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Brief Insights

SC: Menstrual Health Fundamental Right, Orders free Pads for Schoolgirls

In a landmark verdict aimed at ensuring gender justice and educational equity, the Supreme Court on Friday held that the right to dignified menstrual health forms part of the right to life and education under the Constitution. The apex court directed all States and Union Territories to provide free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins to girl students and ensure functional, gender-segregated toilets in all schools.

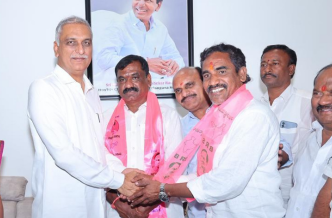
A two-judge Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan issued a series of binding directions applicable to government, aided and private schools alike. While keeping the plea pending, the court said the Centre would have to demonstrate substantial compliance.

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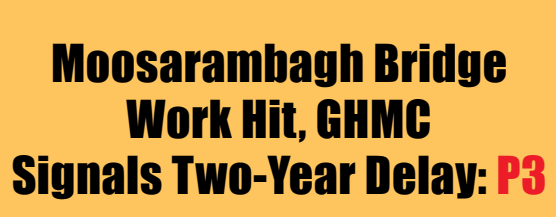
Opposition Demands High-Level Probe Into Ajit Pawar Plane Crash

The allegations of foul play into the accidental death of NCP chief Ajit Pawar continue to surface as opposition leaders on Friday demanded a high-level inquiry into the plane crash. Senior Congress leader Vijay Wadetiwar demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe or a high-level judicial inquiry into the plane crash at Baramati, which killed the late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. His demand after the Devendra Fadnis-led Maharashtra government in Maharashtra announced a CID probe into the air crash at Baramati airport, which killed Ajit Pawar on Wednesday. "I don't think anything much will come out of the CID investigation. There are many questions in people's minds (about the accident). Is this a plane crash or sabotage? If you look at social media (posts) regarding this, 80 percent of the people believe that it is sabotage, not an accident."

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Suprabhat Rao Joins BRS in the Presence of Harish Rao: P3



Moosarambagh Bridge Work Hit, GHMC Signals Two-Year Delay: P3



TG CM completes leadership training at Harvard University: P2



PM Modi pay tributes to Gandhi on death anniversary

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat memorial on his 78th death anniversary on Friday (January 30, 2026). Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and several Union Ministers, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, also visited the memorial to pay tributes to the Father of



the Nation. A two minutes silence was observed by the dignitaries in his memory. At an all-faith prayer meeting held at the memorial, Gandhi's favourite devotional songs, including "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram", were rendered.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid floral tributes at Raj Ghat on January 30, marking the 78th death anniversary (Punyathithi) of Mahatma Gandhi. Birla offered homage at the samadhi sthal of the Father of the Nation. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popular as Mahatma Gandhi, was the leading figure of India's struggle for Freedom from the British rule. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on January 30, 1948, in Delhi.

T'gana Demands Higher Tax Share from Centre

Telangana Pins Hopes on Higher Central Funds in Union Budget

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Union Budget 2026-27, to be presented in Parliament on February 1, is expected to reflect the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, raising hopes in the Telangana government of increased fiscal transfers from the Centre. The Finance Commission's recommendations will come into force from April 1, marking the start of the new financial year.

Telangana's share in Central tax devolution has declined over the past decade. Under the 14th Finance Commission, the state received 2.437 per cent of the divisible pool, which fell to 2.102 per cent under the 15th Finance Commission. The state government has termed this decline a serious concern and has urged corrective measures. Ahead of the 16th Fi-

nance Commission's report, Telangana submitted a detailed memorandum seeking fairer tax distribution and enhanced financial support to ensure debt sustainability, boost infrastructure development, and strengthen welfare schemes. A key demand was to increase the vertical devolution of Central taxes to states from the current 41 per cent to 50 per cent.

The state also argued that the Centre's growing dependence on cesses and surcharges—which are not shared with states—has reduced the effective share of states in overall tax revenues.

Telangana raised broader concerns affecting southern states, stating that the existing formula penalises economically productive regions. It urged the Commission to adopt an incentive-based approach that rewards efficiency, fiscal discipline, and economic performance rather than

relying heavily on population-based criteria.

On horizontal devolution, Telangana proposed reducing dependence on the "per capita income distance" formula, recommending that at least 50 per cent weightage be given to Gross State Domestic Product to ensure equitable allocation to growth-driving states.

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated these demands during a meeting with 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya in September 2024. He stressed the need for greater fiscal autonomy for states to design schemes based on local needs. Bhatti also defended welfare programmes such as Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, and food subsidies, stating that they should be viewed as investments in social stability and inclusive growth.

PM Modi, Venezuela's Prez Discuss Deepening Bilateral Ties

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with Acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, agreeing to strengthen and expand the bilateral partnership across multiple sectors, according to official statements. This marked the first direct conversation between the two leaders since Rodríguez assumed the acting presidency earlier this month. In a post on X, PM Modi



said he and Rodríguez "agreed to further deepen and expand our bilateral partnership in all areas, with a shared vision of taking India-Venezuela relations to new heights in the years ahead." The two leaders discussed coopera-

tion in trade and investment, energy, digital technology, health, agriculture and strengthening people-to-people ties, according to a press release from the Ministry of External Affairs. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest and stressed continued engagement.

Rodríguez became Venezuela's interim president on January 5, after her predecessor, Nicolás Maduro, was detained by U.S. forces and taken to New York to face trial.

SIT Issues Fresh Notice to KCR in Phone-Tapping Case

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday issued a fresh notice to former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, directing him to be present without fail for questioning at his Nandimaduru residence in Jubilee Hills on Sunday at 3 pm in connection with the alleged phone-tapping case. SIT officials visited Rao's residence on Friday and pasted the notice on the wall near the main entrance. His response was awaited at the time of publication.

Earlier, the SIT had issued a notice asking Rao to appear for questioning on Friday. However, Rao sought a new date, citing his preoccupation with issuing B-Forms to party candidates for the municipal elections. He also re-



quested that the questioning be conducted at his farmhouse in Erravalli, Siddipet district. The nomination process ended earlier on Friday. Rejecting this request, the SIT clarified that questioning must take place at the address mentioned in Rao's election affidavit and official records, which is his Nandimaduru residence. Citing Section 160 of the CrPC, the SIT stated that a person acquainted with the case facts can be examined within the jurisdiction of the concerned police station. The SIT said it had considered Rao's age and agreed to question him at his Hyderabad residence.

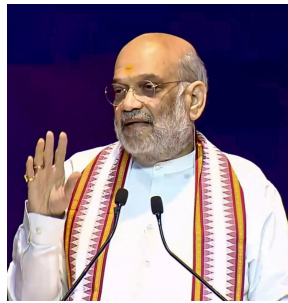
Assam Tea Will Reach European Market, Says Amit Shah

"The EU-India trade pact will further boost Assam tea exports to European countries," he asserted

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the EU-India free trade agreement will ensure that Assam tea shipments will reach European countries with zero tariff. Addressing a public rally at the Khanikar Parade Ground here, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken Assam tea to Paris and Berlin along with other countries of the European bloc through the recently signed trade pact.

"The EU-India trade pact will further boost Assam tea exports to European countries," he asserted.



India and the European Union on Tuesday sealed a landmark free trade agreement - billed as the "mother of all deals" - to create a market of two billion people, with the PM and the top EU leadership unveiling a transformative agenda to leverage trade and defence in protecting the rules-based world order. Dibrugarh, which has the

highest concentration of tea gardens, will get the biggest advantage from this trade pact, Shah said. "Tea from these gardens will now reach 27 countries and the people of these countries will enjoy the morning cup of tea from Dibrugarh", he added. The 27 countries of the EU comprise one-third of international trade and the PM has "opened up a huge market for tea which will reach there with zero-tariff", the Union minister said. "Our export earnings will go up and Modi ji has done wonders for Assam tea with this pact," Shah added.

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Delhi HC Questions DGCA on Indefinite Pilot Rest Relaxation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Delhi High Court on Friday questioned the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), over the "indefinite" relaxation granted to airlines on implementing new norms relating to weekly rest and leave for pilots. A two-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia asked the DGCA to explain the rationale behind its decision to withdraw a key provision of the new flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms, which stated that "no leave shall be substituted by weekly rest." Issuing notice on a public interest litigation (PIL), the court



directed the DGCA and IndiGo to file their responses within two weeks. The DGCA had, on December 5, 2025, granted an exemption from certain FDTL provisions to allow IndiGo to deploy more pilots on duty in an effort to reduce flight disruptions and normalise operations. The airline had cancelled hundreds of flights across the country in the first week of December after it was unprepared to implement the new norms, which came into force on November 1, 2025.

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Medaram Maha Jatara Sees Record 1.5 Crore Footfalls

An unprecedented 50 lakh people attended the Maha Jatara on Friday alone

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Medaram Maha Jatara witnessed an unprecedented turnout on Friday as over 50 lakh devotees thronged the forest shrine in a single day, pushing the total footfalls beyond 1.5 crore, far above the one crore estimate projected by the state administration. The massive gathering coincided with the auspicious occasion when all four tribal deities—Sammakka, Saralamma, Pagiddha Raju and Govinda Raju—were



seated on their sacred altars. The forest of Medaram turned into a sea of humanity, reverberating

with chants of "Sammakka, Sarakka," as devotees from Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pra-

desh and Madhya Pradesh arrived in large numbers. Thousands of Shiva Sathulu went into traditional trance, while

pilgrims offered jaggery equal to their body weight, along with sarees, blouse pieces, bangles, coconuts and odi biyyam (sacred rice).

The Jampanna Vagu witnessed a continuous flow of devotees taking holy dips before proceeding to the significance of the biennial fair, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma, international diplomats, ministers, MLAs and senior officials visited Medaram via helicopter and offered Bangaram (jaggery) to the deities. The dignitaries praised

the tribal priests for preserving centuries-old traditions, while the administration ensured tight security and smooth movement.

The Maha Jatara will conclude on Saturday with the Vana Pravesham ritual. As per tribal customs, the deities will return to their respective forest abodes—Sammakka to Chilakalagutta, Sarakka to Kannepalli, Pagiddha Raju to Penukonda and Govinda Raju to Kondai—marking the official end of the festival for the next two years.

ESTD 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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

Release eligible life convicts as per SC directions: HRF to Telangana govt

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Human Rights Forum (HRF) has demanded that the Government of Telangana immediately begin the process of prematurely releasing all eligible life-convict prisoners, in line with directions issued by the Supreme Court.

In a statement issued on Friday, January 30, the HRF recalled that the Supreme Court, through its order dated February 18, 2025, in *Suo Motu Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 4 of 2021*, along with SLP (Criminal) No. 529 of 2021, had issued clear directions to all states and Union Territories to for-



mulate policies governing remission and premature release of convicted prisoners.

Following these directions, the home department of the Telangana government issued G.O. Ms. No. 126 on October 27, 2025, laying down

permanent guidelines for granting special remission to life-convict prisoners. The government order specifies the procedures and eligibility criteria for identifying prisoners who can be considered for premature release, the rights body said.

However, it pointed out that nearly a year has passed since the Supreme Court's order, and close to three months since the Telangana government notified its guidelines, yet there has been no visible progress in implementing the policy on the ground. "Life-convict prisoners and their families have been living in anguish and uncertainty, especially with the hope that eligible prisoners would be released on the occasion of Republic Day. Unfortunately, that did not happen," the forum said. The HRF emphasised that under G.O. Ms. No. 126, the government is required to prepare a list of eligible life-convict pris-

oners once every four months and place it before a Standing Committee for consideration. "As of now, there is no public information to suggest that the process of identifying eligible prisoners has even begun," it noted. According to the forum, the continued delay undermines the very principles of remission, reformation, and constitutional liberty that have been repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court. "Such inaction defeats the spirit of the law and prolongs the suffering of prisoners who are legally entitled to consideration for release," the statement said.

TG CM completes leadership training at Harvard University

The six-day 'Leadership in the 21st Century' programme ran from 7 am to 6 pm daily, with Revanth Reddy among 62 participants from across the world.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has successfully completed the six-day leadership programme that he enrolled for at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The programme, "Leadership in the 21st Century" was held every day from 7 am to 6 pm, in temperatures around -15 to -24 degrees Celsius. The classes began on January 25.

"Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his cohort of 62 students at the Harvard Kennedy School completed their executive education programme," an



official release said here on Friday. After successful completion of programme, the students were given the certificates by the faculty, it said. During his stay, Reddy

met the top officials of the famed institution and sought collaboration with the Kennedy School. He also interacted with a group of Indian students at the university.

Congress Surveys Ground Mood Ahead of Municipal Polls

ADILABAD
Wakeup telangana

With municipal elections approaching, the Congress on Friday conducted a flash survey across select colonies in the erstwhile Adilabad district to assess the winning prospects of aspirants seeking party nominations. The move comes amid intense competition for ward councillor posts, with several

leaders eyeing the municipal chairman positions. Many aspirants filed nominations for ward councillor seats and submitted the party's A Form to election officials, while awaiting the issuance of the crucial B Form. According to party sources, survey teams began the exercise as early as 6 am and completed it within a few hours by collecting feedback from local residents

on the popularity and acceptability of party aspirants. Some leaders, particularly those aspiring for chairman posts, reportedly maintained secrecy while filing their nominations to avoid drawing the attention of rivals. It is learnt that such candidates filed nominations through their proposers. The Congress high command is closely monitoring the nomination

process, as multiple aspirants have filed nominations in several wards across municipalities in Adilabad, Nirmal, Bhainsa, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, Bellampalli, Chennur and Mancherial. Party election observers are expected to persuade candidates to withdraw from the fray after the official announcement of party nominees and issuance of the B Form, party leaders said.

Municipal Polls: 28,456 Nominations Filed for 2,996 Wards

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The filing of nomination papers for the upcoming municipal and municipal corporation elections on February 11 concluded on Friday. A total of 28,456 nominations were submitted by candidates representing major parties, including the Congress, BJP,



BRS, CPM, CPI, MIM, AAP, as well as numerous independents, covering the 2,996 wards up for grabs. Party in-

siders and officials noted that several nominations came from rebel candidates, adding to the electoral complexity. Officials have scheduled the scrutiny of nominations for January 31, after which candidates whose papers are rejected can file appeals until 5 pm on February 1. The authorities will dispose of these ap-

peals the following day. Subsequently, aspirants will have the opportunity to withdraw their candidatures by February 3, after which the returning officer will announce the final list of candidates eligible to contest. The process is being closely monitored to ensure smooth and transparent elections.

Telangana's cultivated area grew by 90 lakh acre in 9 years: Economic Survey

In Telangana, the cultivated area, which stood at 1.31 crore acres in 2014, increased to 2.2 crore acres by FY 23 due to major flagship projects, such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and Mission Kakatiya, the survey said.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The cultivated area in Telangana grew by nearly 90 lakh acres between 2014 and 2023 due to various projects such as the Kaleshwaram Lift irrigation Scheme and Mission Kakatiya, Economic Survey 2025-26 has said.

The survey, which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday, January 29, also said Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana together account for nearly 40 per cent of services output, driven by modern, high-productivity services such as IT, finance and professional services, resulting in a concentration of output in highly urbanised states, particularly in southern India.



"In Telangana, the cultivated area, which stood at 1.31 crore acres in 2014, increased to 2.2 crore acres by FY 23 due to major flagship projects, such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and Mission Kakatiya (tank rejuvenation), undertaken by Telangana. "Therefore, access to irrigation facilities, aligning crops with natural resource endowments, and

using climate-resilient high-yielding variety seeds, among other interventions, are imperative for improving yields," it said. Telangana Minister for Civil Supplies and Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy recently said the state has procured a record 70.82 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of paddy during the 2025-26 kharif season,

surpassing the previous high of 70.2 LMT. In the labour domain, Telangana, Bihar, Gujarat, Odisha and Maharashtra have removed restrictions on women working in a wider range of industries and commercial establishments, the survey further said. It is observed that older cities, such as Mumbai and Bengaluru, exhibit smaller increases in highly dense regions but have expanded notably into semi-urban or peri-urban zones. However, cities such as Pune and Hyderabad have experienced substantial growth in their densely populated areas, while also undergoing significant expansion into peri-urban regions, it added.

Woman constable dies by suicide in Telangana over harassment

A woman police constable died by suicide in Telangana's Warangal district on January 27 due to alleged harassment by two people including a distant relative. The constable, Anitha, was a native of Seethaya Thanda, Parvatagiri Mandal of Warangal. She was working with the Armed Reserve Force of the Warangal Commissionerate. According to the police, one of the accused, identified as Rajender, who is Anitha's distant relative and a native of Mahabubabad. Rajender was allegedly pressuring Anitha for marriage for the past four years. The constable's parents made it clear that the marriage wouldn't take place. Despite the rejection, Rajender contacted Anitha via video calls and accused her of being in a relationship with other men. When Rajender learnt that Anitha was close to her classmate Jabbar Lal and the two were considering marriage, he contacted Jabbar and instigated him against the constable.

Hyderabad in Need of More Helicopters, Helipads for Emergencies

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's soaring vertical growth, characterized by a surge in skyscrapers, hospitals, and commercial complexes, is creating an urgent need for helicopters and helipads to bolster firefighting, emergency medical services, and rescue operations, aviation experts have warned. With the city sprawling over 2,053 sq km and facing chronic traffic congestion, experts stressed that aerial support systems are becoming essential for urban safety and rapid emergency response.

Speaking at Wings India 2026, aviation specialists highlighted Telangana as one of the most aviation-friendly states in India, citing government policies and infrastructure support. The state has attracted helicopter component manufacturing units at Adibatla, enabling growth in both civil and commercial aviation. Traditionally, helicopters in India have been associated with elections, pilgrimages, and VIP transport, but their role is now expanding to disaster relief, emergency medical evacuation, and urban rescue missions. Experts emphasized that Hyderabad's central location and the presence of a world-class airport at Shamshabad give it a



strategic advantage as a potential cargo and e-commerce hub. With India's operational airports nearly doubling from 75 to 160 in recent years, the aviation ecosystem is poised for significant expansion. G. Asok Kumar, former Union Secretary and Ministry of Civil Aviation official, noted that India will need at least 100 additional rotary-wing aircraft over the next five years to keep pace with rapid urban vertical growth. He recommended that every district in Telangana have a helipad and that skyscrapers include helipads to facilitate firefighting, aerial spraying, and rescue operations. Kumar also stressed the growing need for air ambulances in Hyderabad, where traffic congestion often delays emergency medical response. Helicopters, he said, could prove critical during the "golden hour" in saving

lives, and suggested that health insurance policies incorporate coverage for air ambulance services. The civil helicopter segment in India, long neglected, is showing signs of revival. Numbers rose from 118 in 2000 to 294 by 2012, dipped to 234 in 2016, and currently hover around 280. By contrast, the United States operates approximately 9,500 helicopters. Experts attributed India's lag to entrenched perceptions that helicopters serve only the wealthy—a mindset that is gradually changing as urban challenges demand more versatile aerial solutions. With Hyderabad's rapid urbanization showing no signs of slowing, experts agree that helicopters and helipads are no longer optional but critical components of the city's emergency response infrastructure and urban planning strategies.

BJP Slams Congress Over Phone-tapping Scandal

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Friday accused the Congress government of shielding those involved in the phone-tapping scandal, alleging that the "father, son and brother-in-law" at the centre of the case continue to roam free and pose before cameras instead of facing arrest. Speaking at the party's Vijay Sankharavam Sabha in Jagtial, the first meeting ahead of the upcoming urban

local body elections, Ramchander Rao alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had failed to deliver on his anti-corruption promises. He recalled Revanth Reddy's vow to complete probes into BRS-era irregularities and jail culprits within 100 days, but said that two years later only minor police arrests had been made. Ramchander Rao alleged a secret pact between Congress and BRS was protecting the accused, likening it to Chandrashekar Rao's earlier defence of Revanth Reddy in the

"cash for vote" case. Industrialist Konda Lakshman and his followers joined the BJP during the meeting, in the presence of Nizamabad MP D. Arvind. Highlighting Central government's contributions under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ramchander Rao cited investments in highways, urban schemes, rural roads, free rice distribution and Swachh Bharat, contrasting them with Congress's alleged financial mismanagement. He accused BRS of looting the state through coal scams and Con-

gress of repeating similar frauds. Pointing to BJP's recent electoral gains, Ramchander Rao said the party had won eight Lok Sabha seats, 1,000 sarpanches, 10,000 ward members and 1,200 deputy sarpanches, while BRS had drawn a blank in the Lok Sabha polls. He vowed BJP flags would soon fly over Jagtial and Rayakallu municipalities and eventually across Telangana. "People gave chances to BRS and Congress, both looted. Give BJP one chance, we'll deliver development," the BJP leader

RIICO delegation visits TGIC to study Telangana's Industrial, IT Infrastructure

A high-level delegation from the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd (RIICO) visited Hyderabad on January 30, 2026, to study Telangana's leading industrial and IT infrastructure facilities. The visit focused on understanding the strategies and best practices followed by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC) that have helped position the state as a preferred destination for global investments. The delegation, led by Shivangi Swarnkar, IAS, Managing Director of RIICO, conducted field visits to some of Telangana's key industrial and technology zones. The team toured prominent locations such as HITEC City, Mindspace, Genome Valley, and the Electronic Manufacturing Clusters at Raviryal and Maheshwaram (E-City). These visits provided insights into infrastructure planning and operational management. After completing the site visits, the RIICO team held a detailed meeting at the TGIC Head Office with K. Shashanka, IAS, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of TGIC, along with senior department heads. The discussion focused on Telangana's industrial development framework and long-term growth strategy. During the interaction, K. Shashanka briefed the delegation on the "Telangana Rising: Vision 2047" initiative. He explained the state's plans to move towards a \$3 trillion economy while ensuring balanced development across regions.

Moosarambagh Bridge Work Hit, GHMC Signals Two-Year Delay

Construction of the Moosarambagh bridge over the river Musi has slowed after hard rock strata were encountered, officials said. GHMC estimates the issue could delay the project by two years, impacting traffic relief plans for key city areas.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The construction of the new six-lane Moosarambagh bridge over the river Musi has been hit by a major obstacle, potentially delaying its completion by up to two years. Officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) confirmed that work was halted after hard rock strata were unexpectedly encountered, affecting excavation and foundation activities. "This has required additional time for drilling and related operations before construction can continue at the planned pace," a GHMC official said. The development has disrupted the project schedule, and authorities now estimate that completion could stretch well beyond the original timeline. The foundation stone for the high-level bridge was laid in September 2023 by then MA&UD minister K. T. Rama Rao, during the previous BRS government. Taken up at a cost of Rs 52 crore, the project was initially slated for completion by December 2025. However, the recent geological challenge has thrown the timeline into



uncertainty. The project involves the construction of a 220-metre-long, 29.5-metre-wide bridge with a 20-metre carriageway and 3.5-metre footpaths on either side. The structure will feature two abutments and four piers, forming one of the five high-level bridges planned over the river Musi. Once completed, it is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in the area, particularly for motorists traveling between Osmania University, Amberpet, and Moosarambagh. The bridge replaces the

decades-old Moosarambagh causeway, which was demolished in October after heavy rains caused significant damage. Its closure forced commuters to take detours of 4-5 km. The low-level road, commonly referred to as the Moosarambagh bridge, was prone to flooding during the monsoon, adding to traffic woes. Officials emphasized that the project's delay stems not only from the hard rock strata but also from the additional works required to resolve the situation safely. Drilling, foundation strength-

ening, and other preparatory operations must be completed before construction can resume at full speed. Once operational, the high-level bridge will provide a reliable, flood-resistant route, ensuring smoother traffic flow and reducing travel time in one of Hyderabad's busiest zones. The GHMC has pledged to expedite work as much as possible, but experts warn that unforeseen geological challenges could extend timelines further.

BITS Pilani Opts Out Of Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings Over Transparency Issues

BITS-Pilani said on Friday it had opted out of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, citing concerns over transparency and verifiability in ranking processes. The institute said it would stop sharing institutional and subject-level data required for inclusion in rankings, and therefore would not appear in future rankings. BITS Pilani said global rankings serve as one of several benchmarking tools, but evaluation frameworks must be transparent, explainable, and independently verifiable, given their growing influence on student choice, academic partnerships, funding decisions, and public trust. Several Indian Institutes of Technology had earlier opted out of rankings, citing methodological concerns and data interpretation issues. "Measurement systems that carry such weight must meet the standards expected of academic governance," the institute said in a statement. The institute said it remains committed to international collaboration, research output, innovation, and faculty and student mobility, and added that it remains open to re-engaging with THE if the framework evolves towards greater consistency and verification.

Senior Leader Suprabhat Rao Joins BRS in Medak



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader C. Suprabhat Rao, who served the party for 25 years, has joined the BRS, marking a setback for Congress in Ramayampet, Medak. The joining ceremony was held at the residence of former minister Harish Rao, who welcomed Rao and his followers by covering them with the party's pink scarf. Senior Medak leaders Padma Devender Reddy and Kantham Reddy Tirupati Reddy were also present. Harish Rao criticized the Congress for failing to fulfill promises and expressed confidence that BRS will sweep the upcoming municipal elections in the united Medak district. He highlighted BRS's achievements under KCR, contrasting them with the

deterioration of towns under Congress, citing issues like water shortages, sanitation problems, and lack of urban development. He assured that all committed leaders and workers joining BRS would be respected and supported. Rao emphasized that Suprabhat Rao's addition strengthens the party in Ramayampet. Suprabhat Rao stated that Congress lacked recognition for its workers and was mired in group politics. He said development in Medak is only possible under BRS and pledged to work tirelessly to raise the pink flag in Ramayampet during the municipal elections. The program saw participation from Ramayampet Municipal Chairman, councilors, and other key leaders, signaling a strong BRS consolidation ahead of the elections.

9th Biennial Aparna Cancer Crusaders Golf Championship Tees Off in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The much-anticipated 9th Biennial Aparna Cancer Crusaders Golf Championship, one of the world's largest charity golf tournaments, kicks off this Friday, January 30, at the scenic Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, Gachibowli, continuing until February 1. Organized by CURE Foundation in association with Apollo Cancer Centres, the three-day event will see over 450 golfers compete for top honours. The Championship will feature four rounds across five sessions using the Double Peoria Stableford format (100%

Handicap), with handicaps calculated from 12 hidden holes. The tournament promises intense competition, thrilling moments, and displays of true sportsmanship, while keeping the focus on supporting cancer patients and awareness initiatives. Dr. P. Vijay Anand Reddy highlighted that the event not only brings together professional golfers, passionate amateurs, and prominent personalities but also generates funds for cancer awareness, screenings, and education programs. "Over the next three days, participants will showcase golf of the highest calibre, and the Championship continues

to surprise with exciting outcomes," he said. CURE Foundation, in partnership with Apollo Cancer Centres, has so far facilitated free or subsidized treatment for more than 1,500 cancer patients. Beyond treatment, the foundation supports rehabilitation, research, and education programs, striving to make a tangible difference in people's lives. **About CURE Foundation:** CURE Foundation is dedicated to cancer prevention, early detection, affordable treatment, and rehabilitation, with a focus on reaching underprivileged patients and creating widespread societal awareness.

38 govt school students hospitalised due to food poisoning

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As many as 38 students of Bodiyathanda Government Primary School in Telangana's Konijerla mandal were rushed to a hospital due to food poisoning on Friday, January 30, with 10 of them said to be critical, a day after 45 students fell ill after consuming mid-day meals at a government primary school in Sangareddy district. It was not immediately clear what led to food poisoning. However, the students showed symptoms, including vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain. Villagers, parents, and school staff immediately

arranged for the affected students to be taken to the Khammam Government Hospital. All of them are currently receiving medical treatment. Doctors stated that the condition of around 10 students remains critical due to food poisoning. Medical teams are closely monitoring the health of the affected students and continuing the necessary treatment, they said. After receiving information about the incident, the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) and other officials reached Khammam Government Hospital. They interacted with hospital staff and gathered details regarding the condition of the students.

Hero MotoCorp, Malkajgiri Police Conduct Road Safety Drive for Students

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As part of National Road Safety Month 2026, Hero MotoCorp, in collaboration with Malkajgiri Police, organized a road safety rally and drawing competition for students of Victoria Memorial High School (Orphanage School). A total of 300 students participated in the awareness program, aimed at promoting safe road practices. The event saw the presence of Mr. C.H. Narasimha Reddy, Principal, and Mrs. Laxmi Parvati, Administrator, along with teachers from the school.



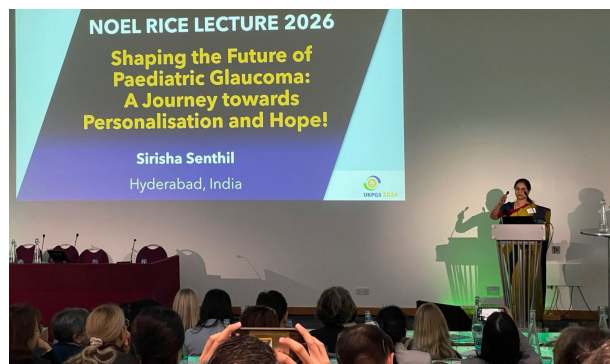
Representing the police were Inspector R. Arjun, Sub Inspectors Santosh and Narsimmarao, Assistant Sub Inspector Somanath, and staff from TTI Malkajgiri. From Hero MotoCorp, Mr. Sadik Sagar, Manager - Road Safety, and safety instructors, including Praveen Punna, conducted

interactive sessions. The program included road safety awareness sessions, a drawing competition for students, and a road safety rally, encouraging young learners to embrace safe road habits and contribute to a responsible traffic culture in the city.

Dr Sirisha Senthil of LVPEI Becomes Third Indian to Deliver Prestigious Noel Rice Lecture

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr Sirisha Senthil, Head of the VST Centre for Glaucoma Care at L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), has been honored as the third Indian to deliver the renowned Noel Rice Lecture, presented this year on "Shaping the Future of Paediatric Glaucoma: A Journey towards Personalisation and Hope!" Since its inception in 2012 by the UK Paediatric Glaucoma Society (UKPGS), the lecture series has invited global experts to share advancements in congenital and pediatric glaucoma care. Dr Senthil, who has authored over 179 peer-re-



viewed papers and numerous book chapters, emphasized the transformative role of personalized medicine in pediatric glaucoma. "Every child's condition is unique, shaped by genetics, anatomy, disease behavior, and social context. Personalized care moves beyond controlling intraocular pressure to

preserving vision and enabling children to integrate fully into society," she explained. At LVPEI, her team tailors treatment for children across the disease spectrum, integrating clinical evaluation, research insights, and practical solutions to overcome challenges in resource-limited settings. She high-

lighted hurdles such as late presentation, limited access to specialists, and socioeconomic barriers, stressing the importance of tiered care, teleophthalmology, and long-term follow-up. Dr Senthil also pointed to breakthroughs on the horizon, including genotype-based risk assessment, durable surgical interventions, and AI-driven diagnostics, which promise earlier detection, better prognosis counseling, and improved family guidance. Her work with refractory glaucoma and drainage implants underscores the need for strategic, long-term planning in complex cases.

Gandhi's Legacy of Non-Violence Remembered at Bapuji Nagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap led a heartfelt commemoration at Bapuji Nagar on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, urging citizens to embrace truth and non-violence in today's world. Pratap paid floral tributes at the Gandhi statue, joined by local leaders and a large gathering of supporters. "Mahatma Gandhi shook the foundations of the British Empire not with arms, but with the profound weapons of Satyagraha



and Ahimsa," he told attendees. "His life remains a blueprint for leadership and moral courage." Highlighting Gandhi's spiritual and political influence, Pratap encouraged the youth to adopt Gandhian principles in daily life, emphasizing that peaceful resistance

and truth can foster unity in a diverse nation. The event drew participation from numerous local figures, including Komaraiah, Bandi Srinivas, Ajit Kalyan, Srikanth, Saibaba Yadav, Bhanu, Gomathi, Karan Singh, Vasu Goud, Rama Rao, Suresh, Mukesh Yadav, and Varapra-

sad, reflecting the community's collective respect for the Father of the Nation. The program concluded with a solemn moment of silence, reaffirming attendees' commitment to Gandhi's ideals of peace, harmony, and national integrity. Pratap's message underscored that Gandhi's teachings remain relevant, offering a moral compass for modern society. By revisiting the principles of Satyagraha and Ahimsa, citizens are reminded that true strength lies not in force, but in unwavering commitment to truth.

Sunetra Pawar Likely to Be Sworn In As Maharashtra Deputy CM on Saturday

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Sunetra Pawar, wife of late Ajit Pawar, is likely to be sworn in as Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday. The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is scheduled to hold a meeting on Saturday to elect its Legislature Party leader. The development follows a meeting between state NCP president Sunil Tatkare, NCP working president Praful Patel and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Friday. Discussions are also underway on the possible merger of the two NCP factions and the redistribution of key portfolios. Mr. Patel said the party would soon have to fill

the posts held by Ajit Pawar, who was the Legislature Party leader and Deputy Chief Minister. "We will have to speak to the family and seek their consent before filling the key post," he said. Ajit Pawar, 66, fondly known as 'Dada', was cremated with full state honours on Thursday at Baramati in Pune district. A day after his cremation, the NCP leadership began the process of filling the posts he held. However, the haste has raised eyebrows as the three-day state mourning period is yet to end. According to sources, the NDA leadership has conveyed to the NCP that the posts of NCP national president and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister



should be held by a member of the Pawar family. While some leaders in the Ajit Pawar-led NCP were initially opposed to the proposal, Sunetra Pawar's name is now believed to be the frontrunner for the Deputy Chief Minister's post. A decision on the party's national president is expected in the coming days. A political observer said that although there is no administrative crisis, the urgency has raised ques-

tions. "This is not an administrative crisis in the state government, but a battle to control the reins of the party amid a political churn," the observer said. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut also criticised the timing. "It is inhuman to talk on this (leadership) issue. If anyone has raised this issue, then they have zero humanity. Be it ministers or MLAs. The woman (Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra) has lost her husband. Her eyes are still welling," he said. Several NCP leaders and MLAs have been demanding that Sunetra Pawar be appointed Deputy Chief Minister. After the split in the NCP, she contested the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Baramati. Following

her defeat, she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Patel clarified that Sunetra Pawar's name had not been discussed formally on Friday. "This is an internal party matter. Who should replace Ajit Pawar is a decision that rests with the party," he said. "We are a constituent of the Mahayuti and will take an appropriate decision after consulting the Chief Minister, the party MLAs and leaders, and the family." Sources in the state legislature said the meeting to elect the Legislature Party leader would be held at the Maharashtra legislature around 2 pm on Saturday. Sunetra Pawar's swearing-in is expected to take place later in the evening.

India's Recycling System Relies on Informal Workers, but Rewards Others

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India's recycling economy is built on the labour of informal waste collectors. Across cities and towns, they retrieve bottles, packaging, and scrap from streets, landfills, and public spaces, preventing large volumes of material from leaking into the environment. Yet despite their central role, the structure of India's waste management system has consistently favoured downstream processors over those who collect waste at source. Under existing arrangements, value in the recycling chain accrues primarily at the recycling and compliance stages. Informal collectors are paid based on fluctuating scrap prices, typically calculated per kilogram rather than per item. This pricing structure rewards volume, not effort, and disadvantages collectors working in public spaces where waste is scattered, mixed, and time-consuming to retrieve. For commonly collected materials such as PET bottles, collectors may earn between ₹15 and ₹20 per kilogram. That kilogram often represents 40 to 50 bottles collected individually from streets, bins, or dumps. Glass bot-



tles fetch even less, often around ₹2 per unit. Multi-layered plastic, which makes up a significant share of consumer packaging, frequently carries no value at all and is often discarded despite being collected. As a result, a large share of packaging waste remains economically unattractive to recover, even though it dominates visible litter. Extended Producer Responsibility was designed to address financing gaps in waste management by shifting costs from municipalities to producers. In practice, however, EPR has largely strengthened the position of registered recyclers rather than collectors. Compliance value is generated through recycling certificates and credits, not through verified collection effort. The financial transaction typically occurs at the recycling stage, leaving informal collectors dependent on market prices rather than policy-backed value.

BJP Brings in Leaders From Across India for Bengal Elections

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

As the political battle between the Trinamul Congress and the BJP intensifies ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, BJP leaders and functionaries from across the country have begun arriving in the state. Nearly 30 BJP functionaries from Delhi have already been deputed to West Bengal and are expected to camp there until the polls. A senior party leader said more leaders from BJP-ruled states would arrive in the coming days to strengthen the organisation on the ground. Union home minister Amit Shah is scheduled to reach Kolkata on Friday night and will hold a strategy meeting with senior state leaders and the party's core committee. Shah, who is overseeing



the party's poll preparations, is expected to take feedback from state leaders and fine-tune the BJP's election strategy. He is also likely to meet district-level functionaries and focus on booth-level strengthening. A public rally at Barrackpore is also on his itinerary. Sources said the BJP has begun deploying senior strategists, Union and state ministers, MPs and MLAs from across the country to oversee organisational work and poll preparedness. Several leaders have been assigned specific regions,

parliamentary constituencies and Assembly segments to ensure effective implementation of party strategies, resolve internal issues and coordinate campaign activities. Among the senior leaders from outside the State already camping or set to arrive are Uttar Pradesh minister J.P. S. Rathore, Uttarakhand minister Dhan Singh Rawat, former BJP national general secretary and Karnataka MLC C.T. Ravi, Rajasthan BJP Kisan Morcha president Kailash Choudhary, former UP minister Suresh Rana, and

Haryana BJP general secretary Sanjay Bhatia. Several BJP MLAs and leaders from the national capital, including Raj Kumar Bhatia, Abhay Verma, Ajay Mahawar, Gajendra Yadav, councillor Shashi Yadav, Manish Singh, Vijay Solanki, Devendra Solanki and Vikram Bidhuri, have also been assigned roles in the party's campaign in West Bengal. During his two-day visit, Shah will hold meetings with the state core committee and party workers from various districts. On Saturday, he will attend a workers' meeting at Barrackpore before travelling to north Bengal. He is also scheduled to address select BJP workers from five organisational districts in Siliguri behind closed doors. The West Bengal Assembly elections are likely to be held in April-May.

NALCO Posts Record Q3 FY26 Profit of Rs 1,601 Crore; Nine-Month Earnings Surge to Rs 4,098 Crore

BHUBANESWAR
Wakeup telangana

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) under the ministry of mines, has delivered its strongest-ever quarterly performance, posting a record net profit of Rs 1,601 crore in the third quarter of FY26. The figure marks the highest quarterly profit in the company's history and surpasses the Rs 1,583 crore earned in the corresponding period last year, underscoring robust operational efficiency and favourable market conditions. According to the reviewed financial results approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held here on Thursday, NALCO's total income for Q3 FY26 stood at Rs 4,925 crore, up from Rs 4,761 crore in Q3 FY25.



The company's strong momentum was sustained over the nine-month period ended December 2025, with net profit rising sharply to Rs 4,098 crore, compared to Rs 3,246 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal—an increase of about 26 per cent. Revenue from operations during the nine months also grew by 11 per cent to Rs 12,830 crore from Rs 11,520 crore a year earlier. The aluminium major achieved its highest-ever revenue from operations and profit after tax during both Q3 and the cumulative nine-month period

of FY26. Operational performance during April–December 2025 was equally impressive, with record production across all major segments. NALCO produced 56.60 lakh tonnes of bauxite, 17.27 lakh tonnes of alumina hydrate and 3.54 lakh tonnes of aluminium cast metal, along with its highest-ever net power generation. Sales volumes mirrored the production gains. The company recorded its highest-ever sales of alumina and aluminium metal during the nine-month period, including the highest domestic alu-

minium sales, reflecting strong demand and effective market positioning. Commenting on the results, NALCO Chairman-cum-Managing Director Brijendra Pratap Singh said the performance highlighted the commitment of the workforce and the company's sustained focus on cost optimisation, margin management and quality improvement. He noted that better metal realisations, higher volumes in alumina and aluminium, and increased utilisation of captive coal resources played a key role in boosting profitability. Looking ahead, Singh said NALCO remains focused on timely completion of its expansion projects, supported by innovation, Industry 4.0 solutions, research and development initiatives, and carbon reduction measures to ensure long-term sustainable growth.

Intensified Anti-Terror Operation in Kishtwar's Snowbound Chatroo Belt; Internet Suspended

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Security forces intensified a large scale anti terror operation on Friday in the snowbound Chatroo belt of Jammu and Kashmir's eastern Kishtwar district, pursuing a small group of militants believed to be from the Pakistan based Jaish e Muhammad (JeM). The operation has involved a broad array of assets and agencies, elite paratroopers, Rashtriya Rifles units, aerial surveillance, sniffer dogs and local police have been deployed to sweep the forested expanse, tighten checkpoints and intensify vehicle inspections across the district. The operation, which began on January 18, has focused on dense, rugged forest and high altitude terrain where three suspected militants are reported to be holed up. Troops have battled through more than two feet of fresh snowfall and thick vegetation as they methodically comb the area, mounting cordons, conducting day-



light sweeps and pausing operations overnight to reduce the risk of collateral damage or civilian harm. The campaign was triggered by a fierce gunbattle in the Sonnar forest near Mandrel Singhpora on January 18, when troops acting on intelligence encountered heavy militant fire. That initial clash proved costly as paratrooper Havildar Gajendra Singh was killed and several soldiers were wounded, three of them critically who were airlifted for specialised care. Officials said militants used grenades and indiscriminate firing in attempts to break the tightening cordon, and then slipped deeper into the forest and steep slopes under cover of vegetation and darkness. According to security sources, the militants

were reportedly in the middle of eating biryani when security forces unexpectedly closed in on their location, catching them off guard. This prompted a deeper probe into the support network aiding the group. Police, along with the Army and other security agencies, soon began working to identify who supplied the biryani and whether it points to a larger logistical chain assisting the militants. As investigators are examining local links, possible sympathisers, and any facilitation routes that may have enabled the delivery of food to the hide-out, a couple of dozen people were detained for questioning. Security forces re-established contact with the group on January 22, prompting a renewed and prolonged firefight in the wooded belt. Additional encounters were reported at Mali Dana top on January 22 and at Janseer Kandiwar on January 25, but the militants repeatedly evaded capture by melting into the terrain.

Assam Tea Will.....

In a bid to woo the tea tribe community ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the union minister thanked the tea garden workers for giving a "distinct identity to Assam and India as one of the leading exporters of tea to the world". "Our export earnings will go up and Modi ji has done wonders for Assam tea with this pact," Shah added. In a bid to woo the tea tribe community ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the union minister thanked the tea garden workers for giving a "distinct identity to Assam and India as one of the leading exporters of tea to the world". "Dibrugarh is known as the tea capital, and garden workers have ensured that the aroma of Assam tea reaches the world. The state is recognised in the world for its tea. It is the hard work of labourers that has ensured this," he said. Asserting that tea garden workers have strengthened the state's economy, Shah said they also ensured that the beverage remains a leading export commodity. The BJP leader alleged that the Congress did "nothing for the welfare of garden workers who have positioned Assam, particu-

larly Dibrugarh, as the tea capital of the country". "The chief minister has amended the law to ensure that the tea garden workers get ownership rights of land," he said. Shah accused the Congress of giving a toolkit to defame Assam and its tea, without elaborating. Tea garden workers constitute a sizeable electorate in the upper Assam assembly constituencies, which was earlier considered a Congress stronghold, but they have slowly shifted their allegiance to the BJP since 2014. **Delhi HC Questio..** Appearing for the DGCA, counsel told the court that the regulator was monitoring the situation after the FDTL norms took effect and that the withdrawal decision followed an audit and representations from airlines regarding pilots clubbing weekly rest with leave. The counsel clarified that weekly rest for pilots continues to be mandatory under the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), while leave is governed by contractual arrangements between pilots and airlines. The DGCA also informed the court that a separate, time-bound relaxation from night duty norms had been granted to IndiGo through another letter issued on

December 5, valid until February 10. The court, however, questioned why the relaxation on non-substitution of weekly rest and leave was issued without any deadline when the night duty relaxation was time-bound. "The grievance appears to be that leave and weekly off cannot be mixed up, which you have withdrawn because of disruption in one airline. If two letters are issued on the same day, why is one time-bound and the other indefinite?" The Bench observed, asking the DGCA to justify the open-ended withdrawal that applies to all airlines. Earlier, the court had noted that concerns over public safety arising from non-implementation of fatigue prevention norms could not be brushed aside. The petitioners, Sabari Roy Lenka, Aman Monga and Kiran Singh, have alleged that the relaxation was illegally granted by the DGCA solely to IndiGo and was prima facie mala fide. The plea contends that under obligations set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the DGCA must uniformly enforce fatigue regulations, prevent unsafe rostering, ensure adequate staffing and suspend non-compliant schedules, duties it has allegedly

failed to discharge. The matter is scheduled for further hearing in April. **Opposition.....** "I don't think anything much will come out of the CID investigation. There are many questions in people's minds (about the accident). Is this a plane crash or sabotage? If you look at social media (posts) regarding this, 80 percent of the people believe that it is sabotage, not an accident. So, the state government should conduct a thorough high-level inquiry to come clean on this matter and remove doubts in people's minds," he added. "Yesterday (January 29), I was in Baramati between 8 and 8:15 am. The visibility was perfectly clear. According to the information given, the visibility was clear up to 3000 meters, which means 3 kilometers. If the visibility was clear up to 3 kilometers, then I don't think there would be any problem. A high-level inquiry should definitely be conducted in this regard," Wadettiwari said. Senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare too raised questions over the claims of low visibility. "Many are citing low visibility at Baramati airport as the reason for the accident.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

CISF Pension Fraud: ED Chargesheets Ex-ASI

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Friday filed a chargesheet before the Rangareddy court against former assistant sub inspector (ASI) Roop Singh Meena of the CISF, for allegedly diverting over 60 lakh belonging to the pension scheme for security personnel at the National Industrial Security Academy here. On April 18, 2023, the police had booked Singh under the IPC for diverting National Pension Scheme (NPS) contribution amounts belonging to CISF personnel

dishonestly and without authority to the NPS accounts of other serving CISF personnel and some who had resigned. Following the FIR, the ED took up the case and investigated it under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Singh allegedly altered the permanent retirement account numbers and the misappropriated funds were withdrawn from altered bank accounts after making a request for premature withdrawals. Singh at that time possessed login credentials to access the NPS accounts.

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 Aparesh 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 managements to illegally withhold the original educational certificates of students as leverage for pending dues.

Person With Personal Interest Cannot Maintain PIL : CJ

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



A two-judge panel of Telangana High Court ruled that a public interest litigation (PIL) cannot be entertained at the instance of a person having a personal or pecuniary interest in the dispute. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin dismissed a PIL seeking inquiry into alleged illegal transactions, alienations and unauthorised use of surplus agricultural land covered under the land ceiling Act at Karimnagar, filed by Bandari Shekar. It was the case of the peti-

tioner that state authorities had failed to take immediate possession and control of the surplus land, contending that the same was required to be held in government custody under the Telangana Land Reforms (Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings) Act, 1973 and 1974 Rules. Counsel for the petitioner argued that excess land had been resumed by the government pursuant to an order passed by the Land Re-

forms Tribunal in 1975 and that compensation was paid. He argued that the land measuring about 5 acres along with an additional 1.1341 acres in excess of the ceiling limit had vested in the state, and the order of Tribunal had attained finality as appeals filed against it were dismissed. He pointed out that some private individuals were illegally selling the surplus land which ought to have been distributed to the landless poor. He contended that representations made to the tahsildar seeking resumption of the land were not acted upon. The panel observed that neither

the representations nor the affidavit disclosed that the PIL was filed on behalf of landless poor persons and the exact particulars of the land allegedly subjected to illegal transactions. On the contrary, it observed that, the representations indicated that the petitioner had an interest in taking the land on lease. The panel observed that while the petitioner claimed to be a public-spirited person with no personal interest in the land, he had, in the same representations, stated that he was cultivating the land, thereby revealing a direct interest in the subject matter. Speaking for the panel.

Hyderabad Fire: Audio of victim seeking help surfaces

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A purported phone recording of a man who died in the recent fire at a furniture showroom here, pleading for help as the blaze broke out, has surfaced. In the audio, Imtiaz, a driver associated with the showroom, is heard telling someone outside that he was unable to escape. "All three of us, including two children, will die. There is no exit here," he said in distress, seeking rescue. On the day of the incident, Imtiaz and others were trapped in one of the cel-

lars as flames spread. While the person on the other end advised him to move to the second cellar, Imtiaz said he could not find a way out. The sounds of children gasping for breath are also audible in the recording. A police official, when contacted, said the audio had come to their notice but its authenticity is yet to be verified. Five people, including two children and an elderly woman, died of asphyxiation after a fire broke out on January 24 in the four-storey building housing a furniture shop at Nampally.

Jewellery Shop in Alwal Burgled

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Unidentified assailants broke into a jewellery shop in Alwal on Thursday night and escaped with gold ornaments and valuables worth around ₹5 lakh, police said. The burglary came to light on Friday morning when the shop owner opened the establishment and found the jewellery missing. The incident occurred at Mamata Sai Jewellers, located in Avenue Colony. According to police officials, the burglars forcibly broke open the shop's shutter to gain entry during the night hours. Preliminary investigation suggests that the theft was carried out in a

planned manner. CCTV footage installed at the shop recorded the burglary. However, the assailants managed to conceal their identities by wearing black masks, making immediate identification difficult. Police are currently analysing the footage to gather further clues and track the suspects. Upon receiving the complaint, Alwal police registered a case of burglary and began an investigation. A team was dispatched to the spot to inspect the premises and collect forensic evidence. Efforts are underway to trace the accused, and police are also checking footage from nearby cameras to identify possible escape routes.

SC: Menstrual Health Fundamental Right, Orders free Pads for Schoolgirls

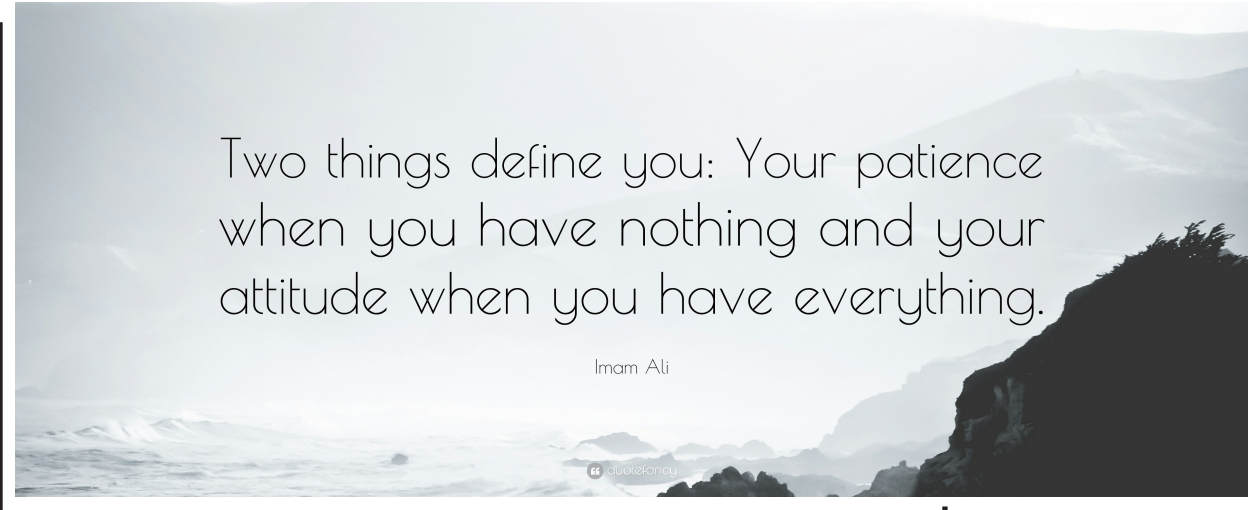
HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a landmark verdict aimed at ensuring gender justice and educational equity, the Supreme Court on Friday held that the right to dignified menstrual health forms part of the right to life and education under the Constitution. The apex court directed all States and Union Territories to provide free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins to girl students and ensure functional, gender-segregated toilets in all schools. A two-judge Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan issued a series of binding directions applicable to government, aided and private schools alike. While keeping the plea pending, the court said the

Centre would have to demonstrate substantial compliance. Opening the 126-page judgment with a quote by American educator and activist Melissa Berton — "A period should end a sentence, not a girl's education" — Justice Pardiwala said the issues before the court reflected persistent barriers to girls' education. The court warned of stringent consequences for non-compliance, including derecognition of private schools and holding state governments directly accountable for lapses in public institutions. The verdict held that Article 21 encompasses the right to menstrual health, noting that access to safe, effective and affordable menstrual hygiene management is essential to dignity, privacy and the

highest attainable standard of reproductive health. It linked this right to Article 21A (right to education), describing education as a "multiplier right" enabling the exercise of other human rights. On equality under Article 14, the court said a substantive approach requires addressing individual, institutional and systemic barriers that prevent rights from being realised in practice, and placed an obligation on the state to remedy structural disadvantages. It observed that lack of menstrual hygiene facilities undermines dignity and privacy, leads to exclusion from schooling and has long-term consequences on participation in public life. Directing uniform implementation, the court or-

dered that all schools, in urban and rural areas, provide free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins compliant with ASTM D-6954 standards. These should be readily accessible — preferably through vending machines within toilet premises or via designated points. The court further directed states and UTs to ensure functional, gender-segregated toilets with usable water connectivity; privacy-oriented design; accessibility for children with disabilities; and continuous availability of soap and water. It mandated the establishment of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners in every school, stocked with spare innerwear, uniforms, disposable bags and other essentials, along with safe and environmentally.



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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Strengthening Innovation Can Boost India's Productivity: IMF

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Strengthening innovation can help boost India's productivity growth by 40 per cent, which is equal to adding the output of Karnataka, finds IMF. India's productivity growth over the past two decades has been impressive, reflecting rapid expansion in high-value services, gradual efficiency-enhancing reforms, and scale advantages from a large domestic market. That said, additional gains would support the country's ambitions of becoming an advanced economy.

Better supporting innovation, including by removing business barriers, can

boost the productivity growth rate by nearly 40 per cent, like adding the output of the state of Karnataka to India's economy each decade. Innovation has remained constrained as India invests less in research and development than the average for emerging market economies in the Group of Twenty, and few firms engage in it, with limited adoption of foreign technology. Larger firms tend to innovate more, while smaller ones have more barriers to scaling up and improving.

Artificial intelligence could reinforce these gains. Nearly 60 per cent of Indian firms already use some form of AI—



well above global averages. AI can make businesses more efficient, speed up technology diffusion, and strengthen innovation. But adoption remains uneven: employers cite skill shortages, inadequate tools, and integration challenges. India's productivity performance, measured by output per additional worker, has been uneven. Services have delivered strong pro-

ductivity gains, benefiting from advances in adoption of digital technology and their integration into global value chains. Manufacturing, however, has seen only small productivity growth, while agriculture—still employing over 40 per cent of the workforce—remains far less productive than other sectors.

India's unusually large share of very small firms is one reason manufacturing productivity has fallen behind.

Nearly three quarters of factories employ fewer than five paid workers—almost double the US share. Even more striking, the smallest enterprises produce less than 20 per

cent of the output per worker of large counterparts, compared with nearly 45 per cent in the United States. India's business dynamism remains low.

The frequency of new business creation and when firms close or exit a market is far lower than in economies such as Korea, Chile, or the United States. Subdued dynamism discourages competition and slows the reallocation of resources toward more productive entities. Further, a sizable share are zombie firms, which don't generate enough earnings to cover their borrowing costs yet are continuing to absorb capital and labour.

Gold Plunge 12%, Silver 21% After Making Historic Monthly Gains

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Gold prices plummeted 11.8 per cent in the international market and silver fell 21 per cent as the US dollar gained on reports about a new US Federal Reserve chief. The metals, which were in an over-bought territory, were due for corrections. Gold and silver ETFs saw a sharper fall compared to the commodities. After delivering one of the strongest rallies in modern commodity history, precious metals have entered a sharp corrective phase. Gold prices, which recently touched an all-time high near \$5,600 per ounce, have corrected sharply to \$4,995 on Friday, marking an 11.8 per cent decline from recent highs.

Silver has seen an even steeper correction, falling nearly 21 per cent to trade



close to \$98 per ounce from \$125 on Thursday, underscoring heightened volatility after an unprecedented upside move. In the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold prices fell 14.73 per cent from Rs 1,80,779 per 10 gm on Thursday to a low of Rs 1,54,157, but made some recovery later in the day. Similarly, silver prices plunged 20.96 per cent from Rs 4,20,048 per kg to Rs 3,32,002 per kg. In the Delhi spot market, gold fell to Rs 1,62,000 per 10 gm against Rs 1,83,000 on Thursday. Silver retreated from Rs 4.05 lakh per kg to Rs 3.60 lakh on Thursday. However, January 2026

stands out as a historic month. On Thursday, gold had surged nearly 28 per cent, marking only the second such monthly gain in the last 100 years, the previous instance being January 1980. Silver rallied nearly 70 per cent, the strongest monthly performance in its recorded history. Such extraordinary gains, however, often attract speculative excess—making corrections not just possible, but inevitable, finds Kedia Commodities.

US President Donald Trump's reported plan to nominate Kevin Warsh as Fed chair boosted the dollar. Warsh, an inflation hawk, has recently supported lower interest rates. Gold and silver had already been in an over-bought territory and wanted and the higher margins had made a correction due.

Medaram Jatara: Coca-Cola Serves Millions, Supports Communities

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

At Medaram Jatara 2026, Asia's largest tribal festival, Coca-Cola India, in partnership with Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., is ensuring widespread hydration and supporting local businesses while enhancing the visitor experience. Anchored in its 'Locally Yours' initiative, the company is strengthening local ecosystems by enabling neighborhood retailers, vendors, and workers to serve pilgrims efficiently, creating economic opportunities, and delivering refreshments at scale.

Across Medaram and surrounding towns, Coca-Cola has deployed mobile hydration carts, temporary stalls at high-footfall locations, and shaded rest areas, offering relief to the millions navigating long walks and queues. Local



retailers and vendors have also received cooling infrastructure and on-ground assistance, helping them set up quickly and meet high demand.

Vinay Nair, Chief Commercial Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, said, "Few gatherings match the scale and cultural significance of Medaram Jatara. Our supply chain and partnerships ensure that refreshment is accessible, whether at a roadside stall or a neighborhood store."

Karan Achpal, VP – Franchise Operations, Coca-Cola India, added, "Medaram Jatara is a cultural and economic landmark. Partnering with the Telangana government, we are mobilizing our retail ecosystem to serve

millions efficiently while creating local employment and strengthening retail businesses."

Beyond beverages, Anandana – The Coca-Cola India Foundation is driving #MaidaanSaaf, a community-led sanitation initiative integrating waste collection, volunteer support, and recycled plastic-based infrastructure, including public benches and changing rooms.

These efforts enhance safety, convenience, and environmental awareness while supporting sanitation workers. Through these combined initiatives, Coca-Cola India is deepening its ties with local communities, supporting livelihoods, improving comfort for pilgrims, and contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of one of the region's most significant festivals.

FUJIFILM India Unveils Advanced Imaging & Healthcare IT Solutions at IRIA 2026

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

FUJIFILM India has introduced a new range of advanced diagnostic imaging and healthcare IT solutions at IRIA 2026, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening India's preventive healthcare ecosystem. The launch comes at a time when India's radiology and diagnostic imaging sector is witnessing rapid growth due to increasing life expectancy, rising health awareness, and expanded public healthcare initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat.

As demand grows for timely, accurate, and accessible diagnostics across preventive, acute, and chronic care, radiology departments are facing challenges such as higher imaging volumes, workforce constraints,



and increasing diagnostic complexity. Addressing these needs, FUJIFILM India unveiled four key solutions designed to enhance diagnostic confidence, workflow efficiency, and access across diverse clinical settings.

The centerpiece of the showcase is the FCT iStream CT scanner, built on Fujifilm's "Less is More" design philosophy. The system combines high-definition imaging, advanced dose optimization,

and AI-enabled workflow automation through the Synergy-Drive workflow suite and REiLi Medical AI technologies. By automating critical steps such as patient positioning, scan planning, image reconstruction, and integration with the SYNAPSE 3D Workstation, the system enables radiology departments to manage increasing patient loads with improved consistency and efficiency. Advanced reconstruction and organ-

based dose modulation technologies help deliver high diagnostic accuracy at significantly reduced radiation doses.

FUJIFILM India also highlighted its women's health imaging portfolio, including AMULET SOPHINITY full-field digital mammography systems. Designed with a strong focus on patient comfort and precision, these systems support early breast cancer detection through high-resolution imaging, AI-assisted positioning, tomosynthesis, and contrast-enhanced mammography, reinforcing the company's emphasis on preventive healthcare. The portfolio further includes FDR Smart X Essential digital radiography systems, engineered for reliability and flexibility in high-throughput and space-constrained environments. These systems are suitable for deploy-

ment across tertiary hospitals, diagnostic centres, and non-metro healthcare facilities, supporting wider access to essential X-ray services.

Supporting the imaging solutions is Fujifilm's healthcare IT ecosystem, led by HCIT FENIX. Developed under the Make in India initiative, FENIX integrates PACS, RIS, mobility, and smart workflow tools on a unified platform, enabling seamless image access, interoperability, faster diagnosis, and optimized clinical operations. With these launches, FUJIFILM India continues to strengthen its role as a trusted healthcare technology partner, supporting clinicians with AI-enabled, workflow-centric solutions that enhance patient care and advance India's healthcare infrastructure.

Bank of Baroda's Consolidated Net Up 4.4% to Rs 5443 Crore

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Public sector lender Bank of Baroda on Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹5443 crore for Q3FY26, a 4.4 per cent increase compared to ₹5214 crore recorded in the same period of the previous fiscal year. The Bank's standalone net profit was Rs 5,055 crore for Q3FY26, up by 4.5 per cent year on year while the net profit for 9MFY26 stood at Rs 14,405 crore. Net interest income or the difference between interest earned and interest expended remained largely flat for the December quarter at ₹11,800 crore compared to ₹11,786 crore a year ago.

Domestic Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 2.93 per cent for the quarter compared to 3.22 per cent in Q3FY25. The bank's loan book grew 14.6 per cent year-on-year to ₹13.43 lakh crore, ex-

ceeding management's guidance of 11–13 per cent growth. Deposits grew 10.3 per cent year-on-year to ₹15.46 lakh crore during the quarter. The bank continued to maintain strong asset quality with reduction in Gross non-performing assets by 39 bps YoY to 2.04 per cent in Q3FY26. Bank's NNPA also reduced by 2 basis points year on year at 0.57 per cent in Q3FY26. The Bank's balance sheet remained robust with healthy Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of 92.73 per cent. Slippage ratio for Q3FY26 declined by 4 bps YoY and 5 bps QoQ to 0.86 per cent. Collection efficiency, excluding agriculture, remained strong at 98.63 per cent as of December 2025.



Apple Earnings Soar As China iPhone Sales Surge

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Apple on Thursday said it saw record-high earnings in the final three months of last year, with iPhone sales surging in greater China. The tech giant reported profit of \$42.1 billion on revenue of \$143.8 billion in the recently-ended quarter. The iPhone "had its best-ever quarter driven by unprecedented demand," chief executive Tim Cook said on an earnings call. Sales of iPhones grew around the world, climbing to \$25.5 billion in the crucial Greater China market as compared to \$18.5 billion during the same period a year earlier, according to Apple.

Overall, iPhone sales brought in \$85.2 billion in the quarter. Apple also saw revenue from services such as digital content and subscription entertainment

hit a new quarterly high of \$30 billion, a 14 per cent jump from the same period a year earlier, Cook said. The number of Apple devices in use around the world has topped 2.5 billion, Apple reported. Apple forecast that its revenue in the current quarter would be 13 per cent to 16 per cent more than it was in the same period last year.

Cook warned that iPhone production is being constrained by tight supplies and rising prices of memory components and sophisticated chips used in the handsets. "We're in a supply chase mode to meet the very high levels of customer demand," Cook said. "At this point, it's difficult to predict when supply and demand will balance." Shares in the iPhone maker were up about one per cent in after-market trades. Apple's stellar earnings

validate "its strategy amid an industry in constant flux and reinforce its position atop the global smartphone market," said Emarketer analyst Jacob Bourne. "Yet maintaining that dominance is perhaps more uncertain than ever, hinging on the right calls around pricing and developing the next generation of devices, particularly wearables and the anticipated foldable iPhone." All eyes will be on how Apple makes the most of its freshly announced partnership with Google to use Gemini artificial intelligence in its devices, according to Bourne.

The company co-founded by Steve Jobs has been under pressure to show it is not being left behind when it comes to AI, with its potential to change how people engage with the internet and computers.

Seven Girls Lead MS Education Academy to Fifth Straight World Teen Parliament Win



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Seven girl students of MS Creative School have been selected for the 5th session of the prestigious World Teen Parliament (WTP), marking the fifth consecutive year of success for MS Education Academy. Selected from

nearly five lakh students across 50 countries through a rigorous global voting and merit-based process, their achievement has brought pride to the institution, the city and the nation. World Teen Parliament is the world's first student-led international platform, enabling young leaders to

present innovative solutions to social, educational and humanitarian issues at the global level. The selected students will represent India on an international stage, strengthening MS Education Academy's growing reputation for global leadership, academic excellence and youth empowerment

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JANUARY 31, 2026

Farhan Akhtar's Finds His Strength in Small Cinema

Even as speculation swirls around Farhan Akhtar's long-awaited directorial return with Don 3 and the uncertain status of Jee Le Zara, his production banner, Excel Entertainment, continues to quietly notch up credibility — if not blockbuster numbers. The Excel-backed Manipuri film Boong has earned a BAFTA nomination for Best Children's Film, a significant milestone for a studio that has increasingly positioned itself as a supporter of diverse, content-driven cinema. While it may be difficult to recall when a full-fledged blockbuster last emerged from the banner — post Raees in 2017 and the breakout success of Gully Boy in 2019 — Excel has steadily pushed boundaries, building a reputation for backing stories across genres and platforms rather than chasing tentpole spectacles.

From the comic caper Fukrey franchise and Madgaon Express to streaming hits such as Inside Edge, Mirzapur, and Made in Heaven, the emphasis has remained firmly on storytelling over inflated star vehicles. Film writer and critic Yasser Usman points out that Excel has both the resources and credibility to operate beyond the mainstream. "Excel has



the money, connections, and credibility to enter and navigate the festival circuit, and the films they back are genuinely good. Boong and the BAFTA mention can help attract international co-productions and build stronger connections with streaming platforms," he says. Usman also notes that Universal Music's recent stake in the company gives Excel deeper pockets, global reach, and a strong music-focused ecosystem. Unlike many family-driven

studios, he feels Excel is not currently in a race to deliver massive blockbusters. "The focus seems to be on shaping taste, backing storytellers, and staying relevant as a solid brand. That said, if Don 3 and Jee Le Zara move forward, they will return to taking a big theatrical swing." Trade analyst Sumit Kadel echoes this assessment, observing that Excel's films largely cater to a niche audience. "The focus has always

been on the multiplex viewer," he says, adding that several big-banner studios are currently struggling due to over-reliance on stars and familiar ideas. "Filmmaking is far tougher now. There's a lack of originality, and inflated star costs often force producers to cut corners elsewhere. The current landscape has seen more films failing than succeeding."

As the industry increasingly leans towards content-driven, mid-budget cinema — with producers reassessing the risks associated with star-heavy blockbusters — Excel appears to have read the room well. Reflecting on the balance between creativity and commerce, Farhan Akhtar has previously spoken about resisting the pressure to play it safe. "With time, you're constantly told to be cautious, to cover all bases. That's something you have to keep battling. The minute numbers and business become the narrative in your head, you're no longer connected to what made you want to make films in the first place," he has said. For now, Excel Entertainment seems content staying true to that philosophy — even if the elusive blockbuster remains just out of reach.

Paul Dano Reacts to Quentin Tarantino's Criticism

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Actor Paul Dano has finally broken his silence on the scathing comments made by director Quentin Tarantino regarding his performance in "There Will Be Blood," thanking those who supported him against the auteur filmmaker. "That was really nice. I was also incredibly grateful that the world spoke up for me so I didn't have to," he said, while attending the screening of Little Miss Sunshine at the Sundance Film Festival to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

While discussing his opinion on the best films of the 21st century on Bret Ellis' podcast last December, Tarantino had said that There Will Be Blood, directed by Paul



Thomas Anderson, stands at the 5th Position in his list, which would have been at No. 1, had Dano not been in it. He went on to call the actor "the limpest dick in the world" and "weakest actor in SAG" and termed him as a "weak sauce" in comparison to Daniel Day Lewis' performance in the film. He said that TWBB wanted to be a "two-hander" but failed at being that.

Along with Dano, Tarantino has also blatantly dissed actors Owen Wilson and Matthew Lillard. The comments drew

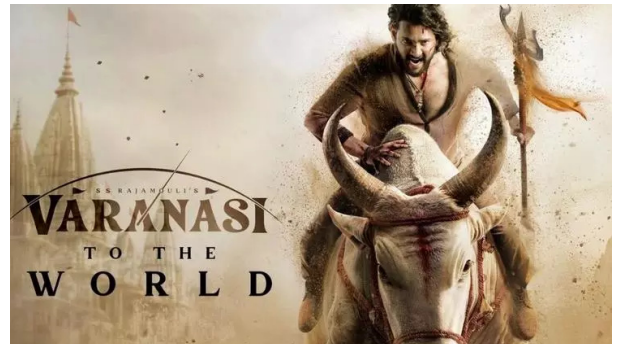
widespread criticism and backfired on Tarantino, not only from the audience but also from fellow actors and filmmakers like Reese Witherspoon, Alec Baldwin and Ben Stiller. "Paul Dano is f-ing brilliant," Stiller wrote on his official X handle, while veteran actors like George Clooney came in support of Dano during his acceptance speech at the AARP, stating that he would be "honored" to work with actors like him. Dano had never addressed the issue or responded to it publicly, until a reporter from Variety asked Dano about it at the Sundance Film Festival. Dano's calm and measured response also quickly went viral, drawing applause from stars like Toni Collette, his co-star from Little Miss Sunshine.

It's Official: Mahesh Babu, S S Rajamouli Varanasi To Release on April 7, 2027

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

It's official: Mahesh Babu, S S Rajamouli Varanasi to release on April 7, 2027 The much-awaited magnum opus has finally got a release date, and fans are elated. Actually, a few days after sending moviegoers into a frenzy by silently erecting massive hoardings in the holy city of Varanasi just with a date on it, the makers of SS Rajamouli's globe-trotting action adventure 'Varanasi' have now made it official that it will hit the screens on April 7, 2027.

Rajamouli and other team members, including the leading cast, have shared an exciting poster to officially reveal the release date. It features a blazing asteroid-like foreign object striking the



earth, creating an apocalyptic explosion. The poster reiterates that the film will have a global release on April 7, 2027. While the domestic collections are expected to get a big boost from the Ugadhi festival holiday and long Summer season, trade circles are doubtful about the overseas collections.

Earlier, Rajamouli, during the teaser launch event held in November last year, said that 'Varanasi' is being filmed with a new technology in a

premium large-scale format to give a better theatrical experience to viewers when it releases in IMAX screens. So, the team should accommodate as many IMAX screens as possible in overseas. Finally, Mahesh Babu fans would be celebrating over the confirmation of the release date and would definitely throng theatres in big numbers since Mahesh Babu's last release, Guntur Kaaram didn't live up to expectations.

Prabhas Hails Rasha Thadani's Singing

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actress Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani has taken her first step into playback singing in the upcoming film Laikey Laikaa. She lends her voice to the song 'Chaap Tilak' in the film directed by Saurabh Gupta and produced by Bhavna Talwar and Raghav Gupta. And her performance has garnered praise from none other than Telugu star Prabhas. Sharing the song on social media, Prabhas wrote, "Such a lovely singing debut @Rashathadani. Your performance in #ChaapTilak is honest, heartfelt and comes



straight from the heart." He added, "Congratulations," along with a white heart emoji. Touched by the gesture, Rasha re-shared Prabhas' post on her Instagram Stories and wrote, "Prabhas sir," followed by a red heart and folded hands emoji, adding, "Forever grateful!!" Rasha Thadani recently made her acting debut opposite Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgn in Azaad. She is now gearing up for her Tollywood debut opposite Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna in Srinivasa Mangapuram, directed by Ajay Bhupathi of RX100 fame.

Novak Djokovic sets up Australian Open final with Alcaraz

MELBOURNE
Wakeup telangana

Novak Djokovic finally beat one of the two men who had been blocking his path to an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam singles title when he edged Jannik Sinner in five sets to reach the Australian Open final on Friday. To get that coveted No 25, he will have to beat the other: top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz.

Both are chasing history in Sunday's championship decider, with Alcaraz striving to become the youngest man at 22 to complete a career Grand Slam. "There's always, for me, also for Carlos because of his age and everything he's achieved, history is on the line for both of us," Djokovic told reporters in a brief interview approaching 3 a.m. "Finals of a Grand Slam. There's a lot at stake."

Alcaraz came through his own grueling five-setter. He overcame cramps and a sore right leg to fend off No 3 Alexander Zverev 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-7 (4), 7-5 in a match that lasted 5 hours, 27 minutes — the longest semifinal ever at the Australian



Open.

That pushed the scheduled start of the Sinner-Djokovic semifinal back, and the 38-year-old Djokovic finally won 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 just after 1:30 a.m. "It feels surreal," Djokovic said of his 4-hour, 9-minute triumph. "Honestly, it feels like winning already tonight. I know I have to come back and fight the No 1 of the world. I just hope that I'll have enough gas to stay toe-to-toe with him. For me, this is a win that almost equals winning a Grand Slam."

Djokovic conceded he was lucky to even get to the semifinals. He narrowly missed hitting a ball girl with a reckless swipe in the third round, got a walkover in the fourth, and trailed Lorenzo Musetti by two sets in the quarterfinals before the Italian retired injured.

Against Sinner, the two-time defending champion, Djokovic was at the peak of his attacking and defensive powers. He fended off 16 of the 18 breakpoints he faced and ended a run of five losses to Sinner and four semifinal exits at majors.

"Had many chances, couldn't use them, and that's the outcome," Sinner said. "Yeah, it hurts, for sure." Alcaraz and Sinner have split the last eight major titles since Djokovic won his last at the 2023 US Open. But nobody knows how to win more often at Melbourne Park than Djokovic, who has won all 10 finals he has contested there. "I never stopped believing in myself," Djokovic said. "There's a lot of people that doubted me ... a lot of experts all of a sudden that wanted to retire me. I want to thank them all because they gave me strength. They gave me motivation to prove them wrong." The top four seeds reached the men's semifinals for just the fifth time, producing drama with back-to-back five-setters lasting a combined 9 hours, 36 minutes.

Euronics Launches ECCL Season 3.0 – India's Premier Corporate Cricket League Returns

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Euronics, India's leading brand in washroom automation and commercial infrastructure solutions, has announced the much-anticipated return of the Euronics Corporate Cricket League (ECCL) Season 3.0, reaffirming its commitment to fostering collaboration, networking, and sportsmanship across India's corporate landscape.

Set to take place on 7th and 8th February 2026 in Hyderabad, ECCL Season 3.0 promises to be the biggest edition yet, featuring 16 elite corporate teams competing in 15 high-intensity matches. The league provides a platform for business leaders and professionals from diverse industries to step off the boardroom floor and onto the cricket field, celebrating teamwork, leadership, and competitive spirit.

The jersey unveiling ceremony was marked by the presence of Mr. Adepun Srinivas, Chairman of MES Builders Association Telangana, who emphasized the importance of leadership and team bonding through sports.



A spokesperson from Euronics said, "At Euronics, we don't just build products—we build ecosystems. ECCL is our way of bringing India's corporate community together through the universal language of sport. Season 3 reflects our larger vision of leadership, excellence, and long-term relationships beyond business."

Since its inception, ECCL has grown into a flagship corporate sporting platform, attracting leading enterprises and industry decision-makers. Hosted in

Hyderabad, one of India's fastest-growing corporate hubs, the tournament underscores Euronics' vision of fostering long-term professional relationships while promoting wellness and team spirit through sports.

With its mix of competitive cricket, networking opportunities, and corporate camaraderie, ECCL Season 3.0 is poised to become one of India's largest and most impactful corporate sporting events, setting a benchmark for collaboration, sportsmanship, and corporate engagement nationwide.

Economic Survey SHE Teams Lauded For Women's Mobility

The Economic Survey 2025-26 has emphasised the need to overcome urban mobility barriers for women through targeted safety measures, citing Hyderabad's SHE Teams as a model of efficient functioning. These teams enhance visible police presence in high-traffic and pedestrian areas, particularly during off-peak hours, deterring harassment and ensuring safer commutes. The survey recommended scaling up SHE Teams alongside Kochi's Women Police control room vans, which provide proactive patrols. It also urged increasing the number of women drivers through recruitment and training initiatives, such as the NCR Transport Corporation's 21-day course for women aged 18-35, covering classroom instruction, simulators, on-road practice, and licensing, to address driver shortages. Gender-responsive walking and cycling infrastructure was identified as crucial, with features such as improved lighting, safe crossings, emergency buttons in vehicles, and police verification of drivers. Examples include Chennai's inclusive street design manual and Bhubaneswar's Janpath Street, which extend safety from doorstep to destination via affordable intermediate transport. These measures aim to strengthen women's full travel chain, thereby boosting participation in urban economies. Sustained scaling, the survey observed, could act as a transformative tool for safer and more inclusive travel.

HYDRAA continues fire safety inspections, seals 6 shops on 2nd day

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) continued its fire safety inspections at furniture shops for the second day and sealed six shops in different parts of the city on Friday, January 30. Officials have expressed concern that cellars are being converted into godowns, with chemicals, paint cans, and furniture-making materials being stored inside. They also found that many buildings lacked permits and fire no objection certificates (NOCs). Fire extinguishers, automatic water sprinklers and smoke detectors were also absent from the shops. In this regard, six shops were sealed on Friday including Anu Furniture at Kompally crossroads, Royal Oak Furniture on PV Narasimha Rao Expressway in Attapur, Bantia Furniture in Uppal Nagole and Anu Furniture Showroom in Nacharam. At Looking Good Furniture in Gachibowli, the cellar was filled with fire-prone stock like mattresses, batteries and paint. Ramps of the cellars were also obstructed with stock and the building lacked fire permits, HYDRAA said. This action comes after five people including two children and a woman, were killed in a fire at Batcha Furniture shop at Nampally on January 24. HYDRAA has launched a crackdown on shops violating safety norms, conducting joint inspections with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), fire and electricity officials. On Thursday, officials had sealed Neerus showroom in Jubilee Hills Rd No 36 and Rahim and Mannan Estates Standard Furniture in Nampally.

ED files money laundering case against ex-ASI in NPS scam

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad zone, has filed a prosecution complaint before a Rangareddy court against Roop Singh Meena, a former Assistant Sub-Inspector and ministerial staff of the CISF at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), in connection with a National Pension Scheme (NPS) fraud. The court has taken cognizance of the case. The case stems from an FIR registered by Telangana Police in April 2023, alleging that Meena dishonestly diverted NPS contributions of CISF personnel by altering bank account details linked to Permanent Retirement Account numbers. Police alleged that the funds were fraudulently withdrawn through premature withdrawal requests while Meena had full access to NPS accounts during his attachment at the NPS section of NISA. According to the ED, an amount of Rs 60.26 lakh was embezzled and laundered through multiple bank accounts, including those of family members and acquaintances. The proceeds were allegedly used for personal expenses, including marriage costs, medical treatment, clearing debts and business investments. The case was taken over by the CBI, ACB, Hyderabad in June 2025. The ED earlier attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 80.26 lakh in the case.

Unauthorized Parking Forces Children Players to Push Vehicles

vehicles are left till midnight, disrupting daily practice and troubling students

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Students of Abbas Union Football Club on Tuesday complained that their regular practice sessions at Darulshifa Ground are being disrupted due to unauthorized vehicle parking. Several players were seen pushing a car parked near the boundary wall of the ground to clear space for training.

According to the players, Mirchowk Traffic Police temporarily allow vehicles of visitors to the nearby Salar Jung Museum to park on the ground. However, many vehicle owners fail to remove their cars even after the museum closes before



Students of Abbas Union Football Club are seen pushing a car parked near the boundary wall at Darulshifa Ground in Hyderabad

6 pm.

The players alleged that some vehicles remain unattended on the ground till

midnight, affecting daily football practice and causing inconvenience to students. They urged the

authorities to regulate parking and ensure the ground is kept free for sports activities.

Hyderabad police warn against online trading frauds

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The city police have issued a public advisory cautioning citizens against a sharp rise in online trading and investment frauds reported across the city.

According to the Cybercrime Wing, fraudsters were targeting victims through social media platforms, Telegram channels and WhatsApp

groups by promising high or guaranteed returns in cryptocurrency, forex and stock trading.

Police said scammers usually pose as investment advisors and gradually gain the trust of victims before persuading them to invest small amounts. Fake trading websites, mobile apps and dashboards are then used to display false profits, encouraging victims to invest more

money. "When withdrawals are attempted, fraudsters demand additional payments in the name of taxes, processing fees, compliance charges or currency conversion costs. Despite repeated payments, victims are never allowed to withdraw funds," officials said. Officials said that in several cases, victims were threatened with legal action or warned that their wallets would

be frozen if they refused to pay further amounts. The fraud often continues over a long period, resulting in significant financial losses before victims realise they have been cheated.

Victims and those suspecting online investment frauds can report the matter by calling the National Cybercrime Helpline 1930 or by lodging a complaint on cyber-crime.gov.in.

Devotee donates gold ornaments to Tiruchanur temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A devotee from Hyderabad donated a pair of precious stone-studded gold ear ornaments weighing 178 grams, worth about Rs 23 lakh, to Goddess Padmavathi here at Tiruchanur. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) said that K Deepak from Hyderabad offered the ornaments to the deity.



"The devotee presented a pair of gold ear ornaments studded with precious stones worth about Rs 23 lakh to Sri Padmavathi temple during darshan," an official release from the temple body said on late Thurs-

day, January 29.

The ornaments were later handed over to TTD officials, following which the donor was presented with "teertha prasadam" by temple authorities, it said.

TTD is the official custodian of Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirupati, the richest Hindu shrine in the world.

CISF Pension Fraud: ED Chargesheets Ex-ASI

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Friday filed a chargesheet before the Rangareddy court against former assistant sub inspector (ASI) Roop Singh Meena of the CISF, for allegedly diverting over 60 lakh belonging to the pension scheme for security personnel at the National Industrial Security Academy here. On April 18, 2023, the police

had booked Singh under the IPC for diverting National Pension Scheme (NPS) contribution amounts belonging to CISF personnel dishonestly and without authority to the NPS accounts of other serving CISF personnel and some who had resigned. Following the FIR, the ED took up the case and investigated it under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Singh allegedly altered

the permanent retirement account numbers and the misappropriated funds were withdrawn from altered bank accounts after making a request for premature withdrawals. Singh at that time possessed login credentials to access the NPS accounts. In this way, Singh allegedly embezzled '60,26,321. The case was subsequently taken up by CBI and the ACB, Hyderabad, for investigation.

EAGLE Arrests 12 Fugitives in Coordinated Operation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a major crackdown on narcotics, Telangana's Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) arrested 12 individuals who had been evading arrest in multiple drug-related cases across the state. The arrests were part of a coordinated operation targeting alleged drug suppliers with active cases in various police station jurisdictions. Of the 12 apprehended, three were arrested in Hyderabad, two each in Cyberabad, Rachakonda, and Khammam, while Wanaparthi, Siddipet, and Karimnagar each saw one arrest. The accused had been on the run since the registration of their respective cases, officials said. Prior to being

handed over to the concerned police stations for further investigation, the individuals underwent medical screening and counselling in the presence of their family members, ensuring proper procedural compliance. EAGLE officials emphasized that the operation was part of a sustained effort to crack down on drug trafficking and hold absconders accountable. Authorities continue to monitor and track other suspects involved in narcotics cases to prevent further illegal activities. The coordinated effort highlights the state's commitment to curbing the drug menace and ensuring swift action against repeat offenders and those evading law enforcement.

Telangana Bar Council Elections See 82% Turnout After Eight Years

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana witnessed a massive turnout in its State Bar Council elections on Friday, with nearly 82% of the 35,000 eligible advocates casting their votes, marking the highest participation in almost eight years. Polling was conducted across the High Court, district courts, and other subordinate courts from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. Advocates who were present in queues before the closing time were permitted to cast their votes, ensuring maximum participation. A total of 203 candidates contested the elections, which were held under the preferential voting system. Under this system, the 23 can-



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didates securing the highest number of votes will be elected as members of the Bar Council. In addition, two women members will be nominated through co-option, in line with the Supreme Court's mandate requiring 30% reservation for women. With this provision, it is expected that about seven women advocates, including the co-opted

members, will find a place in the newly constituted council. The election results are scheduled to be counted on February 10. Following the counting, the newly elected Bar Council members will convene to elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and one representative to the Bar Council of India (BCI), ensuring Telangana has a voice in

the national body. The high voter turnout reflects the strong engagement and active participation of the legal fraternity in the State, underlining the significance of the elections after a long hiatus of nearly eight years. Legal experts and observers have noted that the elections not only strengthen democratic practices within the Bar but also provide an opportunity for more inclusive representation, particularly for women advocates. Overall, the Telangana Bar Council elections have emerged as a notable event for the State's legal community, demonstrating commitment, enthusiasm, and a renewed focus on governance within the profession.

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