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WEATHER

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

Brief Insights

Journalist Sentenced to One Year Imprisonment in Adani Defamation Case

An Indian court has sentenced a journalist to one year in jail for some of his social media posts on the Adani Group, saying they were unverified, defamatory and portrayed the group in a disreputable light. Adani Enterprises, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, filed the case in 2021 against journalist Ravi Nair in a district court in Gujarat, accusing him of making statements suggesting "political patronage... financial irregularities and unethical conduct", according to a Tuesday court order seen by Reuters.

"No documentary material, official record, or verified data has been produced to substantiate the serious allegations made against the complainant company," the court said in its order. Nair told Reuters he will appeal the conviction but declined to comment further. The Adani group did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Bangladesh polls 'well-planned farce', low turnout shows rejection: Hasina

Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday issued a statement through the Bangladesh Awami League thanking citizens for what she described as rejecting a "so-called election" organised under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus, while alleging widespread irregularities and low voter participation. Hasina criticised the poll, saying it failed to uphold democratic norms and constitutional principles.

"Today's so-called election by Yunus, who seized power illegally and unconstitutionally, was essentially a well-planned farce," reads the statement shared on Bangladesh Awami League's X handle.

"The people's voting rights, democratic values, and the spirit of the Constitution were completely disregarded in this deceptive, voter-less election"

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Seattle to Pay 260 Cr to Family of Telugu Student Jaahnavi Killed by Police Officer

SEATTLE  
Wakeup telangana

The city of Seattle has reached a \$29 million (Rs 262 crore) settlement with the family of a 23-year-old graduate student from India who was struck by a speeding police officer as she crossed a street in 2023. Jaahnavi Kandula was hit by Officer Kevin Dave, who was driving as fast as 74 mph (119 kph) in a 25-mph (40-kph) zone as he responded to a drug overdose call. He had his emergency lights on and had been using his siren at intersections.



"Jaahnavi Kandula's death was heartbreaking, and the city hopes this financial settlement brings some sense of closure to the Kandula family," City Attorney Erika Evans said in a statement Wednesday. "Jaahnavi Kandula's life mattered. It mattered to her family, her friends and to our community." Kandula had been working to-

ward a master's degree in information systems at the Seattle campus of Northwestern University. Attorneys for Kandula's family did not immediately respond to emails or phone calls seeking comment.

The parties filed a notice of settlement in King County Superior Court last Friday.

The local news website PubliCola first reported about the agreement.

Kandula's death ignited outrage and demonstrations, particularly after a recording from another

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Congress Will Sweep ULB Polls, Revanth Tells Rahul: P3

Auto Unions Intensify Stir in Hyderabad: P8

Kavitha Launches Telangana Jagruthi: P2



Bharat Bandh Sees Mixed Impact Nationwide

Bharat Bandh draws mixed response as normal life remains largely unaffected nationwide

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Normal life across much of India remained largely unaffected on Thursday (February 12, 2026) despite a nationwide strike call by a joint forum of central trade unions protesting the Central government's alleged "anti-worker, anti-farmer and pro-corporate" policies. Although demonstrations were reported from several States, public transport, markets and essential services continued to function normally in many regions, indicating limited disruption to daily life.

A mixed response was recorded in States including Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. In



several urban centres, trade union members held protests, rallies and symbolic demonstrations, but routine activities largely continued. Banking, insurance and coal sectors were partially affected in some areas, though most institutions and services maintained regular operations.

The strike, termed a "Bharat Bandh" by the organisers, was called by a joint forum of central trade unions, which claimed that nearly 30

crore workers were mobilised for the protest. The primary demands included the repeal of the four new labour codes, protection of workers' rights, safeguarding job security, and the withdrawal of policies perceived as favouring corporate interests. Farmers' organisations also extended support, linking the protest to concerns over rural employment schemes and agricultural policies. The Congress party formally supported the

strike, with senior leaders alleging that the government had ignored the voices of workers and farmers while making decisions affecting their future. Several Left parties and trade union bodies also participated, staging demonstrations in major cities and industrial centres.

However, authorities in multiple States reported no major incidents, forced closures or large-scale disruptions. Transport services functioned normally in many regions, and shops, markets and business establishments remained open. Overall, the nationwide strike reflected widespread political and trade union mobilisation but resulted in limited disruption to everyday life in most parts of the country.

I Will Remain Telangana CM Till May 2034: Revanth

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday expressed confidence that he will continue to be the Chief Minister of Telangana till May 2034 as he faces no political challenge in the state. In an informal chat with media persons at his official residence in Delhi, Revanth Reddy said the next Assembly elections would be held in May 2029, instead of December 2028, in view of the proposed 'One Nation-One Election' system aligned with the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. This shift, he said, would extend his first term to five-and-a-half years and that he was sure to win the polls and continue as Chief Minister for five more years till 2034.

Stating that there was no competition for the Chief Minister's post either in state politics or within the Congress, he remarked, "Nene Raju, Nene Man-



tri". He said there were no immediate plans for his Cabinet expansion. On criticism over personal remarks, he said, "I do not criticise anyone personally. I only respond to those who speak about me." Referring to Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, he said, "If Kishan Reddy feels hurt when I called him Kalvakuntla Kishan Rao, he changed my religion and even my name calling Revanthuddin — would I not feel hurt? I only replied to what they said."

On the Kaleshwaram project, the Chief Minister said the state government had written to the CBI director and the Union

home ministry seeking an inquiry. "So far, they have not taken any decision," he said, adding, "If water is filled in Kaleshwaram dams, there is a risk of collapse." He said a comprehensive study of the project was being undertaken in line with the guidelines of the National Dam Safety Authority.

Revanth Reddy said the case of Special Intelligence Bureau equipment going missing had evolved into a phone-tapping investigation. "I believe the phone-tapping investigation has reached its climax," he said, adding that further questioning was based on statements made by former SIB official T. Prabhakar Rao. Revanth Reddy maintained that the government was not engaging in illegal surveillance. "I am not tapping phones, and there is no need to do so. I will not do anything wrong," he said.

Parliament Approves Industrial Relations Code

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Parliament on Thursday passed the Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with an aim to bring legal clarity. Piloting the bill, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the Rajya Sabha said, "When the Industrial Relations Code of 2020 was passed, the three Acts were subsumed in that". He informed the House that those three laws were the Trade Union Act 1926, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946 and Industrial Dispute Act 1947.

He explained that the government has the power to repeal these three laws, and there is no dispute in this. "I am not bringing



any change in the system. This amendment is brought for legal clarity. We have not enabled the Code that repeals these three laws. The government can also do it itself. It is only for bringing legal clarity," he said. He said that in this case, there is no need for scrutiny by the standing committee, and no change has been introduced.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that this reflects poorly on the government, as the

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Revanth Invites Rajnath for Gandhi Sarovar Project Foundation Ceremony

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and invited him for Gandhi Sarovar Project foundation ceremony in the last week of February. He discussed the upcoming Gandhi Sarovar project, which is being undertaken as part of the prestigious Musi River Rejuvenation initiative with him. The Chief Minister explained that the programme will take place at the sacred confluence of the Esa and Musi rivers. He informed the Union Minister that in February 1948, the ashes of Mahatma



Gandhi were immersed at this historic confluence, making the site one of profound national significance.

Revanth Reddy stated that the Gandhi Sarovar Project forms a key component of the State Government's comprehensive Musi River Rejuvenation Project aimed at ecological restoration and sustainable development.

The Chief Minister further shared the Government's vision to develop Babu Ghat into a world-class educational, cultural, spiritual, and environmental landmark, reflecting the ideals and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The Union Defence Minister appreciated the initiative and the efforts being undertaken by the State government.

'15% eyesight remains': Imran Khan's son flags ex-PM's health in Pakistan jail

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Kasim Khan, son of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, has claimed that his father has suffered a severe loss of vision, alleging prolonged solitary confinement and medical neglect during his imprisonment.

"We have been informed that my father, Imran Khan, has lost most of the vision in his right eye, with reports indicating only 15% eyesight remains. This is the direct consequence of 922 days of solitary confinement, medical neglect (denied blood tests) and the deliberate denial of proper treatment in jail," he wrote on X. Khan has re-



mained in solitary confinement at Adiala Jail since September 2023. "The responsibility lies squarely with the regime in power, the Army Chief and the puppets enabling this cruelty. This physical deterioration is happening under their orders, their watch and their responsibility. They have manipulated and warped the justice system in order to keep my father in solitary confinement." "My brother and I are still being denied visas to see our father as his health deteriorates.

Voting ends for Bangladesh general elections

While the polling was largely violence-free, a crude bomb blast was reported from Munshiganj and Gopalganj areas.

DHAKA  
Wakeup telangana

Bangladesh people on Thursday voted in the crucial general elections, marred by sporadic incidents of violence, to elect a new government to replace the interim administration which took charge after the fall of the Awami League regime in August 2024. The voting for the 13th parliamentary elections was held along with a referendum on a complex 84-point reform package. The voting began in 299 out of 300 parliamentary constituencies across the country from 7:30 am (local time)



amid tight security and continued until 4:30 pm. However, in places where voters were inside the polling station, the voting will continue until they vote.

The counting of votes has already begun in many places. The election in one constituency has been cancelled due to the death

of a candidate. The election is seen as a direct contest between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' interim gov-

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ESTD - 1960.

**ASTORIA HOTEL**

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge  
baar baar aaooge

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



# Police Prestige Under Attack, BRS Demands Action Against Congress Leaders

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

BRS State General Secretary Dr. RS Praveen Kumar has demanded the immediate arrest of Congress leaders Jagga Reddy and Dharmapuri Aravind, alleging that the prestige and self-respect of the police have been undermined under the Congress regime in Telangana. He also called for Home Minister Revanth Reddy to resign, accusing the state of being in turmoil under the Chief Minister, who faces 89 criminal cases. The demand comes after municipal elections held yesterday, during which BRS workers were re-



portedly attacked by Congress leaders in Miryalaguda. Praveen Kumar warned that BRS councilor and corporator candidates could be at risk of kidnapping and called for their protection ahead of tomorrow's election results. He highlighted the case of Congress TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy,

who allegedly abused police officers, including Shivakumar Yadav, a gallantry awardee who risked his life confronting the underworld in 2009. Praveen Kumar questioned why non-candidates and rowdies accompanying Jagga Reddy were allowed near polling stations despite

police warnings. He contrasted this with past cases, citing police action against offenders in the Naini Coal Block scam and liquor bottle label contracts, accusing Revanth Reddy of selective law enforcement and revenge-driven SITs. The BRS leader also criticized the state government for ignoring Telangana High Court guidelines on filing illegal cases, while Karnataka adopted them. Additionally, Praveen Kumar accused Revanth Reddy's media officials—Anvesh Reddy, Sriram Karri, and Satash Manne—of spreading false propaganda against BRS and KTR through

offices like Telangana Rising Top Communications and Hyderabad Growth Corridor. Evidence of these activities has been submitted to the state DGP. He condemned the Congress regime for eroding police dignity, treating officers "worse than slaves," and allowing leaders to act with impunity. He called for public boycott of such leaders and emphasized that during KCR's rule, police prestige was upheld with modern infrastructure, patrol cars, She Teams, and increased recruitment, contrasting sharply with the current environment under Revanth Reddy.

# GHMC Panel Allocates Rs.500 Cr to Cyberabad, Malkajgiri Civic Bodies

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) standing committee on Thursday released Rs.500 crore each to Cyberabad and Malkajgiri corporations for carrying out works in their areas as all expenses of the newly created civic bodies will be funded by the GHMC. Jayesh Ranjan, special chief secretary for metropolitan area and urban development (HMDA limits), convened the standing committee meeting — the first after the previous GHMC Council's tenure ended on February 10 — in exercise of his powers of the special officer for the three municipal corporations. The committee also constituted a task force under the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) to ration-



ally allocate assets, liabilities and manpower among the three corporations. "The task force will undertake a detailed study of allocations and agreements and submit recommendations within 10 days," said Jayesh Ranjan. Speaking to reporters at the GHMC head office at Lower Tank Bund, Ranjan expressed confidence in the ability of task force experts to perform their job well. "The members of the task force are experts. These members were part of the state reorganisation cell formed during the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh." On Thursday, the standing committee also met at

the head office of the Cyberabad corporation at Madhapur and at the Malkajgiri Corporation head office at Tarnaka. Ranjan asserted that the three newly-constituted municipal corporations under the Core Urban Region (CURE) framework must strive to deliver responsive and efficient governance to citizens, referring to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's focus on good governance in the CURE region. He directed the three commissioners, additional commissioners, zonal commissioners and senior officials to accelerate development works and enhance civic service delivery. He described the reorganisation as a significant opportunity to bring governance closer to the people and called for visible improvements at the circle and ward levels within six months.

# Road Safety Drive Inspires Students at Begumpet Air Force Station

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

As part of National Road Safety Awareness Month – 2026, a Road Safety Awareness Closing Programme was conducted at Air Force Station, Begumpet, aiming to create awareness among students about traffic discipline, safe road behaviour, and responsible driving. The programme was organized under the guidance of Avinash Mohanty, IPS,



Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri, and supervision of K. Rahul Reddy, IPS, DCP Traffic-I, and A. Laxmi, Addl. DCP

Traffic-I, Malkajgiri. G. Shanker Raju, ACP, Traffic Trimulgherry Division, addressed MT staff and students, emphasizing the importance of helmets, seat belts, zebra crossings, avoidance of underage driving, and reckless behaviour. The national motto "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha" was highlighted, reminding participants that traffic rule compliance protects lives. Students and staff were

sensitized to road signs, traffic signals, pedestrian safety, and the role of young citizens in promoting road safety. The interactive session encouraged participants to become road safety ambassadors in their communities. Authorities appreciated the Traffic Police's efforts, and the programme concluded successfully with active participation and positive feedback, reinforcing safe and responsible road use.

# Telangana to Issue 44,706 Accreditation Cards to Journalists

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

The Telangana government has announced it will issue 44,706 accreditation cards to journalists across the state, nearly doubling the previous limit of 23,000, officials said. Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations, P. Srinivas Reddy, made the announcement after a high-level review meeting



at the Secretariat on Thursday. The cards will be distributed across print, electronic, and digital media, with 16,056 allocated at state and district levels and 28,650 at Assembly constituency

and Mandal levels. The Minister, joined by I&PR Commissioner C.H. Priyanka and Chief Minister's PRO Dr. G. Mal-sur, discussed the updated accreditation process aimed at transparency and

inclusivity. Government Order (GO) 103, which amends the earlier GO 252, reflects consultations with various journalists' associations. Reddy emphasized that the process will continue on an ongoing basis and reiterated the government's commitment to the protection, welfare, and dignity of media professionals, acknowledging their role as the fourth pillar of democracy.

# Cyberabad Police Mark 24th Foundation Day with Youth Cycling Event at Narsingi

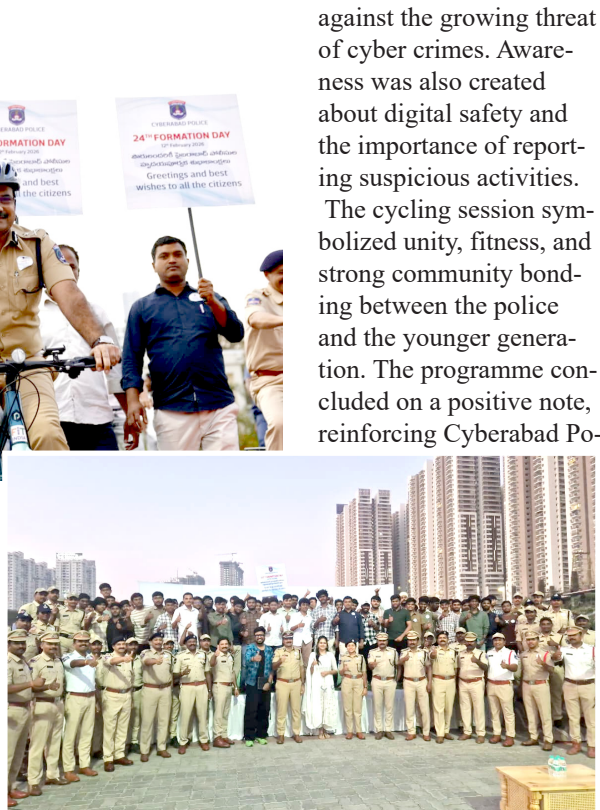
Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh Leads Ride at Narsingi, Urges Youth to Follow Traffic Rules and Stay Alert Against Cyber Crime

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Cyberabad Police marked its 24th Foundation Day by organizing a cycling event with youth at the Narsingi Cycle Track, with Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh personally leading the programme. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from police officials and young citizens. Dr. M. Ramesh cycled alongside Serilingampalli DCP CH Srinivas, Kukatpally DCP Rithiraj, CR Headquarters DCP Sanjeev, SB DCP Sudheendra, Cyber Crimes DCP Sai Manohar, several ADCPs, ACPs, police personnel, and a large number of youth participants. Addressing the gathering, police officials interacted with the youth and highlighted various public



welfare programmes, security initiatives, and community policing efforts undertaken by the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate. They emphasized the importance of building a safe and responsible society through active public participation. The youth were guided on their role as responsible citizens and were urged to respect the rights



of others. Officials advised them to strictly follow traffic rules, avoid intoxicants and harmful substances, and stay alert

against the growing threat of cyber crimes. Awareness was also created about digital safety and the importance of reporting suspicious activities. The cycling session symbolized unity, fitness, and strong community bonding between the police and the younger generation. The programme concluded on a positive note, reinforcing Cyberabad Police's commitment to public safety and youth engagement.

# A 100-Metre Run Helps Cops Catch Jewel Thieves

Special teams from the West Zone task force and Jubilee Hills detective department police lay in wait for 46 hours in freezing temperatures at the Indo-Nepal border and chased two accused, arresting them just about 100 metres from the border in connection with a Rs 1.3-crore robbery of the house of a city-based businessman on Tuesday, sources said on Thursday. Bhupender Shahi and Krishna Chand were arrested for allegedly stealing jewellery worth Rs 1.3 crore from the house of Naveen Ravindra Sharma in Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, on February 5 after sedating the watchman. Jiban Chand, who allegedly planned the robbery, is still at large. Within 24 hours of the February 5 robbery, three police teams were deployed to border check posts at Gorakhpur, Rupaidiha and Sonauli in Uttar Pradesh, following inputs that the accused were attempting to flee to Nepal. The teams coordinated with the Border Security Force (BSF).

# Congress Will Sweep ULB Polls, Revanth Tells Rahul

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has informed the Congress high command that the party was set to secure a decisive victory in the municipal elections, whose results will be announced on Friday. Revanth Reddy, who is in Delhi, met Congress leader and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, and AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal on Thursday. He submitted a report on the party's performance in the gram panchayat elections held in December 2025. The Chief Minister told the central leadership that the Congress had secured around 70 per cent of the seats in the gram panchayat polls and that the Opposition BRS and BJP had failed to make a major impact. He presented detailed reports on the outcome of the local body elections. He also briefed them that elections to 116 municipalities and seven municipal corporations were held on Wednesday and expressed confidence that the Congress would register strong results when votes were counted on Fri-



day. Revanth Reddy attributed the favourable response at the grassroots level to the implementation of key welfare schemes. Rahul Gandhi, Kharge and Venugopal congratulated Revanth Reddy on the party's performance in the local body elections and appreciated the electoral gains. Party leaders said preparations were under way to ensure that the Congress secured the control of municipalities and municipal corporations where the contest was expected to be close and where the party may fall short of a majority by one or two seats. Ex-officio members affiliated to the Congress are expected to play a key role in such urban local bodies (ULBs).

# Kavitha Launches Telangana Jagruthi, Warns of Second Telangana Struggle



**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**  
**santosh chowdary**

Hyderabad's historic RTC Kalyana Mandapam witnessed a massive gathering of Telangana activists today as K. Kavitha launched Telangana Jagruthi, a new movement-based political platform aimed at protecting Telangana's

identity, dignity, and historical consciousness. The event saw participation from over ten activist organizations and several veteran movement leaders. Kavitha criticized successive governments, saying the greatest betrayal after Telangana's formation has been the neglect of movement activists and martyrs' fam-

ilies. While she acknowledged her own limitations within the BRS, she questioned the decade-long inaction of former Chief Minister KCR, asking what justice was delivered to activists despite absolute power. Turning to the current Congress government, she described it as a historic misfortune that a

Chief Minister with no emotional or ideological connection to Telangana ruled the state. She questioned the silence of intellectuals and leaders who previously supported this government, while activists continue to be ignored. Highlighting the erasure of Telangana's heroes, Kavitha condemned the installation of statues of

irrelevant figures while icons like Gaddar, Biruduraju Ramaraju, and Suddala Hanmanthou are overlooked. She outlined Telangana Jagruthi's key initiatives, including official recognition of activists, a statutory welfare board, 20% reservation for youth in private-sector jobs, and health coverage for activists' families.

Issuing a warning ahead of the budget session, she vowed relentless resistance if activists are sidelined again. Kavitha emphasized that dharma stands with justice, not power, and called upon activists to prepare for a renewed phase of struggle inspired by the revolutionary spirit of Chakali Ailamma and Maraju Veeranna.



Power Unions Stage Lunch-Hour Protest Against Electricity (Amendment) Bill

Telangana Power Employees Joint Action Committee held a lunch-hour demonstration at Vidyut Soudha on Thursday, protesting the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and calling it a gateway to power sector privatisation. Committee chairman G. Saibabu, convener P. Rathnakar Rao and secretary-general E. Sridhar, leading the protest, slammed the Bill's proposed multiple licensing policy, claiming it favoured private players while burdening consumers through lost cross-subsidies and tariff hikes for non-profitable users like farmers and households. They warned that the proposed Bill endangered national power security and farmers' relief, echoing All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPF) concerns over threats to public discoms and state autonomy. Key demands include immediate withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill 2025, SHANTI Act 2025, and National Electricity Policy 2026, halting all privatization moves, scrapping smart metering, regularizing contract jobs, urgent taking up of new recruitments and restoring Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Revanth Reddy Asks Centre To Begin Mamnoor Airport Works

CM presses for early works at Mamunur, feasibility study for Kothagudem, approvals for Anthargam, and land handover for Adilabad



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana Zaffer abedi

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday urged Union civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu to develop the proposed Mamnoor airport near Warangal to international standards. As the state government has completed the land acquisition, Revanth Reddy requested the Union minister to commence works immediately. The Chief Minister met the Union minister in his chamber in Parliament and requested that the airport be equipped with cargo services and Maintenance, Repair and Over-

haul (MRO) facilities. He told Ram Mohan Naidu that Warangal is emerging as an industrial hub, particularly in textiles and other sectors, and hosts the Sammakka-Saralamma tribal festival at Medaram, held biennially and considered one of the largest tribal congregations in Asia. He said the Warangal airport would serve the erstwhile districts of Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda and Karimnagar and sought expeditious steps to operationalise flight services from Mamunoor at the earliest. The Chief Minister also requested immediate approvals for the proposed Adilabad airport and in-

formed the Union minister that the state was ready to provide an additional 249.82 acres required for the project. The Telangana government has recently authorised the Adilabad District Collector to acquire 700 acres for the proposed airport. Regarding the proposed airport at Anthargaon in Peddapalli district, the Chief Minister sought early clearances after an earlier feasibility report by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) found the Basanth Nagar site unsuitable due to surrounding hills and overhead high-tension lines that would affect the runway approach. The Peddapalli district collector

subsequently submitted an alternative proposal on November 12, 2024, identifying 591.24 acres in Anthargaon mandal. An AAI team conducted a prefeasibility study at the site on December 3 and 4, 2025, and the report is awaited. For the proposed greenfield airport at Kothagudem in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, where land has been identified at Palvancha, the Chief Minister sought central approval to conduct an Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) survey and a feasibility study. The Union minister assured the Chief Minister that AAI officials would be deputed to take forward steps required for commencement of works at Mamnoor. Lok Sabha MPs Dr Mallu Ravi, Suresh Shetkar, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Dr Kadiyam Kavya, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and M. Anil Kumar Yadav, principal secretary to the Chief Minister K.S. Srinivasa Raju, secretary to the Chief Minister, Manicka Raj, and central schemes Coordinator Dr Gaurav Uppal were present at the meeting.

Telangana Civic Polls: Prohibitory Order at Counting Centers

Following counting of votes for the civic elections will begin at 8 am on Friday for seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities, and all arrangements were in place, the State Election Commission said on Thursday. Police said they had provided three layers of security at the strong rooms and counting centres in 32 districts where counting will be held. Besides, prohibitory orders are in place. State Election Commissioner I. Rani Kumudini said that only counting supervisors, assistants, candidates and their election agents and counting agents will be allowed inside the counting halls. Mobile phones and electronic gadgets are prohibited. "Web-casting arrangements have been made in all the counting centers and outside strong rooms. Initially counting of postal ballots will be taken up. After completion of postal votes, regular ballot papers will be taken up for counting. All ballot boxes of a ward are brought one by one to the counting table," the commissioner said. Explaining the process, Rani Kumudini said ballot papers of polling stations would be bundled into sets of 25. If leftover ballots were fewer than 25, they are made into a separate bundle and labelled with the count. The bundles of all polling stations of the ward will be placed in a drum and mixed. After mixing, detailed scrutiny begins and, in each round, 1,000 ballots (40 bundles x 25 ballots) are randomly taken from the drum and sent to each counting table.

Repeal the Anti-Worker Labour Codes': Dr. Satyam

Dr. Satyam Srirangam Backs Nationwide Strike, Warns of Intensified Protests



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a strong show of solidarity with workers across the country, PCC Member and TPCC Official Spokesperson Dr. Satyam Srirangam demanded the immediate repeal of the four Labour Codes introduced by the Narendra Modi-led Central Government, calling them "a direct assault on workers' rights and job security." Participating in the nationwide general strike organized by central and state trade unions, Dr. Srirangam joined a large protest at Narsapur Crossroads, Balanagar, Kukatpally constituency. The protest was held under the joint leadership of major trade unions including INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, TUCI, TNTUC, BRTU, AIUTUC and the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Labour Cell.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Srirangam stated that consolidating 44 hard-earned labour laws into four Labour Codes weakens trade unions, dilutes job security, and benefits corporate interests over workers. He alleged that the Centre notified these codes during the December 2025 Winter Session and warned that if they are not withdrawn, the government will face continuous nationwide protests. He further demanded restoration of employment and social security protections, strengthening of MGNREGA, halting privatization in LIC, and ensuring equal pay for equal work. The protest concluded with strong slogans against the Central Government's alleged anti-worker policies, with participation from trade union leaders and Congress representatives in large numbers.

Jampana Pratap Urges Meditation for Inner Peace

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap has called on citizens to prioritize mental and physical well-being through meditation. Speaking at the 90th Trimurti Shiva Jayanti celebrations at the Nutan Colony Raja Yoga Meditation Center, he emphasized that true health lies in achieving inner peace, not just the absence of illness. "Residents should dedicate time to morning and evening meditation sessions to rejuvenate mind and body," Mr. Pratap



stated. The event, organized under the guidance of Bahenji Uma, included a formal puja and a discourse on Shiva Jayanti's significance, highlighting nine decades of spiritual service by the Brahma Kumaris. The program attracted strong participation from

local residents and prominent figures, including Santosh, Saritha, Yadagiri S., Bandari Pandari, and Vijayalakshmi. Attendees joined a collective meditation session, reinforcing the message that community well-being begins with individual tranquility.

Fresh Pugmarks Found, Tiger on the Move Again

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The tiger in Siddipet district which since last Sunday had stayed put close to Arepalli in Koheda mandal, is reported to have moved out of its hiding spot along a stream. Forest officials on Friday said that its pugmarks were found some five kilometres away, and heading in a northwesterly direction. The tiger is believed to have headed in the direction of Thangalapalli, after its pugmarks were found near Gundareddipalle, very close to the Sanigaram reservoir. If it continues in the same direction, it could find itself crossing over into Rajanna-Sircilla district. "Unless further evidence of its movements, either more fresh pugmarks are found

or reports of a cattle kill are received, it would be premature to conclude where it might be going, though we all hope that it will go back the way it came," a forest department official said. "Now that it has fed well on the cattle it killed near Arepalli, it might keep going for three or four days," the official said. Meanwhile, the forest department said it was taking all possible steps to keep both people along the route, and the tiger safe, adding that its advisory on safety protocols continued to remain in place. The advisory asks people to stay indoors after dusk, move around in groups and cautioning them against laying any electrified wire traps on the ground in their fields.

Samsung Certifies 2,000 Youth in Karnataka Through Innovation Campus

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Samsung India's flagship Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) certified 2,000 students in Bengaluru, with 1,100 in Artificial Intelligence and 900 in Coding & Programming, strengthening Karnataka's future-ready tech talent. The ceremony at the University of Agricultural Sciences was attended by Karnataka ministers Santosh S. Lad and Byrathi Suresh, Legislative Council Chairperson Basavaraj Horatti, and SP Chun, Corporate VP, Samsung Southwest Asia. The programme provides hands-on, industry-aligned



training and soft skills development to enhance employability. Launched in 2022, SIC operates across 10 states and has 45% women participation, focusing on inclusion and bridging the gap between academics and industry needs. Samsung reaffirmed plans to scale up skilling initiatives in Karnataka, contributing to its na-

tional goal of training 20,000 students in emerging technologies, supporting the Government of India's Skill India Mission. SIC, along with initiatives like Samsung Solve for Tomorrow and Samsung DOST, reflects Samsung's long-term commitment to building India's digital and innovation ecosystem.

NASR Girls School Adopts African Lion at Nehru Zoological Park

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a remarkable step towards wildlife conservation, NASR Girls School, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, has adopted an African lion named Krithin at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, for one year. The school management and students presented a cheque of ₹3 lakhs to J. Vasantha, IFS Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, during a special ceremony held today. The funds for the adoption were raised by NASR Girls School students, staff, and management



through exhibition stalls organized within the school campus. This initiative reflects the students' commitment to environmental responsibility and promoting awareness of wildlife conservation. Nawab Mir Khutubuddin Khan, Chairman of NASR Education Society, expressed his gratitude to

the zoo management for providing an opportunity to adopt a wild species. He also conveyed his happiness in adopting the majestic male African lion, emphasizing that this act fosters a sense of ecological awareness among students and the community. J. Vasantha, IFS Curator, thanked NASR Education Society and the students

of NASR Girls School for their efforts in raising funds through the school exhibition. She highlighted that such initiatives benefit the adopted animals and motivate other schools and students to actively participate in wildlife conservation through the adoption scheme. The adoption of Krithin, aged seven years, marks a significant step in promoting wildlife welfare and inspires young minds to engage in preserving the environment, setting an example for educational institutions across Hyderabad.

Srinivas Goud Calls for Revival of Caste Professions in K'taka

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Former Telangana Minister V Srinivas Goud participated as the chief guest at the concluding meeting of a Padayatra organized by Pranavananda Swamy at Freedom Park, Bangalore. The Padayatra covered 700 kilometers from Sedam to Bangalore, aimed at reviving caste professions in Karnataka. During the event, a memorandum containing key demands was handed over to Karnataka State BC Minister Shivraj Thangadigi, who represented the state government. Goud urged the Karna-



taka government to install a statue of Narayana Guru in the premises of the Karnataka Vidhan Sabha and release Rs 500 crore immediately to the Narayana Guru Trust. He also called for reservations in wine shops in Karnataka, similar to Telangana. Highlighting regional disparities, he said that separate policies are being implemented in Mangalore, Bangalore, and Gulbarga regions,

and appropriate funds must be allocated for balanced development across the state. Goud emphasized that caste practices should be revived in Karnataka, drawing parallels with Telangana, where such practices were restored under the leadership of former Chief Minister KCR after statehood. He stated that during Telangana's 10 years of governance, agriculture and caste practices were re-

vived, significantly increasing wealth in Telangana-Karnataka border areas. He warned that backward areas in Hyderabad state regions of Karnataka, including Kalyana, Kalaburgi, Bidar, Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal, Bellary, and Vijayanagara, remain neglected in agriculture, caste, and development. Without proper funding, these regions could mobilize a movement similar to Telangana to achieve their demands. The program was also attended by Pranavananda Swamy, Karnataka State BC Minister, and other dignitaries.



# Ukrainian Heraskevych Out Of The Games For Helmet Depicting War Dead

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Ukraine's skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych was ejected from the Winter Games on Thursday over his "helmet of remembrance" depicting athletes killed since Russia's invasion despite a personal appeal from the International Olympic Committee head. The 27-year-old, who had been training in Italy with the helmet showing two dozen dead compatriots, was barred and stripped of his accreditation minutes before competition was due to start at the sliding venue. "I am disqualified from the race. I will not get my Olympic moment," said

Heraskevych, who according to the IOC would have been in contravention of the Olympic Charter's rule 50.2 keeping politics off the fields of play. "They were killed, but their voice is so loud that the IOC is afraid of them." His team said they would appeal the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. IOC President Kirsty Coventry arrived in the early morning near the start gate and met with Heraskevych prior to the decision. She choked up with tears when telling reporters how she was unable to broker a solution. "I thought it was really important to come here and talk to him face-to-

face," she said after the meeting that lasted about 10 minutes. "No one, especially me, is disagreeing with the messaging, it's a powerful message, it's a message of remembrance, of memory." The IOC had suggested compromises including wearing a black armband or showing the helmet before and after racing. "Sadly we've not been able to find that solution. I really wanted to see him race. It's been an emotional morning," Coventry said. "It's literally about the rules and the regulations and that in this case... we have to be able to keep a safe environment for everyone and sadly, that just means no messaging is allowed." It

is not the first time the IOC has sanctioned an athlete for a political message. The most famous case was at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City when U.S. sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised black-gloved fists during the 200m medal ceremony to protest about racial injustice in the United States. That led to their expulsion from the Games, although Smith kept his gold medal and Carlos his bronze. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, Afghan breakdancer Manizha Talash, a member of the refugee Olympic team, was disqualified after wearing a cape with the slogan "Free Afghan Women"

during a pre-qualifying competition. "If we allow one athlete this expression... it will lead to chaos," IOC spokesperson Mark Adams told a press conference. UKRAINE PLANS PROTEST Ukraine's Olympic Committee said it was planning some sort of protest but would not boycott the Games. "We will correct this mistake through legal channels. Vladyslav, you acted with dignity. This story will definitely continue. We stand with you," Ukraine Youth and Sports Minister Matvii Bidnyi wrote on X. Ukrainian team members were seen in tears and hugging each other after the decision.

# Parliament Approves Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Parliament on Thursday passed the Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with an aim to bring legal clarity. Piloting the bill, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the Rajya Sabha said, "When the Industrial Relations Code of 2020 was passed, the three Acts were subsumed in that". He informed the House that those three laws were the Trade Union Act 1926, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946 and Industrial Dispute Act 1947. He explained that the government has the power to repeal these three laws, and there is no dispute in this. "I am not bringing any change in the system. This

amendment is brought for legal clarity. We have not enabled the Code that repeals these three laws. The government can also do it itself. It is only for bringing legal clarity," he said. He said that in this case, there is no need for scrutiny by the standing committee, and no change has been introduced. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that this reflects poorly on the government, as the amendment is brought so late and the government is doing so after the apex court asked it to do so. He said that his party supports the bill. The other members who spoke on the bill in the Rajya Sabha are Dola Sen (TMC), V Sivadasan (CPI-M), M Thambidurai (AIADMK), Niranjan Bishi (BJD), A R Reddy

Alla (YSRCP) and R Girirajan (DMK). The bill was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Earlier in the day, the bill was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha also. The bill would help avoid any "future unwarranted complication" over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the Industrial Relations Code of 2020. Replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Bill, Mandaviya said the four Labour Codes implemented nearly three months ago ensure a guarantee of minimum wage. These Codes also ensure compulsory issuance of appointment letters, as well as uniform wages for the same work irrespective of gender, he said.

# Bangladesh polls 'well-planned farce', low turnout shows rejection: Sheikh Hasina

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday issued a statement through the Bangladesh Awami League thanking citizens for what she described as rejecting a "so-called election" organised under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus, while alleging widespread irregularities and low voter participation. Hasina criticised the poll, saying it failed to uphold democratic norms and constitutional principles. "Today's so-called election by Yunus, who seized power illegally and unconstitutionally, was essentially a well-planned farce," reads the statement shared on



Bangladesh Awami League's X handle. "The people's voting rights, democratic values, and the spirit of the Constitution were completely disregarded in this deceptive, voterless election conducted without the Awami League." The statement alleged that the process was marred by incidents including "seizure of polling centers, gunfire, vote-buying, distribution of money, [and] stamping of ballots" beginning on the evening of February 11.

Hasina further claimed that by the morning of February 12, "voter turnout was negligible in most polling centers nationwide," with some centres reporting no voters. Citing figures attributed to the Election Commission, the Awami League said turnout stood at 14.96% by 11 a.m. — around three and a half hours after voting began. "This extremely low turnout clearly shows that the Awami League-free election was widely rejected by

the people," the statement added. Hasina also alleged that Awami League supporters and minority communities faced "continuous attacks, arrests, intimidation, and fear" in the days preceding the vote. The statement raised concerns over "abnormal increases in voter numbers," particularly in Dhaka, calling the matter "highly suspicious." The Awami League demanded cancellation of the election, Yunus's resignation, the release of political prisoners, withdrawal of what it described as false cases, revocation of restrictions on party activities, and the holding of "free, fair, and inclusive elections under a neutral caretaker government."

# Bangladesh Deal Shows How India Can Lose Digital Sovereignty to US

DHAKA  
Wakeup telangana

If the US goes by the template set for the trade deals with its partners, including Bangladesh, India will end up losing its data and digital sovereignty. Bangladesh has allowed free transfer of data to the US, agreed not to impose digital services tax while cooperating with the US to regulate the trade in national security sensitive technologies and goods. As per the trade deal signed by the two countries, Bangladesh shall not impose digital services taxes, or similar taxes, that discriminate against US companies in law or in fact. Bangladesh shall facilitate digital trade with the United States, by refraining from measures that discriminate against US digital products; ensuring



the free transfer of data across trusted borders for the conduct of business; and collaborating with the United States to address cybersecurity challenges. If Bangladesh enters into a new digital trade agreement with a country that jeopardizes essential US interests, the United States may, if consultations with Bangladesh fail to resolve its concerns, terminate the trade agreement and reimpose the applicable reciprocal tariff rate set on April 2, 2025. Bangladesh shall cooperate with the United States to regulate the trade in national security sensitive technologies and goods through existing multilateral

export control regimes. It will harmonize Bangladesh's export control regime with U.S. export controls on such technologies and goods and ensure that Bangladeshi companies do not backfill or undermine these controls. Bangladesh shall not impose customs duties on electronic transmissions, including content transmitted electronically from the US. Bangladesh shall cooperate in a manner consistent with, and permitted by, applicable requirements of domestic law, with the United States with a view to restricting transactions that would be violations of U.S. sanctions or export controls if they occurred in the United States or by a US person. Bangladesh shall cooperate in providing information about inbound investment with a view to

ward increasing transparency and experience sharing with the United States on economic and national security matters. If the United States determines that Bangladesh is cooperating to address shared national and economic security issues, the United States may take such cooperation into account in administering its laws and regulations pertaining to export controls, investment reviews, and other measures. "The possibility to impose similar controls on India are visible in the statement on the interim framework of the India-US trade deal, though in a cryptic way. India will have to be cautious about this and not let the US take away India's data and digital security," said Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI.

# AAIB rejects reports claiming 'intentional act' behind Air India crash: 'Speculative'

MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Thursday dismissed as "incorrect and speculative" reports claiming that the investigation into the Air India Flight AI-171 crash has been finalised. The central agency said that the investigation into the Air India crash is still in progress and no final conclusions have been reached. The response from AAIB, which is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, comes a day after Italian newspaper, Corriere della Sera, denied any technical fault in the aircraft's fuel switches and suggested an "intentional act" behind turning off the fuel switches of the Air India Flight 171. The Italian report, citing sources in western aviation agencies, said that the probe into the crash is heading towards its completion and that the plane



crashed because one of the pilots turned off the two fuel switches. The AAIB clarified that the claim that the probe into the crash has been finalised are incorrect and speculative. "The investigation is still in progress. No final conclusions have been reached," it added. Air India flight 171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, crashed near Ahmedabad airport on June 12, 2025, shortly after take-off, killing 260 people — 241 of the 242 on board — when the aircraft plummeted onto a medical student hostel 32 seconds after losing thrust from both engines. The investigation body referred to its preliminary report on the crash, saying, "The Final Investigation

Report, containing conclusions and safety recommendations, will be published upon completion of the investigation in line with established international norms." In its preliminary 15-page report, published a month after the crash, the AAIB provided the details the final moments of the crash, without providing the cause behind the simultaneous dual-engine failure. The report said that the fuel cutoff switches was shifted from the 'RUN' position to the 'CUTOFF' position almost simultaneously, within a second of each other. According to the report, one pilot was heard asking the other on the cockpit voice recording, "Why did you cut off?" The other pilot responded, "I did not do so. However, the mystery remains of what led to the two engines losing fuel simultaneously."

## Seattle to Pay 260.....

Kandula's death ignited outrage and demonstrations, particularly after a recording from another officer's body camera surfaced in which the officer laughed and suggested Kandula's life had "limited value" and the city should "just write a check." Diplomats from India sought an investigation. The city's civilian watchdog found the comments by Officer Daniel Auderer, who was a union leader, damaged the department's reputation and undermined public trust. Auderer was later fired and has sued the city for wrongful termination. He said his remarks were intended to criticize how attorneys were likely to respond to the death. The police department also fired the driving officer, who was cited for negligent driving and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine. King County prosecutors declined to file felony charges against him, saying they could not prove he was deliberately disregarding safety when he struck Kandula. About \$20 million of the settlement is expected to be covered by the city's insurance. It may be recalled that Kandula Jaahnavi, 23, from Andhra Pradesh, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Of-

ficer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street in Seattle on January 23, 2023. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 km/h) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. She was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle. The police officer who killed Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula in January 2023 when the patrol vehicle he was driving struck her, has been fired from the police department, officials said. The development comes months after another Seattle police officer Daniel Auderer was fired following his insensitive comments and laughter after Kandula's death.

## Voting Ends in.....

The election is seen as a direct contest between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' interim government last year disbanded the Awami League and barred it from contesting the polls. BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, who cast his vote at the Gulshan Model School and College centre in Dhaka's upscale Gulshan area,

said the poll results will be accepted if the election is held in a free, fair and neutral manner. "If the election is held in a free, fair, impartial manner and without controversy, then why shouldn't we accept it? We will accept it. However, of course, there is one condition that the election must be impartial and peaceful. If the people cast their votes, there can be a democratic beginning in the country from today," he said. Shafiqur Rahman, the chief of right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami which is leading an 11-party alliance, cast his vote at the Monipur Uchcha Vidyalaya and College. He said his party would accept the election results if the polls were held in a free and neutral manner. "We want the results that will come through a fair process. If the vote is free and impartial, we will accept the outcome. Others must also accept it."

## Rafale Deal.....

The Rafale is a highly capable multi-role fighter jet developed by France's Dassault Aviation. It combines advanced avionics, powerful radar and sensor systems, electronic warfare capabilities, and the ability to carry a wide range of precision weapons. It is designed to handle air-to-air

Mysore Sandal..... combat, deep strike missions against ground targets, reconnaissance, and deterrence roles. Because the IAF already operates Rafales and has experience with their training, maintenance and support systems, bringing more of the same aircraft into service will be faster and more efficient than introducing a completely new type. The Rafale has already demonstrated strong performance in real operations. IAF leaders have noted that these jets were among the most effective platforms in recent exercises and missions, showing the type's speed, reach and flexible combat abilities. This real-world performance reinforces why the service sees Rafale as a valuable addition to its fleet. With the new deal, India is set to expand its Rafale fleet substantially. A significant portion of the 114 jets are planned to be delivered in a "fly-away" condition, while the rest will be assembled in India under the Make in India initiative, with a high degree of local content. This approach not only strengthens operational capability but also supports domestic defence industry and manufacturing.

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 Bhath, 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 contacted 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 organisers. 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 possession. According to Mohammed Iqbal Siddiqui, additional DCP (Task Force, WZ–SZ), the accused 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 (absconding) to convince Ismail to begin peddling the contraband in the twin cities, Siddiqui said. Ismail, who had recently lost his job, came to the city with his wife in November and was staying in Medchal. Rinita visited Maniel’s house and proposed selling ganja in Hyderabad, to which Ismail agreed, the officer added.

HC Reserves Verdict in TGPSC B-Tech Eligibility Row

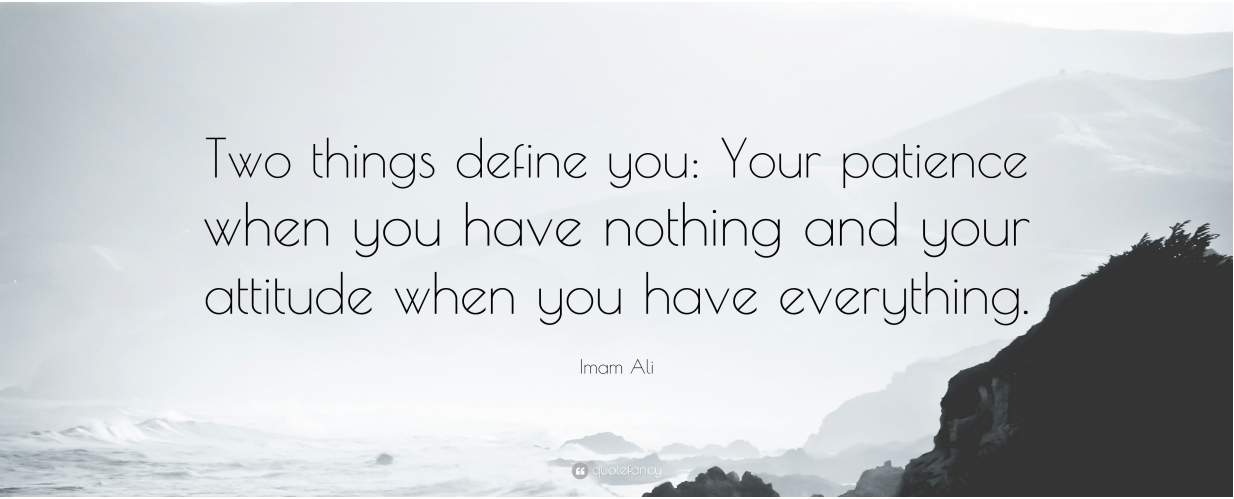
**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court reserved its verdict 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 candidature of B-Tech (Computer Science) graduates for the posts of mandal planning and statistical officer/assistant statistical officer. The panel, comprising Chief Justice Apares Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin,

was dealing with a writ appeal in relation to the eligibility for the posts. The dispute originated from a 2018 notification 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 proceedings, the single judge ruled in favour of the candidates, observing that studying the subject as a core component of a B-Tech course satisfies the educational

criteria. Counsel for the appellant, TGPSC, contended that the recruitment process was conducted in a transparent manner and in strict compliance with the governing rules and regulations. He further argued that the qualifications explicitly require candidates to have studied statistics as a subject for one year, two years or all three years of the degree 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 additional eligibility criteria through a memo after the notification was issued and the examination 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 disqualified. After hearing arguments at length, the panel reserved its orders.



EDITORIAL

CRICKET WINS AS PAK AGREES TO PLAY INDIA IN T20 WC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Having run a soap opera out of their boycott threat for more than a week, Pakistan did a U-turn in opting to keep all its engagements in the T20 World Cup, paying the way for the India match on Sunday that has become a showpiece of international white ball cricket. The drama of India-Pakistan cricket matches which boil over with the jingoistic elements of tribalism will continue, much to the delight of global cricket fans.

Cricket, specifically the T20 World Cup, is the winner but only because of its financial clout. Pakistan would have been hard put to it to absorb the huge losses from a partial boycott that may have brought financial sanctions from the ICC besides the threat of being sued by the broadcasters for a staggering loss of revenue as each India-Pakistan en-

counter is said to be worth around Rs 4,500 crore. It is a fair call that the game should go on even if it becomes so in this case only because a morally as well as financially bankrupt Pakistan could not sustain the illogic for too long of pulling out of an India match at a neutral venue just to show solidarity with Bangladesh. The latter may have nursed a grievance of not being granted the same privilege of playing their cricket against India in a third Asian country and so had to withdraw from the competition.

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

India spilling over into the sporting arena. And Pakistan, 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 financial loss and the privilege of being at the elite table of the game. International cricket, with its multi-billion broadcasting and streaming rights is big business and it is the financial clout of the ICC, buttressed by India’s ability to attract huge rights revenues, that may have thrust this decision on the state-controlled.



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# Sensex falls 558 points on sell-off in IT shares; TCS tumbles over 5 pc

**NEW DELHI**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Benchmark BSE Sensex fell 558 points on Thursday amid heavy selling in IT shares, as concerns over AI-led disruptions and waning hopes of a Fed rate cut after firm US economic data weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 558.72 points, or 0.66 per cent, to settle at 83,674.92. During the day, it tanked 716.97 points, or 0.85 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 83,516.67. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 146.65 points, or 0.57 per cent, to end at 25,807.20. Technology stocks led the slide, with Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Tata Consultancy



Services (TCS) tumbling nearly 6 per cent each to emerge as major laggards on the Sensex. HCL Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Eternal, HDFC Bank, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Adani Ports also ended in the red. On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Trent, Bharat Electronics

Ltd, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel were among the gainers. BSE MidCap Select Index fell 0.48 per cent, while SmallCap Select Index slipped 0.28 per cent. Among sectoral indices, Focussed IT slumped the most by 5.40 per cent, followed by IT by 5.29 per cent. Realty also fell by 1.50

per cent, Oil & Gas and Energy fell by 1.18 per cent each, Services by 0.81 per cent, FMCG by 0.43 per cent, Consumer Discretionary by 0.38 per cent and Commodities by 0.32 per cent on the BSE. However, Financial Services, Industrials, Telecommunication, Capital Goods, Consumer Durables, BSE Top 10 Banks were the only gainers. A total of 2,582 stocks declined, while 1,634 advanced and 152 remained unchanged on the BSE. Shares of TCS tumbled 5.41 per cent, dragging its market capitalisation below the Rs 10 lakh crore mark for the first time. At the end of the trading session, the company's market valuation stood at Rs 9,95,661.50

crore, pushing it down to the sixth spot among the country's most valuable listed companies. ICICI Bank, whose shares gained nearly 2 per cent during the day overtook TCS to claim the fifth position in the list of India's top 10 most valuable listed firms. "Expect markets to remain range-bound with stock-specific activity as the Q3 earnings season ends. Markets would now look at other triggers including global and domestic inflation, trade developments, and FII flows, while AI-related disruptions could add to volatility," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

# Stock Markets Decline in Early Trade, Dragged by IT Firms

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

A sharp sell-off hit Indian IT stocks amid rising concerns that AI-driven automation could disrupt traditional IT services models. Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Thursday, dragged down by heavy losses in IT stocks such as Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services amid weak cues from US markets. Extending the previous day's decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 421.66 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 83,811.98 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty fell 121.10 points, or 0.47 per cent, to 25,832.75. Analysts said rising

crude oil prices also added to the cautious sentiment among investors. Among the Sensex constituents, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, Adani Ports, IndiGo, Maruti Suzuki India and Sun Pharmaceuticals were the laggards. On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Tata Steel, NTPC, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers. Among sectoral indices, the IT pack slumped the most, diving 3.95 per cent, while the Focussed IT index declined 3.87

per cent on the BSE. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Tech stocks, reeling under the 'Anthropic shock', are unlikely to recover soon. The sharp dip in the ADRs of top Indian IT companies in the US on Wednesday, indicates that Indian IT will continue to struggle. The switch from IT to other segments will help performing stocks in performing sectors". In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi advanced over 2 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index were also traded in the positive territory, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was quoting in the red zone.

# India Sticks to E-Cigarette Ban in Snub for Philip Morris

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

India has ruled out relaxation of a ban on e-cigarettes that would have allowed heat-not-burn tobacco products, dealing a blow to a lengthy private lobbying campaign by Philip Morris International for New Delhi to permit such devices. India banned e-cigarettes, including heated tobacco products, in 2019. With more than 100 billion cigarettes sold annually, it is the seventh-largest cigarette market by volume, where tobacco kills more than a million people a year. The world's most valuable tobacco firm, Philip Morris had hoped India could be a key market for its heated tobacco device, IQOS, which the company says is less harmful to health than smoking. "The government of India is not considering revoking, amending or relaxing



this ban," the health ministry said in response to Reuters queries about the lobbying by Philip Morris. "India remains committed to evidence-based tobacco control and cessation measures," it said in a statement, adding that the law on e-cigarettes explicitly prohibits heat-not-burn devices, and that situation will stay. A Reuters review of confidential company letters from 2021 to 2025 shows the Marlboro-maker privately lobbied top Indian officials and a parliamentary panel to consider the science behind devices like IQOS, research it and exempt heat-not-burn products from the ban. Philip Morris executives also met many state government officials in Davos in

January to discuss how the company can create long-term value in the tobacco sector, using products such as IQOS, photographs on LinkedIn show. A spokesperson for Philip Morris did not comment on the ministry's statement, but said it "regularly engages with governments around the world, including at major international forums such as Davos, to discuss how smoke-free products can greatly advance public health." Reuters is the first to report India's decision and details of Philip Morris' lobbying. In an interview with Reuters on Friday, Jacek Olczak, the firm's chief executive, said he had engaged with various people in India, adding that it was "illogical" for the market to be closed to smoking alternatives such as heated tobacco and vapes, but not cigarettes.

# Amazon Prime Delivered Fastest Delivery Speeds with savings for customers in 2025

Amazon continues to see more than 70% of new Prime member signups from non-metro cities of India, with members shopping five times more frequently than non-Prime members.

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Amazon today announced that 2025 marked its fastest delivery speeds for Prime members with more than 55 crore products being delivered the same or next day—a 40% year-on-year increase. Prime members in India also saved an average of more than twice the cost of an annual Prime membership in 2025, underscoring the value Prime delivers to customers across the country. With the top 10% of Prime members saving more than eight times the cost of their Prime membership, Prime in India is helping customers save even more through free



and fast delivery along with multiple rewards, exclusive deals, offers and cashbacks when they shop on Amazon.in. Beyond fast deliveries and great deals, Prime membership unlocks a world of benefits—early access to new product launches, award-winning shows and movies on Prime Video, unlimited music streaming, exciting gaming perks, and curated reading content. Amazon continues to see more

than 70% of new Prime member signups from non-metro cities of India, with members shopping five times more frequently than non-Prime members. Amazon also offers its ultra-fast delivery service Amazon Now in parts of Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai with delivery within minutes, with Prime members tripling their shopping frequency once they start using the service. "Our customers

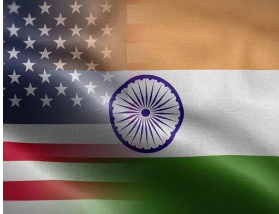
are at the centre of everything we do, and it's incredibly humbling to see how Prime has become a meaningful part of their everyday lives" said Abhinav Agarwal - Director and Head of Prime, Amazon India. "Whether it's a last-minute essential, a planned purchase or entertainment the whole family can enjoy, Prime is designed to deliver speed, unmatched value and convenience. We're excited to continue innovating on behalf of our customers and offer disproportionate benefits to our members through faster deliveries across the country, access to the best deals and widest selection, more content and entertainment options, and exclusive benefits

that make every day more convenient and rewarding for Prime members." The growing adoption of Prime is underpinned by Amazon's sustained investments in its logistics and delivery network, aimed at strengthening speed and selection for customers across India. As part of its commitment to building and operating India's safest, fastest and most reliable operations network, Amazon India invested over INR 2000 crore in 2025. The investment is being used to expand and upgrade operations infrastructure, improve associate safety and well-being, and develop new tools and technology for its operations network.

# MEA avoids direct answer on US claim linking Russian oil to trade deal

**MUMBAI**  
**Wakeup telangana**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday, February 12, again denied the United States's claims that India will stop buying Russian oil as part of a broader India-US trade. This comes a day after US Assistant Secretary of State S Paul Kapur reiterated the remarks made by President Donald Trump and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, saying India will reduce Russian oil imports as part of the broader trade arrangement. "They (India) have actually been buying more US energy and, I think, that's a promising possibility to substitute some US energy for the Russian energy and buying from other parts of the world," Kapur had said. In a recent call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President



Trump agreed to remove an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports if India "is committed to stop purchasing Russian Federation oil." Not answering in a firm yes or no, Jaiswal said its joint statement with the US remains the basis for a proposed interim trade agreement, and that the amendments in a White House fact sheet reflect the shared understandings. "The joint statement is the framework and remains the basis of our mutual understanding in the matter. Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the interim agreement," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

# False and incorrect: Congress accuses Sitharaman of distorting Bali WTO record

**MUMBAI**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Congress leader Anand Sharma slammed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday for criticising India's stand at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in 2013 during the UPA rule, and accused her of "deliberately misinforming" Parliament to justify the "sellout" interim trade deal with the US. Just for political gains, Sitharaman was misleading the nation and making an "orchestrated claim" that the UPA government "sold out" India's food security at the WTO meeting in Bali, the former commerce minister alleged in a statement. "It is unfortunate and shocking that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has deliberately misinformed the Parliament on the agreements reached at the ninth WTO Ministerial meeting in Bali in December 2013." In her desperation to justify and defend the sellout interim trade deal with the US,



she has levelled an unfair allegation that the Congress-led UPA government had sold out India's right to food security at the WTO meeting in Bali. This is false and incorrect and contradicts the facts on record and WTO's official statement," Sharma said. Claiming that the finance minister made the claim for political gains, he asserted that the "issue of public stockholding for food security was actually forced by India at the Bali Ministerial meeting and the same were secured and protected". Sitharaman, on Wednesday, launched a blistering attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, saying that it was the Congress-led UPA government which surrendered India's interest before international orga-

nisations, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and "sold" the interest of the poor and farmers. She alleged that it was the Congress which not only sold the interest of the poor and the farmers, but the country itself. The fact is that it was India's strong and uncompromising stance that forced the issue of procurement of food grains for public stock holding and livelihood on the Bali WTO agenda despite stiff opposition from the US, the European Union, the Cairns group and developed nations. "India fought tenaciously and succeeded in putting together a global coalition of developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. That forced the developed countries to cede ground, agree to negotiate a permanent solution to change the dated WTO rules, which India rejected at Bali as inherently flawed and unjust.

# Gold, silver slip as dollar strengthens on firm US jobs data

**NEW DELHI**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Gold and silver prices dipped moderately on Thursday, as the US dollar strengthened. MCX gold April futures dipped 0.24 per cent to Rs 1,58,371 per 10 grams on an intra-day basis. Meanwhile MCX silver March futures declined 0.72 per cent to Rs 2,61,124 per kg. The dollar index surged to 96.94 on Thursday from 96.83 in the previous session, due to strong jobs data from the US that suggested underlying economic health. A stronger dollar made greenback-priced bullion more expensive for other currency holders. Analysts said that US job growth unexpectedly accelerated in January and the unemployment rate fell to 4.3 per cent, signs of labour market stability that could give the Fed room to keep interest rates



unchanged for some time while policymakers monitor inflation. "The largest increase in payrolls in 13 months likely exaggerates the labour market's health, as revisions showed the economy added only 1,81,000 jobs in 2025 instead of the previously estimated 5,84,000," said Manav Modi, commodities analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial services Ltd. Earlier, in international commodity markets, gold and silver prices had inched up amidst rising geopolitical uncertainties. After talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump informed that a "definitive" agreement was not reached on

how to move forward with Iran. However, he added that negotiations with Tehran would continue. "Gold has support at Rs 1,56,000 while resistance at Rs 1,60,500," an analyst said. COMEX Gold traded within the \$5000-\$5,150 band after witnessing a sharp correction from highs near \$5,500-\$5,600. The broader uptrend remains intact, and the recent pullback appears to be healthy profit booking rather than structural weakness, market participants said. COMEX Silver is currently trading in the \$80-\$87 zone after a steep correction from record highs above \$121. The medium to long-term outlook remains constructive, supported by structural supply constraints and steady industrial demand, though volatility remains elevated, analysts said.



# Tamannaah becomes face of Mysore sandal soap amid ‘non-Kannadiga’ row

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia formally took on her role as the brand ambassador of KSDL, amid objections from some persons, including a BJP MP, who questioned the rationale behind picking a non-Kannada speaking actor to represent the famous Mysore Sandal Soap. The government defended its pick, saying Bhatia was selected based on merit and business considerations. As part of efforts to strengthen the market presence of products manufactured by the State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), an organisation with a legacy of more than a century, the two-year tenure of Bhatia as the company's brand ambassador commenced from Tuesday. As part of the occasion, at an event held here,



Bhatia unveiled 57 products of the organisation, including Mysore Sandal Soap, which has now been introduced in a refreshed and contemporary packaging. The products that have received innovative packaging include sandalwood oil, jasmine-scented soaps, perfumes, toothpaste, coconut oil, petro-

leum jelly and organic products, taking the total product portfolio to nearly 60 offerings. With this launch, KSDL's future roadmap was clearly outlined. Several advertisements featuring Bhatia were also released on the occasion. Additionally, two coffee table books chronicling the organisation's rich

legacy—Sugandha Siri and Aromatic Journeys—were unveiled. Speaking on the occasion, Bhatia said, "Mysore Sandal Soap is not just a soap. It is deeply associated with emotions, childhood memories and nostalgia. It represents a perfect blend of purity and authenticity. Mysore Sandal Soap holds a special place in people's hearts, and I consider it a privilege to be associated with this institution as its brand ambassador. Meanwhile, several people took to 'X' criticising the state government's decision, choosing Bhatia as the brand ambassador for the state's iconic band, over Kannada actors. BJP MP from Chikkaballapura and former state Minister K Sudhakar asked, "Couldn't the traitorous Congress government in the state find Kannada

film stars." "Although many stars from our own Karnataka were eligible to be appointed as brand ambassadors for Karnataka's famous international brand Mysore Sandal Soap, a film actress from another state, from another language has been appointed as the brand ambassador by paying crores of rupees. This is yet another proof of the Congress party's anti-Kannada mentality," he slammed in a post on 'X'. "Kannada film stars like Ramya, Rashmika Mandanna, Srinidhi Shetty, Pooja Hegde, Rukmini Vasanth and many other actresses have become popular and are in demand in the film industry of many other languages. They have raised the banner of Kannada fame at the national and international levels," Sudhakar said.

## ‘Why denigrate a section of society’: SC raps Netflix film ‘Ghooskhor Pandat’

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on the makers of the upcoming Netflix film “Ghooskhor Pandat” over its allegedly derogatory title, observing that freedom of speech and expression cannot be used as a licence to denigrate a section of society. A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to the Centre, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), and filmmaker Neeraj Pandey on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a stay on the release of the film, and posted the matter for further hearing on February 19. During the hearing, the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench took strong excep-



tion to the title of the movie, remarking that such nomenclature could disturb social harmony. “Why should you denigrate a section of society by using such a title? Freedom of speech and expression does not mean you can portray a community in a bad light,” it observed. The Supreme Court further indicated that it would not permit the release of the film unless the title was changed. “We will not allow you to release the film unless you tell us that the title has been changed,” the bench

told the filmmaker. Observing that names of this nature could create unrest in the country, it said: “Such names can create disturbance in the country when there is already so much unrest. When there are so many fissures in society, how can we remain silent spectators?” The PIL before the Supreme Court alleged that the film’s title and storyline promote caste- and religion-based stereotyping and hurt the dignity and religious sentiments of the Brahmin community. It contended that equating the caste identifier “Pandit” with “ghooskhor” (bribe-taker) creates a defamatory stereotype against an identifiable community and violates Articles 14, 19(2), 21, 25 and 51A(e) of the Constitution.

## Tension brews on Alpha sets as Alia Bhatt, Bobby Deol clash: Report

CHENNAI Wakeup telangana

YRF’s Alpha is currently one of the most awaited Hindi spy-action thrillers and is set for a theatrical release on April 17, 2026. The film marks the first female-led project in the YRF Spy Universe and stars Alia Bhatt and Sharvari as super-agents, with Bobby Deol playing the main antagonist. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film is now in its final stages of production.



However, just weeks before release and during the last leg of shooting, reports suggest that there was tension on the sets. According to industry

buzz, a cold war reportedly developed between Alia Bhatt and Bobby Deol. While Bobby had earlier shared a friendly rapport with Ranbir Kapoor during the filming of Animal, sources claim the same chemistry did not translate while working with Alia on Alpha. According to a latest Deccan Chronicle report, disagreements arose due to Alia’s habit of offering creative inputs during scenes, including those involving Bobby. The senior

actor is said to have objected to these suggestions after a point, leading to friction on set. The situation reportedly escalated to the extent that producer Aditya Chopra had to step in to ensure the shoot was completed smoothly. Apart from Alia and Sharvari, Alpha also features Anil Kapoor in a pivotal role. Produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Shiv Rawail, the espionage thriller remains on track for its April 17, 2026 release.

DUBAI Wakeup telangana

In a remarkable stroke of luck, a 79-year-old Dubai-based Indian businessman and Bollywood producer Rajan Lall won a staggering US dollars one million (Rs 9,05,75,608) after a 25-year wait in the latest Dubai Duty-Free (DDF) Millennium Millionaire draw. Rajan Lall secured the windfall in Millennium Millionaire Series 535 with ticket number 3099, which he purchased



at Concourse D on January 30 while travelling to Mumbai. Lall, who celebrated his 79th birthday on February 6, said he had been consistently buying a Dh1,000 ticket almost

every time he travelled since 2000 — sometimes two to three times a month. He was in Saudi Arabia when he received the news of his win. “Darling, when was life ever fair! ... But what makes you think I don’t need the money?” he told Gulf News, adding that he has not yet decided how he will use the prize money and is instead looking forward to the upcoming India-Pakistan cricket clash.

# India overpower Namibia ahead of Pakistan clash

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

Sanju Samson disappointed again, Ishan Kishan dazzled and his mentor Hardik Pandya entertained, but India’s 93-run victory over Namibia here on Thursday was not exactly the box office hit one expected ahead of a tense T20 World Cup face-off against Pakistan. The victory felt less like an assurance and more like the calm before the cricketing tempest with Pakistan lying in wait. The margin of victory, India’s highest in a T20 World Cup, did not depict the entire picture as little-known Namibian captain Gerhard Erasmus came out as a surprise package by taking 4 for 20 in India’s final total of 209 for 9, despite Kishan’s smashing 24-ball 61 and Pandya’s 52 off 28 balls. In reply, the Namibian batting unit struggled against the kind of attack that they hardly get to play, as the innings ended on 116 in 18.2 overs. Varun Chakravarthy (3/7 in 2 overs) and Pandya (2/21 in 4 overs) shared the bulk of the spoils and India now need just one more win in their next two games to qualify for the Super Eights. Why India’s batting show, despite a 200-plus score, would be considered below par is because of the Namibian skipper. Erasmus’ side-arm action created considerable discomfort for the Indian batters, including Kishan, Pandya and Tilak Varma, as he also bowled from behind the crease at times. The 24 deliveries that Erasmus bowled were certainly an eye opener for the Indian batters as to what they can expect from Paki-



stan’s Usman Tariq, who would pose even more probing questions on a tackier Premadasa track in Colombo. When Namibia batted, they used the long handle to good effect but one always knew that it was just a matter of time before Chakravarthy and Axar Patel (2/20) came and demolished them in unison. Earlier, Samson’s three-sixes innings was akin to a short-lived Instagram reel but Kishan’s batting was a gripping web series, full of drama, action and anticipation. Kishan muscled five sixes and half a dozen boundaries for a 20-ball 50 that set the foundation for a marauding Pandya (52 off 28 balls) to take the team to a total that looked beyond the reach of this Namibian batting line-up. However, Erasmus gave a fantastic account of himself and would certainly keep Pakistan’s Tariq interested come Sunday. Erasmus bowled side-arm deliveries in between the stock ball which

is round arm. As a variation, he also bowled from behind the crease to shorten the length, as a set Tilak Varma (25) could not reach the pitch of the delivery.

It was a flat Kotla deck but Samson (22 off 8 balls) and skipper Suryakumar Yadav, with a run-a-ball 12, missed out on scoring big with the African side making some sort of a comeback with the ball during the middle overs. Surya certainly got the best delivery of the innings from left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz, who got one to dip and turn as the skipper gave the charge, missed, and was duly stumped. It was a golden opportunity for Samson to make it count. The three sixes — one down the ground and the other two a product of sinewy wrists — sent the capacity crowd into raptures. But another flick did not have the wings to clear the fielder at cow corner. Samson’s knock was full of intent but fell short in effectiveness. The difference between Kishan and Samson over the past one month has been consistency and understanding the value of a second chance. The Namibian pacers did not stand any chance against Kishan and the moment they erred in length, his willow came down like a sledgehammer at tremendous bat speed and the sixes soared into the stands. During the back-10, India’s Pandya took charge as his four sixes and four boundaries kept the momentum going, with Shivam Dube (23 off 16 balls) giving him good support in an 81-run stand off just 6.3 overs.

## Pakistan hockey team faces embarrassment in Australia over unpaid

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

The players of the Pakistan hockey team were forced to spend several hours on the road upon reaching Canberra, as their hotel bookings in the Australian capital were cancelled after the Pakistan Hockey Federation failed to pay the bill due to lack of funds. They are in Australia for



the second leg of the FIH Pro League event in Hobart. According to sources close to the team, the players and officials were left with no option but to

“roam on the roads” before finding accommodation. “Apparently the players and officials were booked in a four star hotel in Canberra and were told that the Pakistan Sports Board and Pakistan Hockey Federation had made all upfront payments for their stay in Canberra,” a source said on Thursday. “But when they reached Canberra last week, they

found no bookings for them at the designated hotel. The team’s head coach Tahir Zaman faced problems getting in touch with PSB and PHF officials back home because of the time difference,” he added. “Tahir messaged them about the awkward situation the players were facing and had no place to stay and rest after a long journey from Lahore,” the source said.

## International Polo Week Begins at HPRC

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana Waheed uddin

The Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club (HPRC) will host the HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026 from February 12 to 18, bringing together top arena polo players from India, USA, Germany, France and Luxembourg. The announcement was made at a press conference addressed by HPRC President Chaitania R. Kumar, along with Edward Armstrong, President & Treasurer of the American International Polo Foundation, and other senior officials. The championship will be conducted in two categories — the Radha TMT International Arena Polo Championship (4-Goal) from February 12 to 15 and the Telangana Tourism International Arena Polo Championship (6-Goal) from February 16 to



18. In the 4-Goal tournament, USA will face France on February 12, followed by India vs Germany on February 13, with the winners advancing to the final on February 15. In the 6-Goal event, USA will take on France on February 16, while India will clash with Luxembourg on February 17, leading to the final on February 18. Apart from competitive matches, February 14 will feature the HPRC International Women’s Arena



Polo Match and the “Best of the Best” Arena Polo Exhibition Match, along with tractor stunt and laser shows. A Show Jumping event is scheduled on February 13 be-

fore the polo matches. The “Galloping Wheels” vintage and supercar exhibition will be held on February 15. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.



Love can wait, scammers won't: Hyderabad CP warns youth

Ahead of Valentine's Day, Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar on Thursday, February 12, issued a public alert warning citizens about "romance scams" that dupe people of money under the guise of love. Known for reaching out to the public in a relatable manner, Sajjanar used Gen-Z language to warn young citizens about such scams, saying, "Valentine's Day is about roses, not red flags." "Valentine's Day is about roses, not red flags. But while you're looking for love on dating apps and social media, someone else might be looking at your bank balance," Sajjanar said in an X post. He urged citizens to watch for common warning signs that are often overlooked due to deceptive tactics used by scammers. For instance, dramatic and quick confessions like an instant I love you, or overseas job stories, sudden emergencies, or attempts to isolate you are all "classic tactics" fraudsters use to build trust more quickly, Sajjanar said. This allows them to later ask for money without appearing suspicious.

Bengaluru set to experience Hyderabad's Ramzan nights this year

Ramzan has always been a vibrant and unforgettable affair in Hyderabad, transforming the city's nights into a bustling tapestry of culinary delights, festive shopping, and communal spirit. For years, residents and visitors alike have flocked to the city's iconic bazaars and eateries to soak in the unique atmosphere that only Ramzan in Hyderabad can offer. If you have ever dreamt of experiencing those electrifying vibes but live in Bengaluru, worry not. The festive spirit of Hyderabad is making its way to your city, promising an experience that will bridge the miles. Hyderabad's coveted Daawat-e-Ramzaan is coming to Bengaluru in Ramzan 2026. The food court is equally iconic, serving Ramzan favourites like haleem, kebabs and Irani chai. Beyond shopping, the event has built a reputation for its immersive aesthetic — infinity light rooms, floral installations and family-friendly entertainment zones that turn it into an experience rather than just an exhibition. Adding star power to the expansion, filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan has also been announced as the brand ambassador, signalling the scale and ambition behind this cross-city celebration.

Doctors' Assn Presents Details of Vacant Faculty Posts to DME

The University of Hyderabad and the Kerala State Higher Education Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday, February 12, to strengthen academic and research collaboration. 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. Pre-clinical and para-clinical departments, including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, microbiology and social and preventive medicine, are among the severely affected. Peripheral and district medical colleges face a disproportionately high faculty vacancy burden, adversely affecting undergraduate.

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Auto Unions Intensify Stir in Hyderabad

ILWF Leads Massive Protest at Indra Park, Warns of Intensified Agitation

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana  
Zaffer abedi

The Indian Labour Welfare Federation (ILWF) Auto Union on Thursday led a massive protest at Indra Park, intensifying its agitation against rising fuel prices, unregulated competition, and what it termed as the government's neglect of auto-rickshaw drivers' welfare in Hyderabad. Hundreds of auto drivers gathered at Indra Park under the leadership of ILWF Chairman Mir Inayat Ali Baqri and President Shaik Majeed, raising slogans and demanding immediate intervention from the State government. The union reiterated its key demands, including a ban on outside district autos operating within Hyderabad city limits, strict restrictions on app-based bike taxis, proper implementation of meter fares as per government norms, and the introduction of com-



prehensive welfare schemes for auto drivers. Addressing the gathering, Chairman Mir Inayat Ali Baqri said that auto drivers are facing severe financial distress due to continuous hikes in fuel prices and increasing competition from digital aggregators and unauthorized vehicles. He alleged that drivers' daily earnings have drastically fallen, making it difficult for them to sustain their families. He urged the government to take immediate policy decisions to protect the livelihoods of thousands of families dependent on the auto sector.

Union leaders also expressed concern over the alleged influx of autos from neighboring districts operating in the city without proper regulation, claiming it has further reduced income opportunities for registered Hyderabad drivers. They demanded strict enforcement of transport regulations to ensure fair competition. The protest comes as part of a phased agitation launched by the ILWF earlier this year. The union had previously organized demonstrations on January 20 and February 12, signaling growing unrest within the

auto-rickshaw community. Thursday's protest witnessed participation from several other auto unions, which extended solidarity and joined the strike in different parts of the city. The agitation led to partial disruption of auto services across Hyderabad, causing inconvenience to commuters. In some areas, minor arguments were reported between striking drivers and those who continued operations, as well as with passengers affected by the strike. ILWF leaders warned that if the government fails to address their demands at the earliest, the agitation will be intensified in the coming days, potentially leading to a larger city-wide shutdown of auto services. They emphasized that the protest is not merely about fares but about the survival and dignity of auto drivers who form a crucial part of Hyderabad's public transport system.

Congress demands repeal of labour codes at Dharna Chowk rally



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) on Thursday demanded the repeal or major amendment of the four central Labour Codes, restoration of the 100-worker threshold for retrenchment protection, and removal of restrictions on the right to strike, at a rally held at Dharna Chowk after the Bharat Bandh protest. Addressing the meeting at Indira Park, DCC president Syed Khalid Saifulah said the Labour Codes had weakened worker protections, reduced trade union rights, and increased job insecurity. He criticised the rais-

ing of the retrenchment and standing orders threshold from 100 to 300 workers, stating that it left many workers in mid-sized firms without legal safeguards. He also opposed the normalisation of fixed-term employment, arguing that it was replacing permanent jobs with insecure contracts. The bandh was called by central trade unions and farmers' organisations. The rally began in Baghlingampally and concluded at Indira Park, where TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and other Congress leaders addressed the gathering.

HYDRAA reclaims land worth Rs 2,200 Cr near Madhapur, 30 shops demolished



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Short Headline:HYDRAA Reclaims ₹2,200 Cr Land in Madhapur Drive210-word news report:The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Thursday, February 12, carried out a major anti-encroachment

drive near the Madhapur Hitech Exhibition Centre, reclaiming nearly 11 acres of prime land valued at around ₹2,200 crore. The operation was conducted in Khanamet village under Serilingampally mandal in Ranga Reddy district after a detailed field inspection by officials. According to HYDRAA authorities, the land had been illegally oc-

cupied for several years, with encroachers allegedly using the boundary of a nearby temple as justification to claim ownership. The inspection revealed large-scale unauthorized constructions, including more than 30 commercial establishments such as mechanic sheds, iron and steel shops, and other temporary and permanent structures. Officials said these shops were generating rental income of several lakhs of rupees every month, indicating the commercial exploitation of government land. Following due verification and demarcation, HYDRAA personnel

Shops will be sealed if safety rules are flouted, HYDRAA to intensify checks

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Following several fire accidents in just two months, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) stated that inspections and checks will intensify from the second week of March. Speaking at a fire safety awareness programme in the Old City on Thursday, February 12, HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath warned if shopkeepers and commercial establishments are found violating fire safety norms, the complexes will be sealed. "Flames can spread within 30 seconds. With



the summer season approaching, the risk increases," he said. In January, nine shops were sealed during an inspection after gross violations were detected. Following requests from traders' associations, a one-month grace period was granted to allow compliance. With Ramzan approaching and commercial activity expected to increase in the Old City, All India

Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimien (AIMIM) Charminar MLA Zulfikar, who was present, called on traders to be extra careful while stocking goods and conduct regular self-checks to prevent mishaps. On February 7, fire broke out at the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Hyderabad's Nampally. No casualties were reported, but several important files were allegedly destroyed. On January 24, five people, including two children and an elderly woman, died of "asphyxiation" after a fire broke out on January 24 in the four-storey building housing a furniture shop at Nampally.

Telangana government to introduce Anganwadi units across Hyderabad

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The Telangana government is planning to introduce mobile Anganwadi centres to provide nutritious food and other services to eligible beneficiaries in underserved slums and residential areas of Hyderabad. Official sources said on Thursday, February 12, that the Women and Child Welfare Department has been facing difficulties in establishing new Anganwadi centres to provide basic health care in the city due to high population density, frequent migration and the unavailability of suitable buildings in several localities. A recent departmental survey identified 25,310 children, pregnant women and lactating mothers within the Hyderabad Metropolitan Devel-

opment Authority (HMDA) limits as eligible for Anganwadi services. However, these areas currently lack such facilities. State Women and Child Development Minister D Anasuya Seethakka has emphasised that no eligible beneficiary should be deprived of nutritious food and other services under the Anganwadi programme, sources said. Addressing nutritional deficiency is one of the key goals of the state government's 'Telangana Rising 2047' vision, they added. Officials have accordingly prepared proposals to hire 37 vehicles to cover 274 slum clusters under the mobile Anganwadi initiative. The mobile units will be attached to the nearest Anganwadi centres and will distribute nutritious food and provide other related services to beneficiaries.

Indira Park Sees Anti-Trade Deal Dharna

Mahesh Kumar Goud Joins Rally as Unions Oppose India-US Trade Pact at Indira Park



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Labor and farmer unions staged a massive rally and dharna at Indira Park on Wednesday to oppose the proposed India-US trade agreement, warning that it

could harm farmers, workers, and domestic industries. TPCC President and MLC Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud joined the protest and expressed solidarity with the demonstrators. Addressing the gathering,



Goud said no trade pact should be signed if it jeopardizes the interests of small and medium enterprises, farmers, laborers, and local industries. He cautioned that prioritizing foreign companies at a time when the national economy needs strengthening would have serious long-term consequences. He also stated that the Congress party would not support any unilateral decision taken without consulting farmers and workers. Trade union and farmers' leaders expressed fears that the agreement would severely impact agricul-

ture, with farmers struggling to secure even minimum prices due to international competition. They also raised concerns over the lack of clarity on labor rights, wage security, and job protection, warning that the deal could lead to dilution of labor laws, increased privatization, and threats to agricultural subsidies and the minimum support price system. Participants demanded transparent negotiations and safeguards to protect domestic industries and livelihoods before any trade agreement is finalized.

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