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Brief Insights

Group-1 Row: HC Orders New SIT, Officer Transfers

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to form a special investigation team or reconstitute the present SIT to probe the lapses in evaluation of Group-1 answer scripts. A division bench of Justice Battu Devanand and Justice Hari Haranadha Sharma heard two petitions on anomalies in evaluation of Group-1 answer scripts here on Wednesday and issued directions to the government. The court ordered that the SIT be headed by an officer not below the rank of additional DGP. It asked the advocate general to furnish details of SIT in three days to the court registrar (judicial). The bench said the SIT must investigate the case.... by

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Bharat Bandh Likely to Disrupt Transport in Telangana

A nationwide strike called by a joint platform of 10 Central Trade Unions, with support from farmers' organisations and the Congress, is expected to disrupt transport, banking and government services across Telangana on Thursday. "The joint platform of 10 Central Trade Unions, with the support of various farmers' organisations, have called for a nationwide strike (Bharat Bandh) on Thursday, February 12, 2026," All-India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal wrote in a letter dated February 10, directing the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committees to extend its full solidarity with the agitation. The bandh centres on opposition to the four new labour codes introduced by the Centre, which replace 29 earlier labour laws. Trade unions allege the new codes weaken stat-

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CM Revanth reddy meets Kharge, discusses key political developments: P2

Kavitha Slams Owaisi Brothers, Calls Them "Power-Centric Sunflowers" : P2

Harish Thanks Party Workers, Predicts Strong BRS Show: P2

FM Hits Out At Congress, Says No 'Surrender' On US Deal

NEW DELHI
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday rebutted allegations made by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on the Indo-US interim trade agreement and accused the Congress-led UPA government of compromising national interests during its tenure. Replying to the debate on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, she rejected the charge that India had "surrendered" to the United States and alleged that the previous UPA government had yielded to the World Trade Organisation at the cost of farmers and the poor. "Koi mai ka laal paida nahi hua jo humare desh ko bech de ya kharid le (no one has the audacity to sell or buy out India)," she said. The minister also criti-



cised the law and order situation in West Bengal, alleging that violence prevailed in the state. She responded to Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav's claim that Uttar Pradesh had been ignored in the Budget, citing infrastructure initiatives undertaken by the Centre. Addressing concerns raised on artificial intelligence and data, she said the government was incentivising the establishment of cloud and data centres in India to ensure data localisation and generate employment. "The India AI Mission has a dedicated allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for 2026-27," she said. Outlining fiscal projec-

tions, Sitharaman said total expenditure for the next financial year was pegged at Rs 53.47 lakh crore, an increase of 7.7 per cent over the current fiscal. The revised estimate for the current year stands at Rs 49.64 lakh crore, compared with the Budget estimate of Rs 50.65 lakh crore. The expenditure for 2024-25 was Rs 46.52 lakh crore. She said capital expenditure allocation for the next fiscal was Rs 12.2 lakh crore, or 4.4 per cent of GDP, and that effective capital expenditure, including support to states and Union Territories, would be Rs 17.1 lakh crore. She said capital expenditure allocation for the next fiscal was Rs 12.2 lakh crore, or 4.4 per cent of GDP, and that effective capital expenditure, including support to states and Union Territories, would be Rs 17.1 lakh crore.

Opposition Rectifies Errors in LS Speaker Ouster Notice

NEW DELHI
[Wakeup telangana](#)

By the rules, the Opposition notice for Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's removal could have been dismissed due to "flaws in drafting", but Birla directed the House secretariat to amend the "defective" notice so that it can be listed at the earliest. In another development on Wednesday, Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju claimed that about 25 Congress MPs had abused Birla in his chamber, but the Speaker refrained from taking strong action against errant Opposition members. On Tuesday afternoon, as many as 118 Opposition MPs had signed the notice submitted to Lok Sabha secretary general Utpal Kumar Singh to remove the Lok Sabha speaker from office. Ho-

wever, four instances of the wrong date being mentioned were found. Later in the day, the Opposition withdrew the notice and replaced it with another one correcting the date. "The notice reportedly mentions the events of February 2025 four times, on the basis of which it could have been rejected as per the rules," the Lok Sabha sources said, adding that the Speaker directed the Lok Sabha Secretariat to have the defective notice corrected and then proceed with it. The Opposition parties put in motion the process to remove Birla as the Lok Sabha speaker, alleging that he had acted in a "blatantly partisan" manner in the House and prompting him to step aside from chairing the proceedings till the matter is settled.

6 Stanzas of National Song Made A Must

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The Union home ministry has directed that all six stanzas of the National Song Vande Mataram be sung before the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana when both are played together at official functions. In an order dated January 28, the ministry laid down protocols for rendition of the National Song, stating that the six stanzas, which take about three minutes and 10 seconds to sing, shall precede the National Anthem on such occasions. The directive comes as the Centre observes the 150th year of Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. A resolution

High-Stakes Poll in Bangladesh



Bangladesh goes to the polls on Thursday for its 13th parliamentary elections, an event closely watched by New Delhi amid expectations that a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) victory could reshape India-Bangladesh relations. Pre-poll surveys cited by news agencies indicate that the BNP is the frontrunner, with party leader Tarique Rahman positioned to become prime minister if the party secures a majority. The BNP, led by Rahman—the son of former president Ziaur Rahman and late former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia—is locked in a tight contest with Jamaat-e-Islami. Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, which has traditionally dominated Bangladeshi politics, was banned last year by the in-

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 5

Rahul Calls India-US Pact 'Surrender of Sovereignty'

NEW DELHI
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the Centre, alleging that the India-US interim trade deal amounts to a "wholesale surrender" of national interests, claiming it has compromised India's energy security, farmers' livelihoods, digital sovereignty and economic independence. Participating in the Union Budget debate in Lok Sabha, Gandhi said the agreement reflects a "chokehold" situation, asserting that no Indian Prime Minister, including Narendra Modi, would accept such terms unless under external pressure. "India's energy, data, farmers and future have been handed over. This is not a deal — it is surrender," he said. The Congress leader al-



leged that the agreement allows the US to influence India's energy procurement decisions, warning that Washington would decide "who India can buy oil from" and impose punitive tariffs if New Delhi defies those preferences. "Our Prime Minister will not decide — America will," Gandhi claimed. He further accused the government of weakening India's digital sovereignty by removing data localisation norms, allowing unrestricted cross-border data flow, limiting digital taxation, and waiving source code disclosure requirements. He alleged

that big tech firms were granted long-term tax benefits, calling it a sell-out of national digital assets. On agriculture, Gandhi warned that opening Indian markets to large-scale mechanised American farms would devastate small farmers, calling it "an unprecedented betrayal" of India's agrarian economy. He also claimed the deal would cripple textiles, MSMEs, and domestic industries. Gandhi said that under the deal, India's tariffs have risen from an average of 3% to 18%, while US tariffs have dropped from 16% to zero, leading to a projected surge in US imports into India from USD 46 billion to USD 146 billion — a shift he described as "economically absurd and strategically dangerous." He also criticised the government's geopolitical stance,

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Puri Refutes Rahul's Epstein Files Claim

NEW DELHI
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said he had met Jeffrey Epstein on "three or max four" occasions as part of a delegation linked to an international body, and asserted that his interactions had "nothing to do" with the offences for which the American financier was convicted. Puri's remarks came after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that the minister's name figured in the 'Epstein Files' released in the United States. Addressing a press conference at the BJP national headquarters, Puri

said, "After I resigned as India's ambassador to the UN, I was invited to join the International Peace Institute (IPI) a few months later. I was not part of the IPI per se. I was secretary general of the Independent Commission (ICM) on Multilateralism, set up in the IPI as a project." "My boss in the IPI, Terje Rod-Larsen, was the person who knew this particular infamous person Epstein and it is as part of a delegation of the IPI or the ICM that I met Epstein on a few occasions, three or max four," he said, adding that the ICM dealt with international and thematic issues and that Epstein was not part of it.

Telangana Govt Trifurcates GHMC into Three Municipal Corporations

Telangana government trifurcates GHMC into three municipal corporations to strengthen decentralised urban governance

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

In a major administrative restructuring, the Telangana government on Wednesday issued a series of Government Orders dividing the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) into three separate municipal corporations to improve decentralisation, governance, and civic service delivery. The region within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will now be administered by: Cyberabad Municipal



From left: Special officer for the three municipal corporations Jayesh Ranjan, Malkajgiri municipal corporation commissioner T. Vinay Krishna Reddy, GHMC commissioner R.V. Karnan, Cyberabad municipal corporation commissioner G. Srijana take charge on Wednesday.

Corporation — covering Serilingampally, Kukatpally, and Qutbullapur zones
Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation — covering Malkajgiri, Uppal, and L.B. Nagar zones
Restructured GHMC — covering Shamshabad,

Rajendernagar, Charminar, Golconda, Khairatabad, and Secunderabad zones
As per the government orders, each corporation will function independently with perpetual succession and a common seal under the provisions

of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955. In the administrative reshuffle, R.V. Karnan will continue as Commissioner of the restructured GHMC. G. Srijana has been appointed Commissioner of the Cyberabad

Municipal Corporation, while T. Vinay Krishna Reddy will serve as Commissioner of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. The reorganisation order was signed by Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Metropolitan Area &

Urban Development Department, and came into immediate effect. In a related order, signed by Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Mr. Ranjan was also appointed Special Officer for all three municipal corporations to supervise the transition process from the GHMC Head Office. According to a GHMC press release, the restructuring aims to strengthen decentralised administration, improve field-level governance, and ensure faster, more responsive civic services for residents across Hyderabad.

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ASTORIA HOTEL

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

Harish Thanks Party Workers, Predicts Strong BRS Show

KTR, Harish Rao claim misuse of power despite strong turnout

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Wednesday accused the ruling Congress of widespread intimidation, misuse of power and violation of election norms during polling for the municipal elections, and asserted that the party would emerge strong when the results are declared. In separate statements, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and the party's deputy floor leader in the Assembly,

T. Harish Rao, alleged that Congress leaders and ministers resorted to threats, inducements and "official overreach" to influence voters and target BRS candidates. Rama Rao claimed that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy feared defeat in the municipal polls, especially after the BRS secured around 40 per cent of gram panchayats in the recent panchayat elections. He alleged that this apprehension led to the "abuse of power" during Wednesday's polling. Ex-



pressing anger over what he termed as "atrocities," Rama Rao said Congress leaders attempted to suppress the democratic voice of the people. Harish Rao described the alleged actions of Congress ministers and MLAs as "undemocratic behaviour" that began during the nomination process and continued

until polling concluded. He claimed that BRS candidates were not only intimidated but also faced physical attacks in some areas. "The fact that our candidates were targeted speaks volumes about the Congress culture," he said. The BRS leaders further alleged that money and muscle power were used to influence voters. Despite these challenges, they maintained that such tactics would have little impact on the final outcome. Both leaders thanked

party workers and local leaders for their dedication and resilience "in the face of severe harassment." They said the cadre stood firm despite pressure and ensured that the party remained competitive across municipalities. Reiterating confidence in the electorate, the BRS leadership expressed hope that voters would reject what they described as coercive tactics and deliver a strong mandate in favour of the party when the municipal election results are announced.

High tension in Kothagudem as an empty ballot box surfaces at Paloncha police station

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

High tension prevailed at Paloncha as a ballot box of polling station number 151 in the 47th division at old Paloncha in Kothagudem Municipal Corporation surfaced at Paloncha police station after polling was over.

With the news spreading in the town, hundreds of cadres of BRS, CPI and other parties arrived at the police station during late evening hours and demanded to know why the ballot box was brought to the police station.

The CPI state secretary, Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, the party district secretary Shaik Sabeer Pasha, BRS district president Rega Kantha Rao and other leaders also reached the police station. The leaders entered into heated arguments with the



police seeking a proper explanation over the presence of the ballot box at the police station. Paloncha DSP Sathish Kumar tried to convince the protesting leaders but in vain.

An election staff member, B Srinivas, who carried the ballot box to the police station, told protesting workers of political parties that he carried the ballot box to the police station as there was not enough space in the vehicle carrying the ballot boxes. He later said that seven boxes were left behind as

the vehicle which was supposed to take the ballot boxes to the strong room hurriedly left the polling station and he brought one empty box to Paloncha police station while the remaining ballot boxes were taken to the strong room by others.

As the protestors demanded to check what was inside the ballot box he opened and showed it to the protesting workers. There was no official statement on the issue from the concerned authorities.

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.

Telangana CM meets Kharge, discusses key political developments

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on Wednesday, amid ongoing political developments in the state and at the national level.

The meeting, described as cordial by party sources, focused on key political issues and matters of public importance. However, the specific details of the discussions were



not immediately disclosed.

Revanth Reddy was accompanied by Congress Rajya Sabha member Mallu Ravi and Lok Sabha MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and K. Raghuvver Reddy during the meeting in the national capital.

The interaction assumes significance as Telangana continues to witness important political activity, while the Congress leadership is also actively engaged in shaping its national strategy. Though no official statement elaborated on the agenda, party insiders indicated that both state-level and national matters were part of the conversation. The meeting highlights the coordination between the Telangana leadership and the Congress high command at a crucial time. Further details regarding the outcomes or follow-up actions are awaited.

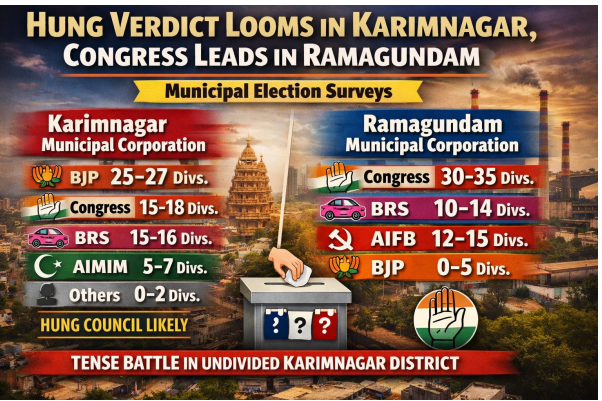
Surveys Predict Hung Verdict in Karimnagar, Congress Edge in Ramagundam Municipal Polls

KARIMNAGAR
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Pre-election surveys on the ongoing municipal elections in Karimnagar and Ramagundam Municipal Corporations have thrown up key projections, indicating a significant shift in the political landscape across the region. Karimnagar Municipal Corporation According to survey estimates for the 66 divisions of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation:

- •BJP is projected to win 25–27 divisions
- •Congress may secure 15–18 divisions
- •BRS is likely to get 15–16 divisions
- •AIMIM could win 5–7 divisions
- •Others may be limited to 0–2 divisions

Compared to the 2020 elections, the scenario appears drastically changed. In 2020, the BRS won 33 divisions and secured the Mayor's post. This time,



however, surveys clearly indicate the possibility of a hung corporation. Despite this, the survey suggests that BJP has a stronger chance of claiming the Mayor's chair, provided post-poll equations work in its favour. The BJP is expected to benefit from the campaign by Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, which is seen as a major positive factor. On the other hand, the BRS faces setbacks due to allegations of corruption against corporators and criticism that the previous council failed to deliver

expected development. For Congress, lack of coordination among party leaders is cited as a major disadvantage. Ramagundam Municipal Corporation In the 60-division Ramagundam Municipal Corporation, survey projections indicate a clearer picture:

- •Congress: 30–35 divisions
- •BRS: 10–14 divisions
- •AIFB: 12–15 divisions
- •BJP: 0–5 divisions

In the 2020 elections, Ramagundam witnessed a hung verdict, following

which BRS and AIFB formed the council and secured the Mayor's post. This time, surveys suggest a different outcome, with Congress emerging as the frontrunner and having a strong chance of forming the council. Factors favouring Congress include a strong party cadre, the advantage of being in power at the state level, leadership under Peddapalli District Congress President Korukanti Chander, and the perceived impact of initiatives such as the expansion of the HYDRA model. Overall Scenario Overall, the municipal elections in the undivided Karimnagar district have turned highly competitive and unpredictable. With hung verdicts, shifting alliances, and changing political equations, the final outcome now rests entirely on the verdict of the voters.

Jagga Reddy blames SEC for Sangareddy polling incident

Holding the State Election Commission responsible for the entire incident in Sangareddy municipality, Congress leader T Jagga Reddy alleged that election officials had enrolled nearly 300 fake votes in every ward during the previous BRS government.

When the Congress candidate attempted to prevent such voters from casting ballots in the 34th ward, Jagga Reddy claimed that Inspector Shiva Kumar pushed the candidate out of the polling booth by holding his collar, which prompted him to intervene.

HE alleged that the Election Commission had failed to remove such fake voters despite repeated complaints. Reddy accused the Election Commission and district officials of being responsible for the entire episode.

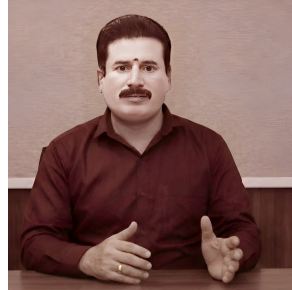
He questioned the credibility of the Election Commission for directing officials to file cases, even though, according to him, it had failed to eliminate the alleged fake voters.

Telangana Activists' Sacrifices Must Not Be Demeaned: Panduranga Reddy

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Telangana Jagruthi Ranga Reddy district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy has strongly objected to reported remarks made by the High Court regarding Telangana movement activists, calling them "unfortunate" and hurtful to the sentiments of thousands who fought for statehood.

He said questioning whether activists were "freedom fighters" while seeking benefits such as house sites or pensions undermines the sacrifices made during the 14-year-long struggle for a separate Telangana. The movement, which spanned from 1969 to 2014, was aimed at achieving self-respect, equitable development, and freedom from what activists described as discrim-



Kappati Panduranga Reddy

inatory rule, he stated. Reddy emphasized that many individuals risked and even sacrificed their lives for the formation of the state. Describing their demands as a form of "charity" is inappropriate and diminishes their contribution, he added.

He further said that promises made during elections are not mere vote-seeking assurances but commitments made to sections of society. Seeking implementation of those promises, he argued, is a constitutional right of every activist and citizen.

Questioning how many people the government can extend benefits to, he said, overlooks the very purpose behind the formation of Telangana — water, funds, and jobs.

According to Reddy, the struggle of activists laid the foundation for the state's present revenues and large-scale development. Therefore, the government bears responsibility for the welfare of those who played a key role in achieving statehood. Appealing to the judiciary, Reddy urged courts to consider public sentiment and historical context while interpreting laws. He said Telangana activists should not be viewed merely as beneficiaries but as builders of the state, and any remarks that hurt their self-respect would not be accepted by society.

Bharat Bandh Likely to Disrupt Transport in Telangana

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

A nationwide strike called by a joint platform of 10 Central Trade Unions, with support from farmers' organisations and the Congress, is expected to disrupt transport, banking and government services across Telangana on Thursday. "The joint platform of 10 Central Trade Unions, with the support of various farmers' organi-

sations, have called for a nationwide strike (Bharat Bandh) on Thursday, February 12, 2026," All-India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal wrote in a letter dated February 10, directing the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committees to extend its full solidarity with the agitation. The bandh centres on opposition to the four new labour codes introduced by the Centre, which re-



place 29 earlier labour laws. Trade unions allege the new codes weaken statutory safeguards, reduce job security and in-

crease employer flexibility in hiring and firing. The joint platform, of which the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)

is a member, has backed the February 12 strike demanding withdrawal of the four labour codes and opposing privatisation of public sector enterprises and corporatisation of government departments. Labour groups have also cited concerns over low wages, social security protections and the revival of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme. Farmers' bodies supporting the

bandh have raised objections to the recent US-India trade deal, saying reduced tariffs and increased imports could hurt domestic agriculture. The Centre has prepared for possible disruptions. A Railway Board circular dated February 3 acknowledged the strike call and instructed zonal railways to maintain discipline and smooth train operations. The letter referred to Sections of the

Railways Act, which deal with abandoning trains without authority, obstructing train movement and endangering passenger safety and stated, "...railway servants need to seek necessary permission from their Competent Authority to leave house headquarters" and reports were sought from the field. Telangana transport unions and labour groups have extended support to the bandh which raises the

likelihood of disruptions to bus services, banks and government offices in the state. Markets in some areas may shut if protests intensify. No statewide order has been issued on school closures. District authorities are expected to make local decisions depending on conditions. Hospitals, ambulances, airports and other essential public services are expected to operate, though traffic disruptions.

Congress leader moves SEC against party MLA over poll malpractice

Jeevan Reddy Com- plains to SEC Against Jagtial MLAHydera- bad: Senior Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy has lodged a formal complaint with the State Election Commission against Jagtial MLA Dr. San- jay Kumar, accusing him of distributing money and liquor to influence voters in Jagtial and Raikal municipalities. In a written representation submitted to State Election Commis- sioner Rani Kumudini, Jeevan Reddy al- leged that the MLA was also attempting to influence officials and disrupt the elec- torate’s right to exer- cise their franchise in a free and peaceful atmosphere. He urged the Commis- sion to appoint a spe- cial task force committee to prevent such alleged unethi- cal practices and en- sure fair polling. The complaint marks an escalation in the on- going political rivalry between the two leaders. Dr. Sanjay Kumar had recently quit the BRS and joined the Congress, intensifying a long- standing power strug- gle with Jeevan Reddy over control of party affairs in the dis- trict. Earlier, Jeevan Reddy had made per- sonal remarks against the legislator, reflect- ing the deepening rift between the two Con- gress leaders in Jag- tial district politics.

High voter turnout recorded across 19 municipalities in erstwhile Medak district

Despite alleged attempts by Congress leaders to disrupt polling and encourage fake voting, municipal elections in erstwhile Medak district witnessed a strong voter turnout, with Jinnaram recording the highest polling at 90.98 per cent, officials said

MEDAK Wakeup telangana

Despite incidents of Congress leaders alleg- edly making life difficult for police officials and opposition party workers at several places during polling to 19 municipal- ities, most civic bodies here recorded a high voter turnout. Jinnaram municipality in Sangareddy district recorded 90.98 per cent polling, the highest in the erstwhile Medak dis- trict, while Gaddapotha- ram municipality



registered 86.08 per cent turnout. However, San- gareddy municipality, the largest civic body, recorded the lowest pol- ling at 70.06 per cent, followed by 72.04 per cent and Narayankhed at 72.64 per cent. The aver- age polling across 11

municipalities in Sanga- reddy district stood at 76.01 per cent. In Siddipet district, Dubbak municipality recorded 85.05 per cent polling, while Husnabad registered 84.21 per cent. Cheriyaal at 83.41 per cent and Gajwel at 79.35 per cent also witnessed significant turnout. In Medak district, Ramay- ampet municipality recorded 84.21 per cent polling, while Toopran registered 81.30 per cent turnout. Medak and Nar- sapur municipalities recorded 80.75 per cent

and 74.61 per cent re- spectively. Multiple incidents of Congress leaders alleg- edly attempting to en- courage fake voters or disrupt polling and pre- vent police officials from discharging their duties were reported across the 19 municipalities in the erstwhile Medak district. Despite these challenges, voters made a beeline to polling stations. After observing the polling trend, BRS leaders ex- pressed confidence of se- curing a majority of the civic bodies.

Karimnagar Police Win Praise for Humane Gesture During Municipal Polls



In a heartening display of humanity during the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation elections held on Tuesday, Karim- nagar Rural Police earned appreciation for extending timely assistance to a differently-abled elderly voter. The incident took place at the ZPHS polling sta- tion in Arepally Division– I, where police personnel noticed an elderly differently-abled man struggling to walk while arriving to cast his vote. Responding im- mediately, Karimnagar Rural Police Inspector Niranjan Reddy ar- ranged a wheelchair and personally assisted the voter into the polling sta- tion, ensuring that he could exercise his de- mocratic right with dig- nity. Speaking on the occasion, Inspector Ni- ranjan Reddy stated that it is the responsibility of the police to ensure that every voter is provided with a hassle-free op- portunity to vote, and that special care would be taken to assist senior ci- tizens and persons with disabilities. He added that the po- lice machinery remains fully prepared to extend necessary support to such voters during elec- tions. The gesture was widely appreciated by voters and officials pre- sent at the polling station, highlighting the huma- nitarian role of the police alongside their duty of maintaining law and order during the election process.

10 IAS officers transferred after GHMC reorganisation

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Department of General Administration on Wednes- day, February 11, issued or- ders transferring 10 IAS officers following the reorga- nisation of the Greater Hyder- abad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) into three separate municipal corporations. With the formation of Mal- kajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) and the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), G Srijana, IAS of- ficer of the 2013 batch, serv- ing as the Additional Commissioner of the GHMC, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Cyberabad Municipal Corpo- ration. Similarly, T Vinay Krishna Reddy, IAS (2013), serving as the Additional Commissioner of GHMC, has been trans- ferred and posted as Commis- sioner of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile, RV Kaman, IAS (2012), will continue to re- main in the post of Commis- sioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Dr Jyoti Buddha Prakash, IAS (2002), serving as Secre- tary to the Government, Scheduled Caste Devel- opment Department, has been transferred and posted as Chairman and Managing Di- rector of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), duly relieving D Krishna Bhaskar, IAS (2012), from full additional charge (FAC) of the said post. Sabyasachi Ghosh, IAS (1994), serving as Special Chief Secretary to the Gov- ernment (Implementation of Flagship Welfare and Devel-

opmental Schemes Unit), has been placed in full additional charge of the posts of Special Chief Secretary to the Gov- ernment, Scheduled Caste Development Department, and Commissioner of Sched- uled Caste Development, duly relieving Jyoti Buddha Pra- kash. Ghosh will also continue to hold full additional charge of the posts of Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Tribal Welfare Department; Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Welfare and Commissioner, Tribal Wel- fare. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS (1998), serving as Princi- pal Secretary to the Govern- ment, Finance Department, will not take full additional charge of the post of Principal Secretary to the Government, Planning Department, and Ex-Officio Director General, Telangana Remote Sensing Applications Centre (TGRAC), duly relieving Jyoti Buddha Prakash. D Divya, IAS (2010), Chief Executive Officer, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), takes full additional charge of the post of Commis- sioner, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (PR & RD), relieving Shruti Ojha, IAS (2013), from the post. P Katayani Devi, IAS (2017), serving as the Ad- ditional Chief Executive Of- ficer, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), has been transferred and posted as State Nodal Officer, Praja- vani, relieving D Divya. Katayani Devi will continue to hold the full additional charge of the post of Joint Managing Director, State Fi- nance Corporation.

KPHB Police Hold Meeting with Shop and Commercial Complex Owners

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

KPHB Police on Wed- nesday conducted a meet- ing with shopkeepers and owners of commercial complexes at the Housing Board Community Hall to review compliance with business regulations and public safety norms. Addressing the gath- ering, KPHB Inspector Rajasekhar Reddy in- structed traders to strictly adhere to all legal re- quirements while operat- ing their establishments. He emphasized that shop and commercial complex managements must man- datorily possess valid GHMC permissions, trade licenses, GST reg-



istration, labour licenses, and food safety licenses wherever applicable. The Inspector directed business owners to op- erate only during permitted hours and strictly follow prescribed time limits. He warned that any il- legal activities, including gambling or unlawful practices on shop prem-

ises, would invite strin- gent action under the law. Highlighting public safety concerns, Inspec- tor Rajasekhar Reddy urged owners to install CCTV cameras covering entry and exit points of their establishments to enhance security and as- sist in crime prevention. He also cautioned traders against encroaching on footpaths and roads for business purposes, stating that such violations would not be tolerated. The Inspector further stated that letters would be written to the concerned departments recommending cancella- tion of licenses of estab- lishments found violating rules and regulations.

Huge pothole discovered at New Malakpet Road in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A huge pothole was dis- covered at New Malakpet Road near Lalzar Hotel, Hyderabad, after a re- cently patched portion of the road suddenly col- lapsed while a tractor was passing through. The mud patchwork gave way, creating a deep pit resembling a vacuum effect. A water line leakage was also no- ticed inside the pothole. Acting swiftly, Dabeer- pura Police and Malakpet Traffic Police immediately reached the spot and placed safety barriers around the pit, preventing a possible major accident and ensuring commuter safety. Upon being informed, Malakpet All India Majlis- e-Itehadul Muslimeen



(AIMIM) MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala in- structed party workers to immediately look into the issue and coordinate with the concerned authorities for early rectification. Authorities are expected to take necessary steps to repair the damaged stretch at the earliest to avoid inconvenience to the public. In Delhi’s Janakpuri area, a 25-year-old biker lost his life after falling into a deep pothole. The pit was dug for sewer work, and no signboard was found to alert motor- ists and four-wheeler drivers.

Netaji Nagar Residents Get Relief as Power Transformer Upgraded

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Residents of Netaji Nagar Colony in Gachibowli have received much- needed relief after elec- tricity department officials resolved a long- pending low-voltage problem by upgrading the local transformer. For several weeks, colony residents were facing frequent voltage fluctu- ations, affecting house- hold appliances and daily routines. Taking up the issue, Colony President Beri Ramachander Yadav brought the matter to the notice of electricity de- partment authorities. He



informed the Nallagandla Assistant Engineer (AE), who in turn coordinated with the Gachibowli As- sistant Divisional Engi- neer (ADE) and higher officials. Responding swiftly, the officials inspected the area and decided to re-

place the existing 100 KVA transformer with a higher-capacity 160 KVA transformer to meet the growing power demand of the colony. The new transformer was success- fully installed by lineman Ramesh and his team. The upgrade is expected to ensure stable voltage and uninterrupted power supply to the residents of Netaji Nagar. Expressing his appreciation, Beri Ra- machander Yadav thanked the AE, ADE, and electricity depart- ment staff for their prompt action and com- mitment in resolving the issue efficiently..

VAA Announces New Ownership, Cuts Ties With Founder

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Visionary Achievers Awards and Vysya Achievers Awards (VAA) on Wednesday announced a major ownership change, stating that Team VAA has formally and im- mediately separated from Shri Raju Madipadige, who was earlier associ- ated as one of the found- ing directors. In an official statement, VAA clarified that the complete ownership of Vi- sionary Achievers Awards and Vysya Achievers Awards — including its name, logo, intellectual



property, Visionary Achievers Alliance, and all associated rights and activities — now rests solely with a governing body of ten directors. The ten directors are Na- resh Meda, Dr. Neelima, Dr. Kalyani Guduguntla, Sivakumar Pabbiseti, Sunil Mathamsetty, Anand Vuppugandla, Santosh Chegu, Dr. Jagannath

Jaina, Satish Yelgoe, and Anup Kumar Yama. The organization stated that these ten directors collec- tively constitute the entire governing body and own- ership of VAA. It further clarified that there is no Chairman or any higher authority above this group, and all decisions will be taken collectively by the governing body. VAA also issued a strict warning against unautho- rized use of its name and logos. The statement em- phasized that any misuse of Visionary Achievers Awards and Vysya Achievers Awards brand- ing would be treated as a

serious offense and could attract criminal penalties. Additionally, the present governing body categori- cally declared that it has no connection, respon- sibility, or association with any commitments, fi- nancial transactions, or amounts that may have been taken, handled, or undertaken by Shri Raju Madipadige in the name of VAA — either in the past or in the future. The statement said the announcement was made in the interest of public clarity, stakeholder aware- ness, and organizational transparency.

MLA Ganesh Inaugurates Iravath Cafe

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh Garu on Wednes- day inaugurated Iravath Cafe in Addagutta, mark- ing the launch of a new hangout spot aimed at serving residents of the Secunderabad area. At- tending as the Chief Guest, the MLA per- formed the ribbon-cut- ting ceremony in the presence of local leaders, supporters and well- wishers. The cafe, pro- moted by close associates and friends of the MLA, is expected to add vibrancy to the neighbourhood’s grow-



ing food and leisure scene. Addressing the gath- ering, Sri Ganesh Garu congratulated the owners on their new venture and extended his best wishes for its success. He pod- ceupked the importance of encouraging small and local businesses, stating that such initiatives not only generate employ-

ment but also strengthen the local economy. “It is heartening to see quality establishments coming up in our consti- tuency. I congratulate the Iravath Cafe team and wish them immense suc- cess in their journey ahead,” the MLA said. Following the inaugura- tion, the MLA toured the facility and appreciated

its modern ambiance and customer-friendly setup. He also interacted with the staff and guests, highlighting his con- tinued engagement with local entrepreneurs and residents. The launch of Iravath Cafe is being viewed as a positive addition to Ad- dagutta, offering a fresh menu and a welcoming atmosphere for youth and families. The owners ex- pressed gratitude to the MLA for his presence and support, stating that his encouragement moti- vates young entrepre- neurs to invest and grow within the constituency.

From Exile to Embrace: Seychelles President’s India Visit Reconnects a Gandhian Legacy

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana
Onkareshwar Pandey

For many, Seychelles is a postcard paradise—115 islands scattered like emeralds on a sapphire sea, the rare Coco de Mer silhouetted against sunsets, Sega rhythms, and shores so pristine they feel like secrets. For India, however, this archipelago is more than a dream; it is a neighbour bound by centuries of oceanic kinship. That bond found renewed expression at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Droupadi Murmu welcomed Dr. Patrick Herminie on his first state visit to India. This meeting marked not only Seychelles’ golden jubilee of independence but also 50 years of formal diplomatic ties. President Murmu described the relationship as one

“built on mutual trust, democracy, and pluralism,” now entering a dynamic new chapter. A Partnership Anchored in SAGAR Reaffirming Seychelles’ pivotal role in India’s SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, President Murmu pledged India’s readiness to support Seychelles’ developmental and security needs. A Special Economic Package was announced, targeting healthcare, infrastructure, education, and defence. The leaders also unveiled the India–Seychelles Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages, a blueprint for decades ahead. A Bond Forged in Trust The depth of this friendship is illustrated by a 1986 anecdote: when



Seychelles faced a coin shortage, it turned not to a global mint but to India, which swiftly printed Seychellois currency. Such gestures underscore a relationship where support is both strategic and personal. In Victoria, the world’s smallest capital, a bust of Mahatma Gandhi stands at the intersection of Liberation Avenue and 5th June Avenue—a silent sentinel to shared struggle. This symbolism

President Droupadi Murmu welcomed Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie on his first state visit to India, marking 50 years of diplomatic ties and Seychelles’ golden jubilee of independence. The visit reaffirmed strong bonds rooted in democracy, trust, and shared oceanic heritage. India announced a Special Economic Package supporting healthcare, infrastructure, education, and defence, alongside a Joint Vision for sustainability and security under SAGAR. Historical ties date back to 1911, when Gandhi’s associate Manilal Doctor was exiled to Seychelles, symbolising a shared legacy of struggle. Today, cooperation spans maritime security, trade, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure. India continues to support Seychelles with patrol vessels and defence assistance. From Gandhian exile to strategic partnership, the relationship reflects shared values and a united vision for a secure and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

Seychellois soil. Gandhi’s words resonate still: “The ocean, separated by imaginary lines, is one. So is humanity.” The Three ‘M’ Legacy The historical bond is best captured through Mahatma Gandhi, Sir James Mancham, and Nelson Mandela. Gandhi’s disciple Manilal Doctor brought Satyagraha to Seychelles. Mancham, the founding President, championed

peace and dialogue, strengthening ties with India. Mandela’s legacy, honoured with a street in Victoria, reflects Seychelles’ alignment with global justice—values India equally cherishes. A Modern Mosaic Today, Seychelles’ culture is a fusion of African, European, and Asian influences, with Indians forming a respected community of over 5,000. Bilateral trade, though modest at \$150 million, is poised for growth in pharmaceuticals, fisheries, renewable energy, and marine biotechnology. The new economic package aims to catalyse investment in these sectors, alongside healthcare and digital infrastructure. Maritime Security: A Strategic Imperative With an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million sq. km but limited naval capacity, Seychelles relies on trusted partners. India has provided patrol vessels, radar systems, hydrographic support, and joint exercises to safeguard sea lanes against piracy and illegal fishing. This cooperation embodies the evolution from shared vulnerability to shared vigilance. Gateway to Paradise For Indians, Seychelles is one of the most acces-

sible island destinations—visa-free, just 5–6 hours from Mumbai. A week-long stay ranges from ₹80,000 to over ₹2,00,000, offering eco-lodges, luxury resorts, pristine beaches like Anse Source d’Argent, and the iconic Coco de Mer. An Ocean of Opportunity From Gandhi’s disciple in exile to the embrace of Presidents in Delhi, the India–Seychelles relationship has travelled a remarkable arc. It is a tapestry woven with threads of shared struggle, cultural kinship, strategic necessity, and economic promise. As President Herminie’s visit concludes, the partnership sails confidently into a new dawn—anchored in history, yet focused on a secure and prosperous Indian Ocean future.

Death Toll in East Jaintia Hills Illegal Coal Mine Blast Rises to 30

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The death toll in the devastating blast at an illegal coal mining site in the Thangskoo area of East Jaintia Hills district has risen to 30, officials confirmed on Tuesday. Two more victims succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at Silchar Medical College in Assam, taking the total number of fatalities from 28 to 30. Deputy Commissioner Manish Kumar stated that the explosion occurred on the morning of February 5, but the district administration received information only later in the afternoon. Emergency response teams were immediately rushed to the site. In coordination with the state government, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force



(SDRF), and specialised search and rescue teams were mobilised without delay. Rescue operations began on the same day and continued for four days, concluding on February 9. The teams worked in extremely hazardous conditions inside the illegal mining area to retrieve trapped workers and recover bodies. The district administration has begun processing ex-gratia compensation for the families of the deceased. Authorities have also launched a strict enforcement drive against illegal coal mining activities in

the district, aiming to prevent similar incidents in the future and curb unsafe, unauthorised mining operations. Meanwhile, the tragedy has drawn the attention of national statutory bodies. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports on the incident, observing that the matter raises serious concerns regarding the violation of human rights of the victims. The NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police of Meghalaya, seeking a detailed

report on the incident within two weeks. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has also taken suo motu cognisance of the blast based on a February 6 media report. Notices have been issued to the Central Pollution Control Board, the regional office of the Union Ministry of Environment in Shillong, the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, and the Deputy Commissioner of East Jaintia Hills. The tribunal has sought affidavits to clarify whether its earlier orders and environmental norms related to mining activities were violated. The incident has once again highlighted the grave risks posed by illegal mining practices and raised serious questions about enforcement, safety standards, and accountability in mining regions of the Northeast.

Heavy Security for Bangladesh Elections Today; India Closely Watches Outcome

DHAKA
Wakeup telangana

Bangladesh goes to the polls on Thursday for its 13th parliamentary elections, an event closely watched by New Delhi amid expectations that a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) victory could reshape India–Bangladesh relations. Pre-poll surveys cited by news agencies indicate that the BNP is the frontrunner, with party leader Tarique Rahman positioned to become prime minister if the party secures a majority. The BNP, led by Rahman—the son of former president Ziaur Rahman and late former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia—is locked in a tight contest with Jamaat-e-Islami. Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League, which has traditionally dominated Bangladeshi politics, was banned last year by the in-



terim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, after Hasina left Dhaka in August 2024 following mass protests. Relations between India and the BNP were historically strained due to New Delhi’s perceived closeness to the Awami League. However, observers say the current political transition in Dhaka, combined with India’s growing economic engagement in the region, could open the door to a recalibration of bilateral ties if the BNP comes to power. India has also expressed concern over at-

tacks on minorities under the interim government, criticising what it described as attempts to attribute such incidents to “extraneous reasons.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed condolences in December on the death of Begum Khaleda Zia, highlighting her contributions to Bangladesh and India–Bangladesh relations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar later attended her funeral in Dhaka and handed over a condolence letter from Modi to Tarique Rahman. To ensure security during polling,

the Bangladesh Election Commission has deployed nearly one million security personnel, the largest such mobilisation in the country’s electoral history. More than half of the 42,659 polling centres have been marked as risk-prone. Police identified about 24,000 centres as high or moderate risk, including a majority in Dhaka. For the first time, drones, body-worn cameras, and extensive CCTV coverage are being used to monitor the election process. Voting will take place from 7.30 am to 4.30 pm across 299 constituencies, with polling in one constituency cancelled following the death of a candidate. A total of 1,755 candidates from 50 political parties and 273 independents are contesting, with the BNP fielding the highest number at 291 candidates. There are 83 female candidates.

Maharashtra To Host AI For Agriculture Summit

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra will host AI for Agri 2026, a global conference and investment summit on the use of Artificial Intelligence in agriculture, on February 22–23 at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. Organised under the state’s Agriculture–AI Policy 2025–2029, the event will focus on AI-driven, climate-resilient and farmer-centric transformation of the farm sector. With the rollout of the new policy, Maharashtra is set to become the first state in the country with a dedicated Artificial Intelligence framework for agriculture, aimed at strengthening innovation, digital infrastructure and farmer empowerment, an official said. Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bhatne said global agricultural experts, agritech



startups, investors and financial institutions will participate in the two-day summit. According to the agriculture department, the conference marks a significant milestone in the state’s agricultural development. “The event is being organised in collaboration with global and national partners such as the World Economic Forum, World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Indian Institute of Science and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, among others,” Mr. Bhatne said. The summit will serve as a key platform for startups, in-

vestors and financial institutions in agriculture and allied sectors, and will aid the implementation of the Maharashtra Agriculture–Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025–2029. “The policy aims to create a data-driven agricultural ecosystem through the application of AI and emerging technologies. Key digital infrastructure being developed includes Maha AGX (Maharashtra Agriculture Data Exchange), an AI-enabled traceability system, an AI-based geospatial intelligence engine, and a farmer-centric AI advisory platform, Maha-Vistaar,” an official said. To implement the policy, the state has established a Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Agritech Innovation as the institutional anchor, with an initial allocation of Rs 500 crore approved for the first phase, a senior official said.

Group-1 Row: HC....

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to form a special investigation team or reconstitute the present SIT to probe the lapses in evaluation of Group-1 answer scripts. A division bench of Justice Battu Devanand and Justice Hari Harnadha Sharma heard two petitions on anomalies in evaluation of Group-1 answer scripts here on Wednesday and issued directions to the government. The court ordered that the SIT be headed by an officer not below the rank of additional DGP. It asked the advocate general to furnish details of SIT in three days to the court registrar (judicial). The bench said the SIT must investigate the case by taking assistance of scientific and forensic experts of any central forensic science laboratory situated outside AP, on aspects like whether the answer scripts of all the selected candidates are intact and whether there is any tampering in any form; whether the bar codes on answer sheets, original OMR sheets and OMR sheets used during physical valuation at Vijayawada; and whether the details retrieved from such bar codes are same in respect of selected candi-

dates. The court said the answer sheets of the unselected candidates, who are parties before this court and in the writ petitions, shall be examined in the same lines as to how the newer sheets of the selected candidates are examined. The answer sheets of the candidates up to 100 numbers below in the merit list, from the last selected candidate, shall be examined in the same lines as that of selected candidates, it said. The bench said the material already collected by the SIT investigating the matter can also be used for further probe and asked for detection of the tampering with the original answer sheets, by adopting scientific and other techniques.

6 Stanzas of.....

The ministry clarified that when the official version of the National Song is sung or played, the audience must stand to attention. However, if it forms part of a newsreel or documentary film, the audience is not expected to stand, as it may disrupt the exhibition. The order stated that the official version of the National Song shall be played with mass singing on occasions such as unfurling of

the National Flag, cultural and ceremonial functions other than parades, and on the arrival of the President at government or public events. It directed that adequate public address systems be arranged to enable the gathering to sing in unison and that printed lyrics may be circulated where required. On all such occasions, the official version shall be recited with mass singing. The ministry also said the National Song may be sung at significant functions attended by ministers and other dignitaries, provided it is rendered with due respect and decorum. In schools, the day’s work may begin with community singing of the National Song. School authorities have been advised to make provision for popularising the singing of the National Song and National Anthem and promoting respect for the National Flag among students.

Rahul Calls.....

Gandhi said that under the deal, India’s tariffs have risen from an average of 3% to 18%, while US tariffs have dropped from 16% to zero, leading to a projected surge in US imports into India from USD 46 billion to USD 146 billion — a shift he described as

Mysore Sandal.....

“economically absurd and strategically dangerous.” He also criticised the government’s geopolitical stance, stating that global conflict risks are rising, not declining, and stressed that India must protect its people, data, food systems and energy security as core national assets. “If an INDIA bloc government were negotiating, we would speak as equals — not as servants,” Gandhi said, adding that India’s data is its biggest strategic asset and energy security is non-negotiable. Calling the agreement “a tragedy for 1.5 billion Indians,” Gandhi accused the government of surrendering India’s future. “Our data, farmers, engineers, small businesses, energy security and sovereignty have been sold,” he alleged. Treasury bench MPs objected to the allegations, calling them baseless and demanding proof, while the Speaker cautioned Gandhi against naming individuals not present in the House. Gandhi maintained that the deal represents a fundamental compromise of national interests, concluding: “This is not diplomacy. This is capitulation.”

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Chain Snatcher Targets Nurse in Abids

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a broad daylight robbery at Abids, an unidentified biker snatched a gold chain from a nurse returning from night duty on Wednesday. According to victim M. Sirisha, she was walking towards her hostel around 9 am. when the assailant approached from behind, snatched her 2.5 tola gold chain and fled towards Chapel Road. Abids police said Si-

risha, employed as a nurse at Mallareddy Hospital, sustained minor injuries on her neck and was treated at a hospital. Her statement was recorded. “We have formed three special teams. A case of robbery under Section 304 of the BNS Act has been registered. Our IT teams are examining CCTV footage to identify the assailant through his bike number,” said K. Parashuram, SHO, Abids police station.

Flames in Scrap Shop; No Major Loss or Injuries Reported

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A fire broke out at a plastic scrap godown in Indresham under Patancheru police station limits on Wednesday afternoon, officials said. The Fire Control Room received a distress call at 4.08 pm and fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The blaze engulfed a warehouse storing empty paint tins, plastic bottles, rubber material and other scrap waste. Thick smoke was seen rising as the rubber and plastic materials caught fire.

A fire tender from the Patancheru Fire Station responded first, and additional fire engines from Sangareddy and Kukatpally were deployed to contain the flames. Fire personnel brought the blaze under control. No casualties or injuries were reported, officials confirmed. The godown is owned by Zameeruddin. Police registered a case at Patancheru police station and began an investigation to ascertain the cause of the fire. Preliminary estimates placed the property loss at below ₹1 lakh.

T HC Directs Hydraa To Restore the Rock Garden in J Hills

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has directed the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to restore the Rock Garden at Jubilee Hills within eight weeks and submit a compliance report to the High Court Registry within three months. Justice N.V. Shra- van Kumar passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by advocate B. Sudhakar Reddy, who alleged inaction by authorities on his representations concerning the Rock



Garden area. The petitioner sought directions to HYDRAA and the GHMC to demolish alleged illegal constructions on 30.238 hectares of government land in the notified area and to prevent further encroachments. Counsel for the petitioner

submitted that private individuals had encroached upon the land, undertaken unauthorised constructions and felled trees in the Rock Garden area. He also sought directions to the Director of HYDRAA to levy a penalty of Rs 1 lakh per tree allegedly cut by

anti-social elements in the area, citing observations of the Supreme Court in an environmental matter. After hearing both sides, the Court observed that HYDRAA was responsible for protecting government land and preserving the Rock Garden. It directed the agency to take appropriate measures, including removal of encroachments and restoration of the site within eight weeks. The Court further ordered HYDRAA to file a compliance report before the High Court Registry within three months.

Cybercops Nab 5 for Duping Woman of Rs 1.08 Lakh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police arrested five men for running fake online loan schemes by impersonating Mudra Loan officials. The accused — Bochu Arun, Gadam Bhara- th, Samara Tirupati, Vel- pugonda Tharun and Chukka Shyam, all from Warangal district — allegedly cheated a 36-year-old Hyderabad woman of Rs 1,08,274. She had responded to an Instagram loan advertisement in November 2025 and was con- tacted by a caller posing as “Kila Pavan Kumar” from Mudra loan services.

The fraudster claimed a Rs 3 lakh loan had been sanctioned and demanded payments under various heads, including insurance and TDS. Despite transferring over Rs 1 lakh, the victim was pressed for more money even after seeking cancellation. DCP V. Arvind Babu said the gang operated from rented flats in Kolkata and Delhi, running fake call centres with SIM cards, mobiles, bank accounts and UPI IDs provided by organ- isers. Each member allegedly made 180–200 calls a day and earned a 30 per cent commission. Police seized eight mobile phones and 10 SIM cards.

Odisha Cousins Nabbed With Ganja Worth Rs 35 Lakh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sleuths of the West Zone Task Force, along with SR Nagar Police, on Wednesday arrested a marijuana cultivator and a peddler, seizing dry ganja worth ₹35 lakh from their pos- session. According to Mo- hammed Iqbal Siddiqui, additional DCP (Task Force, WZ–SZ), the ac- cused have been identified as Maniel Dalabhera, 30, a cultivator, and his cousin Ismail Raita, 48, a peddler residing in Medchal. Both hailing from Odisha were caught in SR Nagar while

waiting for a customer. During interrogation, Maniel revealed that he cultivated marijuana in his village. Taking advantage of Ismail’s financial crisis, he involved their cousin Rinita Raita (ab- scending) to convince Is- mail to begin peddling the contraband in the twin cities, Siddiqui said. Is- mail, who had recently lost his job, came to the city with his wife in November and was staying in Med- chal. Rinita visited Maniel’s house and proposed selling ganja in Hydera- bad, to which Ismail agreed, the officer added.

HC Reserves Verdict in TGPSC B-Tech Eligibility Row

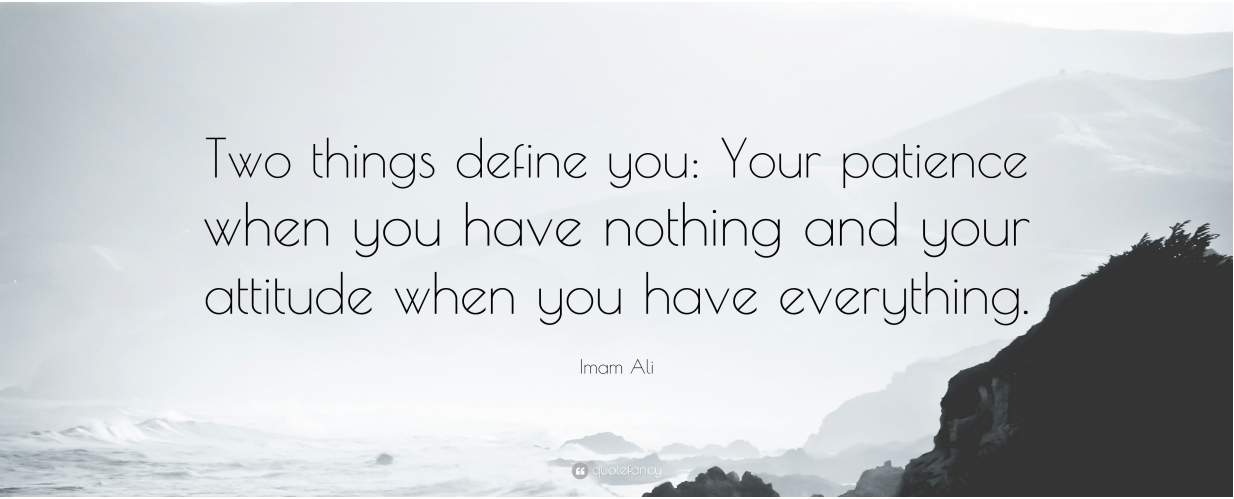
HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court reserved its ver- dict on an appeal filed by the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) challenging an order of a single judge that set aside the rejection of the candi- dature of B-Tech (Com- puter Science) graduates for the posts of mandal planning and statistical officer/assis- tant statistical officer. The panel, comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Jus- tice G.M. Mohiuddin,

was dealing with a writ appeal in relation to the eligibility for the posts. The dispute originated from a 2018 notifica- tion where the TGPSC rejected the candidature of several applicants on the ground that their study of 'Probability and Statistics' for a single semester did not meet the requirement of studying the subject for a full "academic year". In earlier writ proceed- ings, the single judge ruled in favour of the candidates, observing that studying the sub- ject as a core compo- nent of a B-Tech course satisfies the educational

criteria. Counsel for the appel- lant, TGPSC, con- tended that the recruitment process was conducted in a transpar- ent manner and in strict compliance with the governing rules and regulations. He further argued that the quali- fications explicitly re- quire candidates to have studied statistics as a subject for one year, two years or all three years of the de- gree course, and that the candidates failed to satisfy this criterion. Counsel for candidates, citing various Supreme Court judgments con-

tended that the “rules of the game” could not be altered midway through the recruitment process by introducing ad- ditional eligibility criteria through a memo after the notification was issued and the ex- amination conducted. He further contended that candidates were permitted to appear for the written examination held on the August 3, 2018, and qualified in both papers and were thereafter wrongly dis- qualified. After hearing arguments at length, the panel reserved its or- ders.



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 opt- ing to keep all its engagements in the T20 World Cup, paying the way for the India match on Sunday that has become a showpiece of inter- national white ball cricket. The drama of India-Paki- stan 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 bank- rupt Pakistan could not sustain the illogic for too long of pulling out of an India match at a neutral venue just to show solidar- ity 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 com- petition.

The speciousness of Pakistan’s stand was always risible. No security threat could be imagined for cricketers in India. Ho- wever volatile the situation in Bangladesh has been where at least a score of Hindus have been done to death in the wake of a re- gime change, there was little likelihood of any of the animus by way of anti- Bangladesh sentiment in

India spilling over into the sporting arena. And Paki- stan, which toured India as recently as in the winter of 2023 to play all its ODI World Cup matches, should have known that too.

To play politics with cricket while saying there should be no politics in sport is an established form of hypocrisy that has been practised worldwide. But Pakistan may have taken it a bit too far this time before reality dawned that it could not afford the bill. Its cricket board, like the country itself, just does not have enough in the kitty to be able to suffer fi- nancial loss and the privi- lege of being at the elite table of the game. Inter- national cricket, with its multi-billion broadcasting and streaming rights is big business and it is the fi- nancial clout of the ICC, buttressed by India’s abil- ity to attract huge rights revenues, that may have thrust this decision on the state-controlled.



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Russia allows Indian labourers in bulk due to labour shortage, Ukraine war

MOSCOW
Wakeup telangana

While it is not new that Indians work as labourers in foreign countries, Reuters reported that Russia has eased the visa process for Indians in bulk to keep up with its acute labour shortage, partly due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The report painted a picture of the situation, with a group of unsure-looking Indian men at the passport control line in Moscow airport carrying sports bags as their only luggage, who flew over 4,000 km to get a job.

“I have a contract for one year. In the rubbish disposal business. The money is good,” one of the men, Ajit, told the



news outlet. According to authorities, there is an immediate shortage of at least 2.3 million workers, a phenomenon further intensified due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Traditionally, Russia relied on its neighbouring countries like Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia for foreign labour. However, with the war-ravaged scene, labourers from

Central Asia are no longer enough, forcing Russia to look for new sources.

A year before Russia sent its military into Ukraine, in 2021, around 5,000 work permits were granted for Indian nationals. In 2025, 72,000 permits were estimated to be approved for Indians, which is almost a third of the total number of migrant workers on visas allowed annually.

Alexei Filipenkov, direc-

tor of one such company that draws in Indian workers, said labourers from the ex-Soviet Central Asia stopped coming in adequate numbers.

Central Asians generally do not need a visa to enter Russia, but starting June 2025, Russia introduced a pre-entry requirement, imposing visa-like restrictions.

“Currently, expatriate employees from India are the most popular,” he said, adding that official data shows that Central Asians still contribute to the majority of the 2.3 million foreign workers allowed without a visa in 2025.

A weaker rouble, anti-migrant discourse within Russian politicians and stricter migration laws

have likely diminished their figures, instead encouraging Moscow to increase visa quotas for other foreign workers.

Russia’s choice of India as an alternative for unskilled labour reflects more deeply rooted ties between Moscow and New Delhi. India is known to buy cheaper Russian oil that Moscow cannot readily sell because of Western sanctions, but with the new India-US bilateral trade agreement, the deal remains questionable.

In December 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a deal, essentially making it easier for Indians to be employed in Russia.

Xumane Launches Xumane Recruit to Bring AI Precision to Hiring

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Xumane, a leading provider of ESOP advisory, financing, and liquidation services, today announced the launch of Xumane Recruit, an AI-powered recruitment platform designed to deliver speed, clarity, and precision across the hiring lifecycle.

Unlike traditional applicant tracking systems, Xumane Recruit is built with AI-led interviews at the core of hiring decisions, not as an add-on. The platform enables organizations to move beyond intuition-driven recruitment toward structured, consistent, and data-backed candidate evaluation.

As hiring grows more complex, Xumane Recruit simplifies the entire journey from ‘Hi’ to ‘Hired’ by

combining intelligent screening, automated scheduling, structured interviews, scoring, and real-time analytics. This integrated approach allows hiring teams to assess candidates fairly and consistently at scale, while significantly reducing operational effort.

“Hiring today needs to be faster, fairer, and far more precise than traditional methods allow. Manual screening, unstructured interviews, and gut-based decisions simply don’t scale. With Xumane Recruit, we’ve reimaged precision hiring through AI-led interviews and intelligent evaluation, help-

ing teams hire better, reduce effort, and make confident decisions at speed,” said Avinash Gautam, Product Head - Xumane.

Organizations using Xumane Recruit have reported measurable improvements, including up to 95% faster time to hire, 87% reduction in recruitment costs, and a 54% increase in successful hires. By replacing fragmented workflows with a unified, future-ready recruitment architecture, the platform enables teams to focus on candidate quality rather than process overhead.

Digital Used Car Sales Rise in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cars24 is rapidly strengthening its footprint in Telangana, with Hyderabad emerging as one of its fastest-growing markets, driven by increasing demand for organised, digital-first used car buying and ownership services.

Nearly 10% of all vehicles transacted on the Cars24 platform in H1 FY26 originated from Telangana, with Hyderabad contributing the largest share, positioning the city as a key growth engine for the company.

At a group level, Cars24 reported Adjusted Net Revenue of ₹651 crore in H1 FY26, registering an 18% year-on-year growth, while Adjusted EBITDA losses reduced by 36% to ₹162 crore, reflecting a strong focus on improving unit economics and operational efficiency. During the same period, the plat-



form facilitated transactions of nearly 85,000 cars across India, the UAE, and Australia, generating a total GMV of ₹3,731 crore. Retail GMV alone crossed ₹2,000 crore, growing 21% YoY and contributing over 50% of total transaction value, highlighting the shift towards trusted, retail-led car buying.

Hyderabad’s pre-owned car market continues to be petrol-dominated, with petrol vehicles accounting for 87.6% of total transactions, followed by diesel models at 11.6%.

Among individual models, the Tata Nexon emerged as the most preferred pre-owned car in the city (4.1%), followed by the Maruti Baleno (3.97%) and the Maruti

Swift (2.43%), indicating strong consumer preference for compact SUVs and fuel-efficient hatchbacks.

Cars24’s financing arm, LOANS24, disbursed loans worth ₹1,637 crore in H1 FY26, recording a 38% YoY growth, with Telangana witnessing strong adoption among salaried professionals and small business owners.

Meanwhile, Vehicle Ownership Services GMV surged 19x YoY to ₹94 crore, driven by services such as insurance, inspections, challan management, and guaranteed buyback. With trust-led initiatives like 30-day returns, lifetime warranty, and continued AI-led investments, Cars24 plans deeper expansion in Telangana in H2 FY26, focusing on retail, financing, and ownership services across Hyderabad and other key cities in the state.

IndiGo Assures DGCA of Full Compliance as FDTL Exemption Ends

IndiGo spokesperson said that as assured to the regulatory authorities earlier, the airline is maintaining an optimum pool of employees, including pilots, to ensure stable operations across its network.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With its deadline to implement the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) coming to an end, the IndiGo airline has informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that it has put in place all necessary arrangements to comply with the FDTL norms.

IndiGo was granted temporary one-time exemption with regard to implementation of new FTDL rules in view to stabilising flight operations in December when the airline faced massive cancellations due to shortage of crew. Over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness,



along with deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control at IndiGo were among the key reasons that led to the disruptions, following which the DGCA had also curtailed the carrier’s winter schedule flights by 10 per cent.

The FDTL exemptions pertained to night duty time for pilots and night landings.

With the temporary ex-

emption ending on Tuesday, the DGCA on Wednesday issued a statement detailing the progress and assurance provided by the airline.

It said during the exemption period IndiGo’s flight operations were monitored closely.

DGCA had positioned Flight Operations Inspectors (FOIs) at IndiGo’s Operations Control Centre for real-time monitoring of flight operations, ensuring

continuous regulatory oversight during the exemption period.

IndiGo has now informed that it shall be fully prepared to comply with the statutory provisions and to implement the approved FDTL scheme upon expiry of the exemptions and all necessary operational, rostering, and monitoring arrangements are being put in place to ensure full compliance from February 11, 2026. The airline, which saw its domestic market share slump to 59.6 per cent in December from 63.6 per cent in November, operates around 2,200 flights daily.

On January 20, DGCA said sustained regulatory oversight as well as corrective meas-

ures have helped stabilise operations at IndiGo, and the airline now has an adequate number of pilots to ensure compliance with the new flight duty norms without disruptions.

Citing the airline’s submissions, the watchdog had said there were 2,400 Pilots in Command (PICs) as against the requirement for 2,280, and the number of First Officers was 2,240 compared to the requirement for 2,050.

On Tuesday, an IndiGo spokesperson said that as assured to the regulatory authorities earlier, the airline is maintaining an optimum pool of employees, including pilots, to ensure stable operations across its network.

Old Bridge Launches Flexi Cap Fund

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Old Bridge Mutual Fund today announced the launch of the Old Bridge Flexi Cap Fund, an open-ended dynamic equity scheme designed to invest across large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks, offering investors diversified exposure through a single flexible portfolio.

The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on February 13, 2026 and close on February 23, 2026. The scheme is available at an initial price of ₹10 per unit, with a minimum investment of ₹5,000 for lump-sum applications and ₹1,000 for SIPs.

The fund follows a bottom-up, business-centric investment approach, focusing on the quality, sustainability, and longevity of businesses rather than fixed market-cap allocations. This strategy enables dynamic portfolio shifts across market segments based on changing



risk-reward opportunities and market cycles.

The scheme will be managed by Kenneth Andrade, Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Old Bridge Asset Management Private Limited, who brings over 34 years of experience in Indian capital markets, portfolio management, and investment research, along with over 24 years of track record in managing equity funds.

Commenting on the launch, Andrade said the flexi-cap strategy enables disciplined investing across market cycles by combining stability, growth potential, and long-term wealth creation through durable businesses.

Rupee depreciates 22 paise, closes at 90.78 against US dollar

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The rupee depreciated 22 paise to close at 90.78 against the US dollar on Wednesday, February 11, amid increased dollar demand from importers and geopolitical tensions.

Forex traders said the rupee is trading with a slight negative bias amid geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices. Dollar demand from importers may also pressurise the rupee. However, FPI inflows may support the local unit at lower levels.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.56 against the US dollar, and moved between a low of 90.75 and a high of 90.46 against the greenback in intraday trade.

The rupee eventually settled at 90.78, registering a fall of 22 paise over its previous close. On Tues-



day, the rupee pared initial losses and settled on a positive note, higher by 10 paise at 90.56 against the US dollar.

“Indian rupee declined today on dollar demand from importers and geopolitical tensions. A surge in crude oil prices, too, weighed on the rupee. However, a weak US dollar and foreign inflows cushioned the downside. Dollar weakened on disappointing ADP non-farm employment and retail sales data from the US,” said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Analysts said while markets initially welcomed the India-US trade deal, fresh concerns have

emerged after the White House released its fact sheet.

The fact sheet highlights key terms of the agreement, including that India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products.

This includes dried distillers’ grains, red sorghum, tree nuts, and fresh and processed fruit, certain pulses, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products, and India has committed to buying more American products and purchase over USD 500 billion of US energy, information and communication technology, agricultural, coal, and other products.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.26 per cent lower at 96.54.

US adds 1.3 lakh jobs; past payroll figures cut sharply

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

US employers added a surprisingly strong 1,30,000 jobs last month, but government revisions cut 2024-2025 US payrolls by hundreds of thousands. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 per cent, the Labour Department said Wednesday, February 11.

The report included major revisions that reduced the number of jobs created last year to just 1,81,000, weakest since the pandemic year of 2020, and less than half the previously reported 5,84,000.

The job market has been sluggish for months even though the economy is registering solid growth.

But the January numbers came in stronger than the 75,000 economists had expected. Healthcare accounted for nearly 82,000,



or more than 60 per cent, of last month’s new jobs. Factories added 5,000, snapping a streak of 13 straight months of job losses. The federal government shed 34,000 jobs. Average hourly wages rose a solid 0.4 per cent from December to January. The unemployment rate fell from 4.4 per cent in December as the number of employed Americans rose and the number of unemployed fell.

Weak hiring over the past year reflects the lingering impact of high interest rates, billionaire Elon Musk’s purge last year of the federal workforce and uncertainty arising from

President Donald Trump’s erratic trade policies, which have left businesses unsure about hiring.

Dreary numbers have been coming in ahead of Wednesday’s report. Employers posted just 6.5 million job openings in December, fewest in more than five years. Payroll processor ADP reported last week that private employers added 22,000 jobs in January, far fewer than economists had forecast. And the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas reported that companies slashed more than 1,08,000 jobs last month, the most since October and the worst January for job cuts since 2009. Several well-known companies announced layoffs last month. UPS is cutting 30,000 jobs. Chemicals giant Dow, shifting to more automation.

The Batman Part II: Casting Buzz, Comic Inspiration, and Big Fan Demands

In 2022, Filmmaker Matt Reeves brought the iconic DC vigilante from Gotham to the silver screens, creating an instant global box office success. 'The Batman' became a film that was immensely loved by general audiences, die-hard comic book fans as well as film critics. The Batman grossed \$369.3 million in the United States and Canada, and \$402.9 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$772.3 million.

It became the seventh-highest-grossing film of 2022, as well as the highest-grossing serial killer film of all time. After the success of 'The Batman,' that teased multiple characters from The DC Universe, a sequel was officially announced. Since the release of the first film, fans have been eagerly waiting for updates of the next project.

However, no such briefing has come out as of now. With more than a year and eight months for the sequel film to get released, its new castings and new characters remain unknown, especially after the release of its blockbuster prequel, 'The Batman' and much appreciated series 'The Penguin.'

Several casting announcements have already been made including Sebastian Stan playing 'Harvey Dent', Barry Keoghan as 'The Joker' and Colin Farrell as 'The Penguin.' Director Matt Reeves, along with co-writer Peter Craig and Matson Tomlin's have crafted a dark and rusty portrayal of the DC universe, that many fans consider as the most comic-accurate version of the Batman universe. The Batman sequel is said to take inspiration from Mattson Tomlin's Batman: The Imposter Limited comic book series. As the news went viral, fans have shared two major recommendations to the makers, through social media platforms, regarding what they hope to see in the sequel. The first recommendation by fans is the integration of GCPD Detective Blair Wong. If The Batman Part 2 showcases corruption within the Gotham Police Department, Wong would be a compelling addition. She is portrayed as an honest cop, with a traumatic past and is determined to change the system. Her character shares resemblance to that of Bruce Wayne. In Batman: The Imposter's story, Wong becomes a love interest for Bruce Wayne, but she'd be a strong addition regardless of their romantic connection.

The second recommendation is the introduction of a proper Robin character. Comic book fans know how iconic and essential Robin is as a character in the world of Batman. Across various comic storylines, Robin provides moral support and strength to Batman, serving as his trusted partner. Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight Rises," attempted to integrate a robin-like character, but received hate from the fans. Moreover, 'Batman & Robin'(1997) remains a film fans would rather forget. Conclusively, the success of The Batman sequel will depend on how well it expands this dark and grounded universe while staying true to its characters.



However, no such briefing has come out as of now. With more than a year and eight months for the sequel film to get released, its new castings and new characters remain unknown, especially after the release of its blockbuster prequel, 'The Batman' and much appreciated series 'The Penguin.'

Actor Noel Clarke Arrested Over Alleged 2007 Sexual Offences

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

British actor Noel Clarke, known for his role in Doctor Who, was recently arrested and questioned by the UK Police's Crime command over rape allegations that were alleged to have been taken place to 2007. As per a statement released by The Sun newspaper, Clarke arrived at the Islington Police Station in London accompanied by his wife and lawyer. Although not revealing his name, a spokesperson from the metro-



politan police has stated that, "A man in his 50s was arrested on suspicion of attempted rape, exposure and sexual assault by

touching on Tuesday 10 February. He was interviewed by detectives."

"This arrest relates to a sexual offence, which is alleged to have taken place in 2007 in London against a woman in her 20s," the spokesperson added. They further stated that he was interviewed in connection to a voyeurism allegation for which he had previously been arrested in September 2025, relating to an offence that he allegedly committed in 2013 against a woman in her 20's. Clarke is not new to such allega-

tions. Last year, he lost a major libel case against The Guardian over its publication of claims that he had engaged in sexual misconduct involving more than 20 women.

The court ruled in favor of newspaper, stating that the paper has successfully established defenses of truth and public interest. It also described Clarke as not being a credible witness. As a result of losing the case, he was obliged to pay an estimate of 3 million pounds to cover the legal costs of The Guardian.

Balakrishna Is Most Professional Actor, Says Laya

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Former heroine Laya, who quietly stepped away from films over a decade ago and settled in the US, is back in the limelight. After regaining popularity through her dance reels from the United States, the actress is now making her comeback with Sivaji's Sampradayini Suppini Suddhapusani. In a recent interview, Laya spoke fondly about her experience working with Nandamuri Balakrishna. Laya had earlier shared screen space with Balakrishna in the 2004 film Vijayendra Varma. Recalling her time on the sets, she



said, "Balakrishna is the most professional and easy-to-work-with star. He keeps the atmosphere light on the sets and always makes everyone laugh. He is extremely disciplined and a very talented co-star." She also expressed her wish to collaborate with him again in the future.

With many senior heroes now keen on pairing up with experienced actresses, Laya could well make a fitting match op-

posite Balakrishna, especially considering his penchant for double-role entertainers. It remains to be seen if such a collaboration materialises.

Though her re-entry project Tammudu did not create much impact, Laya is hopeful that Sivaji's web film will help her make a strong impression once again.

A successful outing could potentially open doors to bigger projects. Laya made a notable mark in Tollywood with successful films like Swayamvaram, Manoharam and Preminchu, in which her portrayal of a blind girl earned her praise for her performance.

Dhurandhar Singer Halts Show To Protect Women From Harassment

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

During a music concert at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Tuesday night, famous singer Jasmine Sandlas known for being part of the blockbuster film Dhurandhar's music album, paused in her shimmering red lehenga to call out security over the mic: "Please remove these two guys...they're troubling these women." She refused to continue until the women felt safe, earning huge applause as the men were escorted out and the crowd cheered her stand. Fans praised the Dhurand-



har singer for making her concert a safe space. Harassment, particularly against women, at music concerts and live events in India has become a serious issue, with recent high-profile incidents prompting widespread outrage and calls for better safety measures. Reports highlight inci-

dents ranging from inappropriate touching and ogling in crowded venues to physical intimidation of performers. A recent case occurred in December 2025 during the Post Malone concert in Guwahati. Post Malone, an internationally renowned pop star and rapper, had unexpectedly performed there, but the event was marred when two foreign tourists reported being subjected to "undesired touching" and harassment within minutes of entering the crowded venue. The incident forced them to leave early and triggered a sig

India, Pakistan Receive Big Request Ahead Of T20 World Cup Clash: "Sportsmanship"

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Former Pakistan cricket team skipper Mohammad Hafeez said that the T20 World Cup 2026 match between India and Pakistan should be played with "complete sportsmanship". Following a long deadlock between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the match, the Pakistan government made a U-turn on its decision to boycott the clash. After the announcement, Hafeez said he is in favour of the two teams playing each other in ICC competitions on a regular basis and even suggested that politics should be kept out of the cricket encounter.

"Whenever there is talk about an India-Pakistan match, I have always been in favour of it because this is that match, that rivalry, which inspires the entire world. I truly hope the match happens - God willing. And it's not just about this one game. I'm not into this match alone. What I want is for India-Pakistan matches to happen on a routine basis, with politics kept out of it forever."

"Both countries should be al-



lowed to fully play the role they can in growing and spreading the game, and cricket should never be stopped because of politics. Secondly, whatever scenario emerges regarding an India-Pakistan match, we must always keep the integrity and spirit of the game at the highest level. Whenever this match is played - if it happens on the 15th - it should be played with complete sportsmanship," Hafeez said on Tapmad.

The India-Pakistan match in the T20 World Cup will go ahead as scheduled after Pakistan's government decided to

withdraw its boycott call following persuasion from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, ending an impasse that cast a shadow on the ongoing tournament.

The game against India is scheduled to be held in Colombo on February 15.

"In view of the outcomes achieved in multilateral discussions, as well as the request of friendly countries, the Government of Pakistan hereby directs the Pakistan National Cricket Team to take the field on February 15, 2026, for its scheduled fixture in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," the Pakistan government stated in a press release.

Jiostar Breaks Benchmarks on T20 World Cup 2026 Opening Day

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India and Sri Lanka has enjoyed a strong start on JioStar, delivering the biggest ever opening day across JioHotstar and the Star Sports network for any ICC event. Total consumption across JioStar's digital and linear plat-



forms grew by 59% compared to the 2024 edition, reaching 14.7 billion minutes on the opening day, together delivering the biggest ever opening day in ICC Men's T20 World Cup history. As the opening day concluded with

India beating USA in their opening fixture of their title defence, JioHotstar recorded a reach of 101.9 million, up by 81% over the 2024 edition.

India's opening game against the USA drove strong viewership momentum across platforms as linear TV ratings went up 41% and digital reach went up 98% compared to India's first match of the

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 against Ireland. Mr. Ishan Chatterjee, CEO - Sports, JioStar, said, "The record-breaking viewership for the opening day of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India and Sri Lanka demonstrates India's appetite for innovative broadcast and high-octane on-field action.

Australia Start T20 WC Campaign With Thumping Win Over Ireland

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Australia opened their T20 World Cup campaign in emphatic fashion with a commanding 67-run victory over Ireland on Wednesday, delivering a dominant all-round performance to set the tone for the tournament.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Australia posted a competitive total of 182 for 6 in their 20 overs. Marcus Stoinis anchored the innings with a composed 45, while Matthew Renshaw and Josh Inglis provided vital middle-order support with brisk knocks of 37 each. Their partnerships ensured Australia maintained momentum throughout the innings, despite regular wickets. For Ireland, Mark Adair was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with



figures of 2 for 44. Ireland's chase never really gained momentum, as Australia's bowlers took control early. Pacer Nathan Ellis produced a sensational spell, claiming 4 for 12, while leg-spinner Adam Zampa complemented him perfectly with

4 for 23. The duo ripped through Ireland's batting lineup, sharing eight wickets and leaving the opposition reeling. George Dockrell offered some resistance with a fighting 41, but lacked support from the other end. Ireland were even-

tually bowled out for 115 in just 16.5 overs, sealing a comprehensive victory for Australia. The convincing win gives Australia an ideal start to their World Cup campaign and sends a strong message to the rest of the competition about their title ambitions.

TGSRTC to operate 2,243 special buses for Maha Shivaratri

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation on Wednesday, February 11, announced 2,243 special buses to 43 Shiva temples across the state for Maha Shivaratri. Although the festival falls on February 15, buses will operate from February 14 to 16. The corporation has allocated a specific number of buses to major pilgrimage sites including 781 buses to Srisailem, 416 buses to Vemulawada, 249 buses to Edupayala, 326 buses to Keesaragutta, 127 buses to Velala and 71 buses to Kaleshwaram. Additionally, 273 buses will operate to other locations such as Kondagattu, Alampur, Umamaheshwaram, Palakurthi and Ramappa. Special buses to Srisailem will be available from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), Jubilee Bus Station (JBS), Central Bus Station (CBS), IS Sadan, KPHB, and BHEL in Hyderabad. Fares for these special buses have been adjusted up to 1.5 times the regular fare. Ticket rates for regular buses will remain unchanged. The Mahalakshmi free travel scheme for women remains applicable in Palle Velugu, Express, City Ordinary, and Metro Express buses. Advance booking is available for Srisailem special buses via TGSRTC’s official website. For more information, devotees can contact the TGSRTC call centre by dialing 040-69440000 or 040-234500332.

HYDRAA announces intensive building safety checks across Hyderabad

Following a series of fire accidents in the city in recent weeks, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), along with the fire department and police, will take up intensive checks of buildings for safety violations. “Shortly, the inspections will begin in all parts of the city. Buildings where there are violations will be sealed immediately,” said a senior official of HYDRAA. The decision was taken after five people lost their lives in a fire incident at Nampally early this month. The Abids Road police had registered a case against the owner of the furniture shop and arrested him. Sources said the special drive will cover all parts of Hyderabad, particularly the southern side, where the fire department has flagged several fire safety violations in the past. Traders in commercial complexes have been repeatedly asked to keep their corridors free of goods to facilitate the easy movement of people during mishaps. The fire department has, in the past, directed traders not to operate their businesses from the cellar of the buildings. However, in several markets such as Begum Bazaar, Devan Devdi, Rikab Gunj and Pathergatti, gross violations have been reported. Neither are there proper facilities for extinguishing fire in the buildings, nor are security guards trained in firefighting. “Hence, the inspections will be held soon across the city,” said the official.

Doctors’ Assn Presents Details of Vacant Faculty Posts to DME

Representatives of the Telangana Senior Resident Doctors Association (TSRDA) presented their observations on the vacant posts to director of medical education (DME) Dr Narendra Kumar on Wednesday. They were assured that necessary steps would be taken to fill the vacant faculty posts in various medical colleges across the state. The association had conducted a survey recently. The TSRDA representatives said the shortage has arisen due to the rapid increase in the number of medical colleges here. Dr Kumar said that although the expansion of medical colleges has temporarily resulted in faculty shortages, the government will take steps to fill all vacancies through the Job Calendar and will also consider providing special incentives for faculty working in peripheral medical colleges. The survey highlighted that a significant number of departments lack professors and associate professors. Many departments are operating with only one assistant professor or are solely dependent on bonded or contractual senior residents.

Hyderabad Police Conduct Major Cordon-Search Ops in Ganganagar

Six rowdy sheeters Apprehended; 37 vehicles, ganja, knives and cylinders seized

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Zaffer abedi

In a major crackdown ahead of Ramzan, Hyderabad Police conducted a large-scale cordon and search operation in the Ganganagar Nala area under Reinbazar Police Station limits to curb criminal activities and strengthen law and order. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Charminar Zone DCP Kiran Khare Prabhakar, along with ACP Mirchowk Division G. Shyam Sunder and Reinbazar Inspector Ch. Nethaji. More than 142 police personnel participated in the drive, during which nearly 300 houses were searched. During the operation, police apprehended six rowdy sheeters and seized 37 two-wheelers without number plates or with improper registration. They



Mirchowk ACP G. Shyam Sunder, along with police personnel, verifies documents during a cordon and search operation at Ganganagar in Yakutpura on Wednesday.

- Seized During the Ops**
- ▶ Nearly 300 houses searched during the operation.
 - ▶ 37 two-wheelers seized for improper registration.
 - ▶ Three illegal gas cylinders confiscated.
 - ▶ Five packets of ganja seized.
 - ▶ One hookah and three knives recovered.
 - ▶ Six rowdy sheeters Apprehended

also confiscated three illegal gas cylinders, five packets of cannabis (ganja), one hookah, and three knives. Addressing the media, DCP Kiran Khare Prabhakar said the drive was aimed at ensuring the safety and security of residents and preventing troublemakers and thieves from taking shelter in slum areas during the fes-



Charminar Zone DCP Kiran Khare Prabhakar, accompanied by Mirchowk ACP G. Shyam Sunder, Reinbazar SHO Ch. Nethaji and other police personnel, inspected a sensitive graveyard during a cordon and search operation in Ganganagar, Yakutpura, on Wednesday.

tive season. He expressed concern that some house owners were renting out rooms without proper tenant verification, contributing to a rise in criminal activities. Police also inspected sen-

sitive locations, including graveyards, to check for suspicious movements. Officials stated that the primary objective was to maintain peace, reinforce public confidence, and prevent unlawful activities

in the area. The DCP urged residents to immediately report incidents of rowdiness or nuisance, assuring strict and prompt action against offenders.

Water, Sewerage Network Handed Over to HMWSSB

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has handed over the water supply and sewerage system of the entire Core Urban Region (CURE) to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), even as it announced a series of major IAS and non-cadre officer transfers. According to GO No. 159 issued by the metropolitan area and urban development department, the jurisdiction of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) has been expanded to cover the entire Telangana Core Urban Region, spread across 2,053 sq. km. The government has now ordered that the water supply and sewerage network in the expanded area be managed, maintained and developed by HMWSSB, including construction of new sewage treatment plants (STPs). The managing director of HMWSSB, GHMC commissioner and engineer-in-chief, RWS&S, have been directed to take necessary action. As part of the transfers,

Mayank Mittal on Wednesday assumed charge as the new joint managing director (Joint MD) of HMWSSB. Mittal, who was serving as executive director, was elevated to joint MD as part of a major administrative reorganisation. HMWSSB has now been restructured on the lines of GHMC, with zones divided into circles, sub-divisions and ward-level sections to improve administrative efficiency and citizen services. The board has been divided into three new zones: Hyderabad (Central/Khairatabad), Cyberabad.

HYDRAA protects land worth Rs 1,003 crore in Jubilee Hills, Khanamet

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Wednesday, February 11, protected land worth Rs 1003 crore in Jubilee Hills and Khanamet by demolishing encroachments and erecting fences. According to HYDRAA, a person running a women’s hostel opposite Apollo Hospital’s outgate had encroached part of a two-acre park by erecting a three-storey building on 50 yards and drawing boundaries on an additional 100 yards. The estimated value of this

land is Rs 2 lakh per yard, HYDRAA said. After conducting an inspection, the illegal building was demolished, and fencing was put up on the rest of the vacant area to prevent further encroachments. Additionally, a police case was also filed against the encroachers. Similarly, HYDRAA also fenced 5 acres in Khanamet, near Hitex Exhibition Grounds, after representatives of All India Velama Association approached the agency seeking to prevent encroachments on the land. Previously, the government had allocated the land to the Velama Asso-

ciation; however, the decision was challenged in the High Court, which then put a stay on the allocation of the land. Representatives of the Velama Association informed HYDRAA that some people were trying to occupy the land; therefore, HYDRAA has constructed a fence around the disputed land till the High Court’s decision. The previous day, HYDRAA freed 33 acres of a playground allotted to the Zilla Parishad High School in Kukatpally’s Venkateswara Nagar Colony after receiving a complaint from the school’s headmaster.

Fire breaks out at warehouse in Sangareddy



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two separate fire incidents were reported in Sangareddy district on Wednesday, February 11, with no casualties in either case, officials confirmed. Fire services successfully controlled both blazes, preventing any loss of life. The first incident occurred at around 4:10 pm at a scrap godown in Indresham, Patancheru. Three fire tenders from Patancheru, Kukatpally and Sangareddy were rushed to the spot and managed to bring the fire under control. Preliminary investigations suggest the blaze may

have been caused by careless smoking or similar negligence, officials said. Earlier in the day, another fire broke out at Shraddha High School, a private school located in Pothireddypalli village. The fire started around 11:00 am in the G+3 building of the school, following a suspected short circuit in the principal’s office. A fire tender from the Sadasivpet station was deployed to douse the flames. Fortunately, no students were present in the school at the time of the incident, as a holiday had been declared due to the municipal elections. According to fire officials, the damage was limited to two rooms, and the situation was swiftly brought under control.

RR Tax Funds Sent to Poll-Bound Kerala: Kishan Reddy

Congress Government Diverts Hyderabad Funds for Electoral Politics: BJP

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union Coal Minister and Telangana BJP leader G Kishan Reddy on Wednesday alleged that the “first instalment” of RR tax collected in Telangana has already been sent to poll-bound Kerala, accusing the Congress government of misusing public funds for political purposes. Speaking to reporters in Hyderabad along with state BJP president N Ramchander Rao, Reddy claimed that builders and citizens are being burdened with excessive RR (Regularisation Rate) tax in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) areas, and that the money is being diverted outside the state. He said people were now paying the “price for the



sin of voting for Congress” in the 2023 Assembly elections. “RR tax has to be paid in GHMC for permissions, NoCs after construction and changes in land use. While it is 12 per cent in Bengaluru, here it ranges from 12 to 30 per cent. The first instalment of this tax from Telangana has already gone to Kerala, even though elections there will be held in April,” Kishan Reddy alleged. He also accused the Congress government of violating constitutional and

election norms by reorganising the GHMC into three separate municipal corporations after the census notification was issued and during the enforcement of the model code of conduct for municipal elections. He said IAS officers were transferred on polling day, calling it a serious violation of democratic procedures. Reddy further alleged a political understanding between Congress and AIMIM in the restructuring of GHMC, claiming that the reorganisation was done to protect their political interests rather than improve civic governance. Questioning the role of authorities, he asked, “Does the State Election Commission exist? Are they implementing the rules?” He alleged that Congress and BRS were using money power in

municipal elections and that complaints made by BJP received no response from the police or election authorities. Criticising the government’s handling of civic administration, Reddy said the GHMC reorganisation should have been done only after public consultation, stakeholder discussions, and debate, not in a hurried and secretive manner. Referring to the alleged suicide of a BJP candidate in Makthal municipal elections, Ramchander Rao accused Congress leaders of insensitivity, saying they did not even express condolences, despite public claims of promoting “mohabbat ki dukaan” (politics of love). The BJP leaders asserted that the GHMC restructuring and administrative decisions taken after the census notification.

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