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Brief Insights

Ranveer Singh Gets Threats from Bishnoi Gang, Cong React

The Opposition Congress on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Maharashtra government, claiming that law and order has deteriorated in the state, including Mumbai, with threats to Bollywood celebs Salman Khan, Ranveer Singh and Rohit Shetty from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe alleged that the state government is short of ideas and not in a position to take strict action, engaging only in Hindu-Muslim debates instead of addressing the mainstream issues of unemployment, inflation and women's safety. Speaking to a news channel, Londhe said, "We have a so-called powerful chief minister, who is also serving as the home minister. And it is his responsibility. Law and order situation is deteriorating not only in Mumbai but also in his hometown Nagpur."

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Stalin Announces Rs 5000 Aid Each to 1.31 Cr Women Beneficiaries

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday said the state government has deposited Rs 5,000 each to 1.31 crore women beneficiaries of the government's women entitlement scheme. Also, he announced to double the monthly grant to Rs 2,000 if his DMK party was voted to power in the upcoming Assembly election. Noting that Rs 5,000 has been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries of Kalaig-nar Women's Entitlement scheme, he said, "You would have received Rs 5,000 this morning. I have decided to provide the sum in view of an attempt (by vested interests) to freeze the scheme citing upcoming elections." So, in order to counter the move to prevent the women from receiving the monthly financial assistance due for them, he had decided to provide the sum for three months from February and in addition provide Rs 2,000 to meet

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Consular Access 16 Indian Sailors Detained in Iran Secured: MEA

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India has secured consular access to 16 Indian sailors detained in Iran, with eight of them released, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. Responding to a media query during the weekly briefing regarding reports of Indian sailors being under arrest in Iran and concerns over delayed consular access, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that access had been granted. "Consular access has been obtained. We have



been able to go and meet all those individuals. Out of the sixteen people, eight have been released," Jaiswal said. He added that the process to bring back the eight released sailors to India was underway. "I cannot say this with complete certainty, but my understanding--and what I was informed--is that they may have reached India yesterday. Either they ar-

rived yesterday, or they are expected to arrive today," he said. Regarding the remaining eight sailors, the MEA said the Indian Embassy is actively engaged with Iranian authorities. "Regarding the remaining eight people you mentioned--those still excluded from the sixteen--our Indian Embassy there is in touch with the local government. They are discussing how to assist them, how to ensure their well-being, and how to resolve their matter," Jaiswal said.

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WAKE UP TELANGANA

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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Urban Voters Reposed Faith in Cong Govt, Says Bhatti: P2

Auto Unions Intensify Stir in Hyderabad: P8

Congress Victory Not a Clean Sweep, Says KTR: P2



Congress Leads Telangana Municipal Polls

BRS Emerges Strong Number second in Telangana Civic Polls, BJP at Third

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The ruling Indian National Congress registered a commanding victory in the Telangana Municipal Polls-2026, emerging as the dominant political force across urban local bodies in the state. According to official data released by the Telangana State Election Commission, Congress secured a clear majority of wards, pushing the main opposition Bharat Rashtia Samithi to the second position, while the Bharatiya Janata Party remained in third place. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) managed to win a limited number of wards.

Out of the 2,958 wards for which results were declared by 8.40 p.m. on Friday, Congress candidates won 1,537 wards. BRS secured 781 wards, BJP claimed 335, AIMIM won 70, and CPI(M) captured 13 wards. The results began to trickle



in around 10 a.m., nearly two hours after the counting process commenced at 8 a.m. Election officials simultaneously issued certificates to the winning candidates as political parties formally announced their ward-wise victories.

The elections witnessed an impressive voter turnout of 73.01 percent, reflecting strong public participation in urban governance. Of the 52,17,413 eligible voters, 38,09,406 exercised their franchise. Polling

was conducted in 2,569 wards across 116 municipalities and 412 wards in seven municipal corporations, making it one of the largest urban electoral exercises held in Telangana in recent years.

Counting began with postal ballots and subsequently moved to regular ballots. At every counting table, 1,000 ballots were randomly taken up in each round to ensure systematic tabulation and transparency. The entire counting process was conducted under strict administrative monitoring and tight security arrangements to maintain order. The newly elected councillors and corporators will take oath on February 16 at 11.30 a.m. Following the oath ceremony, special meetings will be convened to elect mayors and deputy mayors in municipal corporations, as well as chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in municipalities, thereby formally completing the constitution of new urban local bodies across the state.

KTR's Open Offer to CPI to Run Kothagudem Municipality

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The BRS on Friday made an open offer of support to the Communist Party of India (CPI) to run the Kothagudem municipality, with BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao declaring that the intent was to not allow the Congress and the BJP from sharing power in any which way or even attempting to do so. Interestingly, the CPI contested the elections with the support of the Telugu Desam, a sworn enemy of the BRS.

The final word has not been said yet, with the Congress also reportedly reaching out to the CPI. Ex officio votes will also come into play. The CPI



has not formally indicated its stand. The Congress and the CPI both won 22 divisions in the 60-ward Kothagudem civic body, with the BRS following with eight, and independents and others winning the remaining eight. With the cut-off for a simple majority being 31, the CPI, if it accepts the BRS offer, will have 30 seats. CPI leaders in Kothagudem have said that they have the support of two of the independents, which, if it stands, will push the party over the required simple majority mark.

CM Revanth Reddy Asserts Dominance with ULB Sweep

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

"Nene raju.... nene mantri" (I am numero uno) was how Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had let his adversaries, both within and outside the Congress, know of his absolute control over the state administration and the party, a day before the counting of votes for the urban local bodies. Friday's results fully justified his statement, and his position. Revanth Reddy also forced the BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao to shift his goal post — calling the civic elections a referendum on the Congress government



— to the next election. Not one to disappoint his arch rival, Rama Rao, at a press conference, dared the Chief Minister to make the defected BRS legislators resign and seek a fresh mandate if he was confident of winning. The Congress on the other hand set its sights on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls, which is now trifurcated. "After the drubbing in the

Assembly polls, KTR claimed that his party was irreplaceable in urban areas and shifted the goal post to the Lok Sabha elections. Then came the Secunderabad Cantonment and Jubilee Hills by-polls, each of which he said were a referendum," said revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The BRS lost all the polls. "When we spoke of winning about 65 per cent of the gram panchayats, KTR said the party symbol-based polls for the municipal bodies would show the actual strength of the BRS. In all these elections, it is for everyone to see how we fared," Srinivas Reddy said.

Govt Not To Bring Motion Against Rahul : Kiren Rijiju

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said on Friday that the government has shelved a plan to bring a motion against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for using unparliamentary language against the prime minister, as a BJP MP has submitted a notice to initiate a "substantive motion" against the Congress leader on the same issue. Speaking to reporters here, the Union minister stated that the speaker would be consulted on whether to send the matter to the House privilege committee, the ethics committee, or bring it di-



rectly to the Lok Sabha. "It has not yet been decided," he said. He noted that since a private member has already submitted a notice for the motion, the government will refrain from introducing its own motion. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey told PTI Videos on Thursday that he has given a notice to initiate a "substantive motion" against Gandhi, demanding the cancellation of his Lok Sabha

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PM RAHAT scheme, aimed at ensuring immediate medical assistance to accident victims. Under the scheme, victims will be entitled to cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh. The initiative is intended to prevent loss of life in the crucial golden hour due to finan-

cial hurdles. Officials say the move seeks to strengthen emergency response systems and provide relief to vulnerable families facing sudden medical crises. The government has also announced that it has crossed the milestone of

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

ESTD - 1960.

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge
baar baar aaooge

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

Congress Victory Not a Clean Sweep: KTR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

After a tough municipal battle with the ruling Congress, BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on Friday said the party is open to aligning with like-minded secular forces to protect Telangana’s interests. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, he rejected claims of a Congress “clean sweep,” stating that the ruling party secured only around 60 per cent of the 123 urban local bodies — far from a landslide. Of the 116 municipalities



and seven municipal corporations, BRS directly won about 16 and played a decisive role in nearly 30 others where hung verdicts were reported, including Jangaon, Mahabubabad, Gadwal and Wardhannapet.

Rama Rao argued that unless a party wins 80 per cent of seats, it cannot claim a landslide. He recalled that in 2020, the then TRS had won 122 of 130 civic bodies, calling it a true one-sided victory. He said the cur-

rent results reflect growing public dissatisfaction with the Congress government. He noted that BRS-backed candidates won nearly 40 per cent of gram panchayats and over 4,000 sarpanch posts in recent rural polls. In ward-level contests, BRS secured over 730 of nearly 2,580 seats — more than 30 per cent — despite alleged misuse of official machinery by Congress. Alleging irregularities in counting at places like Gadwal and Wardhannapet, he accused Congress leaders of attempting to

lure BRS winners. “We will fight politically and legally,” he said. Rama Rao indicated possible cooperation with parties such as the CPI in select civic bodies, and said a final decision would be taken after consulting party chief K. Chandrashekhara Rao. Taking a swipe at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he said voters have a history of defeating leaders who underestimate them. He asserted that BRS has emerged as the principal opposition and will carry this momentum into upcoming local polls.

Bandi Vows Saffron Surge After Karimnagar Win

KARIMNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

Following the BJP’s maiden victory in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, Union minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar declared that the saffron flag would soon fly over Hyderabad. Addressing jubilant supporters alongside former mayor Y. Sunil Rao, Bandi Sanjay dedicated the victory to Mahashakti Ammavaru and to the people’s faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s governance. He accused the ruling Congress, BRS and AIMIM of a “tri-partite conspiracy” to defeat the BJP, alleging that despite distributing up to ₹7,000 per vote and attempting to lure BJP can-

didates, the opposition failed to halt the party’s momentum. The Union minister criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for splitting the GHMC into three parts to appease the Owaisi brothers, claiming the move would prove a “death warrant” for Congress in the upcoming Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri corporation elections. Bandi Sanjay asserted that the BJP’s strength in the 66-division council would grow beyond its current 33 seats, revealing that three independents had already joined the party and several others were in touch with Sunil Rao. He noted that while the BJP contested 56 seats with core party workers, 33 won and another 10 lost by fewer than 100

votes. Highlighting AIMIM’s decline in Karimnagar — from seven seats to three — he took pride in the BJP’s performance in Kashmir Gadda, a traditional MIM stronghold. He praised party workers for standing firm despite past attacks on their homes and shops, saying their sacrifices had borne fruit. Rejecting allegations that he had failed to bring funds to the city, Bandi Sanjay credited the Modi government with spending ₹1,500 crore on Karimnagar’s infrastructure, while alleging the state government had contributed “not a single paisa.” He promised clean, corruption-free administration and vowed to take governance directly to the people’s doorstep.

Telangana Agitators Demand Welfare Recognition Now

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Activists’ Self-Respect Meeting, organised by Kalvakuntla Kavitha, turned into a strong call for justice as activists demanded immediate recognition and welfare support in the upcoming Assembly budget. At the RTC Kalyana Mandapam in Bagh Lingampalli, activists from across the state gath-



ered to press for pensions, housing and jobs. Representing the Activists’ Forum, Cantonment-based Elakanti

Prabhugupta said thousands who fought for Telangana statehood lost jobs, homes and livelihoods but remain neg-

lected. He criticised the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi regime for ignoring grassroots agitators. Addressing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Prabhugupta reminded him of his 2023 election promise to ensure justice for activists and urged allocation of special welfare funds. The meeting concluded with loud cheers as Kavitha assured continued support for the activists’ cause.

Ramesh Varikuppala Calls for Stronger Media–Government Ties

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 2026 TGO Hyderabad District Diary was presented to Hyderabad Press Club General Secretary Ramesh Varikuppala at a brief programme held today. Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh said better coordination between officials and journalists would ensure improved services to both the government and the public. He emphasized



that mutual cooperation helps in transparent communication and effective

implementation of welfare measures. The diary was formally

handed over by representatives of the TGO Hyderabad district unit as part of their outreach initiative. District President MP Krishna Yadav, Vice President Injula Reddy, A. Ravinder, and Venkataramana were among those present at the event. The programme concluded with a call for stronger collaboration between the media and government departments to serve public interest more efficiently.

BJP’s 30-Seat Shock in Karimnagar

Historic BJP Surge in Karimnagar Shakes Congress Stronghold Across Telangana Politics

KARIMNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

The municipal election results in the united Karimnagar district have triggered a major political shift in Telangana, with the BJP delivering a stunning performance in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. While the Congress dominated the district overall — winning 10 out of 13 municipalities and two municipal corporations — the spotlight turned to Karimnagar city, where the BJP secured a historic 30 seats. The result has reshaped the political narrative in the state and drawn national attention. Siricilla Municipality remained with the BRS, and Jammikunta Municipality



ended in a hung verdict, adding a layer of political uncertainty. However, it was Karimnagar Municipal Corporation that produced the most dramatic outcome. The BJP’s performance in Karimnagar came despite the Congress deploying five ministers to campaign extensively across the district. In contrast, the BJP

campaign centered largely around Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who spearheaded the party’s efforts single-handedly. From the announcement of the election notification, Bandi Sanjay took charge of the campaign in the united Karimnagar district, focusing on cadre mobilization, grassroots outreach, and aggressive

public engagement. His strategy translated into a significant electoral breakthrough for the BJP in a region where Congress appeared dominant. Political observers say the 30-seat victory in Karimnagar Corporation marks a turning point for the BJP in Telangana, positioning the party as a stronger urban force. The outcome has not only intensified state-level political debate but also attracted attention from the BJP’s national leadership, which has reportedly praised Bandi Sanjay’s leadership and campaign strategy. With this result, Karimnagar has emerged as a key battleground in Telangana’s evolving political landscape.

ED intensifies probe into Universal Srushti Fertility Centre case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stepped up its investigation into alleged irregularities linked to the Universal Srushti Fertility Centre and reportedly took into custody its owner, Dr Namrata, in connection with a money laundering case. According to information available, Dr Namrata and her son Jayanth Krishna were taken into custody with police assistance after investigators found prima facie evidence of financial misconduct. The agency suspects that large sums of money were collected from childless couples through illegal channels, including ‘hawala’ transactions. The probe has also opened a new angle of inquiry that whether child trafficking was carried out under the guise of surrogacy. The police have alleged that infants were procured from tribal families and falsely presented as babies born through legitimate surrogacy procedures. Police said the fertility centre had earlier faced multiple complaints. In previous cases, couples seeking IVF treatment.

PRAZASTI 2K26 Concludes with ₹1 Lakh Prizes at Sphoorthy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sphoorthy Engineering College successfully concluded its two-day National Level Tech Fest “PRAZASTI 2K26” on February 13, drawing 717 participants from engineering colleges across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. A total cash prize of ₹1 lakh was awarded to winners across five competitive events — Ideathon, Paper & Poster Presentation, Project Expo, Blind Coding, and Tech Bytes. The fest was jointly organised by the Departments of CSE, CSE-Data Science, CSE-Cyber Security, and Civil Engineering, promoting interdisciplinary innovation and national-level knowledge exchange.



The valedictory ceremony marked the grand finale of two days of intense technical competition and collaboration. Secretary Jagan Mohan Reddy highlighted the importance of such platforms in encouraging both technical and cultural exchange among budding engineers. Principal Dr. K. Srinivas Rao emphasised the rapid pace of technological advancements and urged students to stay updated to remain competitive in their careers.

Heads of Departments and faculty members felicitated the winners and appreciated the participants’ enthusiasm and creativity. Held on February 12 and 13 at the college campus in Nadergul, PRAZASTI 2K26 showcased innovation, teamwork, and emerging technical talent. The event reinforced the institution’s commitment to fostering research, creativity, and excellence in engineering education through national-level initiatives.

Bhatti, Ponguleti: Urban Voters Reposed Faith in Cong Gouvernement

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said urban voters across Telangana have delivered a decisive mandate in favour of the Congress, reflecting their confidence in the welfare and development

initiatives undertaken by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy government since it assumed office in December 2023. Addressing a joint press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here on Friday, they stated that the results demonstrated strong public trust in governance and a clear rejection of “false propaganda” by the opposition



BRS and the BJP. They added that voters were closely observing political developments and

have responded with a considered verdict. Bhatti said the Congress had won 83 municipal-

ities and five municipal corporations so far, and the tally was expected to rise in places where results were initially hung. Of the 116 municipalities, the party is likely to secure between 90 and 94. Elections were held to seven corporations, with Congress achieving a clear majority in five, while the remaining two witnessed a close contest

involving Congress, the BJP and Independent candidates. He described the outcome as particularly significant, noting that the party has secured such a large number of municipal seats after nearly two decades. Bhatti said the electorate had delivered its judgment after assessing both the government’s

performance and the criticism levelled by the Opposition. With the clear mandate from urban voters, he assured that the government would continue to function with greater responsibility and uphold high standards of governance. He pointed out that the public has consistently endorsed the Congress in successive elections, in-

cluding the Parliament polls, the Secunderabad Cantonment and Jubilee Hills byelections, and the subsequent Panchayat elections. Urging opposition parties to act responsibly, Bhatti said a healthy democratic system requires a constructive opposition, not campaigns driven by misinformation for media attention.

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).

BRS Comeback in Civic Polls

Urban verdict signals shifting mood, dents Congress mid-term advantage

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Zaffer abedi

The latest municipal election results in Telangana indicate a significant political comeback for the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), even as it sits in the opposition. Although the ruling Indian National Congress secured a numerical majority of urban local bodies, the broader picture suggests shifting political equations and signs of public dissatisfaction.

The BRS won more than 760 wards across various civic bodies and directly gained control of 16 urban local bodies. In nearly 30 municipalities, voters delivered hung verdicts, limiting the Congress party's ability to claim an outright and uncontested victory. These outcomes have not only revived morale within BRS ranks but have also reinforced its standing as the principal opposition force in the state's political landscape.

Traditionally, local body elections conducted mid-term tend to favour the ruling party, largely because of its administrative advantage, visibility in governance, and implementation of welfare schemes and development programmes. However, this conventional trend did not fully materialise in these municipal polls. The



BRS strategically framed the elections as a referendum on the Congress government's performance, focusing its campaign on alleged delays in fulfilling the six guarantees and 420 promises made during the Assembly elections. The municipal results follow a turbulent phase for the BRS. In the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress emerged victorious with 64 seats and a 39.4 percent vote share, while the BRS was reduced to 39 seats with a 37.35 percent vote share. The setback deepened in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where the BRS failed to win a single parliamentary seat and saw its vote share fall sharply to 16.62 percent. However, early signs of recovery emerged during

the 2025 panchayat elections, where the BRS improved its vote share to an estimated 29 percent. Although this figure remained lower than its previous Assembly performance, political observers considered it a substantial improvement compared to its Lok Sabha showing. The latest municipal results appear to have consolidated that recovery phase. Historically, when it was known as the Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS), the party had dominated urban Telangana in 2020, winning 1,762 out of 3,112 wards across 10 corporations and 120 municipalities. Its vote share at the time stood at 44 percent in municipalities and 36.7 percent in corporations, marking a high

point in its urban political strength. Despite losing state power and facing defections, the BRS kept its grassroots network intact. Municipal elections often hinge on booth-level organisation, local leadership, and cadre strength rather than large-scale rhetoric. In this arena, the BRS demonstrated resilience and organisational depth. While municipal elections do not determine the survival of a state government, they often serve as indicators of public mood. The results suggest evolving political currents in Telangana, with the BRS regaining confidence and exploring potential alliances with like-minded secular forces, positioning itself strongly for future electoral battles.

Osmania University defers PG exams to March amid student protests

Osmania University on Friday postponed all PG first semester exams commencing February 19. These examinations will now be conducted in the first week of March. A detailed examination schedule will be released in due course, the university said. The decision from the university comes in view of the protest by students who demanded exams postponement citing unfinished syllabus. Earlier, a protest demanding postponement of PG semester examinations, commencing February 19, continued on the Osmania University (OU) campus. Nearly 150 students from Arts College squatted at the administrative building and wanted resolution to their issue. The protesters alleged that the syllabus had not been completed for the semester and wanted authorities to defer the exams. Students had also staged a protest on the same issue on Thursday night. Students complained that despite repeatedly explaining that the syllabus was not completed, officials were firm on holding the examination as per the timetable. Further, administrative officials, as per students, the exams postponement would only be considered if they produce a letter from the department concerned or principal stating that the syllabus was unfinished. Students criticised such conditions set by the administration and decided to sit in until the exams.

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.

Virtusa Architect Arun Kumar to Head Mala Mahanadu IT Wing

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Mala Mahanadu has appointed Kalakanti Arun Kumar, a senior Software Architect at Virtusa, as the Head of its Social Media and IT Wing, marking a major step toward digital transformation within the organization. With over 20 years of experience in software development and project architecture, Arun Kumar is expected to lead the organization’s digital outreach with a data-driven and technology-focused strategy. An MCA graduate, he has built a strong global portfolio, including three years in Europe



managing key projects for leading financial institutions such as ING Bank, Comer Banca, and VolksBank. His expertise spans Banking, Telecom, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sectors, equipping him with advanced skills in enterprise systems and digital innovation. Officials say his international exposure and architectural leadership will

strengthen Mala Mahanadu’s technological infrastructure and expand its digital presence.” The appointment of a global tech leader like Mr. Kumar signals a new era for Mala Mahanadu. By combining two decades of technical excellence with our social mission, we are set to enhance digital engagement within the community,” a spokesperson said.

Bollywood Stars Felicitated at Fateh Maidan Club



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Noted Bollywood music director, singer, international performer and producer Harsh Veer Indi and Sanjay Singh were felicitated at a grand event held at Fateh Maidan Club. The programme was organised under the leadership of MB Krishna Yadav, TGOS Hyderabad District President. Prominent members including M. Gopal Yadav,

Mohd. Siddique, Prava-thalu Yadav, Mahesh, Gopi, Surrender and others were present on the occasion. The dignitaries honoured the artists for their contribution to Bollywood music and their achievements as international performers and producers. The event witnessed appreciation from attendees, who lauded their dedication and success in the music industry.

Niloufer Chath Opens in Banjara Hills

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cafe Niloufer has expanded its culinary footprint with the launch of Niloufer Chath, a rooftop, 100% vegetarian North Indian restaurant at Road No. 12, Banjara Hills. The new outlet offers exclusive North Indian vegetarian cuisine, including specially prepared Jain food, with a focus on nutritionally valued, slow-cooked dishes.

Management said the concept blends authentic flavours with balanced preparation methods to ensure both taste and wholesome dining. Designed with a Bali-inspired ambience, the rooftop destination features contemporary décor and a relaxed setting aimed at families, professionals and young diners seeking a premium yet welcoming experience in the heart of Hyderabad.

A major highlight is its extensive range of more than 14 varieties of Indian breads, including Whole Wheat Tandoori Roti, Multigrain Roti, Roomali Roti, Naan, Laccha Paratha, Paneer Kulcha, Garlic Naan, Cheese Naan, Zaituni



Naan, Charcoal Naan and Beetroot Naan. These are paired with rich gravies, flavourful curries and innovative starters. Founder and Chairman Anumula Babu Rao said the launch marks a milestone in presenting refined vegetarian cuisine, while Managing Director Anumula Shashank emphasised the focus on taste, health and innovation.

Virtusa Architect Arun Kumar to Head Mala Mahanadu IT Wing

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.

DuPont CSR Commissions Water Plant at Manikonda School

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

DuPont CSR, in partnership with Safe Water Network India, inaugurated a water purification system at Mandal Parishad Primary School, Manikonda, benefiting around 500 students and staff. The initiative aims to ensure safe drinking water and promote hygiene among school children. The facility was inaugurated by Sanjeev Khetarpal, Country President of DuPont India, in the presence of Poonam Sewak, Vice President–Programs & Partnerships, Safe Water Network India, Principal Dasharatha Naik, local officials, and



students. The school now has two water treatment plants producing 200 litres of purified water per hour, with a storage capacity of 500 litres. Students have been encouraged to drink safe water regularly and

carry it home. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Khetarpal said access to clean drinking water remains a major challenge and emphasized that safe water improves hydration, concentration, and learning outcomes. Poonam

Sewak thanked DuPont for its continued support in installing water systems and sanitation facilities, stating that the project would help protect children from water-borne diseases. Students marked the event by presenting a skit on personal hygiene and handwashing. Pamphlets were distributed to raise awareness about clean water and hygiene practices. In FY 2025–26, DuPont CSR and Safe Water Network India installed similar systems at government schools in Mudford and Bowenpally, Hyderabad, and supported hygiene and sanitation programs nationwide.

After 17 Years In Exile, Bangladesh's Tarique Rahman Set To Become PM

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Tarique Rahman-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) raced towards a decisive win in the crucial national election held on Thursday, setting the stage for Rahman, 60, to become Bangladesh's next prime minister. Tarique, who returned to the country after 17 years in exile in the UK, has been elected from both Dhaka-17 and Bogura-6, according to unofficial results from the Election Commission (EC) and party sources, The Daily Star reported. On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Rahman and the BNP for a "decisive victory". "I convey my warm congratulations to

Mr Tarique Rahman on leading BNP to a decisive victory in the parliamentary elections in Bangladesh," the prime minister said in a post on X. "This victory shows the trust of the people of Bangladesh in your leadership." PM Modi assured the incoming dispensation that India will continue to stand in "support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh." "I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common development goals," he said. The United States also congratulated Rahman on his "historic victory." US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T Christensen wrote on X, "Congratulations to the



people of Bangladesh on a successful election and to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Tarique Rahman on your historic victory. The United States looks forward to working with you to realize shared goals of prosperity and security for both our countries." The BNP entered the electoral race as the front-runner, contesting 292 out of 300 seats and sharing the rest with smaller partners. Facing the BNP was an 11-party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami.

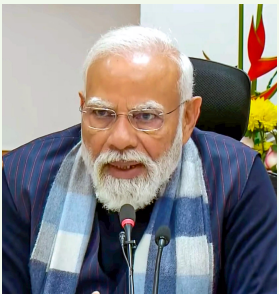
BNP election committee spokesman Mahdi Amin told reporters the party was on track to win at least two-thirds of seats, adding that Tarique Rahman had won both seats he had run in. Senior BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, in a party statement, claimed a "sweeping victory," without giving figures, and called on followers to give thanks in prayer on Friday rather than celebrate on the streets. Who Is Tarique Rahman? Tarique Rahman, 60, is the eldest son of former Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and three-time Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He returned to the country from exile after nearly 17 years, following his mother's death, and quickly emerged as a frontrunner for the prime

minister's post in the absence of the Awami League, which could not contest because its registration was suspended. Rahman was elected BNP chief after Khaleda Zia died. He had been serving as the acting chairman of the BNP before that. Days after Khaleda Zia's demise, Rahman formally assumed office as Chairman of the BNP in December 2025. He is often called the "dark prince" and is said to have been the de facto boss from 2001 to 2006 during a coalition government led by the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, while Khaleda Zia was prime minister. At the time, Rahman worked out of Hawa Bhaban, a two-floor building with a "wind tunnel," described as a "shadow PMO."

Modi Congratulates BNP's Tarique Rahman on 'Decisive Victory' in Bangladesh Polls

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended warm greetings to Tarique Rahman, the leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), following what the party described as a decisive victory in Bangladesh's parliamentary elections. In a message shared on social media platform X, Prime Minister Modi congratulated Rahman for leading the BNP to a historic electoral success and acknowledged the strong mandate given by the people of Bangladesh. "I convey my warm congratulations to Mr. Tarique Rahman on leading the BNP to a decisive



victory in the Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh," Modi said in his post. He added that the outcome of the elections reflected the deep trust and confidence the people of Bangladesh have placed in Rahman's leadership and vision for the country's future. Emphasising India's commitment to its neighbouring nation, Prime Minister Modi reiterated that India would

continue to support a democratic, progressive, and inclusive Bangladesh. He also expressed optimism about strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between the two countries. "India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common development goals," he said. Earlier on Friday, the BNP formally claimed victory in Bangladesh's general elections, marking a significant political transition in the country.

"Take Money, Whistle Podu": Vijay On DMK's 'Rs 2,000 Women Summer Special'

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Weeks before the Tamil Nadu election Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam leader and actor Vijay delivered a blockbuster campaign speech in Salem, accusing Chief Minister MK Stalin and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam of abuse of power and corruption, and urging voters to "blow the whistle". The hugely popular movie star, his every thunderous exclamation cheered, targeted Stalin over the transfer of Rs 3,000 as an 'advance payment' for women under a state-sponsored scheme and underlined his casting of the DMK as 'evil'. "Will you vote for 'good' TVK or 'evil' DMK?" Stalin had also promised Rs 2,000 more per



woman as part of a 'summer bonanza', payment of which, the obvious implication was, would be contingent on the DMK winning the election. Claiming the DMK is trying to buy votes, Vijay called on the Tamil people to "take the money, but blow the whistle", referring to his party's election symbol and, obliquely, the 'whistle podu' row. "How was this 'special summer allowance' of Rs 2,000 announced? Does summer only occur this year?"

The reason for this... is the sound of the whistle heard in every street and home," he raged, and promised the Tamil people a more genuine welfare state under his leadership. Stalin, he said, feared growing support for the TVK and the whistle, particularly among women. The actor, routinely dismissed as too inexperienced to govern the state, then leaned into that moniker, "The DMK's experience is in corruption... we are inexperienced in that."

"I am opposing those who fool the people... I am targeting those in power. I will provide good governance... will never disappoint those who trust me... and won't make empty promises." In a speech replete with counter-punches, Vijay also hit out over restrictions - including limiting the crowd to 4,998 and verifying identity cards - on people attending this afternoon's rally. On paper, the restrictions follow a stampede at a rally in Karur last year, at which 41 people died. The DMK accused Vijay of having failed to follow SOPs as advised by the police. The TVK, though, said the ruling party orchestrated the violence to defame the actor.

From Seva Teerth, PM Modi Clears Big-Ticket Welfare Push For Women, Farmers

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In his first major set of decisions after moving to Seva Teerth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a series of welfare and development measures that the government says are rooted in the idea of public service and inclusive growth. The clearances span emergency healthcare, women's empowerment, farm infrastructure and the innovation economy. Among the headline decisions is the launch of the PM RAHAT scheme, aimed at ensuring immediate medical assistance to accident victims. Under the scheme, victims will be entitled to cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh. The initiative is intended to prevent loss of life in the crucial golden hour due



to financial hurdles. Officials say the move seeks to strengthen emergency response systems and provide relief to vulnerable families facing sudden medical crises. **Lakhpati Didi Mission Expanded** The government has also announced that it has crossed the milestone of three crore 'Lakhpati Didis', ahead of the original March 2027 timeline. Building on that, the Prime Minister has set a fresh target of six crore 'Lakhpati Didis' by March 2029. The programme focuses on enabling women linked to self-help groups to earn

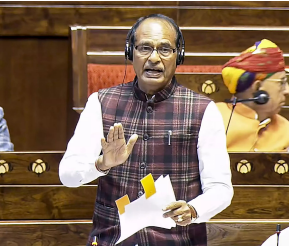
at least Rs 1 lakh annually through sustainable livelihood activities. The expanded target signals a sharper push towards rural income generation and financial independence for women. **Agriculture Outlay Doubled** In a significant boost to the farm sector, the outlay for the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been doubled from Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 2 lakh crore. The fund supports the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets such as warehouses, cold-storage units and processing facilities. The government says the enhanced allocation will help strengthen the entire agriculture value chain, reduce wastage and improve farmers' in-

comes. **Fund Of Funds 2.0** To energise the country's innovation ecosystem, the Prime Minister has approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore. The new fund is expected to support early stage ventures, deep technology, advanced manufacturing and other sunrise sectors. By expanding access to capital, the government aims to back the next wave of Indian startups and reinforce India's position as a global innovation hub. Government sources describe the first decisions from Seva Teerth as a signal that welfare, grassroots empowerment and long-term economic capacity building will remain central to the administration's agenda.

Ministers Issue Midnight Rebuttal Over Rahul's Trade Deal Charges

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday rejected allegations by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi that the India-US interim trade deal compromised farmers' interests, well past midnight asserting that the agreement fully safeguards the agriculture sector. The rebuttal followed a video message posted by Gandhi on X, in which he accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "anti-farmer" and "selling" the country through the trade deal. Commerce and industry minister Goyal said, "In a video released today, he (Gandhi) has surpassed all limits in making false statements and levelling unfounded allegations. He is misleading farmers with a fabricated narrative and attempting to provoke our anadatas. He has never demonstrated concern for



the nation, nor can we expect him to contribute to building a strong and prosperous India," He stated that major crops, including wheat, rice, millets, soybean, corn, GM food products, spices and potatoes, have been "fully safeguarded". "We have also fully protected the interest of farmers producing major fruits, including apples. India's doors have not been opened for dairy products or poultry," he said. Union agriculture minister Chouhan termed Gandhi's claims "baseless" and said, "Rahul Gandhi is a liar. He has nothing to do with the country and its farmers. He does not like the empowerment of farmers. He is always seen saying

anti-national things. He broke all records of lying in his video message." He asserted that the Prime Minister has always taken decisions in the interest of farmers. "The schemes launched under his leadership have changed the lives of farmers. Farmers' interest has been fully protected in the recent deal signed with America," he said. Addressing the 64th convocation ceremony of ICAR-IARI later in the day, Chouhan said, "All the FTAs, including one with the EU and other countries, are all in the interest of the country. The deal with the US is in India's national interest and completely safeguarded. The interests of the farmers have been kept at the top." In an apparent reference to Gandhi, he said, "They are creating a ruckus and saying we are looted. We are ruined. Everything is destroyed. Nation is sold out," adding that "they cannot bear the strength of the farmers".

Ranveer Singh.....

And it is his responsibility. Law and order situation is deteriorating not only in Mumbai but also in his hometown Nagpur." Earlier this week, Dhurandhar star Ranveer Singh received a threat through WhatsApp from unidentified persons, while an unidentified shooter fired five rounds at filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence in Juhu. A member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang took responsibility for the shooting. "Failure of law and order could be seen even during election time. There have been threats to filmstars Salman Khan and Ranveer Singh, and filmmaker Rohit Shetty. Shots were fired at Salman Khan's house, and these things are happening frequently, but the government does not have an answer to these issues," the Congress leader said. He said that when the Congress was in power, it had taken strict action against extortion rackets and put an end to the underworld gangs in Mumbai. He criticised Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who also heads the home department, for "failing" to rein in criminal elements in the state. Londhe further said that while security agencies, po-

lice, and ministers are discussing Bishnoi's role in these threats, it is unclear how the gangster has remained out of the law's grasp despite being behind bars. "He (Bishnoi) is in prison, and you are in power and controlling the prison, but still, he is able to do all these things. So whose failure is this? It is completely the failure of Devendra Fadnis and the Maharashtra government," he said. The Congress leader alleged that Bishnoi can operate from prison because he has the support of someone from the administration and political establishment. "It is very clear that this government is short of ideas and not in a position to take strict actions. They are only after Hindu-Muslim debates instead of addressing unemployment, inflation and women's safety," he said.

Stalin Announces.....

Noting that Rs 5,000 has been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries of Kalaingar Women's Entitlement scheme, he said, "You would have received Rs 5,000 this morning. I have decided to provide the sum in view of an attempt (by vested interests) to freeze the scheme citing upcoming

elections." So, in order to counter the move to prevent the women from receiving the monthly financial assistance due for them, he had decided to provide the sum for three months from February and in addition provide Rs 2,000 to meet their expenses during summer, he said in a video message posted on his social media platform 'X.' "Further, the monthly entitlement of Rs 1,000 will be increased to Rs 2,000 once the DMK returns to power this year," Stalin said in the message. "I appeal to the sisters to judiciously utilise the amount for the expenses towards the education needs of your children, buying medicine or other essentials that are required," Stalin, who is the president of the DMK, said, and exuded confidence that his party would return to power.

Govt Not To Bring.....

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey told PTI Videos on Thursday that he has given a notice to initiate a "substantive motion" against Gandhi, demanding the cancellation of his Lok Sabha membership and calling for him to be barred from contesting elections for life. Dubey said that in his notice, he has stated how the leader

of the opposition visits foreign countries, joining hands with the Soros Foundation, USAID and Ford Foundation, and "colludes" with anti-India elements. A substantive motion is an independent, self-contained proposal submitted for the approval of a legislative house or assembly, drafted to express a decision or opinion. "No privilege motion notice. I have given a substantive motion notice where I have mentioned how he visits Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia with Soros Foundation, Ford Foundation and USAID, and colludes with anti-India forces," Dubey alleged.

Consular Access.....

Either they arrived yesterday, or they are expected to arrive today," he said. Regarding the remaining eight sailors, the MEA said the Indian Embassy is actively engaged with Iranian authorities. "Regarding the remaining eight people you mentioned—those still excluded from the sixteen—our Indian Embassy there is in touch with the local government. They are discussing how to assist them, how to ensure their well-being, and how to resolve their matter," Jaiswal said.

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.

People Welcome HC Order on Footpaths, GHMC Urged to Demarcate Vending Zones

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents have welcomed the directions of the Telangana High Court to reclaim encroached footpaths under the GHMC limits in Hyderabad, expressing hope of safer access for pedestrians. Citizens said several pavements across the city have been encroached upon by commercial establishments, makeshift vendors, eateries and pubs, with some stretches also being used for parking. Areas cited include Banjara Hills, Khairatabad, the stretch from Hydera-

guda Road to the Old MLA Quarters, parts of Himayatnagar and main roads in Secunderabad, where footpaths are reportedly obstructed. Ranjana Rudra, a resident of Sainikpuri, welcomed the court’s direction. “Encroachment of pavements by commercial establishments is forcing pedestrians onto the main roads, increasing the risk of accidents,” she said, adding, “I have been living in Sainikpuri for the past 40 years. The area was originally well planned, with ample space earmarked for pavements.

Cyberabad Police Commemorate Foundation Day

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Veterans’ officers who led the Cyberabad Commissionerate since its inception in 2003 on Friday recalled how the force adapted to Hyderabad’s rapid growth as an IT hub. “We focus on modern policing with technology, staying close to the people, keeping things transparent, and delivering quick services,” an officer said. They were speaking at an event organised by the Cyberabad Commissionerate to mark its 23 years, where former commissioners who led the force were felicitated.



Present were Director-General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy, Cyberabad police commissioner Dr M. Ramesh as well as former DGP Dr M. Mahender Reddy, senior officers S. Prabhakar Reddy, Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, special home secretary C.V. Anand, V. Naveen Chandra and Sandeep Sandilya. Shivadhar Reddy com-

mended the officers, noting: “Your strong work and efficiency have put Cyberabad police on the world map.” Mahender Reddy reflected on laying the groundwork for today’s advanced systems, while commissioner Dr Ramesh outlined future priorities: “We are teaming up with industries, boosting cyber security, and using new technology

to serve the public better in this IT hotspot.” The event featured a slideshow on the commissionerate’s history, achievements and ongoing programmes, and concluded with honours for the guests. Attendees observed that Cyberabad police have become a benchmark for modern policing built on technology, coordination and public service. As the Cyberabad area continues to expand with tech companies and residents, the Commissionerate’s evolution from basic steps to cutting-edge operations reflects a story of progress and resilience.

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 Bharath, 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.

HC Asks Condition of a Baby Who Kept in Protection House

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has asked the state’s women and child welfare department to submit a comprehensive report on the condition and well-being of a minor girl who was taken from her adoptive parents during an investigation into an alleged child trafficking network and lodged in a state home. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin was dealing with an appeal filed by the adoptive parents who were seeking legal remedies to get back

the two-year-old baby. Earlier, a single judge had declined to hand over custody of the girl to the couple, observing that the adoption had not been carried out through legally prescribed procedures. The aggrieved parents then filed an appeal which was heard by the division bench. The parents agreed that procedural lapses had taken place in the adoption process and admitted that money had been paid to a mediator to secure the baby. They argued that the child’s best interests, security, and her future well-being, warranted restoring custody to them.

Telangana HC Halts Construction at J Hills Public School Over Lease Dispute

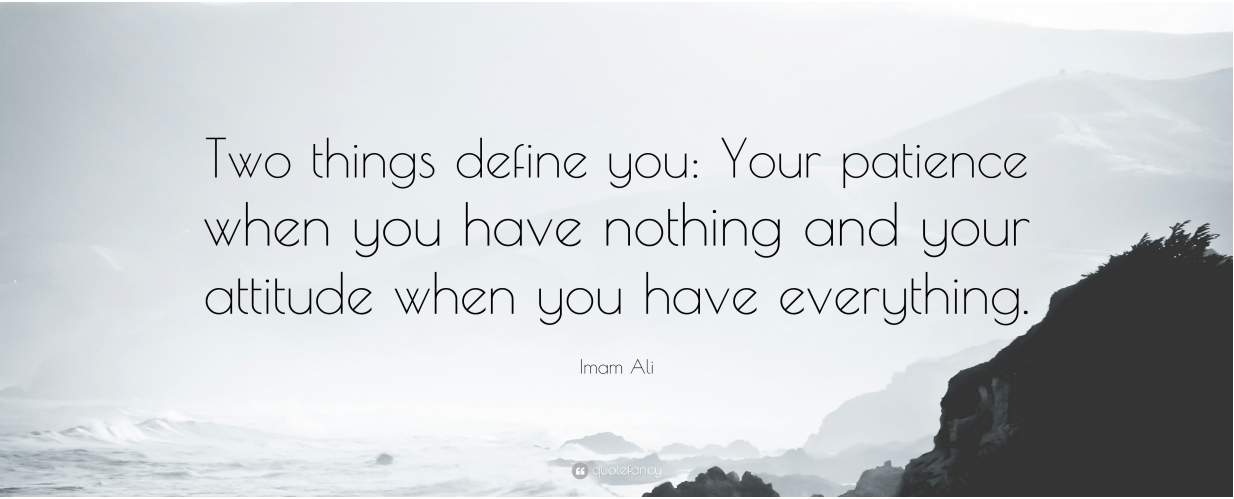
HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has passed an interim order directing status quo in respect to ongoing construction activity at the Jubilee Hills Public School premises. The Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society had approached the court after placing on record that the lease period with the school had expired in 2017 and was not extended thereafter. In addition, the petitioner said, no valid no-objection certificate or subsisting lease agreement existed in favour of the Jubilee Hills Educational Society, which was running the school. Objections were submitted before the GHMC prior to

the grant of permission for construction for the school. After hearing the matter, the High Court directed that status quo be maintained pending further proceedings. Following the order, Ravindranath Bollineni, president of Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society, in a press release stated that the order safeguarded the society’s rights and reinforced the principle that development within a society’s jurisdiction must strictly comply with lawful procedures and required permissions. The managing committee of the housing society reiterated that every action taken was solely for the protection of society property, legal compliance, and the collective interest of

members. Society president Bollineni also stated that the society remained committed to protecting its institutional integrity and would continue to pursue lawful remedies whenever required. The grievance of the Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society, represented by counsel V. Hari Haran, was that though there was no effective subsisting lease in favour of Jubilee Hills Educational Society and despite objections raised, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) had given it permission for the construction of three additional floors over the existing leased premises contrary to Section 429 (1) (aa) of the GHMC Act, 1995. The housing society contended

that the permission granted by the GHMC was liable to be suspended as Jubilee Hills Educational Society was proceeding with the construction in a brisk manner. M. Arun Kumar, standing counsel for the GHMC, submitted that the corporation had granted permission as per GO Ms. 168 MA, dated April 7, 2012, after verifying the documents and requested time to get instructions. The educational society had taken land admeasuring 6.02 acres, equivalent to 29,282 square yards, in Ward No. 8, Block 2 of Jubilee Hills on lease from the society through a lease deed dated August 21, 1987, for 30 years.



Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

ASSAM CM'S HATE TALK NEEDS TO BE REINED IN

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The contents of the petitions moved in the Supreme Court by Left parties CPI and CPI(M) and a few residents of Assam seeking action against the state’s chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his non-stop spewing of hatred on the Muslim community in the state are a troubling sign of the times which all right-thinking people in the country, and not just the judiciary, must address to find a solution. The charges against Mr Sarma are not about taking a political position or an ideological stance but instead about what can easily fall into the category of hate speech. It is very tough for an Indian citizen to conceive the chief minister of a state making an open to call to the people to underpay Muslim employees and assuring them that the “Assam police will take care of the rest”. His video, purportedly with a gun aiming at two Muslims, shared by the official handle of his party, completes the pic-

ture of a ruler who has failed to live up to the oath that he took while entering the office. He is constitutionally mandated to treat every citizen under his government equally and “act without fear or favour”. Mr Sarma has been out to prove that he is more loyal than the king to the Hindutva cause ever since he assumed office in 2021. The politician who grew up in the Congress and was made a minister by that party several times switched his loyalty to the saffron side late in the day. He now appears to be in a hurry to establish himself as a true-blue Hindutva apparatchik. His statements and actions targeting the Muslim community must be seen as only a part of this hidden agenda. Mr Sarma and his party have every right, and responsibility, to act against illegal migrants in the state. There are established and legal ways to carry out that responsibility but Mr Sarma is not seen doing just that. Instead he indulges in rhetoric that flies in the face of

every convention, protocol or even common decency. He has infamously threatened to use the special intensive revision of the electoral roll in the state as a tool to disenfranchise the Muslim community. It is completely undemocratic, not to mention inherently inhuman, to paint a whole community as comprising illegal aliens and lead a hate campaign against them. It is something even chief ministers of other BJP-ruled states have refrained from doing. Hate is something that India with its diverse social fabric can ill afford. There will be a number of fault lines in every small society in India, something that is unusual in another country. Religion, region, language, race, sex and caste are some of the ready reasons for discovering those fault lines. A sensible society will build bridges over them so that the people can progress as a community. History has proved that divisive tactics have never paid their users expected dividends.



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ICAR–IIMR & Gourmet Popcornica Drive India’s Self-Reliant Popcorn Maize Mission

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A strategic collaboration between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR–IIMR) and Gourmet Popcornica Private Limited is transforming India’s popcorn maize sector, sharply reducing import dependence, strengthening farmer incomes, and positioning India as a future global hub for premium popcorn maize production. Once almost entirely import-dependent, India now produces nearly 65% of its popcorn domestically, saving valuable foreign exchange and creating a sustain-



able new income stream for farmers. The impact of this partnership was formally recognised on 9 February 2026 during ICAR–IIMR’s Founder’s Day celebrations, where Gourmet Popcornica received a national award for its contribution towards making India aatmanirbhar in popcorn

improved seed hybrids, and structured farmer engagement. The ICAR–IIMR–Gourmet Popcornica partnership, formalised in 2021 through agreements for IIMR-bred popcorn hybrids, has led to the development of high-yield, high-expansion, disease-resistant varieties with superior kernel quality and popping performance. Currently, Gourmet Popcornica works with more than 17,500 farmers across 36,000 acres in nine states through contract farming, capacity-building programmes, and sustainable sourcing models. This science-led value-chain approach

has improved productivity, profitability, and supply reliability while strengthening rural livelihoods. What began as an effort to produce world-class popcorn in India has now evolved into a national opportunity. With ICAR–IIMR’s research excellence and Gourmet Popcornica’s operational scale, India is not only meeting domestic demand but is now strategically positioned to emerge as a net exporter of premium-quality popcorn maize to key Asian markets, reinforcing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through value-added, export-ready agriculture.

Goods Exports To Grow 4 pc to \$455 bn In FY26: EXIM Bank

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Despite the trade tariffs and uncertainties, India’s merchandise exports for FY26 are expected to grow by 4.1 per cent to \$455.6 billion, finds Exim Bank. The Exim Bank expects India’s export outlook to improve further, supported by a rise in overall competitiveness, though risks of global uncertainty and volatility in commodity prices persist. India’s total merchandise exports for the full year for FY2026 are expected to be at US\$ 455.6 billion, growing 4.1 per cent from \$437.7 billion. The growth in exports is higher than the marginal rise of 0.08 per cent clocked in FY25. The better growth can be at-

tributed to the frontloading of goods across the globe in the first four months of the year due to the reciprocal tariff announcement by the US. As per EXIM forecast, non-oil exports are likely to touch \$401.6 billion, growing at 7.3 per cent. Non-oil and non-gems and jewellery exports are expected to amount to \$364.9 billion, growing at 5.7 per cent. In the January-March quarter, total merchandise exports amounted to \$125.3 billion, witnessing a year-on-year growth of 8.7 per cent, while non-oil exports are forecast to increase to \$113.4 billion, growing at 12.1 per cent. Non-oil and non-gems and jewellery exports too are expected to register a growth of 5.7 per cent to

\$98 bn, with a y-o-y growth of 5.7 per cent during the same quarter. Between April and December in FY26, India had managed to grow merchandise exports by 2.44 per cent to \$330.29 billion. In the September to December quarter, the merchandise exports were valued at \$101.02 billion, lower than \$125.3 billion projected by EXIM Bank for the March quarter. India’s export outlook is expected to improve further, supported by a rise in overall competitiveness driven by sustained macroeconomic stability, competitive exchange rate, and the higher capital expenditure committed in the recent Union Budget, finds EXIM Bank.

Loan Growth Rebounds To 14.6% in Jan 15-31

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Lower interest rates, GST rationalization and a sharp revival in wholesale lending has helped banks’ sustain double digit credit growth that has risen by 14.6 per cent year on year in the fortnight ended January 31, 2026 to Rs 204.75 lakh crore. Deposit growth also remained strong, rising 12.5 per cent year on year during the same period to Rs 248.81 lakh crore. In the fortnight, credit expanded by Rs 3.41 lakh crore or 1.7 per cent, and deposits expanded by Rs 3.82 lakh crore or 1.6 per cent according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday. Interestingly, bank credit growth had slowed down a bit in the first fortnight of 2026 (January 15) to



13.1 per cent year on year while deposit growth had slowed to 10.6 per cent year on year. In the fortnight, credit had contracted by Rs 1.88 lakh crore while deposits contracted by Rs 3.57 lakh crore. Credit growth had remained subdued in the first half of the year but gained traction from late August and continued to strengthen during the festive period, GST rate cuts and improved corporate credit growth. According to CS Setty, chairman SBI, the India-US trade deal is expected to unlock fresh opportunities for exporters and multinational supply

chains, which could translate into stronger corporate lending and higher working-capital demand in the coming quarters. Meanwhile, outstanding credit balances of Urban Co-operative banks stood at ₹3.4 lakh crore as of September 2025, representing a 1.9 times increase over the last five years, according to Sahakaar Trends, a joint publication by the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) and TransUnion CIBIL. While UCBS continue to hold a modest share of overall industry credit at around 1.8 per cent, the data shows a system that is expanding in scale while adapting to changing borrower profiles, competitive dynamics, and regulatory expectations.

Dubai Tourism Breaks Records with 19.59 Million Visitors in 2025

Dubai’s tourism industry achieves third successive record-breaking year with 19.59 million international visitors in 2025, up 5% YoY

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dubai recorded its third consecutive record-breaking year for tourism in 2025, welcoming 19.59 million international overnight visitors, a 5% year-on-year increase from 18.72 million in 2024, according to data released by the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET). The year ended on a historic high, with December 2025 crossing the 2 million visitor mark for the first time ever in a single month, reaching 2.04 million arrivals, reflecting a 6% annual growth. The milestone performance highlights Dubai’s rising global appeal, driven by strong strategic partnerships, major



international events, and large-scale global marketing campaigns. The city’s diversified year-round tourism strategy, implemented with more than 3,000 international partners, strengthened inflows from both traditional and emerging markets while also attracting new residents, investors and businesses. Western Europe remained the largest source market with 4.10

million visitors (21%), followed by CIS and Eastern Europe (15%), South Asia (15%), and the combined GCC and MENA regions contributing 26% of total arrivals. Growth was also recorded from Asia, the Americas, Africa and Australasia, confirming Dubai’s expanding global reach. Speaking on the achievement, Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for

Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Visit Dubai), part of DET, said the record performance reflects global confidence in Dubai’s vision and long-term development strategy aligned with the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33). He emphasized continued investment in digital innovation, infrastructure, and guest experience to sustain growth momentum into 2026. Dubai’s hospitality sector also recorded strong growth, with hotel inventory reaching 154,264 rooms across 827 establishments, placing the city among the world’s top hospitality destinations. New initiatives such as the Hotel Incentive Programme and contactless hotel check-in system

further strengthened the tourism ecosystem. Global marketing campaigns, including ‘Dubai, Ready for a Surprise?’, major festivals such as the Dubai Shopping Festival, Dubai Summer Surprises, and the Dubai Fitness Challenge, and international recognition for safety, accessibility and sustainability further enhanced the city’s global profile. Looking ahead to 2026, Dubai aims to accelerate its tourism growth through major infrastructure projects, cultural initiatives, and sustainable urban development, reinforcing its position as one of the world’s leading tourism, business and lifestyle destinations.

Asia shares mostly lower after sharp Wall Street losses on AI-related worries

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Asia shares were trading mostly lower Friday, tracking sharp Wall Street losses on a sell-off of technology-related stocks that investors fear could lose out from artificial intelligence disruptions. U.S. futures were mostly unchanged. Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 fell 0.8 per cent to 57,165.13 on Friday, after it passed the 58,000 mark for the first time early Thursday. SoftBank Group, which has a focus on AI, fell 6.8 per cent even as the company reported a quarterly profit Thursday building on its investments in OpenAI, among other gains. South Korea’s Kospi rose 0.4 per cent to 5,545.49, after crossing 5,500 on Thursday, driven by gains in technology-related stocks. Samsung Electronics, the Kospi’s largest

listed company, was up 1.2 per cent. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng fell 1.8 per cent to 26,547.97. The Shanghai Composite index was down 0.7 per cent to 4,105.04. In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 traded 1.4 per cent lower at 8,919.30. On Thursday, Wall Street saw sharp losses as AI worries dampened sentiment. The S&P 500 fell for its second-worst day since Thanksgiving, dropping 1.6 per cent, or 108.71, to 6,832.76, but it’s still near an all-time high that was set last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 1.3 per cent, or 669.42, to 49,451.98. The Nasdaq composite lost 2 per cent, or 469.32, to 22,597.15. American technology giant Cisco Systems sank 12.3 per cent even though it reported.

Sensex, Nifty tumble over 1 pc as IT stocks drag markets

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent in early trade on Friday, led by steep losses in IT stocks amid weak global cues and persistent concerns over artificial intelligence-led disruptions which weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 883.4 points, or 1.05 per cent, to 82,791.52 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 262.60 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 25,544.60. Technology stocks extend the brunt of selling pressure from the previous session. Heavyweights such as Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra were the major laggards on the Sensex. Eternal, Hindustan Unilever, Adani Ports, Trent, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, IndiGo, Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Ce-



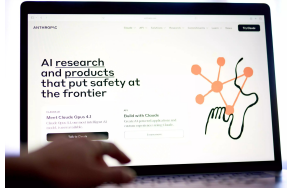
ment and NTPC were also trading in the red territory. Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were the only gainers. The BSE SmallCap Select Index dropped 1.93 per cent, while the Mid-Cap Select Index fell 1.40 per cent. “Markets have fallen into a turbulent phase which will cause some panic among investors even while offering opportunities. The sell off in AI stocks in US markets was expected but the timing and extent of the sell-off was not known. “For the Indian market, this correction in AI stocks is a positive, because last year’s global rally was primarily an AI trade in which India, an AI laggard, couldn’t participate. So the unwinding

of the AI trade, if it persists, is a positive from the Indian perspective,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. He further said, “What is rattling the Indian market now is the massive sell-off in IT stocks, which is the second largest profit pool of India Inc. The real impact of the ‘Anthropic shock’ on the IT sector is yet to be ascertained”. In Asian markets, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng benchmark, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index were trading lower, while South Korea’s Kospi was quoting in the positive territory. US equities market ended lower in overnight deals on Thursday. “Wall Street indexes fell sharply on Thursday, with the technology-heavy Nasdaq slumping 2 per cent, as investors intensified their selloff of tech shares and fled transport stocks amid worries about artificial intelligence.

Anthropic Clinches \$380 Billion Valuation After \$30 Billion Funding

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Anthropic has raised \$30 billion in its latest funding round, more than doubling the Claude chatbot maker’s valuation to \$380 billion and underscoring massive investor interest in the startup and the broader AI industry. The company has differentiated itself by focusing its model training on coding, with Claude Code gaining strong traction among developers and helping the company gain an edge over rivals in the enterprise AI market. Anthropic’s recently launched series of plugins for its Cowork agent had sparked a brutal selloff in global software stocks as investors debated the disruptive potential to the sector from sophisticated AI models. The funding round, announced on Thursday, was co-led by investors including D. E. Shaw Ventures, ICONIQ and MGX. It also included a portion of pre-



viously announced investments from Microsoft and Nvidia. Anthropic, backed by Google and Amazon, had raised \$13 billion in a Series F round that valued the company at \$183 billion, the company said in early September. Meanwhile, OpenAI could be valued at about \$830 billion as part of talks with SoftBank Group to invest as much as an additional \$30 billion in the ChatGPT maker, Reuters reported in January. Anthropic has rapidly built its revenue base — the company said its current run-rate revenue is \$14 billion. For Claude Code alone, the run-rate revenue has grown to over \$2.5 billion, more than doubling since the beginning of 2026. Business subscriptions to

Claude Code have quadrupled since the start of the year, with enterprise use now representing over half of all Claude Code revenue, the company said. Anthropic has further deepened its push for business deals with products like Claude Cowork AI agent, which executes computer tasks for white-collar workers. The company has also taken a different approach to AI regulation. While tech companies have pushed for less regulation, Anthropic has drawn up plans to donate \$20 million to back U.S. political candidates who support regulating the AI industry. “The companies building AI have a responsibility to help ensure the technology serves the public good, not just their own interests,” Anthropic had said separately earlier on Thursday. Earlier this week, Reuters reported that Blackstone, the world’s largest alternative asset manager, was increasing its stake.

John Wick is back, but now in his Solo Game

Popular Hollywood Action Franchise and popular action character is now being reiterated into a video game. The announcement video of this game has itself created immense buzz and excitement amongst fans that had a dream of exploring the John Wick universe themselves. The announcement video was able to create such buzz, despite the video game officially not having a title yet. Saber Interactive, in collaboration with Lionsgate and Chad Stahelski, the creator and main director behind the John Wick Franchise, are now officially working on this game. What excited fans the most, was Keanu Reeves



return in his John Wick avatar once more. In the movie franchise, in the film, John Wick: Chapter 4, the character of John Wick dies fighting his final legendary battle. But now, we see John Wick back as a leading character, in the new upcoming video game, played by none other than, Keanu Reeves. According to Sony, the new game

would feature an original script, set in the world of John Wick. According to them, "expanding on the franchise's intricate lore with familiar characters fans already know, as well as completely new ones." In the announcement video, we clearly see multiple action sequences taking place, similarly choreographed to the ones in the movies. But,

what makes it even more exciting for the fans, is that, this time they get to be in the shoes of their favourite character and fight like John Wick himself. The John Wick movie series has always said to have a video-game like feel to it, as it involves our protagonist seeking vengeance and having multiple quests and hurdles in order to achieve his goals. John Wick, sets out to destroy the organization "High Table", in order to achieve that he goes to any extent. Just like modern day games, in the franchise, the protagonists are often assigned with multiple side quests, making the universe extremely random and unpredictable. The game is expected to

be in the third-person action format, giving the limited gameplay we saw in the announcement trailer. However, we can also expect some first-person elements or a first-person interaction experience. Chad Stahelski (John Wick director and franchise visionary), Keanu Reeves, and Lionsgate are on the forefront to produce this highly anticipated, adrenaline-fueled experience that fits into the world of John Wick. This game takes place during a specific period within the John Wick timeline and contributes to the expansive and rich lore of the franchise. It also marks comeback of Keanu Reeves in the gaming world, after Cyberpunk 2047.

Allu Sirish's Pre-Wedding Festivities Kick Off

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actor Allu Sirish is all set to marry Nayanika Reddy on March 6, 2026. After a recent pre-wedding photo-shoot in Dubai, the family has returned to Hyderabad to kick-start the traditional wedding ceremonies. Yesterday, the Pasupu Muhurtham ceremony was held, and the entire Allu and Mega families were in attendance. Notable guests included Chiranjeevi's



wife Surekha, Ram Charan's wife Upasana Konidela, and Pawan Kalyan's wife Anna Lezhneva, all of whom participated in the rituals. On Friday, Sirish posted a video on his Instagram

with "Pasupu function at Allu residence" written on it. The video begins by showing how their home was done up with yellow and white flowers for the occasion. His father, producer Allu Aravind, was all smiles. Arha even took part in the harathi (arti) along with Chiranjeevi's wife, Surekha Konidela. Videos and pictures from the event, shared by Allu Sirish and his brother, Allu Arjun, have gone viral on social media.

SS Rajamouli Teases the Iconic Bull-Riding Sequence in Varanasi

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A powerful sequence set in Varanasi has become one of the most talked-about moments from the upcoming 2026 release starring Mahesh Babu. In the film, Mahesh Babu plays Rudhra, a fearless warrior-adventurer who makes a dramatic entrance riding a bull — a striking visual symbolically linked to Nandi, the sacred vehicle of Lord Shiva. The scene, featured in the film's title reveal glimpse released in November last year, builds up after a deeply emotional episode. Speaking about the conception of the moment, celebrated filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli — widely known as the creator of



Baahubali: The Beginning — said he knew instantly that the bull-riding shot would become one of the greatest cinematic moments when he first imagined it. However, he added that the emotional lead-up to the sequence is what truly elevates its impact. Writer V. Vijayendra Prasad has earlier described

the film as a "globetrotting action adventure," drawing comparisons to Indiana Jones, while remaining deeply rooted in Indian cultural and spiritual traditions. The narrative unfolds across multiple timelines, or yugas, blending mythology, history, and high-octane adventure into an epic cinematic experience.

Funky Movie Review: Irritating spoof on producer-director relationship

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Cast: Vishwak Sen, Naresh, Kayadu Lohar, Anudeep, VTV Ganesh, Sampath Raj and others
Director: Anudeep
Rating: 1.5/5 stars
Producer Naga Vamsi has probably okayed this spoof on Telugu cinema since he has been in the industry for over a decade. Funky revolves around a Telugu film producer (Naresh) who



suffers endlessly at the hands of an inept director played by Vishwak Sen. The stress even lands the producer with a heart attack. The director character is shown as neither talented nor sensible. He blindly

copies love scenes from old films and is such a dimwit that he doesn't even know how to propose to his lady love. He survives purely by hoodwinking people around him. Meanwhile, the producer's daughter (Kayadu

Lohar) attempts to revive the stalled film and inexplicably ends up falling in love with the flop director. Director Anudeep fills the screenplay with less logic and more jokes, but only a handful manage to evoke laughs. There is no engaging story to back the humour, and the film ultimately makes a mockery of the relationship between struggling directors and big producers in the industry. Even Dil Raju is shown mocking Vishwak

Sen when he approaches him with a script. Anudeep, who made a solid mark with Jathi Ratnalu and rocked the box office, completely misfires this time. His comic caper turns out to be a damp squib and tests the audience's patience throughout. The supposed love story between Vishwak Sen and Kayadu Lohar falls flat as it looks forced rather than organic, and the romantic songs fail to enthrall.

Team India Dominates Luxembourg with 15-5 Victory in Arena Polo Clash



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Waheed uddin

India thrashed Luxembourg 15-5 in a commanding display at the Radha TMT International Arena Polo Championship 2026, sealing victory with relentless attacking play across three chukkers. Team India's dominant performance was driven by clinical finishing and strong coordination. Yusuf Azmi and Kunwar Vishal Singh led the charge, delivering crucial goals that kept Luxembourg under constant pressure. India established control early and never allowed their opponents to recover. In the opening chukker, India set the tone with six goals. Yusuf Azmi struck

twice, Kunwar Vishal Singh netted an impressive three goals, and Mohammad Nayeemuddin added one. Luxembourg managed two goals through Leopold Ludorf, while Clothilde Ludorf and Mona Scharf remained scoreless, ending the first chukker at 6-2 in India's favor. India maintained momentum in the second chukker, adding five more goals. Cheitania scored twice, Yusuf Azmi contributed two more, and a penalty conversion extended the tally. Luxembourg responded with one goal each from Mona Scharf and Leopold Ludorf. The scoreboard stood at 11-4 after the second chukker, firmly tilting the match toward India. The final chukker saw India continue their dominance.

Cheitania added two goals and Yusuf Azmi scored twice again, contributing four more goals. Luxembourg could manage only a single goal from Leopold Ludorf, concluding the match at 15-5. Kunwar Vishal Singh's explosive start and Yusuf Azmi's consistent scoring proved decisive in the comprehensive win. While Luxembourg displayed resilience, particularly through Leopold Ludorf's efforts, they struggled to match India's sustained offensive pressure. The championship once again showcased high-intensity arena polo, top-level talent, and competitive spirit, with India delivering one of the tournament's most commanding performances.

Sublime Saiteja Keeps USA Alivetch

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Saiteja Mukkamalla could barely hide his excitement when USA were slated to play a couple of ICC T20 World Cup matches in Chennai. The 21-year-old, who represents Texas Super Kings in Major League Cricket, used his franchise connections to train at the CSK Academy here before linking up with the USA squad for the marquee event. The preparation paid rich dividends on Friday as Saiteja crafted an unbeaten 79 off just 51 balls — a sublime innings that formed the bedrock of USA's commanding 93-



run victory over the Netherlands. More importantly, the win, secured with 24 balls to spare, boosted their net run rate and kept USA alive in their campaign. They now head into their final Group A game against Namibia at the same venue on Sunday. Saiteja found able allies in Shubham Ranjane, who provided a late flourish

with a blistering 48 not out off 24 balls, and skipper Monank Patel, whose brisk 36 off 22 ensured USA reached an imposing 196 for six. The chase quickly spiralled into a daunting task for the Dutch. Early wickets dented their hopes as the required rate climbed steadily. Left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh was the most effective, claiming

four wickets. After stumbling to three down inside the powerplay, the Netherlands slumped to 75 for six by the halfway stage. Earlier, USA had begun in effervescent fashion. Shayan Jahangir set the tone with his penchant for attacking short-pitched bowling, dispatching two pulls for six — one over midwicket and another behind square — before falling. Undeterred by the early loss, captain Monank kept the scoring rate ticking, peppering the boundary as USA raced to 53 for one at the end of the powerplay. Pacer Bas de Leede provided the breakthrough the Dutch desperately

Riyan Parag Named RR Captain for IPL 2026 After Samson's Move to CSK

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

In a major leadership overhaul ahead of the 2026 season of the Indian Premier League, Rajasthan Royals have appointed Riyan Parag as their new captain, replacing Sanju Samson following a high-profile trade with Chennai Super Kings. The transition comes after Samson joined Chennai, while Rajasthan secured the services of all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran in return, reshaping the squad ahead of IPL 2026. Parag, 24, has been a consistent presence

for the Royals since making his IPL debut in 2019. Having spent all seven seasons with the franchise, he has evolved into a core member of the batting lineup. So far, he has played 84 IPL matches, scoring 1,566 runs at an impressive strike rate of 141.84. He previously led Rajasthan in eight matches during last year's IPL campaign, managing two wins and six losses in a brief stint as stand-in skipper. With this appointment, Rajasthan Royals signal a long-term investment in youth leadership as they prepare for a new era without Samson at the helm.



Students To Get Instant Temp EAPCET Scores

Students appearing for the Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (EAPCET-2026) will be able to check their temporary scores immediately after the completion of the examination, based on the preliminary answer key. Marks-based ranks of the two previous years will also be uploaded to enable students to get a fair picture of where they stand. The final marks and ranks will be available after the answer key is finalised, following objections, if any. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad, which is conducting the test, has decided to display scores based on the preliminary key. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, TG EAPCET convener Dr K. Vijaya Kumar Reddy said rank bands from the last two years will be uploaded on the website along with marks scored. This, he explained, will enable students to ascertain their temporary rank based on the preliminary key.

Small Apartments Need Not Register with RERA, Rules Tribunal

The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGRERA) Appellate Tribunal reiterated that building projects on plots smaller than 500 square yards do not need to be registered under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act. The tribunal was hearing a case involving a complaint from Veena Dhari that the builder, RR Construction, who developed the Sri Vajra Residency in Nallakunta, had not fixed construction defects or provided the occupancy certificate as agreed. TG RERA had earlier ordered the developer to correct the issues and pay a penalty. However, on appeal, the tribunal said that the project was exempt from RERA registration under Section 3 (2) (a) of the RERA Act since the land area of the developed apartment was under 500 square yards. The appellate tribunal added that a project can be outside RERA's scope if it meets either one of two conditions; land parcel must be under 500 square yards or less than eight apartments in the building. If either one of the criteria is met, the project does not have to be under RERA. The appellate tribunal has set the earlier RERA aside, and said that buyers in such cases should seek resolution in a civil court or consumer forum.

QR Reflective Tapes Mandatory for Telangana Transport Vehicles

In a major road safety initiative, the Telangana Transport Department has made it mandatory for all transport vehicles in the state to install QR code-enabled reflective tapes and rear marking plates to reduce road accidents, especially during nighttime travel. The new regulation will come into force from February 20, as per an official statement issued on February 12. Under the new rule, installation of reflective tapes has been made compulsory for obtaining the annual Fitness Certificate. Vehicles that fail to comply will not be issued the mandatory fitness certification required for legal operation, making adherence to the directive essential for all transport vehicle owners. The primary objective of this move is to improve vehicle visibility in low-light and night driving conditions, a major factor contributing to road accidents. Authorities believe the enhanced reflectivity will help drivers identify vehicles from a distance, thereby reducing collision risks. To ensure standardisation and authenticity, the department has empanelled five authorised companies to handle the installation process. These companies have been approved to operate until February 8, 2027. Each reflective tape will carry the Telangana Transport Department logo along with a unique QR code and serial number, enabling easy digital verification and helping prevent duplication, misuse, and illegal installations. After installation, vehicle owners will receive an official certification document containing the vehicle registration number, company details, photograph of the installed reflective tape, and warranty information. This documentation will serve as proof of compliance during inspections and fitness certification procedures. Officials have strictly advised vehicle owners to purchase and install reflective tapes only through authorised dealers of the empanelled companies to ensure compliance with government standards and avoid penalties. The government expects this initiative to significantly improve road safety across Telangana, particularly during nighttime operations, and play a crucial role in reducing accident rates while strengthening regulatory enforcement and vehicle monitoring systems.

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AIMIM Storms Telangana Civic Polls

Owaisi-led party secures 70 wards statewide, shines in Nizamabad and key towns

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana Zaffer abedi

The Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) recorded a strong performance in the municipal elections across Telangana, securing 47 wards in municipalities and 22 wards in municipal corporations, with results declared on Friday, February 13. In the overall civic elections, the ruling Congress party dominated by winning over 1,500 of the 2,996 wards and capturing three out of seven municipal corporations. Despite this, AIMIM consolidated its influence in key urban pockets, particularly in northern Telangana. Among municipalities, AIMIM performed strongly in Bhainsa and Bodhan (12 wards each), followed by Adilabad (6) and Nirmal (3). The party also secured representa-



tion in towns such as Zaheerabad, Narayanpet, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Kagaznagar, Gadwal, Kohir, Kodangal, Vikarabad, Armoor, and Tandur. In municipal corporations, AIMIM made its biggest impact in the Nizamabad Municipal Cor-

poration, where it won 14 wards, the highest among corporations. It also secured seats in Karimnagar (3), Mahboobnagar (3), Nalgonda (2) and others. The State Election Commission will issue notifications on February 14 for the election of municipal chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, mayors and deputy mayors. Newly elected councillors and corporators will take oath on February 16, followed by the election of civic heads the same day.

Traffic curbs in Hyderabad for AIMIM's 'Darussalam Day' celebrations

The Hyderabad Traffic Police (HTP) has imposed certain traffic restrictions around Darussalam on February 14, in view of the 'Darussalam Day' event at the AIMIM headquarters. Officials said moderate congestion is likely between 4 pm and 11 pm in the area. Traffic will be diverted at key junctions including Alaska T-Junction, Aghapura crossroad, MJ Bridge and Ek Minar. Vehicles from Malakunta, Begum Bazaar, Mallepally, Mangalhat, Mehdiatnam and Afzalgunj will be re-routed through alternate roads to ease traffic flow. Designated parking spaces have been arranged at Hockey Grounds in Masab Tank and Red Hills, Veterinary Hospital premises at Seetharambagh and other locations. Two-wheelers will be accommodated at select dargahs and Pan Mandi Road. Traffic Police requested citizens, particularly those heading to the Numaish exhibition at Nampally, to use public transport and cooperate with traffic personnel on duty.

TGSRTC plans 2,800 e-buses for Hyderabad by 2027 via retrofitting

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced a major expansion of its electric bus programme to curb urban air pollution and promote sustainable public transport in Hyderabad, with a target of introducing 2,800 electric buses within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits by 2027. As part of the initiative, TGSRTC is converting existing diesel buses into electric vehicles through a retrofitting programme. Tenders for the project were issued on September 15, 2025, and finalised on September 30, 2025. Con-

tracts were awarded to Sai Green Mobility for converting 200 buses and Kalyani Powertrain Limited for 40 buses. Currently, 325 electric buses are operating from six city depots, while another 175 buses are expected to be inducted during the current financial year. To support the expanding fleet, charging infrastructure is being developed at 19 additional depots. The corporation is also planning to construct 10 new depots and 10 dedicated charging stations, with the total estimated infrastructure cost pegged at ₹392 crore. Officials said the programme is expected to increase public transport

usage, reduce dependence on private vehicles, lower emission levels and improve public health outcomes across the city. The statement also recalled that in 2023, a diesel bus from the Mushirabad depot was converted into an electric bus in collaboration with a private firm and is currently operating from the Uppal depot. TGSRTC Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy said the initiative is aimed at strengthening Hyderabad's public transport system while advancing sustainable mobility goals. Senior officials and representatives of participating firms were present at a meeting.

1500 Community Dogs Poisoned to Meet Poll Promise: PETA

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A memorial billboard at Nayapul circle here alleges that more than 1,500 community dogs were poisoned across multiple districts in Telangana in what was described as a coordinated attempt to create "dog-free" villages. "The sheer scale and apparent coordination of these poisonings is horrifying. These dogs were mothers, babies, friends — all individuals who suffered and felt pain and did not want to die," said Shaurya Agrawal, policy associate at PETA India. The display, erected by PETA along High Court Road in Ghansi Bazaar, features the image of a dog and cites killings reported from Jagtial, Hanamkonda, Kamareddy, Rangareddy and Nirmal

districts. According to the organisation, the animals were often poisoned in broad daylight. PETA alleges that the killings were carried out to fulfil an election promise to make certain villages "dog-free." It contends that such actions violate the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which mandate sterilisation and return of community dogs, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which prohibits killing. Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 makes the maiming or killing of any animal, including by poisoning, a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment of up to five years, a fine, or both. The group has called for prosecution of those responsible.

In surprise move, DCP inspects Punjagutta PS as common citizen

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In an unusual move aimed at assessing ground-level functioning, Khairatabad Zone DCP K Shilpavalli went for a surprise inspection at Punjagutta police station posing as a common citizen complainant. Late on Thursday night, the DCP parked her official vehicle at a distance leaving her security personnel away and quietly entered the police station in civil dress, without revealing her identity.



She sat in the reception area as if she had come to lodge a formal police complaint and observed the staff's response, behaviour and overall handling of visitors. It is learnt that the senior cop had for nearly one-and-a-

half hours, monitored the functioning of the police station and the response of the staff. The DCP later revealed her identity and summoned the Circle Inspector and ACP concerned and gave suggestions re-

GHMC to begin KBR Park Package-II flyover works soon

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to start construction of flyovers and underpasses under package 2 works at KBR Park in February third week. On Friday, Chief Engineer (Maintenance & Project) Sahadev

Ratnakar inspected works proposed at surroundings of KBR Park under H-CITI, along with engineering officials. As per an official press release, the H-CITI officials inspected KBR package works that are to be started at Road no 12, Banjara Hills, covering Agrasen Junction and Kalinga Junction,

along with PMC consultant and the agency concerned. The KBR Package 2 works are planned to be grounded next week. KBR package I includes construction of flyovers and underpasses at two junctions, Jubilee Hills checkpoint and KBR entrance junction, along with an underpass at Mugdha Junction.

The estimated cost of the project is 580 crore. KBR package II includes construction of flyovers and underpasses at four junctions—Road no. 45 Junction, Film Nagar junction, Maharaja Agrasen junction and Cancer Hospital junction—at the KBR Park. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 510 crore, it said.

1/800 NEET-PG Scorer Bags MS Ortho Seat at Pvt College in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A sharp reduction in the cut-off for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Postgraduate courses (NEET-PG) has triggered widespread concern among Telangana's medical fraternity after several postgraduate seats — including high-risk clinical and surgical specialties — were allotted to candidates with extremely low scores during the third round of counselling conducted by Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS). Counselling records show that candidates with poor scores secured admissions in both premier government and private institutions in Hyderabad. In one striking case, a candidate who scored 1 out of 800 (All India Rank 2,29,981) was allotted an MS Orthopaedics seat at a prominent private medical college. Similarly, postgraduate seats in forensic medicine and pathology at a leading government medical college were allotted to candidates who scored 12 and 24 marks, respectively.

The situation follows a policy revision announced in January by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) in coordination with the Union health ministry. The qualifying percentile for the general category was lowered from the 50th to the 7th percentile to fill more than 18,000 vacant PG seats across the country for the 2025–26 academic year. Candidates from OBC, SC, ST and PwD categories — including those with negative scores — were also made eligible for counselling. After the revision, candidates in Telangana secured seats in reputed institutions such as Osmania Medical College and Gandhi Medical College, including in high-demand specialties like orthopaedics, paediatrics and general medicine. Medical leaders warned that the move risks diluting standards and patient safety. Dr Ajay Kumar Goud of T-JUDA said near-zero score admissions reflect a system under strain, while Dr Kiran Madhala of TTGDA pointed to faculty shortages.