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WEATHER
MAX: 28.8°C
MIN: 19.2°C
RH: 42%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY
MAX/MIN temp: 29/19°C

Brief Insights

Mysore Sandal Makers Get Tamannaah as Brand Ambassador

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, the makers of Mysore Sandal Soap, said it had appointed actress Tamannaah Bhatia as its brand ambassador, even as it launched a wide range of new personal care products. "The organisation aims to attract her (Tamannaah's) vast fan base across India and globally towards Mysore Sandal Soap products," the company said. The newly launched products include new variants of Mysore Sandal Soaps, agarbathis and dhooms, perfumes, shampoos, face washes, hand washes, petroleum jelly, virgin coconut hair oils, baby oil, and a range of home care products under the Cleanol brand.

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Raj Thackeray Calls Bhagwat 'Delusional'

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat over his recent remarks regarding linguistic activism, suggesting that the RSS chief is 'delusional' about his influence and the nature of regional identity. The MNS leader alleged that hat dignitaries attended the RSS event in Mumbai due to political coercion and not because of the love for Bhagwat. Thackeray was responding to a statement made by Bhagwat at an event in Mumbai on February 8, where the RSS chief reportedly said that insisting on language and occasionally agitating for it amounts to a 'disease.' Taking to X, Thackeray said Bhagwat was mistaken in believing that dignitaries attended the event out of admiration for him.

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WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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Modi Hails Bastar Pandum as Symbol of Bastar's New Identity

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the three-day annual cultural festival "Bastar Pandum" has emerged as a powerful symbol of Bastar's transformed identity, highlighting the region's journey from conflict to peace, development and cultural pride.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister congratulated all participants associated with the event, describing Bastar Pandum as a grand celebration of Bastar's rich culture, traditions and tribal heritage. He said such festivals play a vital role in preserving India's cultural legacy while empowering local communities. Recalling the past, Mr. Modi noted that Bastar was once primarily associated with Maoism, violence and developmental backwardness. "Today, however, the situation has

changed completely. Bastar is now being recognized for peace, development and the growing self-confidence of its people," he said, expressing hope that the region's future would be marked by peace, progress and cultural pride.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai welcomed the Prime Minister's remarks and thanked him for his leadership and guidance, stating that Bastar is now shaping a new identity as a symbol of cultural pride and inclusive development. He said events like Bastar Pandum not only preserve tribal tradi-

tions, folk culture and heritage but also convey a strong message of peace, trust and inclusive progress.

The Chief Minister added that coordinated efforts of the Central and state governments are clearly visible in Bastar's positive transformation. Expansion of roads, education, healthcare, communication facilities and livelihood opportunities has created a new atmosphere of trust and public participation in the region. Tribal-dominated Bastar in Chhattisgarh has remained under the influence of Left-wing extremism for nearly three decades. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently stated that Maoism will be completely eradicated by March 31, reinforcing the government's commitment to restoring lasting peace and development in the region.

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Over 52.17 lakh voters are expected to vote across 2,981 wards across seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities in Telangana on Wednesday. Polling for Ward 6 of Makthal Municipality in Narayanpet district was put off following the suicide of BJP candidate Erukala Mahadevappa. Counting of votes is scheduled for February 13, while the indirect election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons will be held on February 16. The seven municipal corporations of Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar, Mancherla, Kothagudem and Nalgonda will be going to the polls. The elections are expected to witness a triangular contest between the Congress and the op-

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Opposition No-trust In Lok Sabha Speaker

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



The Opposition on Tuesday submitted a notice for moving a motion to remove Om Birla from the office of Lok Sabha Speaker. Birla directed Lok Sabha secretary general Utpal Kumar Singh to examine the notice and decided that he would not attend the House proceedings till disposal of the notice. According to sources, the discussion on the motion for removal of the Speaker will likely be taken on March 9, when Parliament reconvenes after a short break.

About 120 Opposition

MPs submitted the notice for moving the resolution to remove Birla from office for not allowing Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders to speak in the

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

House on the motion of thanks to the President's address, as well as for suspending eight MPs. Gandhi did not sign the notice. Justifying this, Congress sources said: "It is not proper for the Leader of the Opposition to sign a petition for the removal of the Speaker in a parliamentary democracy." Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, chief whip K. Suresh and whip Mohammed Jawed submitted the notice under Article

94(c) of the Constitution to the Lok Sabha secretary general. According to sources, the notice was signed by MPs from the Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party, Left parties, the RJD, Shiv Sena(UBT) and NCP(SP). The BJP alleged that the Congress and its allies have been attacking constitutional institutions and posts at the behest of US-based billionaire George Soros since the BJP-NDA returned to power for a third consecutive term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Hitting back at the Opposition, particularly the Congress, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "Those who have been impeached of their consciousness are the ones who want to impeach all the constitutional posts of India."

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Mild Earthquake Tremors in H'bad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



A micro tremor measuring 1.5 on the Richter scale was recorded in areas between Gajularam and Kompal in Hyderabad on Tuesday morning. Experts allayed concerns over the event as Hyderabad is not a seismically active zone and such minor tremors are not harmful.

The microseismic event occurred at 10.17 am and was detected by a seismology observatory station at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad. Dr D. Shashidhar, scientist-E, department of seismology, CSIR-NGRI, explained that there are four seismic monitoring stations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

"It appears to be a very small event, but we will collect data from other centres and analyse it further to rule out whether it was a natural tremor or an explosion-related event," he said. Videos circulating on social media showed residents of a gated community, along with a watchman and a delivery executive, briefly running outdoors after experiencing the tremor, which was reportedly accompanied by a loud sound lasting a few seconds.

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Nominee Dies, BJP Alleges Cong's Hand

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



BJP contestant Erukala Mahadevappa from the 6th ward in Makthal of Narayanpet district died on suicide early on Tuesday, a day ahead of the municipal polls, triggering a controversy that found its way to Parliament. Charging that Congress members had threatened and harassed the candidate, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy raised the issue in the Lok Sabha and party MP Dr K. Laxman in the Rajya Sabha.

Giving details from the victim's wife's statement, BJP state president N.

Ramchander Rao said

Mahadevappa had faced threats from ruling party leaders and followers of

sports minister Vakiti Srihari. According to the statement, Mahadevappa was confident of victory. He alleged that the police took the signature of the victim's illiterate wife, altered details, and filed a false FIR. "If police fail to act as per the law, they will face serious consequences," Rao said. Pointing out that Mahadevappa had been forcibly taken into the Congress camp a few days earlier and draped with a party scarf, Ram-

chander Rao said the loyal candidate had returned to the BJP. He demanded the district SP visit the spot, correct the FIR, and suspend the erring police officers. He announced '10 lakh ex gratia on behalf of the party to the victim's family. Speaking to newsmen in Delhi, Kishan Reddy said party president Nitin Nabi had enquired about the incident and instructed leaders to ensure Mahadevappa gets justice. Claiming a BJP rally led by activists and MP D.K. Aruna on the last day of the election campaign drew a huge response in Makthal, Kishan Reddy said Congress leaders, worried by it, pressured and threatened the victim.

Ascertain If Any Nationwide Network Is Behind Children Going Missing: SC to Centre

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to ascertain whether there was a nationwide network or state-specific group behind the incidents of children going missing from different parts of the country. A bench of Justice B.V. Nagrathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan emphasised the need to ascertain whether there was a pattern behind these incidents or if they are random ones, and asked the Centre to collate data from all states, PTI reported.

Additional solicitor-general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said some states had given

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Centre Tightens Rules, 3-Hour Deadline to Remove Deepfakes

Centre Orders Platforms to Remove Deepfakes Within 3 Hours, Mandates Clear Labelling of AI Content

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The government on Tuesday mandated the take-down of unlawful online content within three hours, and requiring clear labelling of all AI-generated and synthetic content, tightening rules for social media platforms. The rules will come into force on February 20. The rules came in response to the growing misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) to create and circulate obscene, deceptive and fake content on social media platforms —

require embedding of permanent metadata or identifiers with AI content and ban content considered illegal in the eyes of law, as well as shorten user grievance redressal timelines.

The response timelines have been reduced to two hours for platforms to take down flagged content involving material that exposes private areas, and in case of full or partial nudity, or sexual acts. The amended IT rules place the onus on both social media platforms as well as AI tools. The issue of deepfakes and AI user harm came into sharp



focus following the recent controversy surrounding Elon Musk-owned Grok allowing users to generate obscene content by using private pictures.

The ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) issued a gazette notification, amending the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The

rules will come into force on February 20, the concluding day of India AI Impact Summit, a mega congregation that New Delhi will host as the nation prepares to take the centrestage in global AI conversation, according to PTI.

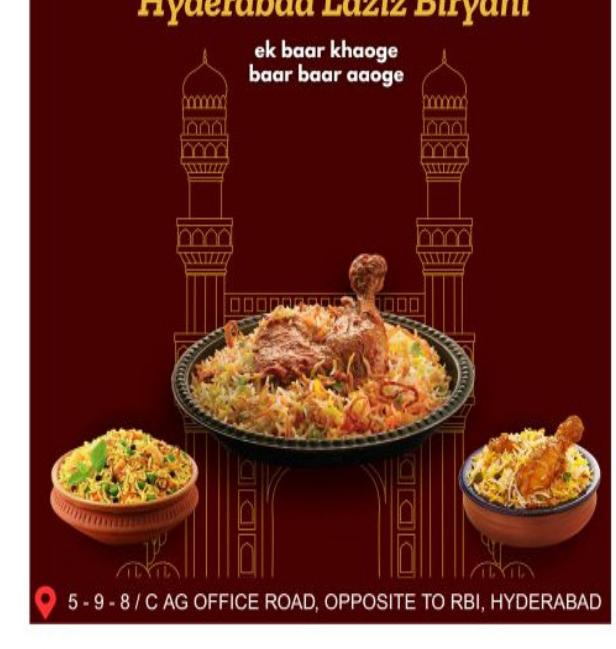
The tweaked rules explicitly bring AI content within the IT rules framework; they define AI-generated and synthetic content as one that by means audio, visual or audio-visual "is artificially or algorithmically created, generated, modified or altered using a

computer resource, in a manner that such information appears to be real, authentic or true and depicts or portrays any individual or event in a manner that is, or is likely to be perceived as indistinguishable from a natural person or real-world event."

Routine editing, accessibility improvements, and good-faith educational or design work are excluded from this definition. User grievance redressal timelines have also been shortened. The rules require mandatory labelling of AI

content. Platforms enabling creation or sharing of synthetic content must ensure such content is clearly and prominently labelled and embedded with permanent metadata or identifiers, where technically feasible, as per the amended rules. Calling for a ban on illegal AI content, it said platforms must deploy automated tools to prevent AI content that is illegal, deceptive, sexually exploitative, non-consensual, or related to false documents, child abuse material, explosives, or impersonation.

ASTORIA HOTEL
Hyderabad Laziz Biryani



All Set for Municipal Polls Today

Counting of votes is scheduled for February 13, while the indirect election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons will be held on February 16.

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Over 52.17 lakh voters are expected to vote across 2,981 wards across seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities in Telangana on Wednesday. Polling for Ward 6 of Maktal Municipality in Narayanpet district was put off following the suicide of BJP candidate Erukala Mahadevappa. Counting of votes is scheduled for February 13, while the indirect election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons will be held on February 16. The seven municipal corporations of Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar,

ELECTION KEY DATES & STATISTICS	
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• Elections: February 11	
• Results: February 13	
• Indirect election of Mayors/- chairpersons: February 16	
MUNICIPALITIES	MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS
Municipalities: 116	Municipal corporations: 7
Wards: 1,562	Wards: 414
Unopposed election: 12	Unopposed election: 2
Poll adourned: 1	Unopposed for polls: 412
Wards going to polls: 2,569	Polling stations: 2,174
No. of polling stations: 6,017	Contesting candidates: 2,225
Contesting candidates: 10,719	

Mancherial, Kothagudem and Nalgonda will be going to the polls.

The elections are expected to witness a triangular contest between the Congress and the opposition BRS and the BJP. The polls have assumed significance as they are being fought on party symbols for the first time after the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. Chief Min-



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Harish Rao Accuses Govt of Failing to Stop Illegal Krishna Water Diversion

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and BRS senior leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday accused the Andhra Pradesh government of illegally diverting Krishna river water and sharply criticised the Congress-led Telangana government for failing to safeguard the state's water rights. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, he said Andhra Pradesh had already utilised 664 TMC of Krishna water as of January 29, 2026—nearly 80 per cent of the share—despite the interim agreement permitting only 66 per cent. Harish Rao said official letters from the Telangana Irrigation Department to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) clearly proved the violations. He alleged that AP crossed its permissible share by January 28 itself and would exceed it further



within days, but the Chief Minister and Water Minister limited themselves to writing letters instead of demanding an Apex Council meeting. Highlighting administrative lapses, he pointed out that the Engineer-in-Chief (ENC), who had written to KRMB urging an immediate board meeting to halt AP's "plunder" of water, retired on January 31. The post remained vacant for a week, which he said weakened Telangana's position and reflected negligence towards the state's interests. With summer approaching, Harish Rao warned of serious consequences for ag-

riculture and industry, particularly in Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts. He alleged that Telangana had used only about 20 per cent of its rightful share, while AP continued to draw nearly 1.5 TMC of water daily. He criticised both Congress and BJP, alleging collusion and accusing KRMB of failing to question AP's excess usage. Harish Rao announced that the BRS would intensify its agitation by besieging the KRMB office, approaching Union Ministers and raising the issue in Parliament, asserting that the party would firmly fight for Telangana's water rights.

Anonymous Letter Targets BRS Leadership

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

An anonymous open letter addressed to BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has gone viral on social media, sending ripples through local political circles in Rajanna Sircilla district on Tuesday. Titled "Forgive us Ramanna, we cannot vote for the Car symbol", the letter reflects resentment against local leadership



and alleged corruption, raising questions about voter sentiment in what has long been considered a BRS stronghold.

Penned by a self-described "self-respecting

voter," the letter apologises to Rao personally while launching a scathing attack on his subordinates. It accuses local leaders of siphoning commissions from welfare schemes, indulging in "tent politics" (Gudarala Rajakeeyam), and corruption in Bathukamma saree contracts and real estate deals. The emotional core of the letter highlights the plight of Sircilla's weavers, alleging they

continue to struggle while leaders amass wealth. Terming the BRS a "steering-less car driven by reckless drivers," the writer concludes that voters must prioritise self-respect over party loyalty. While BRS supporters dismissed the letter as a conspiracy, political analysts said it captures a genuine undercurrent of resentment that could influence electoral outcomes.

CBIT, MGIT Join Hands for Drone Training

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) successfully conducted a two-day Drone Technology Workshop for MGIT students, marking a significant step in their institutional collaboration focused on academics, research, innovation, and skill development.



The hands-on workshop on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and drone applications was organized by the Department of Civil

Engineering, MGIT, in association with ACIC-CBIT, under the leadership of Dr. C. V. Narasimhulu, Principal, CBIT, and Prof. G. Chandra Mohan Reddy, Principal, MGIT.

The programme aimed to equip students with practical, industry-relevant skills in emerging drone technologies. The technical sessions were led by Mr. P. Srinivas Reddy, Founder of Euphostra Systems LLP and a drone technology expert with experience at DRDO. As the resource person, he provided comprehensive training covering drone fundamentals, component assembly, calibration, flight operations, safety protocols, regulatory aspects, and real-world applications. Students also participated in supervised drone assembly and live flying sessions, gaining valuable hands-on exposure.

Bandi Sanjay Writes to CM Revanth Reddy Over Pending Retired Employees' Benefits

Bandi Sanjay Threatens Protests Over Pending Pension Benefits

KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana

Union Minister and BJP Telangana leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar has written a strong letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing the state government of gross negligence in clearing long-pending retirement benefits of government employees. In his letter, Bandi Sanjay questioned the government's moral responsibility, asking whether it is justifiable to subject retired employees to severe mental agony by withholding their rightful dues even years after retirement. He alleged that in several cases, employees have been waiting for more than two years without receiving pensionary benefits, calling it an inhuman and unacceptable act.

Highlighting the seriousness of the issue, Bandi Sanjay claimed that 61 retired employees have allegedly died due to stress and distress caused by the government's failure to release their pending benefits. He directly held the state government responsible for these deaths and questioned whether retired and serving employees have become a "low-priority category" in the eyes of the administration. He described the government's approach as a "dark blot on Telangana",

stating that retired employees, who should be living peacefully in the evening of their lives, are instead being pushed into financial hardship and mental suffering by the very government they served. Bandi Sanjay reminded the Chief Minister that Telangana society is known for its humanitarian values and compassion, where even strangers in distress receive support. He questioned why the state government is failing to show the same humanity towards its own retired

OU Undergoes Quality Certification Review

Osmania University (OU) on Tuesday began a three-day ISO Stage II audit to assess its academic and administrative systems against four international certification standards. The process is coordinated by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and conducted by teams from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). OU Vice Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram, in the opening briefing, outlined recent academic reforms, campus upgrades, and the university's focus on quality governance during formal interactions with the auditors.

The audit is being led by a BIS team from Chennai headed by U.S.P. Yadav, external auditor, and G. Venkatanarayanan, Sc-E and MSCO(S).

Srinivas Goud Alleges Police Bias, Seeks EC Action in Mahbubnagar

MAHBUBNAGAR

Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and senior BRS leader Srinivas Goud addressed the media at the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS) camp office in Mahbubnagar, alleging large-scale irregularities and bias in the conduct of elections in the district. He stated that the Constitution clearly lays down rules to ensure elections are conducted impartially and smoothly once the Election Commission issues the notification. However, he alleged that such a situation is not being witnessed in Mahbubnagar district.



Srinivas Goud accused the police of taking control of the entire election process, performing the roles of multiple departments, while election officials claim ignorance. He said that while the Telangana Police enjoy a good reputation nationally, certain officers are tarnishing the image of the force due to their behaviour and alleged involvement in money-driven postings.

He pointed out that Congress candidates were allowed to file nominations with a large number of supporters, whereas BRS candidates strictly followed rules by limiting the number to three persons.

He further alleged that pressure was being exerted on candidates to withdraw nominations and claimed that harassment by officials has driven some people in the districts to extreme distress.

The former minister alleged that free and fair



candidates AIMIM of remaining silent on people's hardships while enjoying political power. She also pointed out that despite Rahul Gandhi opposing the Owaisi brothers at the national level, the Telangana Chief Minister appears friendly with them. She further noted that AIMIM did not field a candidate against Congress in Jubilee Hills and questioned why Ramzan

Tofa was not distributed to Muslims after Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister. Kavitha strongly criticized the state government's financial priorities, alleging that wealth creation has stopped, debt has increased by 122 percent, and public welfare has been sacrificed for contractor benefits. She demanded that the

upcoming budget allocate ₹20,000 crore annually for BCs with a BC sub-plan, double pension allocations to ₹35,000 crore, and release pending farmer benefits like Yasangi Rythu Bharosa. She also insisted on funds for 1.89 lakh pending government jobs and the immediate announcement of a job calendar. She accused the Chief Minister of failing to

Kavitha Slams Owaisi Brothers, Calls Them "Power-Centric Sunflowers"

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

BRs leader K. Kavitha launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, BJP, and the Owaisi brothers, alleging that all major parties have failed to address people's real issues and instead colluded for political convenience. Speaking during the municipal election cam-

by calling it "Rayala Telangana," but later shared power with KCR after the state was formed, and have now aligned with

the Congress again. Kavitha questioned why there has been no real development in Hyderabad's Old City and ac-

stand up to the Centre on issues like the Labour Code Bill, caste census, and employment guarantee funds. Declaring support for the bandh against the Labour Code on the 12th, Kavitha called on voters to reject party alliances and elect capable, honest candidates, urging support for Jagruti-backed candidates contesting on the lion symbol.

DCA raids unqualified clinic in Karimnagar, seizes medicines

The Drugs Control Administration officials, on Saturday, February 7, raided the premises of an unqualified practitioner, Vemula Sai Krishna, situated at Hima Bindu First Aid Centre, Gattubukhur Village, Gangadhara mandal, Karimnagar district, who was conducting clinical practice without proper qualifications at his clinic.

During the raid, officials detected 73 varieties of medicines, including 19 varieties of Physician's Samples, antibiotics, steroids, analgesics, antihypertensive drugs, anti-ulcer drugs, etc., stocked at the premises without a drug licence.

The worth of the stock seized is Rs. 27,879.

DCA officials found several higher-generation antibiotics, such as Cefotaxime, Cefpodoxime, Cefixime, etc., at the clinic during the raid. The indiscriminate sale of antibiotics by unqualified persons can have disastrous consequences on the health of the public, including the emergence of Antimicrobial Resistance. Officials found steroids at the clinic of the quack. Misusing steroids can have serious health consequences, including immune system suppression, hormonal imbalances, muscle and bone weakness, cardiovascular problems, and psychological effects. The indiscriminate use of steroids poses significant risks to public health.

The raid was carried out under Karimnagar (FAC) Drugs Inspector S. Umarrani and Assistant Director K. Dass. DCA officers lifted the samples for analysis. Further investigation will be carried out, and action will be taken as per the law against all the offenders.

1300 Police Deployed for Municipal Elections; Tight Security in Karimnagar

Heavy security, CCTV monitoring as Karimnagar gears up for civic polls

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gouse Alam has said that the police department has completed all arrangements to ensure peaceful and fair conduct of the upcoming municipal elections in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, Huzurabad, Jammikunta and Choppadandi municipalities.

As part of the security measures, a strong bandobast has been arranged with the deployment of 1,300 police personnel across the district. Out of these, 900 personnel will be on special duty within the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate limits to maintain law and order. The Police Commissioner stated that within the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits, 109 polling locations have been identified, including 28 critical polling centres.



These centres are being closely monitored through CCTV cameras and webcasting. The 66 wards have been divided into 33 routes, with each route placed under the supervision of one Sub-Inspector, while every two routes will be monitored by an Inspector acting as Cluster In-charge. For every four clusters, an ACP-level officer has been assigned. To prevent any untoward incidents, special striking force teams under ACP-level officers have been deployed. Additionally,

sensitive polling stations across the district are under continuous surveillance. Commissioner Gouse Alam said that Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagar Suraksha Sanhita (earlier Section 144) will be in force from 6 am on February 10 to 6 am on February 12, prohibiting the gathering of more than five persons. Strict action will be taken against violators. No one will be allowed within 100 metres of polling stations. As part of preventive

measures, 189 rowdy-sheets have been bound over, and 49 licensed weapons have been deposited. So far, 13 cases have been registered for violations of the election code. To curb illegal distribution of cash and liquor, 23 special teams are conducting continuous patrolling and vehicle checks.

After polling concludes on February 11, ballot boxes will be shifted to the SRR College strong room, where three-tier security will be maintained until the completion of counting on February 13. The Police Commissioner appealed to the public to report any election-related violations or untoward incidents through Dial 100 or the control room numbers 87126 70744 and 87126 70745. He also urged voters to exercise their franchise freely and fearlessly in a peaceful atmosphere.

Colleges Struggle To Meet Demand For Career Counselling

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

With growing uncertainty in the job market and limited guidance on career options, colleges are struggling to match the rising career counselling needs of students, whose worldview was shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic, a global survey has found. According to the 2025 An-

nual Student Quest Report, India is one of the regions facing high student-to-counsellor ratios due to the rise in demand for guidance. About 83 per cent of counsellors surveyed worldwide reported a rise in requests for academic and career support, a pressure the report says is especially intense in India due to a shortage of trained pro-

fessionals. "A lot of students we see today are academically capable but emotionally unsure. They know they have to make choices early, but they don't feel supported enough to understand what those choices really mean for them," said Pravallika Mari, a Hyderabad-based psychologist who works closely with senior school

students. The strain is most visible among students graduating in 2026 and 2027. Unlike earlier cohorts, these students experienced prolonged school closures during their middle-school years, a phase widely seen as critical for building confidence, emotional regulation and independent thinking.

Local Roots, Global Canvas: The Art of KV Suresh Kumar

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Artist KV Suresh Kumar of Secunderabad's Regimental Bazaar has quietly built an international reputation, with nearly 150 of his paintings now displayed in homes across the United States, Canada, and other countries. His works—deeply rooted in India's spiritual and cultural landscape—have found a strong following in West Virginia, proving that devotion-inspired art transcends geography.

Known for capturing India's sacred kshetras, Suresh Kumar's canvases depict iconic sites such as



marks including the Boovaraha Swamy Temple, Mysore's royal elegance, and Bangalore's gardens, each rendered with a strong sense of place.

Observers say his strength lies not merely in form, but in "bhava"—the emotional essence of each site.

Working from the narrow lanes of Regimental Bazaar, Suresh Kumar blends local heritage with a global aesthetic. His journey from Secunderabad to international collections underscores a simple truth: art painted with authenticity resonates worldwide.

Beyond temples, his portfolio spans architectural and cultural land-

₹2.5-cr project to improve water supply in SPR Hills

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

HMWS&SB managing director Ashok Reddy has directed officials to complete work by Ugadi on the ₹2.5-crore feeder main pipeline project to resolve persistent drinking water problems in the SPR Hills area, particularly Borabanda and Rahmatnagar, where night-time supply has caused hardship. Ashok Reddy said inadequate storage capacity in the SPR Hills area had earlier forced supply once every three days in some localities, with slums receiving water at night and facing low pressure. To address issues in 52 slums across Borabanda and Rahmatnagar, the government had built a 3-million-litre reservoir at a

cost of ₹5.7 crore, inaugurated last May. Since then, residents have been receiving water on alternate days between 4 am and 11 pm.

To further improve supply and eliminate night-time distribution, new pipelines are being laid from the SPR Hills reservoir to Brahma-shankar Nagar temple, and from the temple to the Karmikanagar auto stand. Once completed, the project will stop night-time supply in Karmika Nagar and Brahmashankarnagar and improve pressure and reliability. The MD also instructed officials to identify other city areas where water is supplied at night and prepare plans to restrict distribution to morning and evening hours.

Niloufer Launches Premium Rooftop Veg Destination in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Niloufer, one of Hyderabad's most trusted and iconic food brands, expanded its culinary footprint with the launch of Niloufer Chath, a premium rooftop vegetarian dining destination at Road No. 12, Banjara Hills. The grand opening drew dignitaries, food enthusiasts, and loyal patrons, marking a significant milestone in the brand's evolution. Positioned as a refined North Indian vegetarian restaurant, Niloufer Chath blends curated flavours, contemporary design, and an elevated dining experi-



ence. Moving beyond traditional chath offerings, the restaurant reimagines vegetarian cuisine through elegant presentation and modern sensibilities, while retaining the nostalgic essence Niloufer is known for. Speaking at the launch,

without compromising on flavour authenticity. Mr. Anumula Shashank, Managing Director, Cafe Niloufer, said the rooftop setting, innovative menu, and contemporary ambience were designed to set new benchmarks in vegetarian dining, while remaining rooted in Niloufer's legacy. The launch was attended by Danam Nagender, MLA, who praised Niloufer for successfully blending legacy with innovation, and Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, who highlighted the initiative's contribution to the city's evolving food culture.

Kishan Reddy Slams Revanth Over 'Name Change' Jibe

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy on Monday said he had never witnessed such low-level mudslinging in his political career and questioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's decision to alter the name given by his mother to 'Kalvakuntla Kishan Rao'. "He can even change his name to 'Revanth Khan' or his religion if he wishes,"

Kishan Reddy remarked. Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Kishan Reddy alleged that Revanth Reddy was rattled by the strong response to the BJP in the municipal election campaign, where the contest had narrowed to a straight fight between the BJP and Congress. He accused the Chief Minister of attempting to divert attention by projecting a triangular contest to blunt the saffron surge. The minister noted that voters had given the BJP 50 per cent of Lok Sabha seats from the state and recently elected two members to the Legislative Council. He took strong exception to

Revanth Reddy's remark questioning whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would clean moreelu (drainage ducts) if the BJP won the municipal polls, asking whether Revanth Reddy himself was doing so as municipal minister. Kishan Reddy challenged the Chief Minister to disclose the funds released by the state and Centre to local bodies over the past 26 months.

HPRC Felicitates Radha TMT for Polo Championship Sponsorship



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club (HPRC) has felicitated Radha TMT for sponsoring the prestigious Four Nation Arena Polo Championship Trophy 2026, acknowledging the company's contribution to promoting international polo and equestrian sports in India.

As part of the felicitation, Mr. Sunil Saraf, Managing Director of Radha TMT, was presented with the official tournament T-shirt and a commemorative memento during a courtesy meeting held at HPRC. The gesture marked the club's appreciation for Radha TMT's support of the upcoming international championship, which is set to bring global attention to arena polo in the country.

The felicitation ceremony was led by Mr. Chaitania R. Kumar, President of HPRC, along with Vice President Mr. K.S. Vi-

jaresh Singh and Admin-
istrative Secretary Mr. Reaz Ahmed. Representatives from Radha TMT, including Marketing Head Mr. Ajit Kumar Kavulkuntla, were also present. HPRC officials lauded Radha TMT for its continued encouragement of sporting excellence and its role in strengthening the stature of international polo events hosted in India. The Four Nation Arena Polo Championship 2026, scheduled to be hosted at the Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club, will feature teams from multiple countries and is expected to attract significant interest from polo enthusiasts, sponsors, and the international polo fraternity. HPRC stated that the championship aims to enhance India's visibility on the global arena polo circuit while fostering the growth of equestrian sports in the region, and expressed gratitude to Radha TMT for partnering in this endeavour.

Local Roots, Global Canvas: The Art of KV Suresh Kumar

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Artist KV Suresh Kumar of Secunderabad's Regimen-

Prajavani Programme Receives 24 Complaints; DC Orders Immediate Action

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A total of 24 grievances were received during the Prajavani programme held on Monday, where Deputy Commissioner D. Shashi Rekha directed concerned officials to ensure their immediate resolution.

The programme was attended by officials from multiple departments, including Revenue AMC Biksapathi, ACP Rani, DE (SWM) Vasidhar, AMOH Srikanth Reddy, SS Srinivas, Engineering Section Sridevi, Entomology Section R. Chinna, Veterinary Section T. Sanjay Reddy,



breakup of grievances is as follows: Town Planning – 16, Engineering – 5, Revenue – 2, and UBD – 1, taking the total number of complaints to 24. Deputy Commissioner Shashi Rekha emphasized prompt action and instructed all departments to address the issues without delay.

New Labour Laws Meant to Crush Workers' Rights: Dasayam Vinay Bhaskar

HANUMANKONDA Wakeup telangana



the movement to protect workers' and employees' rights.

Addressing the gathering, Vinay Bhaskar announced that, in protest against the anti-labour policies of the Central Government, a rally will be organised on February 11 from the Thousand Pillars Temple to Kazipet Railway Station. He also called upon all

with work, leave entitlements, and even the right to protest are being pushed into uncertainty under these new laws," he said.

Vinay Bhaskar warned that the new labour codes allow managements to follow a 'hire and fire' policy, making job security highly vulnerable. He expressed serious concern that workers who attempt to form unions or fight for their rights could be removed from service, and that in the future workers may be denied basic social security benefits such as ESI and PF.

Lavrov Accuses US Of Trying To Prevent India From Buying Russian Oil

MOSCOW

Wakeup telangana

Russia has accused the US of attempting to prevent India and other countries from buying Russian oil, saying Washington is using a wide range of "coercive" measures, including tariffs, sanctions and direct prohibitions, to fulfil its objective of global economic dominance.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also accused the US of using "unfair methods" to suppress competitors by imposing sanctions on Russian oil companies.

"(The US) is attempting to control our trade, investment cooperation, and military-technical ties with major strategic part-



ners, such as India and other BRICS members," Lavrov said in an interview with TV BRICS on Monday. He said that the West is reluctant to relinquish its formerly dominant positions. "With the arrival of the (US President Donald) Trump administration, this struggle to suppress competitors became particularly pronounced and open," he said. Lavrov said that Russia accepted America's proposal on Ukraine during the Alaska talks between President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Trump last year. "We were told that the Ukrainian issue must be resolved. In Anchorage, we accepted the United States' proposal. To put it straightforwardly, they proposed, and we agreed -

the problem should be solved," he said. "Having accepted their proposals, we essentially fulfilled the task of resolving the Ukrainian issue and moving toward comprehensive, broad, mutually beneficial cooperation," he added.

"In practice, however, the opposite occurs: new sanctions are imposed, attacks on tankers are staged in international waters in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and India and other partners are discouraged from purchasing affordable Russian energy, while Europe has long prohibited such purchases, forcing them to buy American liquefied natural gas at significantly higher prices. Thus, in the economic sphere, the US

has effectively declared a goal of economic domination," he said. Lavrov said that the US aims to control all energy supply routes for all leading countries across continents, including in Europe, where they monitor the Nord Stream pipelines, the Ukrainian gas transport system, and the TurkStream pipeline. "I am highlighting this to emphasise that the US' objective is global economic dominance, implemented through a wide range of coercive measures inconsistent with fair competition, including tariffs, sanctions, direct prohibitions, and even restrictions on communication for some partners. We must take all this into account," Lavrov said.

PM Degree Row: Delhi HC Grants DU 3 Weeks to Reply on Delayed Appeals

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted three weeks to Delhi University for filing its objection to the delay in appeals against an order refusing disclosure of details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the university, argued that "there was nothing in the matter" and it was "only to sensationalise." A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia and listed the matter for hearing on April 27.

Appeals have been filed challenging a single judge's order, which had set aside a Central Information Commission decision directing



disclosure of Modi's degree. The appellants before the division bench are RTI activist Neeraj, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohd Irshad. On August 25, 2025, the single judge had set aside the CIC order, saying that only because Mr Modi was holding a public office, it did not render all his "personal information" to public disclosure. It had ruled out any "implicit public interest" in the information sought, and said the RTI Act was enacted to promote transparency in government functioning and

University's counsel

"not to provide fodder for sensationalism".

Following an RTI application by one Neeraj, the CIC on December 21, 2016, allowed inspection of records of all students who cleared the BA exam in 1978 -- the year Prime Minister Modi also passed it. The single judge had passed the combined order in six petitions, including the one filed by the Delhi University, challenging the CIC by which the university was directed to disclose the CBSE to provide copies of Class 10 and 12 records of former Union minister Smriti Irani.

had sought the CIC order to be set aside, but said the varsity had no objection to showing its records to the court. The single judge had opined that the educational qualifications were not in the nature of any statutory requirement for holding any public office or discharging official responsibilities. The situation might have been different, had educational qualifications been a prerequisite for eligibility to a specific public office, the judge had said, calling the CIC's approach "thoroughly misconceived". The High Court had also set aside the CIC order, which directed the CBSE to provide copies of Class 10 and 12 records of former Union minister Smriti Irani.

Didi: Yuba Sathi Scheme to Start From April 1 Instead of August 15

KOLKATA

Wakeup telangana

With the West Bengal Assembly elections approaching, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has advanced the rollout of the Yuba Sathi scheme by more than four months, aiming to provide early financial support to unemployed youth across the state. Announcing the decision on Tuesday, she said that Madhyamik-pass beneficiaries aged between 21 and 40 years would start receiving a monthly assistance of ₹1,500 from April 1, instead of August 15 as earlier declared during the vote-on-account presentation in the Assembly last week.

Speaking at the state secretariat, Nabanna, the



Chief Minister said the government had chosen April 1 to align the scheme with the beginning of the financial year. "Since the financial year starts on April 1, we have decided to implement the Yuba Sathi scheme from that day. It's not going to be 'April Fool'. There will be a review of beneficiaries after they receive the aid for years," she said, indicating that long-term monitoring would be part of the programme.

To ensure smooth implementation, the state government will organise application camps in all 294 Assembly constituencies. Each camp will have four dedicated sections covering youth and sports (for Yuba Sathi), agriculture, power, and irrigation. Banerjee explained that this integrated approach would allow multiple welfare services to be accessed at a single location, following the Duare Sarkar model. The Chief Minister also announced major relief for farmers, stating that the ₹1,500–₹2,000 charges earlier paid to the state power and irrigation departments for water supply connectivity would be withdrawn. Landless and small farmers will be able to apply for this

wavier at the same camps. "Altogether four representatives will be present at each camp," she said, adding that the process would also be fully digitalised to ensure transparency and ease of access. The camps will operate from 10 am to 5 pm between February 15 and 26, excluding holidays. Banerjee further noted that the enhanced benefits under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme have already begun reaching beneficiaries. However, when asked about the release of dearness allowance dues to state government employees following the Supreme Court order, the Chief Minister declined to comment, stating that the matter is "sub judice."

Raj Thackeray Calls Bhagwat 'Delusional'

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat over his recent remarks regarding linguistic activism, suggesting that the RSS chief is 'delusional' about his influence and the nature of regional identity. The MNS leader alleged that hat dignitaries attended the RSS event in Mumbai due to political coercion and not because of the love for Bhagwat.

Thackeray was responding to a statement made by Bhagwat at an event in Mumbai on February 8, where the RSS chief reportedly said that insisting on language and occasionally agitating for it amounts to a 'disease.' Taking to X, Thackeray said Bhagwat was mistaken in believing that dignitaries attended the event out of admiration for him. "They attended out of fear of Narendra Modi's government,"



he alleged, adding that such speeches had never attracted audiences in the past. The MNS chief said that linguistic identity was the basis for the reorganisation of Indian states and remains deeply entrenched across the country. Citing strong linguistic identities in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat, he said, "If love for one's language and region is a disease, then it exists across most states." Thackeray said resentment builds when large groups of migrants move to other states, disregard local culture and language, and form political vote banks. He questioned why similar lectures on harmony were not delivered in other states where linguistic

Opposition No-trust...

"The entire country is watching the behaviour of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party in the House," Patra said. He alleged that at the behest of Mr Gandhi, an attempt was made to gherao the Prime Minister's seat so that they could do something to harm him. "What kind of thinking is this? I think the entire country will now have to think over this. The time has come for India to impeach Gandhi and the Congress party from politics," Patra said and slammed the TMC for giving a call to the Opposition parties to move an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Parliament, saying those who have been "impeached" by the people want to impeach the "entire world".

"We, the undersigned, hereby give notice of a resolution for the removal of Shri Om Birla from the office of Speaker Lok Sabha, in terms of the provisions of Article 94(c) of the Constitution of India, because of the blatantly partisan manner in which he has been conducting the business of the Lok Sabha," the notice said, adding that on several occasions, the leaders of the Opposition

parties have just not been allowed to speak, which is their basic democratic right in Parliament.

The notice also cited that on February 2, Mr Gandhi was not allowed to complete his speech on the motion of thanks to the President's address. "This is not an isolated instance. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is almost invariably not allowed to speak," it claimed. The notice stated that on February 3, eight opposition MPs were "arbitrarily suspended" for the entire Budget Session and are being penalised merely for exercising their democratic rights. On February 4, a BJP MP was permitted to make wholly objectionable and personalised attacks on two former Prime Ministers without being reprimanded even once for disregarding established conventions and norms of propriety, it said, in an apparent reference to Nishikant Dubey's remarks.

Ascertain If.....

The top court suggested to Bhati that children who have been rescued should be interviewed to ascertain who is responsible for such incidents. The bench was also critical of the states that have not furnished the data, and said it may pass harsh orders if

needed. Senior advocate Aparna Bhati said the Centre had taken the initiative and direction be issued to all states to furnish the data. The bench was hearing a PIL filed by an NGO, 'Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan', that highlighted the rising number of children who remain untraced across several states. On December 9, the top court directed the Centre to furnish six years of nationwide data on missing children and to appoint

a dedicated officer in the Union home ministry for ensuring effective coordination with states and Union Territories in compiling such data.

The top court had earlier directed all states and Union Territories to depute dedicated nodal officers to oversee cases of missing children and to ensure that such details are promptly uploaded in a portal run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. On November 18,

last year, the top court voiced its concern over a news report that claimed that a child goes missing in the country every eight minutes, and described it as a serious issue. It had said the adoption process in the country is complicated and asked the Centre to streamline the mechanism.

Mysore Sandal.....

The newly launched products include new variants of Mysore Sandal soaps, agarbathis and dhoops, perfumes, shampoos, face washes, hand washes, petroleum jelly, virgin coconut hair oils, baby oil, and a range of home care products under the Cleanol brand.

The hotel and hospitality segment will receive sandalwood-based body wash, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, and bergamot and mandarin variants. The company unveiled its new products in Bengaluru on Tuesday, in the presence of Karnataka minister M.B. Patil, KSDL chairman and Muddibihal MLA Apaji C.S. Nadagouda, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, additional chief secretary Selvakumar, and managing director Prashanth P.K.M.

The company reported its highest turnover so far at Rs.1,787 crore in 2024-25, and attributed it to steady leadership over three years. Profit rose to Rs.451 crore and dividend payouts to the Karnataka government increased to Rs.134.84 crore. KSDL said it had expanded its presence in e-commerce and modern trade while remaining a traditional public sector enterprise.

C'garh: In a World Record, 6,412 Couples Tie Nuptial Knot in Mass Marriage

RAIPUR

Wakeup telangana



As many as 6,412 couples tied nuptial knot in government-sponsored mass marriage functions, held in different districts in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, setting a world record in the field. The event, organized under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana, has entered the Golden Book of World Records, a spokesman of the Chhattisgarh government said. The couples from across the state entered marital life in accordance with their respective religious traditions and customs.

They included two pairs of surrendered Naxals. At the Science College Ground here, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai blessed 1,316 newlywed couples, in person, while couples from other districts joined the programme through virtual mode. Under the scheme, each newly married couple was provided financial aid of Rs 35,000. Couples belonging to Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist communities, as well as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Baiga, solemnized their marriage according to their respective cus-

toms, reflecting Chhattisgarh's rich cultural diversity and deep-rooted social cohesion. The programme was not merely a marriage ceremony, but a celebration of interfaith harmony and social unity, the chief minister said. The chief minister also formally launched a campaign to make Chhattisgarh malnutrition-free. He said that as a pilot project, the campaign has been initiated in eight districts of tribal-dominated Surguja and Bastar divisions. Upon the success of the pilot project, this campaign would be expanded across the state.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Threat to blow up Vande Bharat rattles Sec'bad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Railway authorities have received a letter claiming to be from "ISIS-Jihadists," threatening to blow up the Vande Bharat Express at Secunderabad if a ransom of ₹2 crore was not paid. The letter, dated February 2 and addressed to the Secunderabad division general manager, warned that failure to meet the demand would result in a blast killing at least 350 passengers. Special

teams were formed to probe the threat. Investigators examined footage from over 450 CCTV cameras and found the letter had been posted from a Rangareddy post box. Bomb detection squads and sniffer dogs were deployed across railway stations. A senior railway police officer said the letter appears to be a hoax, mischievously posted, but added: "We are probing all aspects and will soon get the culprits."

Wildlife Traffickers Caught With Tiger Parts

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Hyderabad, intercepted two traffickers in Nampally and seized seven tiger claws and three teeth. Tiger is a protected species listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended, and possession or trade of its parts is a punishable offence under the Act. The two traffickers, along with the recovered articles, were handed over to the Telangana forest officials.

Sources said the DRI personnel laid a trap to nab the duo, one a resident of Aghapura and the other from Sun City. The traffickers were allegedly searching for prospective buyers to sell the articles for ₹1 lakh when the DRI received a tip-off. Officers posed as buyers, offering more than ₹1 lakh, and were asked to meet the traffickers at a lodge near Nampally railway station. On entering a room in the lodge, they found the tiger claws and teeth and arrested the suspects.

Don't Ruin Your Golden Future for Social Media Likes: Hyderabad CP Warns Against Bike Stunts



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Performing dangerous stunts on a bike and putting the lives of those sitting behind at risk is a crime under the law, Hyderabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said on Tuesday. "Don't get into trouble by getting sued," he said in a post on his social media handle. "Bike stunts.. Destroying a hundred-year-old's life! Watching these bizarre stunts on the road can be thrilling; it can give you a kick in

the ass in an instant," Sajjanar said. "Don't forget that even a small accident can put you in bed for the rest of your life. Not only that, you can put others in danger because of you," the commissioner said. "Don't ruin your golden future for likes on social media or heroism on the road. Drive responsibly," he said. An official said the police were working on identifying those who endanger other commuters' lives by performing stunts.

Jubilee Hills Robbery:

Duo Remanded, Key Suspect at Large

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Task force and Jubilee Hills police on Tuesday arrested two persons for the theft of jewellery worth ₹1.3 crore from the house of a businessman in Jubilee Hills after sedating the watchman. The accused Bhupender Shahi and Krishna Chand were heading home to Nepal. Jibin Chand, who is suspected to have planned the robbery, is at large, police said. According to police, the robbery took place on February 5 at the house of Naveen Ravindra Sharma in Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, when he was away.

Police Seize ₹77 Lakh Unaccounted Cash

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Three persons who were transporting ₹76,87,650 without support documents on a bike were intercepted by Goshamahal police at Gyan Bagh Colony. After the trio, all residents of Begum Bazaar, failed to produce documents or give a satisfactory explanation for carrying the money, police seized the unaccounted cash

along with the bike. According to the police, the trio had collected the cash on the instructions of one Kalpesh alias Kupa Ram, from Sandeep of Begum Bazaar and was transporting it to Thagaram of Afzalgunj, Goshamahal station house officer B. Shravan Kumar.

Fraudsters dupe Swiggy user with malicious link

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A woman was cheated of ₹1.57 lakh after fraudsters impersonating customer support convinced her to install a malicious application. According to the complainant, she had ordered food through an app-based platform and received a spoiled item. While attempting to lodge a complaint, she searched online for customer care details and contacted a phone number she assumed belonged to the company's support service. The caller posed as a customer service executive and instructed her to upload photographs of the

damaged food. He then shared a link and persuaded her to install an APK file, claiming it was required to process the complaint. Soon after clicking the link, the woman's mobile phone screen went blank and the call was abruptly disconnected. Within a short span, she noticed multiple unauthorised transactions from her bank account. The total loss amounted to ₹1,57,489, which the complainant said she had neither authorised nor initiated. She later realised that the link contained malicious software that enabled the fraudsters to gain access to her banking

details. The city cyber-crime team has arrested some New Delhi residents who extorted ₹1.07 crore from a senior citizen in a digital arrest fraud case. Police said the fraudsters impersonated law enforcement officials and threatened to arrest the victim in a fabricated PMLA money laundering case. The arrested have been identified as Gurdeep Singh, Harpreet Singh, and Kumar Mohit, all residents of New Delhi, said cybercrime DCP V. Arvind Babu. On October 16, 2025, a 63-year-old victim lodged a complaint stating that he had received a call from an un-

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

Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

CRICKET WINS AS PAK AGREES TO PLAY INDIA IN T20 WC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Having run a soap opera out of their boycott threat for more than a week, Pakistan did a U-turn in opting to keep all its engagements in the T20 World Cup, paving the way for the India match on Sunday that has become a showpiece of international white ball cricket. The drama of India-Pakistan cricket matches which boil over with the jingoistic elements of tribalism will continue, much to the delight of global cricket fans. Cricket, specifically the T20 World Cup, is the winner but only because of its financial clout. Pakistan would have been hard put to it to absorb the huge losses from a partial boycott that may have brought financial sanctions from the ICC besides the threat of being sued by the broadcasters for a staggering loss of revenue as each India-Pakistan en-

counter is said to be worth around Rs 4,500 crore. It is a fair call that the game should go on even if it becomes so in this case only because a morally as well as financially bankrupt Pakistan could not sustain the illogic for too long of pulling out of an India match at a neutral venue just to show solidarity with Bangladesh. The latter may have nursed a grievance of not being granted the same privilege of playing their cricket against India in a third Asian country and so had to withdraw from the competition. The speciousness of Pakistan's stand was always risible. No security threat could be imagined for cricketers in India. However volatile the situation in Bangladesh has been where at least a score of Hindus have been done to death in the wake of a regime change, there was little likelihood of any of the animus by way of anti-Bangladesh sentiment in



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Saree Run Blends Tradition, Fitness Together at Zydus Pinkathon Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad witnessed a striking blend of tradition and fitness as women took to the streets for the Saree Run, a 5 km run held at Malkam Cheruvu Park on Sunday morning in the build-up to the Zydus Pinkathon Hyderabad. Draped in sarees and running with confidence, participants challenged long-held stereotypes around attire, age, and physical activity, reinforcing Pinkathon's belief that fitness can adapt to women's lives, not the other way around.

Held as part of the Hyderabad leg of the 2025-26 Zydus Pinkathon season, the Saree Run saw women from across age



groups transforming the park into a vibrant, visual celebration of movement and cultural pride. The format, now a familiar and much-anticipated fixture at Pinkathon events, continues to draw attention for its simple yet powerful message—that clothing, tradition, or social expectation should never limit a woman's access to fitness. The Zydus Pinkathon Hyderabad event, scheduled at People's Plaza on Feb-

ruary 15, 2026, will feature multiple race categories across distances, with assembly for all runs beginning at 5:30 am. Building on strong participation seen across cities this season, the Hyderabad edition continues Pinkathon's mission to create visible, supportive spaces where women can prioritise health, movement, and community. Triathlete and Founder of Invincible Women, Ankita Konwar, ran alongside

participants, further amplifying the spirit of the event. She said, "Running in a saree breaks a very visible myth. Women often grow up with the idea that they need to change who they are to become active. The Saree Run flips that idea completely. It shows that you don't have to give up tradition, comfort, or identity to take care of your health. When women see this, it makes fitness feel far more accessible and far less intimidating."

The Hyderabad Saree Run forms part of Pinkathon's broader effort to widen participation by responding directly to the reasons women often hold back from physical activity. Over the years, formats like the Saree Run,

baby-wearing mothers' walks, and inclusive categories for visually impaired runners have helped reshape the running ecosystem, encouraging more women to step onto the course in ways that feel authentic to them.

Founded in 2012, Pinkathon has grown into India's largest women's running platform, using running not just as a sport but as a tool to spark conversations around women's health, confidence, and long-term wellbeing. Through initiatives like the Saree Run, the platform continues to redefine what participation in fitness can look like—rooted in choice, inclusivity, and self-belief.

Gold, silver surge on weaker dollar and geopolitical tensions

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices surged sharply on Monday due to a weaker US dollar and persistent geopolitical uncertainties.

MCX gold February futures jumped 1.31 per cent to Rs 1,57,484 per 10 grams around 10.45 am on an intraday basis. Meanwhile MCX silver March futures climbed 4.81 per cent to Rs 2,61,900 per kg.

On the MCX, silver prices, earlier in the day, had jumped as much as 6 per cent to its day's high of Rs 2,64,885 per kg before a round of profit booking. The US dollar touched its lowest level since February 4, making greenback-priced metals cheaper for overseas buyers.

Even as Iran's top diplomat called US-Iran nuclear talks a "good start" on Friday, Tehran has reiterated that the country would retain its right to enrich uranium. Experts anticipate that geopolitical tensions may persist for longer, continuing to drive investors to safe-haven assets.

Market hopes of further rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve got stronger after San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly called for one or two more interest rate



cuts to alleviate weakness in the labour market. US Fed rate cut hopes remain another supporting factor for gold and silver prices, analysts said.

"Gold has support at Rs 1,54,000 and Rs 1,51,800 zones while resistance at Rs 1,57,700 and Rs 1,60,000. Silver has support at Rs 2,36,600 and Rs 2,44,000 levels while resistance at Rs 2,55,500 and Rs 2,62,600," an analyst said.

Silver's sharp surge from Rs 60,000 to Rs 3,20,000 could lead to a phase of consolidation at elevated levels or rebalancing by market participants becomes more likely, according to a recent report.

Structural supply deficits and steady industrial demand continue to underpin the bullish bias in silver. Persistent safe-haven demand, steady central-bank accumulation, and expectations of accommodative global monetary conditions continue to underpin prices of yellow metal, it said.

EPFO Introduces UPI-Based PF Withdrawals

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Subscribers of retirement fund body EPFO will be able to withdraw their employees' provident fund (EPF) directly into their bank accounts through UPI payment gateway using its newly designed mobile application to be launched in April this year, a top source said. The labour ministry is working on a project where a certain proportion of the EPF will be frozen, and a large chunk will be available for withdrawal through their bank account using Unified Payment Interface (UPI), the source told PTI.

The source further informed that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation will roll out a new mobile phone application through which

the member would be able to withdraw their EPF money using UPI gateway as well as avail other services like passbook balance. Currently, the member uses either the Universal Account Number (UAN) portal or the UMANG app to access their EPF accounts and avail of their services. The source said that these services will remain available on both platforms, while the new dedicated app will further improve the accessibility and delivery of services for EPFO subscribers. He explained that subscribers will be able to view the eligible EPF balance available for transfer to their seeded bank accounts in the mobile application. They will be allowed to use their linked UPI PIN to complete the transaction, ensuring a secure transfer of funds to their bank accounts.

The source stated that the EPFO is presently conducting trials using 100 dummy accounts to improve the efficacy of the service and remove any technical glitches that the service may have. The la-

cure transfer of funds to their bank accounts.

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The source stated that the

Messe Frankfurt-BusinessLive Tie-Up Expands Media Expo Nationwide

Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India joins forces with BusinessLive Trade Fairs to expand Media Expo

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India has entered into a strategic collaboration with BusinessLive Trade Fairs to significantly expand the Media Expo brand across South India, transforming Sign India Expo into Media Expo and increasing the exhibition's footprint from three cities to five—Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai and New Delhi. The partnership will see the launch of Media Expo Kochi and Media Expo Hyderabad, while Sign India Expo Chennai transitions into Media Expo Chennai, strengthening Media Expo's position as a unified national platform for the printing, signage, branding and advertising industries.

Under this collaboration,



Media Expo becomes the primary exhibition platform in the southern markets of Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi, replacing the long-established Sign India Expo brand in these regions. The transition will begin with Media Expo Chennai, scheduled later this year at the Chennai Trade Centre, Tamil Nadu. The move ensures consistent branding, stronger regional engagement and a consolidated industry platform across

South India's key commercial hubs.

Media Expo brings a strong legacy of 56 successful editions across Mumbai, New Delhi and Chennai, while Sign India Expo contributes over 70 editions nationwide, with deep roots in southern markets such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi and Hyderabad. By uniting two of the industry's most recognised exhibition brands, the collaboration creates a larger, more im-

portant trade fair ecosystem designed to enhance exhibitor participation, visitor engagement and overall market reach.

The

expanded Media

Expo

platform will showcase a comprehensive range of industry segments including printing and signage, digital signage, advertising solutions for out-of-home (OOH) and digital out-of-home (DOOH), retail displays and branding solutions, large-format and industrial printing, fabrication equipment, POP-POSM, LED screens, inks, sign substrates, advanced 3D and laser printing solutions, and allied technologies. Leveraging BusinessLive Trade Fairs' strong regional presence and Messe Frankfurt's global exhibition expertise, the alliance aims to strengthen buyer-seller connections, improve market access and create consistent, high-quality engagement opportunities for exhibitors, associations, professionals and visitors across the ecosystem.

Industry growth projections further support the strategic importance of this partnership. India's printing and signage market is projected to grow from USD 1,074.5 million in 2025 to USD 3,494.3 million by 2034, while the OOH and DOOH market is expected to expand from USD 519.93 million in 2025 to USD 656.13 million by 2030. With complementary strengths, deep market understanding and a shared vision, the collaboration marks a decisive step towards building a more cohesive, future-ready and unified printing and signage industry platform in South India.

Rupee slips 11 paise against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

The rupee depreciated 11 paise to 90.77 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday as the currency market continued to price in caution rather than celebration following the India-US interim trade framework.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.63 against the US dollar and then lost some ground to touch 90.77, registering a loss of 11 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee witnessed a volatile trading session and settled slightly lower, down 1 paise at 90.66 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said that at first glance, the India-US framework looked constructive as it avoided immediate disruptions, set a roadmap for negotiations and reassured exporters that nothing would break overnight. However, as the market examined the

Zero Duty For Select Bangladesh Apparel Hits Indian Exporters

CHENNAI

Wakeup telangana

The zero-tariff access provided to select apparel from Bangladesh by the US under its trade deal signed on Monday will erode the competitiveness of Indian exporters, who were relieved by the announcement of the interim framework on the India-US trade deal. Indian cotton and yarn exporters to Bangladesh will also be affected if Bangladesh buys more fibre from the US. The US-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade lowers the reciprocal tariff on Bangladeshi goods from 20 per cent to 19 per cent. It also grants zero-duty access to textile and apparel products from Dhaka made with cotton and man-made fibre imported from the US. Recently, the US had lowered the reciprocal tariffs on India to 18 per

cent and textiles and apparels were one of the major beneficiaries of this decision. However, the Bangladesh deal will give the apparels from the country an advantage over Indian products. While the Confederation of Indian Textile Industries is awaiting clarity on the mechanism to be put in place by the US, "that will allow for certain textile and apparel goods from Bangladesh to receive a zero reciprocal tariff rate," it acknowledges that this opens a fresh challenge for India's textiles and apparel exporters, for whom the United States is their single-largest market.

This challenge is two-fold. First, the tariff differential between India and Bangladesh has halved from 2 per cent to 1 per cent, which is a matter of concern in a sector with narrow profit margins. Secondly, the US-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade could likely adversely affect India's cotton yarn exports to Bangladesh. Bangladesh is already among the leading exporters of textiles and apparel to the United States, alongside China, Vietnam, and India. Any additional advantage for Bangladesh could further increase competition for Indian exporters," it said. India has offered duty concessions under tariff-rate quotas for imports of extra-long staple cotton from the United States under the proposed interim agree-

Sensex Settles 208 Pts Higher, Nifty Up 68 Pts At 25935

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

The Indian equity benchmarks extended gains for a third consecutive session on Tuesday, supported by positive global cues, indications of a recovery in foreign portfolio inflows following a trade agreement with the United States and selective buying in stocks reporting strong December-quarter results.

The Sensex closed 208 points higher, or 0.25 per cent, at 84,273.92, while the Nifty 50 rose 68 points, or 0.26 per cent to settle at 25,935.15. Foreign investors purchased Indian shares worth Rs 2255 crore on Monday, provisional data showed. They have bought \$1.7 billion of Indian equities so far in February, after three consecutive months of selling. Both indices traded in a narrow range through the day, as gains were capped by profit-taking in select financial and pharma stocks. Broader markets continued to show steady participation.

Bank Nifty ended in red with a loss of 43 points at 60,626.4. The Nifty Midcap index rose 0.4 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.5 per cent, indicating healthy market breadth and sustained interest in non-index stocks.

Vikram Kasat, head advisory, PL Capital said, "For the week ahead, with tariff-re-



lated concerns largely easing, the near-term market direction will depend on how the rest of the Q3 earnings season unfolds, which has been mixed so far." Twelve of the 16 major sectors advanced during the day. Barring pharma and PSU Bank, all other sectoral indices ended in the green. Metal stocks led gains, rising nearly 2 per cent, capital market index gained 2.7 per cent while the auto index advanced about 1.4 per cent. Sector-wise, the tone remained largely positive. Within Nifty, the top gainers included Eternal, Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto, ONGC and M&M, while the laggards were Shriram Finance, HCL Tech, Dr Reddy's Labs, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel. BSE Ltd shares touched a fresh lifetime high after reporting a sharp jump in December-quarter profits. Lumax Industries surged 20 per cent to hit an upper circuit, marking a new 52-week high after strong Q3 earnings.

Prakash Raj dismisses exit rumours from Prabhas-starrer Spirit

Trashing fake reports that he was out of Prabhas-starrer 'Spirit' over creative differences with the film's director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, well known actor Prakash Raj has now asked fake news factories to "grow up and have a life".

Prakash Raj took to his X timeline to pen a clarification on Monday. He wrote, "To all the toxic #Fake-news peddlers.... On #Spirit the movie. We have not even started shooting for my scenes... and you whatsup factories speculate stories. Grow up and have a life. #just-tasking"

Prakash Raj's tweet came in the wake of a section of the media claiming that the actor was out of the Prabhas-

starrer 'Spirit' due to creative differences with Sandeep Reddy Vanga on the film's sets. The report claimed that the team of 'Spirit' was now hunting for a replacement for @prakashraaj and that some of the episodes he had acted in would have to be shot again.

It may be recalled that director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's eagerly awaited film 'Spirit', featuring actors Prabhas and Triptii Dimri in the lead, went on floors in November last year with a grand pooja ceremony.

Several celebrities had graced the ceremony including Mega star Chiranjeevi, who was a special guest at the event.

Bhadrakali Pictures, the production house of director Sandeep Reddy



Vanga, had then taken to its X timeline to share pictures of the launch event. It said, 'India's biggest superstar #Prabhas's 'SPIRIT' has been launched with Megastar @KChiruTweets garu as the special guest.'

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who was touched by the Megastar's gesture of turning up for the event, had penned a thank you note to Chiranjeevi on X. In it, he had said, "Heartfelt thank you to our MEGASTAR CHIRANJEEVI sir for blessing

the event with his presence. Sir.... your gesture is unforgettable — we all love you @KChiruTweets #SPIRIT MUHURTHAM"

The director also posted pictures clicked at the event. However, he was careful to ensure that none of the pictures posted showed Prabhas at the event for fear of revealing the actor's look in the film.

On his Instagram page, he published a picture of Prabhas's hands holding the clapboard of the film and wrote, "Dear fans... I thought PRABHAS anna's hands were enough to EXCITE YOU ALL... So, on this muhurath day, I'm posting this for you — with gratitude and love. #SPIRIT." The film has already triggered huge expectations among fans

and film buffs. Apart from Prabhas and Triptii Dimri, the film will also feature Prakash Raj and Vivek Oberoi in pivotal roles.

Produced jointly by Bhushan Kumar, Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Pranay Reddy Vanga, 'Spirit', the film will have music by Harshavardhan Rameshwar.

Stunts for the film are to be choreographed by well known stunt master Supreme Sundar while production design will be by Suresh Selvarajan. It may be recalled that the makers had initially considered Deepika Padukone for the role of the female lead in the film.

However, with disagreements erupting over pay

and working hours, the makers chose to cast Triptii Dimri as the female lead.

Reba John plays cop in Mrithunjay; character poster unveiled

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

The makers of director Hussain Sha Kiran's upcoming thriller 'Mrithunjay', featuring actor Sree Vishnu in the lead, have now revealed the look of the character played by actress Reba John in the film and disclosed that her character's name is Sita Parasuram in the film.

It may be recalled that the makers of the film have already announced that the film is to hit screens worldwide on February 27 this year. Sharing her character's poster, which the makers released on Saturday, on her Instagram page, actress Reba John



wrote, "A battle of shadows hides between the details... That's when Seetha Parasuram enters the hunt."

It may be recalled that Light Box Media, the firm producing the

film, had recently taken to its X timeline to share the YouTube link to the film's title teaser. It had then said, "Every clue matters. Every move is a risk. But in this game, Jay decides when it's over."

Actor Sree Vishnu too had shared the link to the title teaser when it was released last year. He had then said, "A New me. A New game. I see it. Now, it's your turn. #Mrithunjay This one hits different. Thank you to the entire team for the wishes."

The film's title teaser gave away the fact that the film would be an interesting crime thriller and that Reba John plays a cop in the film. However, it is

unclear as to what role Sree Vishnu plays in the film, although a fleeting glimpse of Sree Vishnu in the title teaser has led viewers to believe he plays a convict in prison.

The film, directed by Hussain Sha Kiran, has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs. The film has been produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Vinay Chilakapati and is being presented by Ramya Gunnam.

Music for the film is by Kaala Bhairava and editing is by renowned editor Sreekar Prasad. Cinematography for the film is by Vidyasagar and production design is by Manisha.

At 50, Shilpa Shetty swears by yoga to stay fit and flexible

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actress Shilpa Shetty continues to shell fitness goals even at 50, all thanks to her strict fitness regime and clean diet.

One of the secrets of Shilpa's picture-perfect physique is yoga, which is an integral part of the fitness routine of the 'Dhadkan' actress.

Through her latest Instagram post, Shilpa gave a glimpse of herself performing the variations of Vyaghrasana to her Insta-Fam. Listing the benefits



of the asana, Shilpa penned the caption, "Benefits of this variation of Vyaghrasana:

- Improves balance and enhances coordination between the mind and body.
- Strengthens the lower back, glutes, hamstrings

and core muscles.

– Supports hip mobility".

However, she advised fellow fitness junkies to avoid this practice in case they are experiencing back pain and/ or knee issues.

Shilpa's feed is a hub of such motivational videos. In January, Shilpa gave a sneak peek into her mobility exercises. She took to her official Instagram account and dropped a video of her gym session. She was seen working on her mobility with some difficult floor exercises.

Naga Chaitanya marks one year of Thandel, thanks team and fans

MUMBAI
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your love. This is a truly special film, and as promised, we delivered a

BLOCKBUSTER for our

Yuvasamrat @chay_aki-

kineni garu. Thanks to our

director @chandoomon-

deti, @Sai_Pallavi92,

@ThisIsDSP."

For the unaware, 'Thandel' was a film that was directed by Chandoo Mondeti and which featured actors Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi in the lead. The film was based on a true story in which Indian fishermen from Andhra Pradesh were taken prisoners by Pakistan authorities and imprisoned for 22 years.

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Drainage Modernisation:
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Multi-purpose Parks:
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Published by N. Gowtham Rao, State General Secretary, BJP Telangana

Nexus Mall Hosts Big Bake Carnival

Hyderabad's Nexus Mall will host 'The Big Bake Carnival' from February 13 to 15, 2026, promising a fun-filled, family-friendly celebration of baking and creativity. The three-day flea brings together renowned professional bakers and talented home bakers, offering visitors a wide range of desserts, sweet treats, and baked delights. Alongside food stalls, the event will feature live experiences and interactive activities designed to engage all age groups. Titled "A Fun Filled Flea Made with Love to Share," the carnival aims to create a vibrant festive atmosphere where families and food lovers can explore, taste, and celebrate the joy of baking. With its blend of creativity, flavors, and entertainment, The Big Bake Carnival is set to be a delightful experience for Hyderabad's dessert enthusiasts.

Tempest Advertising Bags Three Big Bang Awards



Tempest Advertising won three awards at the Big Bang Awards 2025, reaffirming its position as one of India's leading insight-driven creative agencies. The agency picked up one Bronze and two Silver awards for campaigns spanning agriculture, lifestyle, and entertainment.

Tempest received a Bronze for Syngenta India's brand film "Har Kisaan Ka Samadhan." It also won Silver for Syngenta NK's milestone campaign "25 Saal Se Safal, NK Fasal," celebrating 25 years of the brand's legacy in Indian agriculture, and for the Dave & Buster's Mumbai launch campaign, which marked the American entertainment brand's entry into India's financial capital.

The "Har Kisaan Ka Samadhan" campaign positioned Syngenta as a solution partner addressing diverse farmer needs through science-led innovation. The "25 Saal Se Safal, NK Fasal" initiative highlighted Syngenta NK's long-standing contribution to Indian farming success. For Dave & Buster's Mumbai debut, Tempest fused the brand's signature arcade DNA with Mumbai's vibrant, high-energy culture under the communication "Eat. Drink. Play. Watch."

Founded and led by Turab Lakdawala, Tempest Advertising brings over 27 years of experience in insight-led brand communication. Guided by its philosophy, "Our Experience Delivers Growth," the agency focuses on creating relevant, impactful narratives. With offices in Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, Tempest continues to deliver high-impact campaigns that build long-term brand value across sectors.

Hyderabad police to begin crack down on drivers without license from March 1

Hyderabad Traffic Police will launch continuous special drives against motorists driving without a valid driving licence from March 1, according to an official release issued on Tuesday, February 10. The enforcement action aims to ensure stricter compliance with traffic rules and improve road safety across the city.

Police officials have advised all commuters to carry a valid driving licence at all times while operating a vehicle. Persons found driving without a licence will face legal action, and those without one have been urged to apply immediately through the Road Transport Authority (RTA). The police emphasized that ignorance of the rule will not be accepted as an excuse during checks. In addition to penalizing unlicensed drivers, authorities have warned vehicle owners against allowing their vehicles to be driven by individuals who do not possess a valid licence. Permitting an unlicensed person to drive is also a punishable

Work on New Telangana Haj Building at Mamidipally to Begin Shortly

There is a push to construct a new Haj House at Mamidipally

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Construction works for the Telangana Haj (Rubbath) building will shortly commence on two acres at Mamidipally near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The government has taken up the works as the present Haj House in Nampally is unable to accommodate a large number of pilgrims during the Haj camp. Telangana Waqf Board CEO Mo-



hammed Assadullah, holding charge as executive officer of the Haj Committee, visited Karnataka to study the model of the Bengaluru Haj House.

Meanwhile, concerns

have been raised over the custody of the Haj House in Nampally. Haj Committee former member Abul Fateh Syed Bandagi Badesha Quadri, an elected member of the Telangana Waqf Board, said the Haj House had not been handed over to the Haj Committee management, which is governed by the Central Haj Act. Now, there is a push to construct a new Haj House at Mamidipally on the land of another Waqf

institution, Baba Sharifuddin Sahib Pahadi Rehmatullah Ali Dargah, he said. Quadri said the Wuzu Khana, toilet blocks and other amenities at the Haj House were in a bad shape. According to Quadri, every year, only minor repairs were carried out just before the Haj season. Quadri said the ownership and custody of the Haj House must be clearly defined and handed over to the Haj Committee.

HYDRAA protects land worth Rs 1,511 Cr from various areas

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) removed encroachments from lakes and parks and protected land worth Rs 1,511 crore on Tuesday, February 10.

In Kondapur, on the road going from Serilingampally Municipal Office to Madinaguda, encroachers had allegedly filled up 4 acres of a lake called Jangam Kunta with soil and had planned to sell it as plots.

Acting on news reports, HYDRAA inspected the area and confirmed the



land was part of a lake and fenced it. The land has an estimated value of Rs 700 crore. The agency removed encroachments from eight acres of the new Alwal lake after locals complained that a plastic compression unit within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) limits was polluting the lake. Temporary sheds had also been erected for

workers along with four shutters for storing tent material within the lake's FTL, HYDRAA said. After confirming the encroachments, HYDRAA removed all sheds that had been set up.

HYDRAA also protected a 650 square yard park site in Jakkidi Nagar Colony, located in Vanasthalipuram, Ranga-

reddy district. In 1982, the Jakkidi family had established a layout of approximately 161 plots over about 12 acres, out of which 650 square yards were reserved for a park. However, locals complained that the same people sold the land after converting it into plots. A guard room and two sheds had also been erected on the land. On Tuesday, the area was fenced. Similarly, HYDRAA also removed encroachments and constructed fencing around a 450 square yard park located in Rathakrishna Housing Colony of Kakatiya Nagar.

Digital arrest in Hyderabad: 3 Delhi residents held for cheating Rs 1.07 cr

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad City Cyber Crime Police arrested three people for allegedly cheating a 62-year-old man to the tune of Rs 1.07 crore in a digital arrest scam.

The three accused – Gurdeep Singh alias Lucky Narang, 42, Harpreet Singh alias Karan Kowshik, 36, and Kumar Mohit alias Mohit Kowshik, 30 – are all from

New Delhi. Gurdeep runs a money exchange and travel business, Harpreet Singh works as an RO technician and Kumar Mohit plans to start a food business.

According to a complaint lodged by the victim, a resident of Hyderabad, he received a call from an unknown person on October 16, 2025, claiming to be an officer from the Mumbai Crime Branch. The victim was told that his Aadhaar card and



phone number had been compromised and linked with a money laundering case.

He was kept under digital arrest during which another unknown person,

posing as an investigating officer, called him, threatened him with arrest and directed him to transfer Rs 1.07 crore.

Upon realising he was duped, the victim lodged a complaint with the Cybercrime Police.

Investigation revealed that all three accused, along with two others, Prashant Kumar and Deepak Kumar, formed a gang and secured current bank accounts and internet banking credentials.

They lured account holders with commissions and lodged them in hotels across Delhi, Jaipur and other cities, where the fraud operations were carried out.

"Deepak Kumar's YES bank account acted as the mule account. Victims of digital arrest would transfer their money to his account, which would automatically get routed to the kingpin, and commissions were paid to the gang members," police

said. Deepak Kumar and Prashant Kumar were earlier arrested in New Delhi and remanded to judicial custody. Police further said that the gang would often pose as officers from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Customs and the Mumbai Crime Branch and threaten victims with non-bailable warrants, keeping them under surveillance through video calls.

21,713 wrong-side driving cases booked in first week of Feb

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The Traffic Police in Hyderabad have booked as many as 21,713 cases of wrong-side driving from February 2 to 9, taking serious note of the dangers posed by it.

The violators apprehended will be penalized under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, the Traffic Police said in a release on Tuesday, February 10.

Wrong-side driving, the act of driving against the direction of traffic flow, has become increasingly common, causing traffic congestion while also posing a serious threat to commuters, the police said. Wrong-side driving is a grave traffic violation and one of the major causes of road accidents,

according to the police, as it creates confusion and obstruction for law-abiding motorists. To curb the illegal practice and improve road discipline, the police stated that they have organised various awareness programs to educate commuters about road safety. Meanwhile, citizens are also being sensitised through social media to promote responsible driving.

The Hyderabad Traffic Police have urged all road users to avoid driving on the wrong side and report traffic violations to the police using social media handles on Facebook and X. Civilians can also make use of the traffic helpline by dialing 9010203626 and contacting the e-chalan helpdesk at 8712661690, the release said.

National institutions probing Forensic lab fire: Telangana DGP

DGP told reporters here that experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and National Institute of Fire Safety Engineering, Nagpur reached the city and started their probe.

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Experts from national institutions such as CFSL and National Institute of Fire Safety Engineering, Nagpur have joined the probe to ascertain the cause of fire accident at TGFSL here, a top official said on Tuesday, February 10.

Amidst opposition BRS leaders raising suspicion that material related to high-profile cases, including the 2015 cash-for-vote case were destroyed in the fire accident, DGP B Shividhar Reddy termed it as "totally false".

"Some people made statements that the material related to a key (cash-for-vote) case was lost in the fire incident. It is totally false and there was no such loss," he said. A fire that broke out on February 7 resulted in some damage to the computer forensic lab, its associated facilities, the training hall and certain other facilities located on the first floor of the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (TGFSL) building. There was no loss of life or injury to any person in the incident, officials had said.

TGFSL Director Shikha Goel on February 8 ruled out evidence related to

high-profile cases, including cash-for-vote and phone-tapping, being destroyed in the fire that broke out in the laboratory.

Asked about the investigation into the fire accident, the DGP told reporters here that experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and National Institute of Fire Safety Engineering, Nagpur reached the city and started their probe. A thorough investigation is being conducted into the fire accident by experts. We are waiting for the report. We don't expect much damage and even if some damage is there, we will try to retrieve it through servers. Efforts were on to retrieve the

JNTU-Hyderabad PhD supervisor post gets price tag, sparks row

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) – Hyderabad, the first technological university in the country, has put a price tag for the PhD guideship, allowing private faculty members to mentor research scholars for Rs 5,000.

The University's Research and Development Cell recently issued a web note seeking applications from principals, professors, associate professors and assistant professors for recognition or renewal of PhD guideship for allotment of research scholars. The R&D Cell, which sought necessary documents and an affidavit executed on a non-judicial stamp paper, priced research scholar allotment at Rs 5,000. The applications are to be submitted on or before February 13 by 5 pm.

The controversial move has raised eyebrows among the academics, who said not just in the university's history, but no varsity in the country ever offered such guideship recognition for faculty for money. "No university in the country offers PhD supervisor positions for money. If money is involved, the university must extend research scholars to the applicant. Moreover, such provision is against the rules," said an official requesting anonymity. The applications, as per the web note, were invited as per the orders of Vice Chancellor Prof T Krishnam Reddy. However,

data from the servers by the experts along with the local FSL team," Reddy said.

Referring to the 2015 cash-for-vote case registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), he said the entire material related to the case was already shifted to the court and no item pertaining to it was there at the time of the fire accident. Similarly, the reports related to phone tapping case, were submitted to the authority concerned, the DGP said. The cash-for-vote case pertains to allegations against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy (then TDP MLA in 2015), of trying to bribe a nominated MLA in connection with an MLC election.

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