth, and for Aatmanirbhar India." He expressed confidence that Indian manufacturers would use the opportunity to strengthen their capabilities, calling the deal a major step toward a confident, competitive, and productive India. The Prime Minister said the upcoming Union Budget would reflect the government's reform agenda. He reiterated that the government's identity has been built on "reform, perform, and transform," adding that the "Reform Express" has gained momentum due to positive contributions from Members of Parliament. PM Modi also stressed that government

decisions remain human-centric. He said India is moving away from long-pending problems toward long-term solutions while ensuring that technological adoption does not undermine human sensitivity and welfare. Reflecting on the passage of one-fourth of the 21st century, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the next 25 years in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. He also lauded Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting the first budget of the second quarter of the century. He noted that Sitharaman is the first woman finance minister to present the Union Budget for the ninth consecutive time, calling it a proud moment in India's parliamentary history.

SC Seeks NIA Reply in UAPA Case

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear the bail plea of a UAE-based businessman booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly funding unrest in the Kashmir Valley. A three-judge Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N.V. Anjaria issued notice to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on the plea filed by Naval Kishore Kapoor and sought its response. Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that Kapoor has been in custody for over seven years and that the allegation of terror financing is not supported by corroborative evidence. He argued that, according to the prosecution itself, Kapoor had allegedly



provided funds to Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali to further secessionist and terrorist activities in the Valley, but the money was actually used to repay loans taken from scheduled banks. Kapoor has challenged a Delhi High Court order passed last year dismissing his bail plea in the case. The High Court had held that the prosecution had prima facie established that the accused aided and assisted Watali in bringing foreign funds into India for secessionist and terrorist activities in the Kashmir Valley. The High Court had also upheld a 2019 trial court order denying bail to Kapoor.

Baramati Bids Tearful Farewell To Ajit Pawar

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde were also present, along with Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra, who is a Rajya Sabha member, and sons Parth and Jay

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The final rites of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who died in a plane crash, were performed with full state honours on Thursday morning in Baramati. Senior political leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and BJP president Nitin Nabin, attended the funeral of the 66-year-old Nationalist Congress Party leader.



Thousands of people gathered at the Vidya Pratishthan grounds, where the last rites were held. Pawar's sons, Parth and Jay, lit the funeral pyre. The mortal remains were

brought to Pawar's ancestral residence in Katewadi from Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Government Medical College at around 7 am.

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

SIT Issues Notice to KCR in Phone Tapping

The SIT is likely to question KCR at his Erravalli farmhouse in Siddipet

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a sensational development, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the phone-tapping case issued a notice to former Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrababu Naidu (KCR) here on Thursday to question him in the case on Friday. The notice was issued at his residence in Nandinagar. The SIT is likely to question KCR at his Erravalli farmhouse in Siddipet where he is presently staying instead of Jubilee Hills police station here.

In the notice, Jubilee Hills Assistant Commissioner of Police, P. Venktagiri, said, "During the course of investigation, it has been revealed that you (KCR) are acquainted with facts and circum-



KCR seeks new date for SIT questioning, cites poll commitments: P8

stances relevant to the above case. Your examination is therefore necessary and required for the purpose of further investigation. Accordingly, you are hereby requested to make yourself available for examination on January 30 at 3 pm. However, as you are above the age of 65 years, and in strict compliance with the proviso to Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, you are not required to attend the police station compulsorily." If

you so desire, you may voluntarily appear before the undersigned at the Jubilee Hills Police Station or alternatively, you may specify any other place within Hyderabad city convenient for examination, and the undersigned, along with the investigation team, shall attend the said place accordingly on the above-mentioned date and time," he said. "You are hereby requested to intimate your preferred place for examination, well in advance to the undersigned. Please acknowledge receipt of this notice," he added. The then-Special Investigation Bureau (SIB) officials under the BRS government intercepted mobile phones of political leaders, celebrities, Tollywood actors, journalists and judges.

Revant Interacts with Indian Students in Harvard



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A group of predominantly Indian students from Harvard Business School (HBS) invited Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to visit their school on the Harvard University campus. After completing all his classes and assignments on an exceptionally busy day, the Chief Minister graciously obliged and interacted with the students. In addition to understanding the career

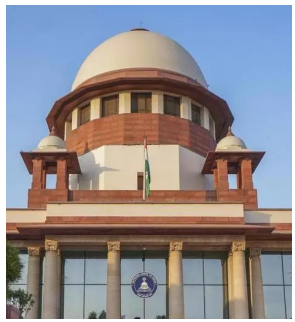
paths and challenges of HBS students, the Chief Minister discussed several professional issues and shared his mantra for success. Elaborating on the salient features of Telangana Rising, Revanth Reddy encouraged the students to harness their networks and talent to contribute to India's growth story. He also invited them to act as brand ambassadors by sharing the opportunities and strengths of Hyderabad and Telangana.

SC Stays New UGC Equity Regulations

Supreme Court stays UGC equity rules over exclusionary caste discrimination definition

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a recent University Grants Commission (UGC) regulation after various pleas were filed contending that the Commission adopted a non-inclusionary definition of caste-based discrimination and excluded certain categories from institutional protection. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joydip Bagchi issued notices to the Centre and the UGC on the pleas challenging



of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, mandated that these committees must include members of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), the Scheduled Castes (SC), the Scheduled Tribes (ST), persons with disabilities, and women. The new regulations replace the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012, which was largely advisory in nature. The pleas assailed the regulation on the grounds that caste-based discrimination is defined strictly as dis-

crimination against members of the SCs, STs and OBCs. It said that by limiting the scope of "caste-based discrimination" only to SC, ST and OBC categories, the UGC has effectively denied institutional protection and grievance redressal to individuals belonging to the "general" or non-reserved categories who may also face harassment or bias based on their caste identity. Protests were held at various places against the regulations, with student groups and organisations demanding its immediate rollback.

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Jairam Ramesh Says PM Modi's Address is 'Hypocrisy-Laden'

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday morning, ahead of Parliament convening for the second day of the Budget Session, termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's customary address as "hypocrisy-laden" and described it as a "performance." In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh alleged that the Prime Minister does not convene or chair all-party meetings to take the Opposition into confidence on national issues. He further claimed that Bills are often introduced at the

last minute and "bulldozed through Parliament" without adequate legislative scrutiny. "He will not sit in Parliament and respond to the concerns of Opposition leaders and will instead make election rally speeches in both Houses," Ramesh said in his post. The Congress leader added that before the beginning of each parliamentary session, the Prime Minister delivers his usual "hypocrisy-laden 'desh ke naam sandesh'" with Parliament as his backdrop, calling Thursday's address part of the same series.

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Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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Passenger's Trust is Key for Aviation: Bhatti

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Aviation rests on trust long before it rests on technology, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said at Wings India 2026, where Union civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu and industry leaders gathered for the event's second day of major fleet orders, manufacturing agreements and awards. Telangana received the award for best state for promotion of aviation ecosystem, while one of the most consequential announcements came from Air India, which placed an additional order for 30 fuel-efficient narrowbody aircraft from Boeing which took its total aircraft order book to 600 aircraft. "India is no longer just



flying aircraft. We are designing, building and leading global aviation," Naidu said, placing the day's announcements within a wider push to move the country from a large market to a global aviation power. Bhatti framed flight as a public act of faith. "Everytime passenger boards an aircraft, they trust engineers they will never meet, regulators they do not know... and systems that must function perfectly," he said, adding that India was no longer confined to one end of the aviation value chain. "We are be-

coming designers, manufacturers, maintainers, and innovators." Those claims were backed by a string of announcements. Air India also signed a multi-year agreement with Boeing Global Services for its Component Services Programme covering its Boeing 787 fleet, including aircraft on order. The airline separately reached an agreement with Airbus to convert 15 A321neo aircraft into the A321XLR variant, a move expected to support new non-stop international routes. Manufacturing and maintenance featured prominently in other deals. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited entered into a contract with Pawan Hans Limited for the supply of 10 Dhruv Next Generation helicopters, strengthening the civil helicopter segment. The Airports Authority of India signed an agreement with Airports Council International for the Airports Management Professional Accreditation Programme, under which more than 115 aviation professionals will be trained over five years.

Bhatti placed Telangana's aviation growth within investments made in undivided Andhra Pradesh between 2004 and 2014, when the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport was conceived. Those decisions, he said, created a base that continues to support Hyderabad's role in aviation today. "Good infrastructure is not built for one term. It is built for generations," he said, adding that the present government's task was to strengthen and modernise that base. The Deputy Chief Minister said the state now hosted aero-engine MRO facilities, aircraft structures manufacturing, drone and UAV operations, innovation centres and MSMEs tied to global supply chains. Facilities supporting LEAP engines and Rafale aircraft carried particular weight, he said, because engine maintenance demanded confidence in skills, systems and governance. "Investors may come for incentives. They stay for predictability," he said, pointing to policy stability and administrative follow-through.

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BJP Is Eyeing 5 Out Of 7 Corporations, Going With Internal Survey Report To Chalk Out Poll

Rao has appointed in-charges for all municipalities and corporations: Reports

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The BJP central leadership has deployed three core committee members to oversee candidate selection and campaign strategies for the upcoming civic polls, indicating the seriousness of the party's approach. The party has conducted an internal survey and is allocating tickets based on candidates' winnability. BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao has appointed in-charges for all municipalities and corporations. Up for grabs are 414 wards across seven municipal corporations as well as 2,582 wards in 116 municipalities. Rao stated that the party had set a "realistic target" of winning 60 per cent of seats across municipalities and corporations and identified the Congress as



its primary rival. Citing positive signals from the field, he added that voters had recognised the BRS's decade-long "corrupt family rule" and Congress's failures over two years. "Congress and BRS rely solely on minority vote banks," he remarked. One of the big targets of the BJP is Nizamabad, where it won 28 of 60 seats in the last polls. The BRS had finished third with 13 wards, but formed the council with the support of the MIM which had won 16 wards, and ex-officio members like MLAs and MPs. The party aims for a two-thirds

majority, led by MP Arvind Dharmapuri. The party is focusing on the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation; home of Union minister and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar is highlighting the ₹479 crore in central assistance secured for the city under the Smart Cities Mission. The BJP had won 13 of 66 wards. Ramchander Rao is giving special attention to Nalgonda, where his native village Bandagudem is located in the erstwhile united district. The BJP is approaching the sensitive town strategically, recalling its 1995 municipal chairman victory. The party had secured 6 of the 48 wards the last time. At Mahabubnagar, where it had won six wards, MP D.K. Aruna is targeting 40 of the 60 wards in the corporation.

BRS Leaders Gear Up for Municipal Polls in Mahabubnagar

MAHABUBNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the upcoming municipal elections, former minister V. Srinivas Goud and BRS district in-charge Janab Ali Masqati met with key party leaders and activists in Mahabubnagar district to discuss election strategies. The meeting focused on strengthening grassroots support, mobilizing party workers, and ensuring effective coordination

among local activists. Leaders emphasized engaging with residents, addressing their concerns, and consolidating the party's presence in both urban and semi-urban areas.

As part of its broader campaign efforts, BRS leadership in Telangana continues to actively work with district units, preparing its workforce to ensure a robust and organized campaign for the upcoming polls.



Governor praises North East Connect sports initiative

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma lauded the Telangana-North East Connect initiative to promote sports across the two regions in a big way. Releasing a special report on Thursday in the presence of Sports Authority of Telangana chairman K Shiva Sena Reddy and VC & MD Sonibala Devi, Varma said that continu-



ous sports and cultural programmes were essential to further strengthen relations between Telangana and the North-Eastern states. The Governor emphasised that organising such programmes on a large scale would help build strong ties between

the North-Eastern states, which have rich sports and cultural traditions, and Hyderabad city and Telangana state, which offer numerous opportunities.

He also appreciated the efforts of officials and staff from various departments for making the Telangana-North East India Connect programme and the sports festival organised on the occasion a success.

Kavitha Calls for Full Caste Census

Telangana jagruthi Roundtable Pushes for Complete Caste Census

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Santosh chowdary

A round table meeting on the caste census was held at Khaja Mansion, bringing together representatives from multiple communities in Telangana to discuss the upcoming inclusion of caste data in the national population census.

The meeting, which featured an inaugural lecture by Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Telangana jagruthi President emphasized the need for a complete and accurate caste census to determine population distribution, budget allocations, and job opportunities for all groups. The population census, originally scheduled for 2021, was delayed due to COVID-19. Following demands from several states, the central government agreed to conduct a caste census. However, the document released by the BJP



included data only for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), omitting Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Organizers criticized this as misleading and deceptive. Speakers highlighted the complexity of caste classifications, noting that the same caste can be categorized differently across

states. For example, the Vellama caste is considered in Maharashtra, SC in Andhra Pradesh. Similar contradictions exist for BC communities, who make up 56% of the population, raising concerns over accurate representation and reservation benefits.

The round table stressed that reservations for economically weaker members of upper castes also need proper categorization. Jagruthi will compile a report on castes and sub-castes in Telangana, aiming to provide a model for the central government. Organizers said the government should undertake this task but noted its current lack of sincerity. Political parties' positions were also discussed. While BJP released the document and supports it, other parties, including BRS and Congress, have not clearly stated their stance, which organizers argue is critical in ensuring equitable rights for all castes.

The group concluded that the Telangana report could serve as a guiding document for the center, under the principle, "Telangana Thinks, India Follows Next," aiming to ensure that every caste receives its rightful benefits.

Lawyer has responded to Speaker's notice, says Danam Nagender



BRS turncoat MLA from Khairatabad Danam Nagender said on Thursday that his lawyer had responded to Speaker G Prasad Kumar's notice, asking him to appear for a hearing on the disqualification petition. "I have not been asked to appear in person. I am not aware of what my lawyer has written in the letter to the Speaker," Nagender said while speaking to media persons here. He continued to claim that he was still associated with the BRS. "The BRS has not suspended me yet. Based on their action, there will be a reaction. I do not fear elections," Nagender said.

Sammakka Installed at Medaram Gaddelu with State Honours

Devotees welcomed the procession with a demonstration of traditional art forms, vibrant rangoli, and colourful decorations.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amidst copious eruption of religious fervour from a sea of devotees, legendary tribal goddess Sammakka was ceremoniously brought from the Chilakalagutta forest and installed on the sacred altars (Gaddelu) at Medaram of Taduvai mandal on Thursday. Panchayat Raj minister Seethakka, along with high-ranking officials, officially received the goddess. The event, which marked the most spectacular phase of the biennial Medaram Maha Jatara, was held with full state honours, including a traditional gun salute by top district officials.

On the second day of Asia's largest tribal fair, the sacred Vanams (tall bamboo poles) were formally installed on the altars (Gaddelu). In adivasi tradition, the bamboo poles represent the forest from which the deities emerge. After special rituals, tribal priests brought these poles to the shrine to prepare for goddess Sammakka's arrival from the Chilakalagutta hills. Devotees welcomed the procession with a demonstration of traditional art forms, vibrant rangoli, and colourful decorations.

With goddess Saralamma already seated since Wednesday night, Sammakka's arrival marks the peak of the biennial festival, drawing a crore of pil-



grims to the historic site. The ritualistic journey began at 4pm when the tribal priests (Vaddelu) trekked to the Chilakalagutta hill. Following sacred prayers, the chief priest, Kokkera Krishnaiah, emerged from the dense forest carrying the deity in the form of a Kumkuma Bharani (vermillion casket). As the priest descended the hill in a trance-like state, Mulugu SP Sudheer Kekan and district collector TS Divakar paid their obeisance to the goddess by firing from AK-47 rifles into the air. This is a traditional gesture signifying the state's welcome to the tribal queen. The sound of gunfire triggered thunderous chants of 'Sammakka Thalli Ki Jai', 'Jai Sammakka-Jai Sarakka' from the millions of pilgrims who waited hours for a glimpse of the deity.

The 1.5km route from the hill to the Medaram altars was transformed into a corridor of intense devotion. A heavy security cordon was formed by both police and human chain of tribal youth to ensure safety of the priests carrying the deity. Devotees offered various sacrifices and tributes to the deity along the path. Hundreds of live sheep and chickens were offered as Edurukollu or welcome sacrifices. Odi Biyyam (sacred rice) was showered on the deity, while the ground was decorated with intricate patterns of turmeric and vermilion. The air was filled with sounds from the Koya tribal drums amid the spiritual trances of Shivasattulu. Before reaching the main altar, the procession stopped at the Chelapaiah temple for special rituals. Upon arrival at the Medaram gate, local women followed the tradition of washing the feet of the priests carrying Sammakka. Subsequently, the goddess was safely installed on her altar. With her arrival, all four major tribal deities --Sammakka, her daughter Saralamma, husband Pagidda Raju and son-in-law Govinda Raju -- were seen seated on their respective Gaddelu.

Congress, BJP workers joins BRS in Kothagudem

KOTHAGUDEM
Wakeup telangana

A large number of workers from the BJP and Congress have joined the BRS in the wake of the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation elections.

At a programme at the BRS district office here on Thursday, as many as 300 BJP workers, led by the party's former town president A Shivakrishna, joined the BRS. BRS district president Rega Kantha Rao and MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra welcomed



them into the party. Shivakrishna's parents Lakshmaiah and Lakshmi Bai, their followers Narasimha, Kali, Mohan, Narasimha, Farzana, Vamsi,

Narayana and others were among those who joined the party. In another programme, as many as 50 youths from New Gollagudem joined the BRS in the presence of former minister Vanama Venkateshwara Rao, MP Ravichandra and Kantha Rao.

On the other hand, the Congress suffered a shock as former councillor Bhima Sridhar and his wife Srivalli joined the BRS in the presence of BRS working president KT Rama Rao, MP Ravichandra, ministers Puvvada

Ajay Kumar and Errabelli Dayakar Rao in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

In Khammam, Congress party leader Bollam Nagaiah, who had served the party for decades, joined the BRS on Thursday along with his followers. At a programme at Gurralapadu village in Edulapuram Municipality, Nagaiah, along with Congress party members from all social groups, joined the BRS in the presence of MLC Tata Madhusudhan and former Palair MLA Kandala Upender Reddy.

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 benefitted 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.

Farmers Face Insecurity Under Cong Rule, Says Harish Rao

Farmers Suffer, Bonuses and Fertilizers Pending, Says Harish Rao

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday alleged that farmers in Telangana are facing severe insecurity under the Congress government, accusing it of failing to provide investment assistance, fertilizers, and timely compensation. Inaugurating the yam purchase centre at Siddipet market yard, Harish Rao said the Centre has fixed a Minimum Support Price of ₹8,000 for yams and urged farmers to utilise the procurement centre instead of being exploited by middlemen.

He said the country is facing a shortage of oilseeds and pulses, and advised farmers to adopt crop rotation by cultivating sunflower, oil palm, and pulses as alternatives to rice, which would improve soil fertility, reduce pest attacks, and increase profits.

Expressing anguish over the condition of farmers, Harish Rao accused both the Central BJP government and the State Congress government of neglecting agriculture. He alleged that the BJP is creating an artificial shortage of fertilizers to



reduce subsidies, while the Congress government has completely failed in distribution.

"There was never a fertilizer shortage during KCR's ten-year rule. Even during demonetisation and the Covid pandemic, farmers did not suffer. Today, farmers are once again standing in queues at 3 am for fertilizers," he said. He added that due to the shortage of urea, farmers are being forced to buy expensive liquid fertilizers from the private sector, incurring heavy losses. He pointed out that Yasangi cultivation is in full swing, and this is a crucial period for ploughing, sowing, fertilising, and weeding.

Harish Rao criticised the lack of clarity on Rythu Bharosa, ques-

tioning when it would be implemented, how much assistance would be given, and for how many acres. "Farmers are borrowing at interest due to uncertainty, increasing their financial burden," he said. He alleged discrimination in water allocation, stating that water is blocked for farmers while beer factories receive uninterrupted supply. He claimed that in Medak district, a crop holiday has been declared for 70,000 acres—40,000 acres under the Singur project and 30,000 acres under the Ganapuram project—citing repairs despite reservoirs having water.

"Where is the water coming from for beer factories when farmers are denied irrigation?"

he asked, alleging that officials were instructed not to stop water supply to liquor units.

Harish Rao said farmers never faced crop holidays under the BRS government and accused the Congress of prioritising liquor factories over agriculture. He also recalled that the Chief Minister had promised ₹10,000 per acre compensation for hailstorm damage last monsoon, but claimed that not a single rupee has been paid even after a year.

He further stated that bonus payments were made only to half the farmers, while the remaining amounts—including ₹1,100 crore pending Yasangi bonus—are yet to be released.

Accusing the government of ignoring farmers while focusing on cases against the opposition, Harish Rao demanded immediate release of pending Rythu Bandhu funds, monsoon and Yasangi bonuses, hailstorm and untimely rain compensation, and ensured adequate fertilizer supply. He warned that the BRS party would launch large-scale agitations if farmers' issues are not addressed immediately.

Telangana Hands Over Land for Mamnoon Airport

Wakeup telangana

The state government on Thursday handed over 300-acre land required for the revival of Mamnoon airport in Warangal to the Union ministry of civil aviation. This cleared the way for construction of the long-pending airport project, which is expected to be completed within two to two-and-a-half years from the start of construction. The handover took place at Begumpet airport, where Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka transferred the acquired land to Union minister of state for civil aviation Rammohan naidu, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) set to bear the full cost of development.

"Handing over 300 acres of land required for the Mamnoon airport soon after the formation of our government is a day that will go down in history," said Bhatti, recalling that the project had remained stalled for years despite an agreement with the AAI signed as early as 2007.

Bhatti said the Telangana Cabinet had sought the Centre's support for airports in tier-2 cities, including Kothagudem and Adilabad, and welcomed the positive response from the Union civil aviation minister. Minister Konda Surekha, who also attended the meeting, said completion of land acquisition and statutory clearances for Mamnoon Airport was a matter of pride for the state.

Surveys Finalise Municipal Contestants

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

Political parties, especially the ruling Congress party decided to win majority of seats in municipal elections. Based on survey on winning candidates in municipal elections, the parties will finalise the contesting candidates in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation and other municipalities in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts. The survey team moving fast in urban areas and collecting the information of winning candidates. From Galli (residential colonies in towns) to Delhi party high commands will finalise the situation. The survey teams moving in all municipal towns and inquiring about victory chances. For the first time, the senior Congress leaders are also not directly involving in finalisation of municipal corporator and municipal councillor posts.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Nizamabad district Congress committee president K.Nagesh Reddy said that survey teams inquiring about victory of Congress party and candidates. "We are focussed on Bodhan, Armoor and Bheemgal municipalities", he said. Following the survey reports, the candidates will win in the elections, he said. Meanwhile, Nizamabad city Congress



committee president Bobbili Ramakrishna participated in Congress seniors meetings on municipal elections.

Meanwhile, BJP, BRS and MIM parties also busy with the finalisation of contesting candidates.

There is huge demand for ruling Congress party tickets. BJP and MIM parties also picking up suitable candidates in positive areas. Surprisingly, BRS party is unable to get demand for municipal election tickets. BRS MLA V.Prashanth Reddy and former MLAs are trying field suitable candidates for municipal elections.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, former BRS MLA Surender said that they are coordinating with the party leaders to field them in the municipal elections. BRS party working president KT Rama Rao is directly monitoring the municipal contesting candidates in districts, he said. People are ready to support BRS in municipal wards, he said. Final situation will come to the fore soon, he said.

KTR condemns SIT notice to KCR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao came down heavily on the Congress government over the notice issued by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the alleged phone-tapping case. Condemning the action, he termed it an act of political revenge rather than a genuine investigation.

Reacting to the SIT notices, Rama Rao said Chandrashekar Rao was the leader who spearheaded the Telangana Statehood movement and even risked his life to achieve Statehood. He re-



called that the visionary leader steered the State's development for a decade after State formation by ensuring development and welfare of all citizens through novel initiatives like Rythu Bandhu, Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya and numerous irrigation projects.

The Congress, which came to power with grand promises, had failed to deliver and was now resorting to diversionary tactics in the name of investigations, he said, adding that the

government was attempting to tarnish Chandrashekar Rao's reputation to cover up its own failures. "This is not an investigation, but revenge. This is not justice, but political malice," he remarked, stating that the Congress government was using investigation agencies as tools to intimidate the opposition with notices and probes.

The BRS working president asserted that Chandrashekar Rao remained a people's leader and warned that any attempt to undermine his legacy would invite a public backlash. He reiterated that the BRS would continue to resist vindictive politics and take the fight to the people.

Bodhan Degree College One-Day Workshop with Faculty & Principal



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A one-day workshop is being organized at Bodhan Degree College, bringing together all college lecturers for an engaging academic event. The workshop will feature Dr. Suresh, the Principal, Dr. P.V. Satya Prasad, and Urdu lecturer Md. Mudassar Uddin, along

with the full faculty. The program aims to promote knowledge sharing, interactive discussions, and collaborative learning among the staff. This initiative highlights the college's commitment to academic excellence, professional development, and fostering a supportive environment for both faculty and students.

63 Students Dance 63 Minutes to Honor India's National Bird

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Creek Planet School, Neptune Campus, under the auspices of Futuristic Education Initiatives, is set to mark the 63rd anniversary of the peacock being declared India's national bird with a record-breaking dance performance. Sixty-three students will perform continuously for 63 minutes, aiming to set a new Indian record and pave the way for a future Guinness World Record attempt. The event commemorates February 1, 1963, when the peacock



was officially recognized as India's national bird. Speaking on the occasion, the School Principal highlighted the objective: instilling pride in students for their heritage and the beauty of the peacock as a symbol of India. "We want our students to feel proud of being Indian wherever they go," said the Princi-

pal. The program is supported by Vice Principal Veena Sri Ram, teachers Vindya, Sangeeta, Swathi, Sravani, and coordinator Rajesh, among others. Organizers invited the public to witness this historic performance live and contribute their blessings toward its success.

BJP District Secretary Demands GHMC Demolish Illegal Compound Wall in Mataji Nagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP Secunderabad Mahankali District General Secretary Nemali Anand (Nandu) has urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to immediately remove an unauthorized compound wall erected on government land in Mataji Nagar. The encroachment, on Survey No. 194/8/1—designated Full Tank Level (FTL) land—poses environmental risks and violates urban planning regulations.



Anand, who previously contested local elections from the area and lost by a narrow margin of votes, formally submitted a complaint to GHMC Deputy Commissioner Sujatha on Thursday, requesting swift action to prevent

permanent encroachment. "Immediate demolition of this illegal structure is necessary to send a clear message that government land is not for the taking," Anand said during the submission. The encroachment is

not new to the area; Anand provided documentation of past illegal constructions that were successfully identified and demolished by authorities. Sujatha reportedly received the complaint positively, assuring Anand and the delegation that GHMC would take serious legal and physical action to restore the land. C. Vijay Kumar, Beeram Narsing Rao, Mysore Madhusudan, Akula Mahesh, Sandeep Varma, Sudhakar, Anil, and Sarvesh accompanied Anand during the submission.

Doctors protest against assault on security at Govt hospital in Mancherial

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Doctors and staff members of the Government General Hospital (GGH) on Thursday demanded strict action against those who assaulted security guards on duty at the casualty wing, calling the incident a serious threat to the safety of healthcare workers. Condemning the attack, they urged the police to immediately arrest the accused by registering a case under the Telangana Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to



Property) Act. Expressing solidarity with the injured security personnel, members of a joint action committee formed by doctors and hospital staff lodged a formal complaint with the police, protesting the assault and seeking swift justice. They stressed that violence against hospital staff, particularly those

discharging essential duties in emergency departments, cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. The committee further demanded enhanced security arrangements within the hospital premises. Key among their demands was the establishment of a permanent police outpost at the hospital to ensure

quick response to any untoward incidents. They also called for the installation of additional CCTV cameras across sensitive areas, including the casualty wing, to improve surveillance and deter violent behaviour.

Doctors and staffers pointed out that government hospitals often handle high patient inflow and emotionally charged situations, making security measures crucial for the smooth functioning of medical services. Any disruption, they warned, directly affects patient care and endangers both healthcare workers and the public.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Backs India as Potential Israel–Palestine Mediator

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Palestine on Thursday sought India's active involvement as a mediator in the Israel-Palestine conflict and in Gaza's reconstruction efforts, highlighting New Delhi's unique position as a friend to both sides and its commitment to international law. Speaking to PTI Videos soon after arriving here to attend the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Varsen Aghabekian Shahin said India, with its balanced ties to both Palestine and Israel, is "very well positioned to act as a mediator, interlocutor." The meeting, co-chaired



by India and the UAE, with participation from all 22 Arab League members, is set to take place on January 31. "India is a great country, and it can play a great role. Being a friend to both Palestine and Israel puts it in a place where it can be a bridge for both countries," Shahin said. "In the final analysis, what we want is to forge peace, a peace that reflects the respect of

both people, the respect of international law and whatever is enshrined in international law," she added. She expressed gratitude for India's humanitarian and development assistance to Palestinians, including its support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and called for its continuation, espe-

cially in the current scenario. "We look forward to India's active participation. We would like it to continue with its humanitarian assistance, not only in Gaza and the West Bank, but also towards UNRWA," the minister said.

On Gaza's reconstruction, Shahin underlined that around 82 per cent of structures in the enclave have been destroyed. The foreign minister also said that more than 72,000 people have been killed and around 10,000-20,000 are missing in Gaza, with the total affected potentially reaching 40,00,00 or more. "Gaza is in shambles and destruction, and the urgency with which reconstruction needs to start, because you have 2

million people who are without shelters... The first thing they would need is a decent shelter, water, and basic services. And I think the whole world should chip in in one way or another, in terms of technical assistance, in terms of funding," Shahin said. She appealed to New Delhi and the international community to view the situation objectively. Addressing concerns over Hamas's interactions with Pakistan-based terror organisations and radicals in Bangladesh, Shahin reiterated Palestine's official stance against violence. "Any border conflict should be solved through international law and around the table with negotiations.

NIT Rourkela, ORMAS Partner To Set Up Mahua Processing Plant To Boost Tribal Livelihoods In Odisha

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step towards strengthening tribal livelihoods and promoting value addition of forest-based produce, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS), Sundargarh, for the establishment of a Mahua processing plant in the district. The initiative, aligned with the "Liquor to Lifestyle" programme, aims to shift the utilisation of Mahua from traditional liquor-based consumption to diversified non-liquor value-added products, thereby enhancing income opportunities for tribal and rural communities.

Mahua (*Madhuca longifolia*), native to central and eastern India, plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of tribal households across Odisha. The collection and processing of Mahua flowers and seeds generate seasonal employment and income for thousands of families, supporting self-help groups and small enterprises. Beyond its traditional use, Mahua has growing potential in



food, beverage, cosmetic, and wellness segments. Strengthening processing infrastructure and technology-driven value addition is expected to improve income realisation, reduce post-harvest losses, and integrate rural producers into formal value chains, contributing to inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihood generation in the state. The MoA was formally signed by Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, and Dr. Subhankar Mohapatra, Collector and District Magistrate, Sundargarh. The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Fahi Rasheed, Animesh Pradhan, and Suranjan Sahoo, Chief Development Officer, Sundargarh. NIT Rourkela was represented by Prof. Swadesh K. Pratihar.

Uncertain Of Global Turmoil, Survey Projects Three Scenarios For 2026

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Amidst heightened levels of uncertainty created by geo-political and economic turmoil, the Economic Survey is unable to project one possible scenario for 2026. Instead, it chose to present three scenarios – all of them anticipating the risks of countries at varied levels while navigating through a fragile ecosystem. The best-case scenario for the world in 2026 is 'business as in 2025', but one that becomes increasingly less secure and more fragile. In this setting, with the margin of safety being thinner, minor shocks can escalate into larger reverberations. Financial stress episodes, trade frictions, and geopolitical escalations do not lead to systemic collapse, but they do create volatility and require governments to in-



tervene more actively to stabilise expectations. Countries will operate in a world that remains integrated yet increasingly distrustful with a probability of around 40 to 45 per cent to this scenario unfolding in 2026. In the second scenario probability of a disorderly multi-polar breakdown rises materially and cannot be treated as a tail risk. Under this outcome, strategic rivalry intensifies, the Russia-Ukraine conflict remains unresolved in a destabilising

form, and collective security arrangements unravel. Trade becomes increasingly explicitly coercive, sanctions and counter-measures proliferate, supply chains are realigned under political pressure, and financial stress events are transmitted across borders with fewer buffers and weaker institutional shock absorbers. There is a probability of around 40 to 45 per cent to this scenario as well. In the third scenario, with a residual probability of

10-20 per cent, the risk of a systemic shock cascade in which financial, technological, and geopolitical stresses amplify one another rather than unfolding independently. A correction in the highly leveraged AI-infrastructure investment would not just end technological adoption, but it could tighten financial conditions, trigger risk aversion and spill over into broader capital markets. If such developments were to coincide with geopolitical escalation or trade disruption, the resulting interaction could produce a sharper contraction in liquidity, a sudden weakening of capital flows, and a shift toward defensive economic responses across regions. While this remains a lower-probability scenario, its consequences would be significantly asymmetric.

Texas Plans To Probe H-1B Visa Frauds

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Major action is underway in the United States to investigate and limit what officials describe as abuse of the H-1B visa system. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has ordered all state agencies and public universities to halt filing new H-1B visa petitions until at least May 31, 2027, while Texas Attorney-General Ken Paxton called for serious investigations into H-1B frauds. Governor Abbott said that the pause on petitions is needed to ensure American jobs are prioritised for US workers, and to respond to reports of misuse of the system. Agencies must now submit detailed reports about how many H-1B visas they filed last year, who holds them and what job roles they fill. Texas Attorney-General



Paxton alleged widespread H-1B visa fraud, and his office has issued demands for documents from businesses suspected of using "ghost offices", which are addresses that appear not to be real workplaces, to sponsor visa holders without legitimate jobs. "Abuse and fraud within these programmes strip jobs and opportunities away from Texans. I will use every tool available to uproot and hold accountable any individual or company engaged in these fraudulent schemes," Paxton said. Texas is home to thousands of

Indians, with many cities housing hundreds of thousands of Telugu households and individuals working in multiple sectors like tech, healthcare, engineering fields et cetera. And Indian residents in Texas have raised concerns over the new orders. A Karimnagar-based H-4 visa holder, a dependant of a H-1B holder, said, "As we saw from the multiple actions taken previously, this is rarely going to be limited just to searches or checks. Officials will exploit the new orders, and will try to make our lives miserable."

"Workplace checks or spot checking might increase exponentially. We are already carrying basic documents like passports etc., but now we might have to carry other documents like I-797 as well," the H-4 holder said. An H-1B visa holder, originally from Vijayawada, said, "I have seen how ICE and other enforcement officials have taken the law into their hands and are reacting to basic searches in a very violent way. I am genuinely hoping that would not happen here." Supporters of the move argue that the move protects American workers and addresses fraud, but critics warn that halting visa petitions may worsen shortages in education, research, healthcare and other fields, and rules could be exploited in the name of investigations and searches.

NCP Leaders Push Sunetra Pawar As Successor

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

After the demise of Ajit Pawar in a plane crash, there is growing clamour within the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to persuade his wife and Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar to take charge of the party. Announcing her name as the successor, senior NCP minister Narhari Zirwal on Thursday demanded that Sunetra should be made the deputy chief minister of the state. Meanwhile, senior party leaders like Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Munde and Sunil Tatkare met Sunetra for leadership talks. They suggested that she should step forward and lead the outfit, which is a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, along with the BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. According to the sources, the NCP leaders are pushing to appoint Sunetra as Maharashtra deputy CM, replac-



ing Ajit Pawar's position in the Mahayuti government. If she does accept the post, she will become the state's first deputy CM. Sunetra Pawar, who is currently a Rajya Sabha MP, is likely to contest the Baramati seat vacated by her late husband, Ajit Pawar, if elections are called, signaling her electoral debut. Zirwal, who is a FDA Minister and a close confidant of Ajit Pawar, said it is people's wish that Sunetra Pawar be inducted into the state ministry. "People want 'vahini' (sister-in-law, referring to Sunetra Pawar) to be made a cabinet member. We will talk to our leadership about it (inducting Sunetra in cabinet) and take a decision," he said. The minister

also expressed the possibility of NCP and NCP (SP) coming together. "The two factions are already together (for local body polls). Everyone has realised that there is no point in remaining scattered and we have to be together," he said. NCP leader and former minister Nawab Malik emphasised that the final decision on the merger was to be taken by Ajit Pawar and Sharad Pawar, who heads the NCP (SP). "Now, I cannot predict how politics will take shape. But it is everyone's wish that the entire family and the two parties should come together," Malik said. Ajit Pawar (66) and four others were killed when the chartered plane carrying them crashed at the Baramati airport in Pune district on Wednesday. In July 2023, Ajit Pawar had joined the then-Eknath Shinde-led government, triggering a split in the NCP founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar.

Baramati Bids.....

Draped in the national flag, the body was later taken from Katedwadi to the Vidya Pratishthan grounds at about 10.30 am. Thousands of emotional supporters gathered at the ground chanted slogans such as "Ajit Dada Amar Rahe" (Long live Ajit Dada), "Ekach wada, Ajit Dada" (only one commitment, Ajit Dada) and "Ajit Dada Parat Ya" (Ajit Dada, come back), as the flower-decked vehicle made its way. The funeral pyre was lit at around 11.30 am amid a 21-gun salute and the sounding of the Last Post by the Maharashtra Police. Members of the Pawar family, including Sharad Pawar, were present throughout the rituals. NCP leader Supriya Sule was seen holding the hand of Pawar's wife, Sunetra, who appeared visibly shaken. Several senior political leaders paid their last respects, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Actor Reteish Deshmukh also attended the funeral. In a post shared on X, Mr. Shah said, "I paid my last respects to Ajit Pawar ji and offered heartfelt

tributes to him. The untimely demise of Ajit Pawar ji, who was dedicated to society and the people, has created such a void in Maharashtra's politics that it will not be possible to fill it for a long time." Pawar was killed on Wednesday, 28 January, when a chartered Bombardier Learjet 45 carrying him from Mumbai to Baramati for an election rally crashed near the Baramati airstrip. Preliminary reports from the Ministry of Civil Aviation indicated that the aircraft encountered poor visibility and crashed during an attempted go-around, about 200 metres from the runway threshold. The crash claimed the lives of four others and the aircraft burst into flames.

India-EU FTA to.....

The second day of the Budget Session will see Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman table the Economic Survey in the Lok Sabha. The survey provides an assessment of the economy and key indicators for 2025-26, along with an outlook for the next financial year. In his address earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi said the country had boarded the "Reform Express" and emerged from long-pending problems while moving toward

long-term solutions. He said the focus should be on finding solutions, not creating hurdles, ahead of the Budget Session. PM Modi also hailed the recently concluded Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, saying it would open new markets for Indian manufacturers across all 27 EU member states. "This is free trade for an ambitious India, for aspirational youth, and for a self-reliant India," he said while speaking outside Parliament House. In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister also praised President Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament on Wednesday, calling it "an expression of the trust of 140 crore Indians." "The President's address was an expression of the trust of 140 crore Indians, an account of their capability and a sketch of their aspirations, especially of the youth," he said, adding that the guidance offered should be taken seriously by all Members of Parliament.

RS Chairman.....

The Chairman noted that the session, spanning 30 sittings, will focus on examining the Union Budget and legislative proposals, while department-related parliamentary standing committees will

scrutinise demands for grants during the recess. "I call upon members to make impactful contributions to deliberations in the House as well as in the committees," he said. Emphasising the magnitude of legislative work ahead, Radhakrishnan urged members to utilise every minute of scheduled business to realise the aspirations of the people they represent. "The magnitude of our legislative work underscores our solemn responsibility," he said. The Chairman also stressed the importance of maintaining parliamentary discipline. "Our democracy flourishes through diversity of views and spirited debate. Respectful exchange of opinions and constructive discussions should be the norm of parliamentary discourse," he said, adding the session ought to be "defined by decorum, discipline and dignified conduct. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi's vision, Radhakrishnan said the members should uphold the values of democracy and discipline in their conduct. The Chairman expressed hope for full cooperation from leaders of parliamentary parties and members in making the session productive and "a solid stepping stone in our journey towards a prosperous,

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

2.9 Kg of Ganja Hidden in Loo Seized, Couple Arrested

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Excise cops arrested drug peddlers in Dhoolpet and seized 2.936 kg of ganja on Wednesday. In a joint raid by the STF team-A and Dhoolpet excise personnel, officials seized nearly 3 kg of ganja hidden in a bathroom. Acting on inputs, constable Prakash searched a house belonging to Rohit Singh in Machilipura. Initial search of the house yielded nothing. Members of the raiding team became suspicious, when they noticed a dangling thread

from the PVC drainage pipe inside the bathroom and when the officers pulled the thread, several small packets containing ganja, came out of the pipe. In a similar setup, the ganja was found concealed in the second pipe. About 2.936 kg of ganja was recovered from the accused Rohit and his wife Veena Bai's house, a police officer, said. The STF team arrested Rohit Singh, Rohan Singh, and Veena Bai, while their associates Santosh Singh and his wife Nandi Singh are on the run, a press release issued by the excise department,

Telangana HC Takes Serious View of Delay in Fee, Scholarship Payments

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday expressed serious concern over systemic delays in disbursements of scholarship and fee reimbursements by the state government, that have left thousands of students in financial limbo. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin, was dealing with a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Association for Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Marginalised (ASEEM) and

another. The PIL was filed challenging the failure of state to release pending funds for students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC), Economically backward (EBC), minorities, and physically challenged communities. It was the case of the petitioner that the non-timely release of scholarships had created a cascading effect, leading private college management to illegally withhold the original educational certificates of students as leverage for pending dues.

HC Adjourns BC Reservation Plea

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court adjourned a batch of writ petitions filed in related to GO Ms. No. 9 dated 26.09.2025, issued by the state government enabling 42 per cent reservations to the Backward Classes communities in local body elections in rural areas. On Thursday, the court was informed that despite the interim order dated 09.10.2025, the state had not filed its



counter-affidavit explaining its contentions. The special government pleader appearing for the state government sought time to file counters in all matters, stating that the

after. The matters were directed to be listed after ten weeks. Meanwhile, the interim order granted earlier was extended until further orders. Based on the interim orders, the local body elections had been conducted. In the batch of petitions, a few had challenged GO-9 while others had defended it GO-9. However, the court had issued interim stay orders on the ground that the GO impacted the 50 per cent ceiling prescribed by the Supreme Court.

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.

TG Bar Council polls to be held today

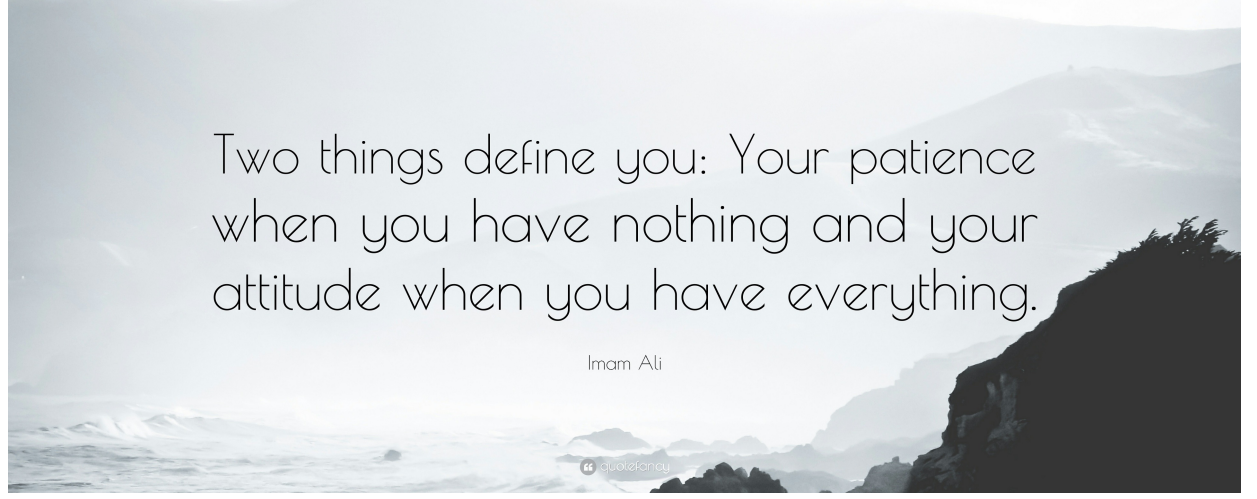
HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Elections to the Bar Council of Telangana are scheduled for Friday, ending a prolonged delay in the democratic process of the statutory body that governs advocates in the state. The counting of votes is set for February 10, marking a significant milestone for the legal fraternity in Telangana. The last elections for the Bar Council were conducted in June 2018, the first after Telangana was formed in 2014. While the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926, prescribes a three-year term for the first constituted council, the members elected in 2018 continued in office beyond this tenure. They relied on the Advocates Act, 1961, which provides for

a standard five-year term for elected councils. Despite this, no elections were conducted even after the completion of five years, leading to discontent among many advocates in the state. A group of advocates approached the Supreme Court, seeking intervention to end the extended tenure of the council. The apex court directed that the election process be completed by January 31. In compliance with this directive, the Telangana Bar Council has announced that polling will take place on Friday. A total of 35,316 advocates, including 7,637 women, are eligible to vote in courts across Telangana. This year, 203 candidates, including 55 women, are contesting for a place in the council. Of

them, 23 members will be elected, who will later select the chairman and vice-chairman of the council. In accordance with Supreme Court guidelines, five seats are reserved specifically for women advocates to ensure gender representation. The election will follow a preferential voting system, in which voters rank candidates numerically — one, two, three, and so on. According to Nagalakshmi, secretary of the Telangana Bar Council, 109 polling stations have been set up across the state to ensure smooth and convenient polling for advocates. To maintain transparency, CCTV cameras have been installed at all polling centers. Once polling concludes, the ballot boxes will be

transported to the Bar Council premises at the High Court, where the counting of votes will begin from February 10. The election is seen as a crucial step in restoring democratic governance within the statutory body and ensuring that advocates have a voice in the council that governs their professional affairs. The upcoming elections are expected to not only bring fresh leadership to the council but also strengthen the overall functioning of the Bar Council of Telangana. For thousands of practicing advocates across the state, these elections mark an opportunity to participate in shaping the policies and administration of the legal profession in Telangana.



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.

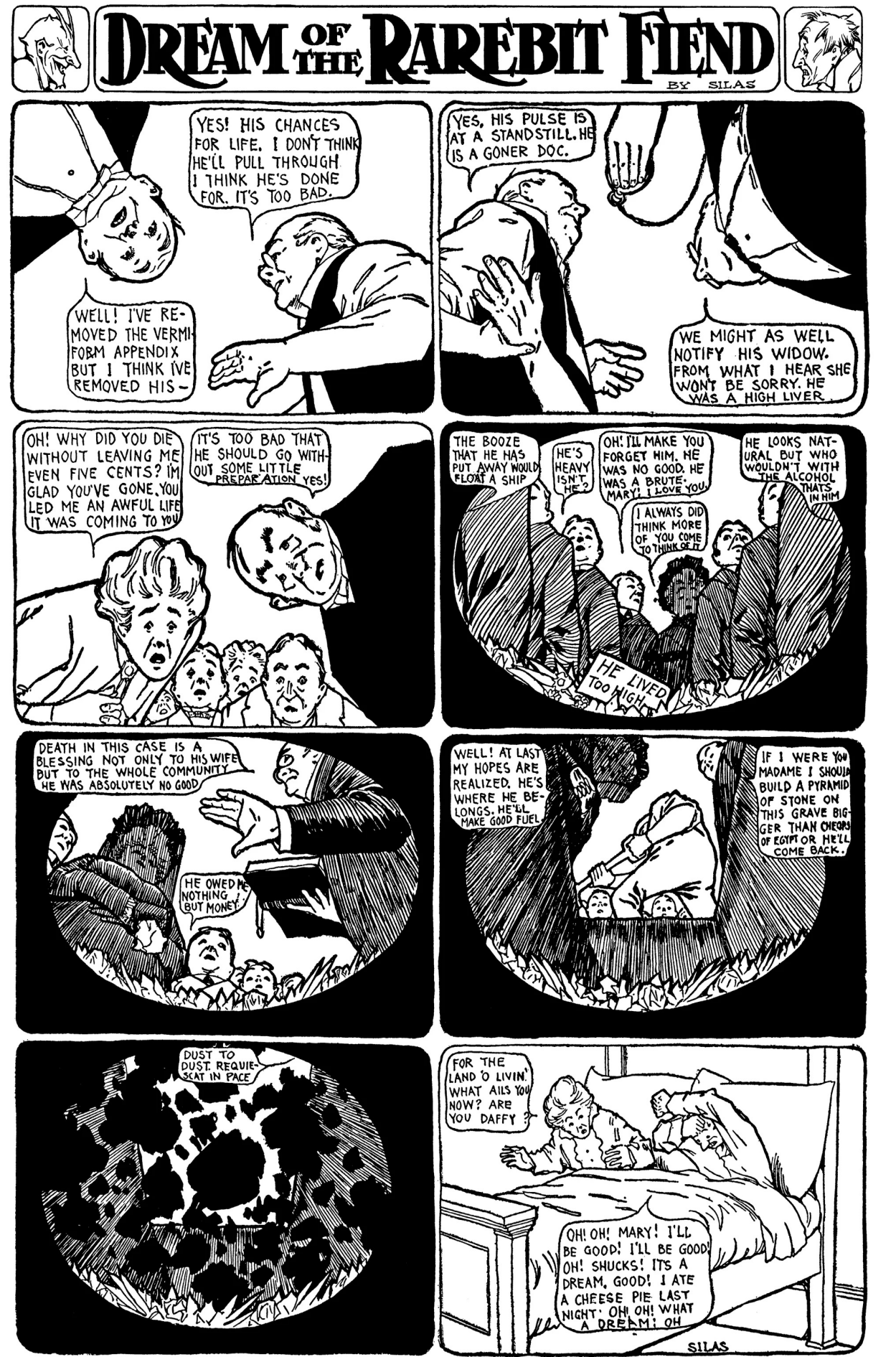
The major theatres of global conflict now function as structural disruptions rather than episodic crises. Eastern Europe continues in a bitter stalemate, while West Asia has evolved into a complex shadow war involving states, proxies and non-state actors. Temporarily on halt, these conflicts

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's internet user base crosses 950 million in 2025: IAMAI report

BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

India's internet user base crossed 950 million in 2025, driven largely by rapid growth in rural connectivity, rising short-video consumption, and increasing adoption of AI, according to a report released by IAMAI on Thursday.

The report also revealed that rural India accounts for 57 per cent of India's active internet users, i.e., approximately 548 million active users. The 'Internet in India Report 2025,' jointly prepared by Internet and Mobile Association of India and KAN-TAR, which highlights these trends, was released at the India Digital Summit in the presence of Manjula N, Secretary to



the Government, Department of Electronics, IT/BT and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka.

According to the report, India now has 958 million Active Internet Users (AIU), marking an approximate 8 per cent year on year growth, reinforcing India's position as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing digital markets. It also reveals that 44 per cent of users have engaged with AI-enabled features such as voice search, image based

search, chatbots, and AI filters.

"This growth of internet users continues to be led decisively by rural India, which is now home to approximately 548 million active internet users," the report said.

Rural regions now account for over 57 per cent of India's active internet users and are growing at nearly four times the pace of urban India, signalling a structural shift in where and how digital adoption is expanding, it added.

The report highlighted that artificial intelligence has reached mass adoption in India, with 44 per cent of users engaging with AI-enabled features such as voice search, image-based search, chatbots, and AI filters.

"Usage is highest among

younger audiences, with 57 per cent of users aged 15-24 years and 52 per cent of those aged 25-44 years reporting AI usage in the past year," it added.

The report further revealed that short-video consumption has emerged as a key growth driver within this expanding user base. It noted that in 2025, 588 million (61 per cent) internet users consumed short-video content, with rural users marginally outnumbering urban users.

Adoption is strongest among younger audiences, cementing their role as a key driver of digital engagement. In the statement, citing the report, IAMAI said that quick commerce is leading a fundamental shift in how Indians shop online, with social commerce

close behind, as the e-commerce ecosystem expands beyond traditional online marketplaces.

Among urban users, 230 million people (56 per cent of the urban active internet base) shopped online in the past year, with quick commerce and social commerce gaining prominence alongside established marketplaces, it added.

IAMAI also noted that multi-device usage is on the rise, with India now having 193 million multi-device internet users, representing 20 per cent of all active internet users, up from 165 million in 2024. "Urban adoption stands at 31 per cent, while rural India is catching up at 12 per cent. Shared device.

Record high prices pull India gold demand down 11 pc in 2025: WGC

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's gold demand declined by 11 pc in 2025 and is expected to be around 700 tonnes this year, weighed down by record-high prices and changing consumer buying patterns, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report on Thursday.

Overall gold demand in India fell 11 per cent to 710.9 tonnes in 2025 and is expected to be between 600 and 700 tonnes in 2026, according to the WGC's Full-Year 2025 Gold Demand Trends report.

In 2024, the overall gold demand stood at 802.8 tonnes.

However, in value terms, skyrocketing prices boosted demand by 30 per cent to Rs 7,51,490 crores, compared to Rs 5,75,930 crores in the pre-



vious year. "India's gold market in Q4 2025 clearly reflected the dual impact of record-high prices and shifting consumer behaviour. Total gold demand for the quarter stood at 241.3 tonnes, marking a 9 per cent decline compared to Q4 2024.

"However, this moderation in volume was more than offset by a sharp rise in value, with overall gold demand increasing 49 per cent year-on-year to approx. Rs 303,470 crores," WGC Regional CEO, India, Sachin Jain said.

The average gold price on January 1, 2025, rose by 67 per cent to Rs 1,01,572 per 10 grams in 2025, compared to Rs 70,754 in

January 2024. Demand for gold in India for the October-December quarter declined by 9 per cent at 241.3 tonnes as compared to 265.8 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year.

However, demand value surged by 49 per cent to Rs 3,03,470 crores from Rs 2,03,070 crores in the same period of 2024.

Total Jewellery demand in India for the whole of 2025 decreased by 24 per cent to 430.5 tonnes compared to 563.4 tonnes in 2024.

The value of jewellery demand increased by 12 per cent at Rs 4,54,390 crore, compared to Rs 4,04,510 crore recorded in 2024. "Despite the wedding season, jewellery volumes dropped by 23 per cent to 145.3 tonnes as record-high prices and affordability pressures

Mahindra Launches XUV 7XO, Electric XEV 9S in Nizamabad



NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. on Thursday launched the all-new XUV 7XO and XEV 9S, India's first authentic electric-origin 7-seater SUV, at Nizamabad in Telangana. The vehicles were unveiled by Dr. Rekulapally Bhoopathi Reddy, MLA, Nizamabad Rural, in the presence of Mrs. Katipally Sarala Mahender Reddy, former

Public Prosecutor of Nizamabad, Mr. K.M. Mahender Reddy, Advocate, High Court of Telangana, and other dignitaries at Automotive Mahindra. Priced from ₹13.66 lakh (ex-showroom), the XUV 7XO builds on the legacy of the XUV 700, which has crossed 3,00,000 customers since its 2021 launch, and aims to set new benchmarks in the SUV segment.

The XEV 9S, described by the company as

"India's Big New Electric," is priced from ₹19.95 lakh and is built ground-up on Mahindra's INGLO architecture. The electric SUV is designed to offer intelligent space and versatility for families, travellers, creators, and everyday users. The dual launch marks a key expansion of Mahindra's internal combustion and electric vehicle portfolio in the Telangana market.

Wings India 2026: Air India expands Boeing fleet with 30 more 737 Max jets

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Air India has placed an order for 30 additional fuel-efficient Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, strengthening its fleet expansion plans amid rising travel demand.

The announcement was made during the Wings India 2026 aviation event held in the city on Thursday. With this latest deal, Air India's total Boeing order book now stands at nearly 200 aircraft, spanning both single-aisle and widebody categories.

The new order comprises 20 Boeing 737-8 jets finalized earlier this month and 10 Boeing 737-10 aircraft that had previously appeared as unidentified orders on Boeing's orders and deliveries website. Both purchases were exercised from existing options, reflecting the airline's long-term fleet planning strategy.



Air India's leadership said the additional aircraft will play a crucial role in strengthening domestic and regional connectivity while ensuring cost efficiency and operational reliability. The airline is focused on scaling capacity steadily while modernising its fleet to meet increasing passenger demand across India and neighbouring markets.

"This additional order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft is part of our broader fleet strategy to position Air India firmly for the future as a world-class global carrier that India deserves and the world expects," said Campbell Wilson, CEO and Managing Director of Air India. He added that the order builds on the airline's large aircraft commitments made

in 2023 and supports planned fleet upgrades and phased deliveries over the coming years.

The airline plans to deploy the Boeing 737-8 aircraft primarily on high-frequency domestic and short-haul regional routes. These jets are known for their fuel efficiency, strong dispatch reliability and flexible range, making them well

suited for India's fast-growing aviation market. The larger 737-10 aircraft will allow Air India to carry more passengers while maintaining fleet commonality and achieving the lowest cost per seat among single-aisle aircraft. Boeing welcomed the expanded partnership, highlighting Air India's confidence in the 737 MAX platform. "Air India's order for more 737 MAX jets underscores the strong performance of their existing 737-8 fleet as they continue to expand connectivity across India and the South Asia region," said Paul Righi, Boeing Vice President of Commercial Sales and Marketing for Eurasia, India and South Asia. The latest order signals Air India's continued push to strengthen its position in the domestic and regional aviation market while laying the foundation for long-term global growth.

Sakthi Aviation, OMNIPOL to introduce Czech-made L410 NG aircraft in India

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sakthi Aviation and Defence Systems Private Limited and OMNIPOL Group here on Thursday signed a MoU to bring the world-renowned L410 NG 19-seater aircraft to India.

The modern, next-generation 19-seater turboprop from the Czech manufacturer Aircraft Industries is expected to strengthen India's regional connectivity ambitions. As per the agreement signed at the ongoing Wings India 2026, OMNIPOL Group and Sakthi are assessing the modalities to set up a final assembly line in India, thereby enabling Transfer of Technology (ToT) and boosting the local aviation ecosystem. The L 410 NG's ability to operate from short and unprepared runways makes it ideally suited for



connecting remote areas and unlocking new routes across the country. "Our partnership with OMNIPOL Group will not only offer carriers a compelling solution to expand regional air connectivity but will also catalyse domestic industry through Transfer of Technology and expanded workshare opportunities," said Dr. M Manickam, Chairman of SADSPL.

OMNIPOL Group Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO Artem Movsesyan said the company believes that the L 410 NG is well suited to revolutionise regional air travel in India given the aircraft's versatility and capability for operating in diverse conditions.

Hardeep Singh Puri Launches Jio-bp ACTIVE Petrol

GOA
Wakeup telangana

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday launched Jio-bp's engine-cleaning ACTIVE Technology petrol at India Energy Week 2026, unveiling a fuel innovation designed to actively clean engines, restore performance, and help motorists drive up to 100 km more annually at no extra cost. Developed by Jio-bp, the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility Limited, ACTIVE Technology petrol goes beyond conventional fuel protection by removing existing deposits from critical engine components. The advanced formulation improves engine smoothness, reliability, and efficiency while maintaining compliance with India's evolving fuel standards. According to

the company, regular use of ACTIVE Technology petrol can deliver tangible real-world benefits for Indian two- and four-wheeler users, including smoother rides, reduced maintenance, and better fuel economy—translating into up to 100 km of additional driving per year without any price premium. The fuel is built on bp's century-long expertise in fuel research and has undergone extensive validation through industry-standard and India-specific testing protocols. Its effectiveness was demonstrated through a 4,000 km motorcycle trial at the Coimbatore test track, where visible engine clean-up results were recorded using advanced borescope imaging. Jio-bp Chairman Sarthak Behuria said the product addresses what Indian motorists value most—reliable perform-

ance, lower upkeep, and more kilometers per tank. He added that the company aims to make advanced engine-cleaning technology accessible to customers across the country. Jio-bp CEO Akshay Wadhwa highlighted the scientific rigor behind the innovation, noting that five years of fuel chemistry research underpin the product. He said ACTIVE Technology petrol also complements Jio-bp's broader consumer offerings, including loyalty programs and the Mobility+ Credit Card. At India Energy Week, Jio-bp also showcased its expanding portfolio, including EV charging solutions, aviation turbine fuel, doorstep diesel delivery, and future-ready low-carbon fuels, reinforcing its commitment to next-generation mobility in India.

Samsung to Launch Galaxy A07 5G in India in Early February

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, is set to launch the Galaxy A07 5G in the first week of February, expanding its popular Galaxy A Series. Designed for India's digital-first consumers, the new smartphone focuses on photography, entertainment, and long-lasting battery performance at an affordable price point.

The Galaxy A07 5G features a dual-camera setup housed in Samsung's signature Track Camera Deco. The rear camera system includes a 50MP autofocus primary sensor paired with a 2MP depth camera, enabling high-quality photography and enhanced portrait shots with natural-looking bokeh effects. With an



F1.8 aperture, the main camera captures vibrant colours and sharp details, making it suitable for street photography, sunsets, and everyday moments. On the front, an 8MP camera delivers clear selfies and smooth video recording with reduced noise.

To enhance content consumption and social media engagement, the device sports a 6.7-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate, ensuring fluid scrolling and seamless video playback. The screen supports High Brightness Mode (HBM) up to 800 nits, allowing clear visibility even under di-

rect sunlight. For added durability, Samsung has equipped the display with 2-step tempered glass protection. Powering the Galaxy A07 5G is a massive 6000mAh battery—20 percent larger than its predecessor—designed to support all-day usage. With 25W fast charging and optimised power management, users can enjoy uninterrupted streaming, browsing, and multitasking throughout the day. Samsung said more details regarding the Galaxy A07 5G's exact launch date, pricing, and exclusive offers will be announced soon.

Sinners Receives 13 Bafta and 16 Oscar Nominations

Sinners was a vampire horror musical film that got immense praise for its technical craft. Be it the soulful and swinging blues music of the film, the unexpected unease and horror themes or the performances by the cast of the film, all aspects of the film received love and praise by audience and critics. The film did over \$368.3 million worldwide against a \$100 million budget. Despite it receiving overwhelming love and appreciation, a chunk of the audience disliked aspects of the film, some for its film making and screenplay and some had expressed issues over its themes and cultural commentaries.

Sinners opens with Sammie Moore (played by Miles Caton) arriving wounded and bruised at a church and moving towards the pastor, whose is his father. This scene itself creates a sense of unease and draws the viewer's attention. Later on the whole plot is a flashback. Sammie's twin cousins Smoke and Stack (dual role by Michael B Jordan) have arrived in town from Chicago. The Chicago gangsters, seeking to open a juke club, recruit Sammie as he is guitarist and a singer. As the plot moves forward both characters reunite with their loved



ones (Annie and Mary), later on Delta Slim, a respected blues harmonica player is introduced who is also an alcoholic. All these characters unite and open the juke club, which becomes an arena where blues and jazz music is celebrated. With swinging blues music and a firm establishment of characters the film transitions into a vampire horror film with socio-cultural commentary written all over.

The vampires who later attack the juke bar and cause a killing spree, are shown to be white characters, who are desperate to enter the club. Many critics and far right commentators have described the film to play the "don't trust white people" narrative, focusing on themes of cultural theft and racial dis-

trust. The white vampires are shown to be obsessed with entering the juke club and wanting to be a part of the blues music scene, this symbolizes of historically white Americans have been accused of stealing or appropriating black culture, these accusations are accurate and are culturally sensitive, in the past Elvis Presley were accused of 'stealing black music'. There is also a scene where the character of Delta Slim tells Sammie that "Blues wasn't forced on us like that religion. Nah, son, we brought this with us from home. It's magic, what we do. It's sacred, and big." This dialogue itself showcases the film's commentary on black cultural identity in America and how it has a deep connection with Blues music. This small

dialogue gives a hint of slavery and how Christianity was in a way imposed on the black community. So as expected many online reviewers and commentators have accused the film of being 'anti-christian' and 'anti white', National Review labeled the film as "cultural heresy," viewing it as a "know-it-all hate fest" driven by DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) that projects white guilt and self hatred. Some viewers also felt that the film promoted "Segregation Ideas".

Apart from being ideologically criticized the movie has also received criticism by many viewers and critics, for its slow burn pacing, repeated and cliché narratives and after the announcement of it receiving record breaking number of nominations in BAFTA and the Oscars, many have shown disappointment and have called the film to be overhyped and overrated. Director Ryan Coogler's filmography, be it, 'Black Panther' or 'Fruitvale Station' both are movies on black culture, identity and minority politics, making him already prone to criticism from far right ideologues. Despite Criticism and controversy, Sinners has received over 13 nominations at BAFTA.

Kiara Advani flaunts bold red lips, fans speculate on fillers

TIRUPATI
Wakeup telangana

Actress Kiara Advani, on Thursday, shared a video on social media flaunting her Thursday mood, where she was seen looking gorgeous in a close-up video.

The actress flaunted her bright, bold matte red lip shade that stood out prominently. But fans were very quick to take to her comments section and call it a 'lip filler'.

While one fan wrote, "Lip Filler," another wrote, "obviously it's a filler." Another fan wrote, "Lips ruined."

The actress dressed in a white outfit with her hair



styled in loose waves, captioned the video as, "#ThursdayMood." A lot of other fans flooded the comments section with compliments, too.

Talking about Kiara, the year 2025 seemed to be extremely fine for her on both her personal and professional fronts. On the personal front, the actress welcomed her first baby, a girl whom she has christened Saraaha, and on the

professional aspect, the actress received great reviews for her bikini look in her movie War 2.

On December 31, Kiara had shared a picture of a beautiful letter penned by her mother just before the actress resumed with her professional commitments after her sabbatical post motherhood.

The note read, "My darling Kiara, Tomorrow you walk back onto set for the 1st time after bringing our little angel into this world and returning with a bang." Kiara's mother further penned, asking her daughter to show the world how motherhood has only made her stronger and better!

Mamta Kulkarni says Aamir Khan would make tea in my kitchen

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former actress Mamta Kulkarni has revisited the camaraderie of the 1990s film industry, recalling how superstar Aamir Khan would often come straight to her house during the shoot of "Baazi", change in her bedroom due to the absence of vanity vans, and even make tea in her kitchen after pack-up. She said it reflected a warmth and ease rarely seen today.

Talking about music composer AR Rahman's comment of Bollywood being "communal", Mamta, who was one of the most successful actresses in 1990s, said: "Look, I feel extremely fortunate that I worked in the 1990s. Believe me, I never thought in those terms. I worked with Aamir Khan, I worked with Shah Rukh Khan... we never looked at each other's religion. Honestly, what should I even say now?"

Elaborating on the working culture of the era, she recalled that van-



ity vans were not part of film sets back then.

"Aamir Khan used to come to my house. When we were shooting Baazi, he would come and sit at my place. Many times during shoots, he would go into my bedroom to change because back then, there were no vanity vans. It wasn't like, 'there's a van, so we'll change there.'"

If Aamir was shooting in Lokhandwala, he would directly come to my house and change in my bedroom." Those times were different, said Mamta. "We would enter each other's homes, get ready there, and then go straight for the shoot. During Baazi's shoot, after pack-up, Aamir Khan and I would come straight to my house, and he would go

into my kitchen and make tea."

Speaking about overseas tours with Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, she said the sense of togetherness extended beyond film sets. "When we went on a world tour with Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, we would sit in each other's homes, someone would be making tea, someone else would be cooking. We never thought about such things. But now, it has truly become like this, everything has stopped. An artist is an artist. Please don't bring discrimination here."

Touching upon the changing dynamics of the music industry, Kulkarni also commented on composer AR Rahman, noting that creative relevance evolves with time. She concluded: "And when you ask about AR Rahman, everything has its time. Maybe your kind of music is no longer relevant. Today, so many very good singers are sitting at home without work."

Janhvi Kapoor Parts Ways With Karan Johar?

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

If industry sources are to be believed, Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor has reportedly parted ways with Karan Johar-backed talent management company Collective Artists Network and is now keen on handling her career decisions independently. "Janhvi is doing well in Telugu cinema. She has already delivered a big release with Devara and is now awaiting the release of Peddi. She has worked with A-list stars like Jr NTR and Ram Charan," says a source.

Janhvi is currently starring in Ram Charan's Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, and is also part of Jr NTR's Devara sequel. Her growing presence in Tolly-



wood has helped her gain wider acceptance among South audiences. It is known that Karan Johar's Dharma Productions played a key role in launching

her Bollywood career with films such as Dhadak, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, and Homebound. Janhvi later came under the management of Collective

Artists Network, which also represents major stars including Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Rashmika Mandanna, Rajkumar Rao, and Nora Fatehi.

Interestingly, sources reveal that Karan Johar himself advised Janhvi to explore opportunities in Tollywood. "Though she had an offer to work with Tamil star Vijay, Karan felt Telugu cinema would be a better starting point for her in the South. Her mother, the late Sridevi, was an uncrowned queen of Telugu cinema, and Janhvi would naturally enjoy better popularity here," the source concludes. An official statement regarding her association with Collective Artists Network is yet to be made.

Former India Hockey Coach Michael Nobbs Dies

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Australian hockey player and renowned international coach Michael Nobbs, who served as head coach of the Indian men's hockey team at the 2012 London Olympics, has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 72. Hockey Australia confirmed his death and expressed deep condolences to his family, friends, former teammates, and players influenced by his long association with the sport.

In an official statement, Hockey Australia described Nobbs as "a proud Kookaburra, a respected professional, and a servant of the sport," highlighting his lasting contribution to Australian and international hockey. He is survived by his wife Lee Capes, a former Australian women's international, and their daughter Kaitlin Nobbs, who currently represents Australia as a member of the Hockeyroos.

Michael Nobbs represented Australia as a defender between



1979 and 1985, earning 76 international caps and scoring one goal. Known for his reliability, exceptional fitness, and professionalism, he played primarily across the half-back line and at fullback. Hockey Australia noted that he was a key member of one of the strongest eras in Australian men's hockey.

Nobbs was part of the Australian teams that competed in the 1981 Hockey World Cup in Bombay and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, events that marked a golden generation in the country's hockey history. Despite competing in a highly talented lineup, he retained his place

through discipline, consistency, and the trust of coaches and teammates.

Following his playing career, Nobbs transitioned into coaching, gaining international recognition. He was appointed head coach of the Indian men's hockey team in 2011, taking charge after India failed to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Under his guidance, India impressed during the Olympic qualification phase, raising hopes of a resurgence. However, at the 2012 London Olympics, the Indian team endured a difficult campaign and finished last, which ultimately led to Nobbs' dismissal. Despite the outcome, his role came during a challenging rebuilding phase for Indian hockey.

Apart from India, Nobbs also coached Japan, further underlining his global influence on the sport. Across roles as player, mentor, and coach, Michael Nobbs leaves behind a legacy defined by commitment, professionalism, and service to international hockey.

International Arena Polo Championship 2026 Official T-Shirt Unveiled in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Waheeduddin

The Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club (HPRC) has officially begun the countdown to the much-anticipated International Arena Polo Championship 2026 with the unveiling of the tournament's official T-shirt and the presentation of the event invitation.

The official championship T-shirt was unveiled by Shri Mohammed Azharuddin, Hon'ble Minister for Public Enterprises and Minority Affairs, Government of Telangana, at his office in the Telangana Secretariat on Wednesday. During the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister formally accepted the invitation to attend the International Arena Polo Championship 2026, extending his support towards the pro-



motion of sports and equestrian activities in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mohammed Azharuddin appreciated the efforts of the Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club in bringing international-standard arena polo events to Telangana. He highlighted the importance of encouraging traditional and emerging sports, stating that such initiatives not only pro-

mote athletic excellence but also enhance Hyderabad's reputation as a host city for international sporting events.

The event was attended by Chaitania Kumar, Founder-President of the Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club, Arsalan Khan, along with other representatives and members of HPRC. The delegation briefed the Hon'ble Minister on the scale, objectives, and international

participation expected at the championship.

Founder-President Chaitania Kumar expressed gratitude for the Minister's encouragement and acceptance of the invitation. He stated that the International Arena Polo Championship 2026 aims to provide a world-class platform for arena polo players while inspiring youth participation in equestrian sports.

The International Arena Polo Championship 2026 is expected to feature top national and international arena polo talent and promises an electrifying sporting spectacle for Hyderabad.

The event is set to further strengthen the city's growing stature as an emerging hub for international arena polo in India, while promoting sports culture, tourism, and global sporting exchange.

HYDRAA Seals Nampally Furniture Building Over Safety Violations



The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Thursday, January 29, intensified fire safety inspections across the city, sealing a Neerus showroom on Jubilee Hills Road No. 36 and taking over a commercial complex in the Nampally area for serious safety violations.

HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath ordered the immediate sealing of the Rahim and Mannan Estates Standard Furniture building in Nampally after officials found major fire safety lapses. The six-floor structure with a cellar was being used for commercial activities without a mandatory fire safety no-objection certificate (NOC).

Large quantities of furniture were stored on all floors, including staircases, completely blocking emergency fire exits. The Commissioner expressed strong displeasure over sales being conducted on two floors and garment manufacturing units operating on the three floors above, all in violation of safety norms. Following the inspection, joint teams from HYDRAA, GHMC, the Fire Department, and the Electricity Department disconnected the power supply and halted all commercial activities in the building.

Telangana plans air-quality portal, special teams for complaints in GHMC

The Telangana government will soon launch a publicly accessible air quality dashboard and pilot special response teams to address pollution complaints in two Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) zones, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said on Thursday, January 29. Speaking at a conference on "Air Quality Index and Air Quality Management" organised by the State Planning Department at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Hyderabad, he said the measures were part of the state's scientific, target-driven approach to improving air quality.

Bhatti said that development and environmental protection must move together and described air quality as a key public health, productivity and economic indicator, citing global studies that underline the scale of the challenge. He said Telangana had doubled its air-monitoring network in 2024 by adding 40 new stations across major towns and that a Telangana Clean Air Action Plan formulated in 2025 was already being implemented to tackle pollution from vehicles, road dust, construction activity, industries and open burning. The Deputy CM also outlined steps to promote clean mobility, including subsidies for electric vehicles, expansion of e-buses and Metro services, development of charging infrastructure and the launch of registered vehicle-scrapping facilities. He added that industrial emissions monitoring systems had been linked to Pollution Control Board servers, the use of cleaner fuels was being encouraged and enforcement strengthened. Under the 2025 Renewable Energy Policy, the state has set a target of 20,000 MW by 2030 through solar, wind and green hydrogen.

Telangana reiterates order withdrawing BC status of 26 communities

The Telangana government on Thursday, January 29, reiterated orders that withdrew the backward reservation from 26 communities, including the Reddy Gandla community.

The action comes after eight people belonging to castes omitted in the state BC list were elected as ward members in the 2025 Gram Panchayat elections.

In 2014, after bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh, the Telangana government had adopted 112 castes as BCs with the omission of 26 communities and 1 synonym (Settibalija). In view of the upcoming municipal elections in the state, the government has instructed all concerned district collectors, election authorities and returning officers not to consider candidates belonging to these omitted communities as BC.

In a memo issued on Thursday, E Sridhar, secretary to the government, said that in 2010, the government had withdrawn orders that allowed Reddy Gandla community to get caste certificates as BC-B Gandla in Karimnagar, Adilabad, Warangal and Medak.

He said the same is being reiterated in the present order to prevent exploitation of the BC Reservations by the Reddy Gandla community. According to a 2002 report of the National Commission for Backwards Classes, Reddy Gandla is a sub-caste of the Gandla community, which was traditionally involved in oil-pressing. However, over the years, the Reddy Gandlas evolved into a distinct community as they moved into agriculture.

Congress Announces 'Star Campaigners' For Municipal Polls

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Congress party on Thursday announced a list of 20 star campaigners for the upcoming civic body elections in Telangana, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Vikramarka leading the campaign. The star campaigners will participate in rallies, roadshows, and public meetings across municipalities to mobilise

support for the party. The list includes all Cabinet ministers, highlighting the party's intent to run an aggressive and coordinated campaign at the grassroots level. CWC special invitee Ch. Vamsi Chand Reddy and former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president V. Hanumantha Rao have also been named among the key campaigners. Additionally, AICC in-charge for Telangana

Meenakshi Natarajan and PCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud will play prominent roles in steering the campaign. Party leaders said the electioneering will gain momentum from next month, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy scheduled to address multiple rallies across urban centres. The star campaigners will focus on highlighting the state government's welfare schemes, governance

reforms, and development initiatives, aiming to connect with urban voters and strengthen the Congress's position in municipal bodies. Meanwhile, PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud announced the formation of Lok Sabha constituency-wise screening committees to oversee candidate selection for the civic polls, signalling that organisational preparations are moving into the final phase.

KCR seeks new date for SIT questioning, cites poll commitments

KCR seeks new SIT date, cites municipal polls, asks for questioning at Erravelli home.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In view of the municipal election nominations, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has sought a fresh date for examination in response to the SIT notice in the alleged phone tapping case. Affirming his willingness to cooperate with the investigation, he also requested the authorities to conduct the questioning at his Erravelli residence.



In a written reply, Chandrashekhara Rao said he was currently preoccupied with the ongoing municipal and municipal corporation election process, where nominations were underway and party authorisations were being issued. As Friday was the last date for filing nomination to the elections to the 116 municipalities and 7 municipal corporations, he informed that he was preoccupied with issuing authorisations to number of persons as the elections were being held on party basis.

"You may fix any other date of your convenience for my examination under Section 160 of the CrPC," he wrote. The BRS chief also requested the investigation team to conduct the examination at his residence in Erravelli village of Siddipet district. Referring to Section 160 of the CrPC, he pointed out that the law provides that a male person above 65 years of age cannot be required to appear at a police station and must instead be examined at his place of residence. However, the provision does not impose territorial limits on where such examination can be conducted.

He also asked that all future notices be sent to his residential address at Erravelli alone. "Being a former Chief Minister for the State of Telangana and present Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and also as a responsible citizen of this country, I would like to assure my full co-operation with the said investigation," he added.

108-Ft Tricolour Unveiled at Mehdiapatnam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Thursday, January 29, inaugurated a 108-foot-high National Flag mast at the Mehdiapatnam Garrison, marking a moment of pride and patriotism. The ceremony was attended by senior Army officers, civil dignitaries, representatives of the Flag Foundation of India, serving soldiers, veterans, NCC cadets, and members of the armed forces fraternity. The event featured a Guard of Honour, hoisting of the Tricolour, and the rendering of the National Anthem.

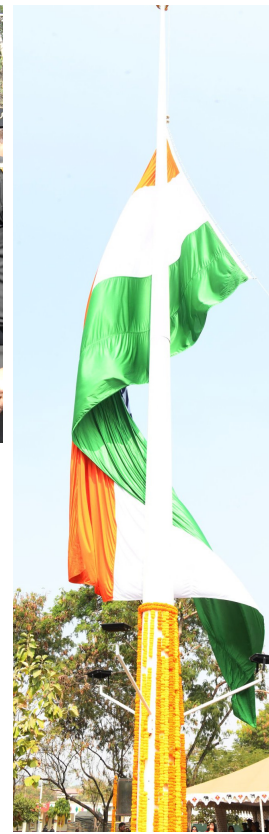


Addressing the gathering, the Governor paid rich

tribute to the bravery, professionalism, and selfless service of the Indian Armed Forces, while acknowledging the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families in safeguarding the nation. He also lauded the contributions of veterans and Veer Naris, and urged NCC cadets to uphold the

core values of discipline, service, and patriotism, emphasizing their role in nation-building.

The newly installed National Flag, the Governor said, will serve as a lasting symbol of India's unity, sovereignty, and constitutional values, inspiring generations to come.



TGSRTC steps up services for Medaram Jatara devotees

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has intensified transport arrangements for devotees travelling to the Sammakka Saralamma Jatara in Medaram, with Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy on Thursday reviewing the special transport services arranged for the jatara.



He inspected key points along the Uppal to Medaram route and checked passenger facilities at major bus stations. As Part of enhanced safety measures, special child safety centres have

been set up at Uppal bus stop and other bus stations. Children travelling to Medaram are being provided with identification tags to prevent them from getting separated from their families. Nagi Reddy personally interacted with children and affixed ID tags, stating that the initiative would significantly help in ensuring their safety during the pilgrimage.

Fake cybercrime officer ran extortion scam, arrested

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The SR Nagar police on Wednesday arrested a habitual cybercrime offender who allegedly cheated several people by posing as a cybercrime police officer and extorted money through fear and intimidation. The suspect, J Sai Ram Reddy (27), a bike-taxi rider from Karimnagar, was involved in at least 44 cyber fraud cases ac-

ross Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. According to the police, Sai Ram created fake female profiles on social media platforms to befriend victims, mostly men. After gaining their trust, he allegedly called them posing as a cybercrime official, threatened them with false cases related to obscene online activity and extorted money as fine through digital payment modes. Victims were also asked

to reset their mobile phones to erase evidence. In the latest case, a student was cheated of nearly Rs 97,000 through multiple digital transactions. Based on a complaint lodged via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, he was traced and nabbed. During interrogation, the suspect confessed to committing similar offences using multiple SIM cards, mobile phones and bank accounts.

GHMC standing committee approves several infrastructure projects

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) standing committee on Thursday, January 29, approved several infrastructure and public amenities projects, including a 50-bed Community Health Center in Yakutpura. The committee has also approved renovation of Moula Ali road under-bridge, an indoor sports complex at Banda Bavi and a football ground in Valvar Nagar, Capra. A 6-lane flyover from Bairamalguda to Owaisi Junction has also been approved, along with a one-way flyover at NFCL Junction and an underpass/flyover at TV9 Junction. Additionally, permission was also granted for the construction of Hayat Nagar and the LB Nagar circle of-

fice. Permission was also given to appoint a developer to design, develop, and maintain a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform for the GHMC. The committee also approved implementing a face recognition-based biometric attendance system for sanitation, entomology, and veterinary staff of newly merged municipalities. Permission was also given to hand over the Model Market building in Tarnaka to the Lighthouse Foundation for training unemployed youth. The committee also approved naming Bathukamma Kunta Park as V Hanumantha Rao Bathukamma Kunta. It was also proposed to name the road near Bairamalguda Flyover after Late Vanga Madhusudhan Reddy; however, this item has been recommended for the Council's approval.

Hyderabad Conference Advances US-India AI and Cybersecurity Ties

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The United States and India on Thursday, January 29, advanced the US-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology) initiative at a landmark conference in Hyderabad, aimed at strengthening collaboration in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. Titled "Leveraging US-India TRUST: Industry-Academia Partnerships in AI & Cybersecurity," the conference was organised by the US Consulate General Hyderabad in partnership with the World Trade Center, Shamshabad and Visakhapatnam, at the Financial District. The TRUST initiative, launched by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi



in February last year, seeks to promote cooperation among governments, academia, and the private sector in strategic technologies such as AI, semi-conductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, energy, and space. The framework focuses on secure, outcome-driven collaboration aligned with long-term innovation and competitiveness in both countries.

Addressing the gathering, US Consul General Laura Williams said the partnership aims to build secure technology ecosystems that protect innovation, strengthen supply chains, and create new opportunities for leadership in emerging technologies. She reaffirmed the strength of bilateral ties and noted that the initiative would further enhance cooperation in

trade, defence, energy, and other key sectors. Y Varaprasad Reddy, Chairman of the World Trade Center, Shamshabad and Visakhapatnam, said the conference was designed to deepen academic-industry partnerships, foster innovation, enable knowledge exchange, and build trust in the rapidly evolving fields of AI and cybersecurity. The event featured four thematic sessions, focusing on linking policy with real-world AI and cybersecurity ecosystems, the use of AI in cyber threat detection and response, successful US-India academic collaborations and joint research funding, and a roadmap for long-term cooperation through skills development, research partnerships, and common standards for safe AI deployment.

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