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WEATHER

MAX: 31.4°C
MIN: 17.1°C
RH: 35%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY
MAX/MIN temp: 32/18°C

Brief Insights

Rs.1L Cr Challenge Fund Up for Grabs

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) with a central assistance of ₹1 lakh crore and sanctioned construction of the country's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel between Gohpur and Numaligarh in Assam at a cost of ₹18,662 crore. Briefing reporters, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the UCF will provide 25 per cent central assistance for projects, subject to at least 50 per cent funding being mobilised from the market. The initiative is expected to catalyse investments of about ₹4 lakh crore in the urban sector over the next five years.

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Assam To Get Rs 50,000 crore As Its Tax Share This Year: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a frontal attack on the Congress party, accusing it of resorting to divisive politics, corruption in defence deals, and neglecting the Northeast. While addressing the BJP workers here, Mr Modi said that while the Muslim League divided India during Independence, "today, Congress has become Muslim League-Maoist Congress and is in the process of dividing India." Accusing that the Congress lacked the courage to take decisions and, at best, only made statements, he said that the grand old party always put the country at risk. "Congress never prioritised the nation's security. Because of the negativity of Congress governments, the entire Northeast lived in fear and insecurity. Congress always kept the country at risk. During Congress's tenure, whenever weapons were purchased for the military, it meant a scam worth....

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

141 Seats Next Time: DK Shivakumar Predicts Bigger Congress Mandate

HAVERI

Wakeup telangana

Predicting a bigger mandate for the Congress in the next Assembly election in 2028, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the president of KPCC, on Saturday said the party would win 141 seats, asserting that the government's welfare programmes and guarantee schemes had strengthened public confidence. Speaking at the government program in Haveri, Shivakumar said the Congress had already proved its commitment by implementing the five guarantees

WAKE UP TELANGANA



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Bandi Accuses Cong, BRS, MIM of Playing 'Dirty Politics': P3

AIMIM celebrates 68th Revival Day amidst recent electoral gains: P8

Discontent in Congress Over Poll Results, Says KTR: P3



CM Revanth Eyes Win In 37 Hung Civic Bodies

8 AIFB winners join Cong., give it Wadeppally



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday asked ministers and senior Congress leaders to intensify efforts to secure control of the 37 urban local bodies that delivered hung verdicts in the municipal elections, as well as the Nizamabad and Karimnagar municipal corporations. The elected representatives will select chairpersons of 116 municipalities and mayors of seven corporations in indirect polls on February 15.

Revanth Reddy was speaking with ministers and senior leaders at this residence to review municipal election results and to finalise party's strategy for Monday's polls. On Saturday, eight

ward members elected from All India Forward Bloc in Wadeppally municipality in Gadwal district, joined the Congress in the presence of CM.

With this, the Congress secured Wadeppally municipality. Stating that the Congress had won nearly 70 municipalities, Revanth Reddy set a target of crossing 90. He instructed ministers, MLAs, MPs and MLCs to engage with Independents and rebel candidates who emerged victorious and, if they were willing to support the Congress in the interest of development of

Kharge, Rahul Hail Congress Win in Tgana Civic Polls

The Congress leadership on Saturday hailed the party's emphatic victory in the Telangana municipal elections, describing the outcome as a strong endorsement of the Revanth Reddy government's governance model. AICC leader Rahul Gandhi thanked the people for the mandate and said the results reflected public approval of people-first policies rooted in social justice, dignity and inclusive growth.

In a post on his 'X' handle, Gandhi congratulated Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and appreciated the efforts of party leaders and grassroots workers, stating that the victory belonged to every karyakarta and to the people of the state. He reiterated the party's commitment to building a "Prajala Telangana" where progress reaches every family. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said the mandate demonstrated the trust reposed by the people in the Congress government and affirmed that the party remained committed to ensuring social justice, economic empowerment and sustained development for all sections of society. AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi conveyed her congratulations to the Chief Minister, noting that the results mirrored.

their wards and towns, facilitate their entry into the party.

The Chief Minister asked party leaders to remain vigilant and effectively counter any attempts by opposition parties to influence elected members ahead of the indirect polls.

Reviewing the party's performance, Revanth Reddy congratulated ministers for their coordinated efforts and attributed the results to the Congress government's welfare measures and development initiatives undertaken over the past two years. He said the mandate reflected public trust in the "People's Government," asserting that significant progress had been achieved in two years compared to the previous decade of BRS rule.

Cong. Neglected NE, Dividing India: Modi

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of divisive politics, corruption in defence procurement and neglect of the Northeast, while addressing BJP workers in Assam.

He said the Congress has become "Muslim League-Maoist Congress and is in the process of dividing India." He alleged that the Congress lacked the courage to take key decisions and had compromised national security during its tenure. Referring to defence purchases under previous regimes, he said they were linked to scams. He also accused the Congress of attempting to "unsettle Assam" and of supporting infiltrators.

"Congress never prioritised the nation's security. Because of the negativity

of Congress governments, the entire Northeast lived in fear and insecurity. Congress always kept the country at risk. During Congress's tenure, whenever weapons were purchased for the military, it meant a scam worth thousands of crores," he said. Modi said the present government was strengthening border infrastructure, including highways, tunnels, bridges and airfields, to enhance national security. He also said, "Congress wants to unsettle Assam once again. Congress wants to return it to infiltrators once again. Be it its top leadership in Delhi or leaders here, they all are trying to save infiltrators. They want to change the original identity of Assam." He stated that the Northeast was central to the government's development agenda and described it as "Goddess Ashtalakshmi". Citing Union Budget allocations, he said Assam would receive about Rs 50,000 crore as its tax share this year, compared to around Rs 10,000 crore during the Congress regime.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

C'garh : 3 CoBRA Commandos, Car Driver Killed In Road

RAIPUR

Wakeup telangana

In a tragic incident, three CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) jawans and the car driver were on Saturday killed when the vehicle in which they were travelling rammed into a truck, parked roadside, at Khapri bypass road in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district. The car carrying five people, including the driver, from Jagdalpur, headquarters of Bastar, to Raipur in Chhattisgarh hit the stationary truck and was mangled, police said. Another jawan, identified as Abhiman Rai, travelling in the car was injured and rushed to Raipur for advanced medical attention. The passengers of

the ill-fated car were removed from its wreckage with much difficulty, police said. The three slain jawans have been identified as sub-inspector Umed Singh, head constable Mukesh Kumar, and constable Raj Kumar, while the deceased civilian driver has been identified as Hiralal Nagar, according to Dhamtari district superintendent of police Suraj Singh Parihar. The CoBRA personnel had availed leave to visit their homes. Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed shock and sorrow over the demise of the three COBRA jawans, describing it 'deeply disturbing'. 'The sad demise of our brave soldiers, dedicated to the service of the nation, is extremely painful.

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

'Bangladesh 1st': Tarique Rahman's Reply To Query On Ties With India

DHAKA
Wakeup telangana



After a sweeping victory in the 13th National Parliamentary Elections, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief Tarique Rahman, in a press conference, said that Bangladesh's foreign policy will prioritise the country's interests over others.

"The interests of Bangladesh and its people will determine our foreign policy," he said as a response to a question on ties with India.

"Freedom loving pro-democracy people of the country have once again brought victory to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party," he said in English, before switching to Bangla.

"We have cleared ourselves regarding the foreign policy which is in the interest of Bangladesh, and the interest of the Bangladeshi people comes first. By protecting the interest of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi people, we will decide our foreign policy," Rahman said. Answering how the government would approach international relations, senior BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said that the party would stick to multilateralism and not go

after a country-centric approach.

That being said, Rahman's "Bangladesh First" policy aims to balance ties with neighbouring countries like India, China and Pakistan. The BNP leadership also highlighted how important safeguarding sovereignty, ensuring strategic autonomy and mutual respect would be to shape foreign relations. Humayun Kabir, who handles international relations for Rahman and is set to be a key official in the new regime, said the priority is to build a "stronger cooperation among our people". He said India will be one of the countries that "we will visit", though he did not give a definite time.

The saffron party had made unprecedented gains in the Lok Sabha elections

Centre Clears Prosecution of IAS Officer in Formula E Case

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The Centre has reportedly allowed the prosecution of senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar in connection with alleged irregularities in the Formula E racing case. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao is another accused in the scam case. The sanction came within a day of the fast-changing political scenario in Telangana – with the BJP making a grand statement as a party in waiting to replace the BRS as the principal Opposition and the Congress being further strengthened by the latest in a series of poll victories. The saffron party had made unprecedented gains in the Lok Sabha elections

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Central Cabinet Approves 4-Lane Gudebellur-Mahabubnagar on NH-167

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The Centre has approved the widening of the national highway from Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar on the Hyderabad-Panaji economic corridor to four-lane standard. Work on the 80.01 km stretch of the highway is expected to cost ₹3175.08 crore. The project will be executed in hybrid annuity mode (HAM) under (National Highways (Original) scheme, and was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

on Friday. The project will provide significant benefit to Narayanpet and Mahabubnagar districts in Telangana. This route links Mahabubnagar to Gudeballur near the Karnataka border and extends towards Raichur, passing through Marikal in Telangana and Deosugur in Karnataka. The project aims to facilitate

smoother movement between Hyderabad, Warangal and other Telangana cities to destinations in Karnataka and Goa, reducing fuel consumption and travel time.

Currently, travellers from Hyderabad and Warangal to Goa, Raichur, Mantralayam and other Karnataka towns commute via Jadcherla and Mahabubnagar on a two-lane road. Converting this stretch into four lanes is expected to ease traffic flow, enable faster transit and boost regional economic prospects.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

ESTD - 1960.

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge
baar baar aaoge

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

Hung Verdicts Spark Resort Politics in 37 Municipalities

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



The municipal election results declared on Friday produced a hung verdict in 37 municipalities, setting off hectic political manoeuvring by the ruling Congress, the opposition BRS and the BJP. With no party securing a clear majority in these bodies, all three major parties have resorted to 'camp politics', shifted their elected councillors to resorts around Hyderabad and other undisclosed locations to prevent poaching by rival parties and lure Independents, rebels and members

elected from smaller parties such as BSP and AIFB.

The indirect elections to the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in municipal corporations and chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in municipalities scheduled for February 16 have intensified the scramble for numbers. Independents have emerged as 'king-makers' in many municipali-

ties, while in several others the ex-officio votes of MPs, MLAs and MLCs are expected to determine the outcome. Political equations remain fluid as parties explore possible alliances wherever they fall short of a majority. In Jangoan, BRS won 13 wards and Congress 12 in the 30-member body, leaving five Independents to tip the balance. Jagtial saw Congress secure 23 of 50 wards, ahead of BJP with six and BRS with four, while 17 Independents hold the key. In Rairkal, BJP led with five of 12 wards but needed additional support, and in Metpally it secured 10 of

26 wards, still short of a majority. Gadwal gave Congress 16 of 37 wards, followed by BRS with 11 and BJP with seven. Alampur witnessed a tie, with Congress and BRS winning five wards each in the 10-member municipality, making ex-officio votes crucial. Kamarreddy delivered a close contest, with Congress at 19, BJP at 18 and BRS at 10 in a 49-member body. In Vemulawada, Congress won 13 of 28 wards and requires additional backing, while in Jinnaram BRS secured eight of 20 wards and needs three more for control. Jammin kunta also reported a frac-

tured mandate with BRS at 12, Congress at 10 and BJP at four in a 30-member municipality. In Asifabad, the BRS won nine of 20 wards, ahead of Congress with seven. Kagaznagar gave BRS 11 of 30 wards and Congress nine. Bellampalli saw Congress and BRS tied at 14 each in a 34-member body. Kyatnapalli placed the BRS ahead with 10 of 22 wards. In Mahbubabad, the Congress emerged as the single largest party with 13 of 36 wards, while Kesamudram recorded a tie between Congress and BJP at eight each in 16 wards.

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-

ected.

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.

MLA Sri Ganesh Provides ₹2.5 Lakh Lifesaving Medical Aid

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh extended crucial financial relief by handing over a ₹2.5-lakh Letter of Credit to a needy family from Balamrai for urgent medical treatment. The beneficiary, Geeta, wife of Kasika Raju, has been battling a serious illness and is currently admitted to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, where

doctors advised immediate surgery. Facing mounting hospital expenses, the family approached the MLA

seeking assistance. Responding promptly, he facilitated the government process required to secure financial aid without

delay.

The sanctioned LOC was formally presented at his residence in Tukaram Gate, where he also met the family and assured continued support. He stated that residents of Secunderabad Cantonment should never be deprived of quality healthcare due to financial hardship. The family expressed heartfelt gratitude, calling the timely help a lifesaving intervention.

Blistering Sun, No Shade Commuters Struggle at Tarnaka Bus Stops

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



As summer temperatures soar, passengers along the Tarnaka–Moulai ECIL-Nagaram- Ram-pally X road -Keesara corridor are battling more than just the heat—they are fighting for basic shelter at bus stops. Most Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC) stops in this busy area lack protective sheds, leaving commuters exposed to harsh sunlight and rain.

Some existing shelters are under repair, while others are partially blocked by footpath vendors, forcing commuters to stand dangerously close to moving traffic. Key locations like ECIL X Road, Kesara, Moulai Zonal Railway Training Centre ZRTC, and Tar-

naka Metro Station witness heavy daily traffic. Students attending online examination centres at Digital Zone, Pepsi Cola area, and Noma Centre are among the most affected. Regular small-job workers and daily commuters also rely on these stops, but the shortage of shelters and overcrowded footpaths makes waiting unbearable. "During peak hours and holidays, the situation is chaotic. Women, children, and elderly passengers risk walking on the road because footpaths are blocked," says a local resident.

Students attending online examination centres at Digital Zone, Pepsi Cola area, and Noma Centre

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"During peak hours and holidays, the situation is chaotic. Women, children, and elderly passengers risk walking on the road because footpaths are blocked," says a local resident.

Authorities have been urged to provide additional bus shelters, repair existing ones, and clear footpaths to ensure pedestrian safety. Citizens hope that swift action from TGRTC will make commuting safer and more comfortable, especially with the hot summer months approaching.

Market Police Rescue Kidnapped Infant, Arrest Couple



In a swift operation, Market Police Station rescued a four-month-old baby girl and arrested Goga Venkaiyah and Munagala Srinisha for abducting her near Secunderabad Railway Station. The infant was safely reunited with her mother, and police seized the motorcycle and phones used in the crime. The operation was supervised by V. Yadagiri Reddy, with a team led by S. M. Basheer Ahmed and V. Ramchander, who tracked the suspects within 48 hours to Kowkur in Medchal-Malkajgiri. Police said the accused gained the mother's trust with food and clothes before fleeing with the child. One suspect worked at Asian Paints and the other as a beautician in Gachibowli. Authorities urged citizens to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity.

People Want Alternative Politics, We Won 40 Seats: Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Telangana Jagruthi President K Kavitha said that Telangana Jagruthi in alliance with the All India Forward Bloc secured 40 seats in recent municipal elections, asserting the results reflect growing public support for alternative political forces. She stated that although only 33 victories were officially recorded, technical issues related to B-Forms prevented seven winning candidates from being formally counted. According to her, many voters supported the Indian National Congress mainly due to the absence of a strong alternative. She alleged serious election law violations in Panchayat and municipal polls, accusing authorities of misusing government machinery and remaining silent. She also criticised the Bharat Rashtri Sami-

thi for comparing present results with Congress's opposition-era performance instead of evaluating its own record while in power. Kavitha further claimed that in North Telangana the BRS indirectly helped the Bharatiya Janata Party, suggesting a tacit understanding, and questioned its support to the Communist Party of India. Referring to local bodies, she said the alliance received a clear mandate in Vaddepally but alleged attempts by rivals to lure their elected representatives. In Narayapat, she claimed an offer for the vice-chairman post was made to their side and the matter was left to local leadership. She added that her organisation and labour allies would jointly contest upcoming elections in Singareni Collieries Company Limited, alleging workforce numbers dropped from 60,000 to 40,000 due to lack of new mines. State convener Ambati Jojireddy alleged the BJP lacks a real majority in Karimnagar and accused Bandi Sanjay of heavy poll spending. Leader Riyaz Ahmed also alleged intimidation of their candidates, while Jojireddy highlighted the party's legacy founded by Subhas Chandra Bose.

Self Defence Training Empowers Students At Villa Marie College Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A self-defence awareness and practical training programme was conducted at Villa Marie Degree College for Women in Hyderabad, equipping students with real-life safety techniques and situational awareness skills. Organized by the college's Women's Cell and Department of Commerce at its Somajiguda

campus, the session was held in association with GVR Karate Academy. Secretary Ms. Chinnaamma, Principal Mrs. Revati Devi Mathur, faculty heads, conveners, and sports officials attended the event, stressing the growing importance of self-defence education for women. Addressing participants, Ms. Chinnaamma highlighted that awareness,



confidence, and preparedness are vital for young women to face real-world challenges. The practical session

was led by academy founder Dr. G. S. Gopal Reddy and his team, including Ms. Amrutha Reddy, who demonstrated defensive techniques for common attack scenarios. Students were also trained to use everyday items—such as phones, bags, scarves, and water bottles—as protective tools, with emphasis on quick reactions, escape methods, and alertness.

The academy previously trained one lakh women free of cost during 2017-18 as part of a women's empowerment initiative that earned world-record recognition. The programme drew an enthusiastic response from students and faculty, underscoring rising awareness about personal safety and the value of structured self-defence training for women.



Telangana I&PR
Handle Crosses
70,000 Followers On
X; Officials Credit
Bilingual Strategy

The state information and public relations department's (I&PR) official handle on X has crossed 70,000 followers. Officials attribute it to a steady stream of bilingual updates and a stronger digital presence across platforms. The department said it was continuing to expand its online outreach and share verified information with citizens. Through X, Facebook and Instagram, the department shares information related to the Chief Minister, Ministers, major government programmes, development initiatives and policy decisions. Updates are posted in both Telugu and English, widening their reach. The department said the consistent flow of verified information has attracted thousands of new followers and expanded its digital presence. It added that its proactive presence on social media and commitment to keeping citizens informed about government initiatives have been appreciated by the public.

Bandi Accuses Cong, BRS, MIM of Playing 'Dirty Politics'

He warned that BJP workers would chase Congress and BRS leaders through Karimnagar's streets if they defied the people's mandate.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Union minister of state Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused the Congress, BRS and the MIM of indulging in "dirty and cheap politics" by uniting in Karimnagar to block the BJP from power. Despite their efforts, he claimed, the three parties were limited to 26 divisions, while the BJP — with 30 seats and support from independents — had crossed the majority mark in the 66-member corporation. Speaking at the state party office in Nampally, Sanjay said the parties were ashamed to ally openly. He pointed out that BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakar had publicly urged his corporators to back the

Congress-nominated mayoral candidate. Extending mock "Valentine's wishes" to Congress and BRS, he alleged MIM was maintaining an "illegal relationship" with both. Sanjay asserted that voters sensed this tacit pact even before the polls and backed the BJP. He questioned why the Congress government was not acting against BRS leaders in cases such as phone tapping, the Formula E race and the Kaleshwaram project if no

deal existed. He warned that BJP workers would chase Congress and BRS leaders through Karimnagar's streets if they defied the people's mandate. The BJP, he added, would expose Congress's unfulfilled promises to women, farmers, teachers, youth and retired employees, citing withheld retirement benefits, five months' DA and EPF amounts. Nicknaming Chief Minister Revanth Reddy "Bade Bhai" and AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi "Chota Bhai," Sanjay noted that even Owaisi's campaigning yielded MIM only three seats. Ahead of the polls, BJP had released a booklet detailing promises fulfilled, including ₹1,400 crore from the Centre under the

Smart Cities Mission. "We're ready to prove our mettle in the upcoming GHMC elections," he declared. Sanjay also criticised state intelligence for misleading Revanth Reddy with predictions of a Congress landslide, allotting BJP just 13 seats. "The CM must open his eyes," he said. At a separate press conference in Nirmal, BJP Assembly floor leader A. Maheshwar Reddy highlighted the party's rise from one seat in the previous council to 13 now. He accused Congress, BRS and MIM of uniting to poll 27,000 votes against BJP's 20,000. Congress clinched 24 wards, while MIM and BRS took three and two seats respectively.

Discontent in Congress Over Poll Results: KTR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday said the Congress was in the grip of discontent over its performance in the municipal elections, while the BJP had been shown its place by the people. He also said that there were hints that another round of summons were coming in the For-

case," Rama Rao said during an informal chat with reporters. "This was also already informed to the Chief Minister by the police and ACB officials," he added. As far as the BJP was concerned, that party is making strange claims of a good performance. "On what basis is the BJP making such claims? It even had its national president, and a chief minister for the

campaign but it did not have any impact," he said. The BRS, he said, had clear wins in 17 municipalities, and has chances of coming to power in others that had returned hung results. "We are satisfied with our performance. The BRS' successes should be an eye-opener to all those who dismissed our party after the Parliament elections," he said.

Tribute Paid to Pulwama Martyrs at Uppuguda Under Leadership of Sai Prasad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A solemn tribute ceremony was held near the Uppuguda Flag Post under the leadership of Sai Prasad, President of Pooda Division, to commemorate the 40 martyrs of the Central Reserve Police Force who lost their lives in the February 14, 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

The attack occurred on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Jammu and Kashmir when a suicide bomber targeted a CRPF convoy. The Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed claimed responsibility.



Pandarinath Aedula, General Secretary of Bhagyanagar District, paid floral tributes and remembered the supreme sacrifice of the jawans. In his address, he expressed solidarity with the martyrs' families and stressed the importance of national unity and security. He also noted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minis-

ter Nirmala Sitharaman, ₹7.85 lakh crore was allocated in the 2026-27 Union Budget to strengthen defence and border security. Several senior leaders and party members participated in the program, reaffirming their commitment to honor the martyrs' legacy and uphold national integrity.

600 Preschoolers Shine at Merutsav Kidz

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Meru International School hosted Merutsav Kidz 2026 at Tellapur, attracting over 600 preschoolers from across Hyderabad for a vibrant inter-pre-school showcase celebrating creativity, confidence, and early learning. The strong participation highlighted growing demand for platforms that support holistic development during foundational years.

The event featured age-appropriate activities including art, storytelling, dance, poem recitation, and fancy dress, offering children a joyful, stress-free space to express themselves and interact with peers. Educators observed that such experiences strengthen communication skills, imagination, and social confidence early in life. Founder Meghnana Gorukanti Jupula said encouraging self-expression

nurtures curiosity and a lifelong love for learning, adding that early creative exposure shapes confidence and emotional growth. Every participant received a certificate, while winners earned medals and prizes, ensuring all children felt valued.

With campuses in Miyapur and Tellapur, the institution offers Cambridge and CBSE curricula promoting balanced education. The annual showcase highlighted how structured early-years initiatives build personality, creativity, and readiness for lifelong learning among young learners across the city and delighted parents and teachers alike immensely.

Call to Make BC 'Simha Garjana' Grand Success

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



A poster unveiling ceremony for the BC "Simha Garjana" rally scheduled on the 22nd in Vijayawada was held at the BCY Party office in Hyderabad under the leadership of national president Bode Ramachandra Yadav. The event saw participation from a delegation led by Beri Ramachandra Yadav, president of the Telangana State BC United Forum, who extended full support to the upcoming rally advocating political empowerment for Backward Classes.

Addressing the gathering, leaders emphasized that the Simha Garjana programme aims to strengthen the demand for Bahujan political representation with the collective support of BC, SC, ST, and Minority communities. Organizers appealed to leaders, activists, youth, women, and supporters from both Telugu states—Telangana and Andhra Pradesh—to participate in large numbers and make the rally a historic success. Beri Ramachandra Yadav announced

that he would attend the Vijayawada event along with his executive team, reaffirming solidarity with the movement's objectives.

Several BC leaders, social representatives, and community organizers from different districts also attended the poster launch and pledged their cooperation. Speakers stated that the rally would serve as a foundation stone for achieving equitable representation and rights for marginalized communities through democratic means.

Rotary Club Bhongir Port-Social service

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr. Empalla Bucchi Reddy demonstrated his generosity by distributing free sewing machines to underprivileged women in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The service activity was organized on the occasion of his birthday. He previously served as President of the Rotary Club of Bhuvanagiri.

The program was held on Saturday at YSR Function Hall near Housing Board Colony in Bhuvanagiri. Sewing machines worth approximately ₹28,000 were



distributed free of cost to three underprivileged women from the district. The beneficiaries were Mrs. Enkala Meena (Hussainabad), Mrs. Chintala Radha (Bommaiapalli), and Mrs. Kori-palli Saritha (Thimmapuram, Bom-malaranam Mandal). Dr. Empalla Bucchi

Memon, along with others, participated in the program. The organizers stated that this initiative would provide employment opportunities to women and encourage self-employment.

In a subsequent program, senior Rotarian Dr. Pagedala Jalandhar Reddy extended birthday wishes to the head of Vignan Schools, Bhuvanagiri. On the occasion, Dr. Pagedala Jalandhar Reddy, former President Dr. Empalla Bucchi Reddy, Gaddam Jnana Prakash Reddy, Pakiru Kondal Reddy, and MD Hanif Memon conveyed their greetings.

Shivaratri Prep Boost at Bowenpally Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Ahead of Maha Shivaratri, local leader Jampana Pratap has urged authorities to ensure smooth and devotee-friendly arrangements at the Shiva temple in New Bowenpally, anticipating large crowds for the festival. During a visit to the temple on Saturday, Pratap offered special prayers to Lord Shiva and reviewed preparations with the management committee. Stressing that thousands of devotees are expected, he called for systematic queue management, adequate drinking water, shaded waiting areas, and

coordinated volunteer support to maintain safety and order during peak hours. He emphasized that proper planning would help devotees participate in rituals peacefully without inconvenience. Temple Committee President E. Srinivasa Chari outlined the festival schedule, stating that the

highlight will be the ceremonial celestial wedding of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati at 6:00 AM on Sunday. The celebrations will also feature continuous abhishekam rituals, Maha Rudra Puja for peace and prosperity, and overnight jagaram devotional programs for fasting devotees observ-

ing the sacred vigil. Local community representatives Radhakrishna Mudiraju and Raju Mudiraju joined the inspection and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements underway. They assured support from residents and volunteers to assist temple authorities in managing the festive rush.

The committee has invited devotees from surrounding localities to attend the celebrations and seek blessings, assuring that all necessary steps are being taken to provide a safe, comfortable, and spiritually fulfilling Shivaratri experience for worshippers.

International Childhood Cancer Day – February 15

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



developed countries. Developing countries often face challenges such as limited medical facilities, lack of awareness, and delayed diagnosis.

Significance of the Gold Ribbon The Gold Ribbon is the symbol of childhood cancer awareness. Gold represents something precious and valuable — just like every child's life. Wearing gold-colored clothing or ribbons on this day shows solidarity and support.

Activities Conducted on This Day
Awareness rallies and seminars
Special programs in hospitals

Social media campaigns
Wearing gold-colored clothing to show support.

What We Can Do
Share information about childhood cancer symptoms
Participate in fundraising activities for treatment
Support affected families emotionally and financially
Donate blood and platelets.

International Childhood Cancer Day is not just an awareness event — it is a symbol of hope, unity, and compassion. Its core message is clear:

Let us work together to build a world where every child has access to proper treatment and can live a healthy, happy life.... Anjaiah Thalka Journalist.

Assam To Get Rs 50,000 crore As Its Tax Share This Year: PM Modi

GUWAHTI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a frontal attack on the Congress party, accusing it of resorting to divisive politics, corruption in defence deals, and neglecting the Northeast. While addressing BJP workers here, Mr Modi said that while the Muslim League divided India during Independence, "today, Congress has become Muslim League-Maoist Congress and is in the process of dividing India."

Accusing that the Congress lacked the courage to take decisions and, at best, only made statements, he said that the grand old party always put the country at risk.

"Congress never prioritised the nation's security. Because of the negativity of Congress governments, the entire Northeast lived in fear and insecurity. Congress always kept the country at risk. During Congress's tenure, whenever weapons were purchased for the military, it meant a scam worth thousands of crores," he said. Mr Modi further said, "Today, the country is strengthening its armed forces. India is building magnificent highways, magnificent tunnels, high-rise bridges, and modern airfields on its borders. It is enhancing the nation's security, and that is why Congress is bewildered. They are wondering how Modi manages to do all this." He also said, "Congress wants to unsettle Assam once again. Con-



gress wants to return it to infiltrators once again. Be it its top leadership in Delhi or leaders here, they all are trying to save infiltrators. They want to change the original identity of Assam."

Pointing out that over the past 11 years, Assam has received more than Rs 5.5 lakh crore from the Centre for various development projects. The Prime Minister said that the latest budget focuses heavily on improving connectivity and economic self-reliance in the Northeast, which he described as "Goddess Ashtalakshmi." Thousands of

proximately Rs 50,000 crore as its tax share... We should remember well how Assam was left starving during the Congress government. During the Congress regime, Assam received only Rs 10,000 crore as its tax share. Now, under the BJP government, Assam is receiving 5 times more money than it did under the Congress government," he said.

He pointed out that over the past 11 years, Assam has received more than Rs 5.5 lakh crore from the Centre for various development projects. The Prime Minister said that the latest budget focuses heavily on improving connectivity and economic self-reliance in the Northeast, which he described as "Goddess Ashtalakshmi." Thousands of

crores have been allocated for highways and road projects in Assam, he said, adding that improved connectivity would boost employment and tourism. Asking party workers to intensify efforts for the forthcoming assembly polls in Assam, Mr Modi said that the greatest pride and honour of his life is being a karyakarta of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He said that whatever heights the BJP has achieved are due to the dedication and hard work of its workers. "I say with pride that the greatest qualification of my life, my biggest honour, is that Narendra Modi is a karyakarta of the BJP. As a BJP worker, I bow my head to the strength of our karyakartas and the organisation in Assam.

1,000 Days Of Congress Government

Siddaramaiah Defends Record, Accuses BJP Of False Propoganda

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Marking the completion of 1,000 days of his government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party, accusing it of spreading false propaganda and having no moral right to criticise the Congress government. Speaking after inaugurating the government's 1,000-day celebrations and the title deed distribution under Land Guarantee programme for 1 lakh beneficiaries, Siddaramaiah said his government had proved its commitment to the people by delivering on its promises.

"Our successful 1,000 days of governance are proof of our commitment to a people-oriented administration. Our govern-



ment has completed 1,000 days of successful rule. Only a Congress government truly practises what it preaches," Siddaramaiah said. He said the Revenue Department had set a record by distributing title deeds (hakku patras) to 2.20 lakh families across the state, with one lakh beneficiaries receiving them in the second phase at Haveri on Saturday.

He also praised Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and said that providing legal documents to families who had lived for decades without land records had brought about a "revolutionary change".

He assured that the remaining eligible beneficiaries would be covered soon. "All the achievements have been made despite injustice from the Central government. MP and Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and Jagdish Shettar, are not speaking out in Delhi against the injustice being done to Karnataka," he said expressing his unhappiness.

"Our government has completed two years and nine months in office. Out of the 590 promises we made, 243 have already been fulfilled. We will

fulfil the remaining promises in the rest of the term. Even during 2013-18, we fulfilled all the promises we had made and implemented 30 additional promises that were not even in the manifesto, setting a record of 'walking the talk,' he said. He accused the BJP of spreading false propaganda that the state treasury is empty. "The BJP government did not fulfil even 10 percent of its promises during its four-year tenure and is now making false allegations that the treasury is empty and that no development work has been done. Within one year of coming to power, our government implemented five guarantee schemes, spending Rs 1.18 lakh crore on them. Tax collection has increased, and the state now ranks first in the country in GDP.

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 an-



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, "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

Cong. Neglected.....

He added that over the past 11 years, the state had received more than Rs 5.5 lakh crore from the Centre for various development projects. Calling upon party workers to intensify preparations for the forthcoming Assembly elections in Assam, Modi said, "I say with pride that the greatest qualification of my life, my biggest honour, is that Narendra Modi is a karyakarta of the BJP." Describing party workers as the life force of the BJP, Modi said that it is their commitment that takes the organisation forward. "Our faith lies in the organisation. We are united by one mantra — Bharat Mata Ki Jai," he added.

Referring to the 2019 Pulwama attack, he paid tributes to the security personnel who lost their lives and cited Operation Sindoora as an example of India's response to terror threats. "Today is Pulwama anniversary. I pay my respect to the deceased. India has since shown how to respond. You have seen recently in Op Sindoora. But could you expect it from the Congress which refuses to acknowledge India as a nation?" he said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inau-

gurated and flagged off development projects worth over Rs 5,450 crore in Assam. In Guwahati, he inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu across the Brahmaputra, built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore, and virtually inaugurated the temporary campus of IIM Guwahati and the National Data Centre for the North Eastern Region at Amingaon in Kamrup district. He also flagged off 225 electric buses under the PM-eBus Seva scheme for Guwahati, Nagpur, Bhavnagar and Chandigarh.

Rs.1L Cr.....

The UCF will be operational from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31, with a possible extension till FY 2033-34. It will support cities with a population of 10 lakh or more, all State and Union Territory capitals, major industrial cities with a population above one lakh, and urban local bodies in hilly and northeastern States. A provision of ₹5,000 crore has been approved under a Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme. Projects will be selected through a challenge-based framework and linked to governance, financial and urban planning reforms. Monitoring will be undertaken through a digital portal of the Ministry of Housing and Urban

US Ocean Regulator Criticized for Altering Right Whale Protection Rule

PORTLAND
Wakeup telangana

The U.S.'s ocean regulator plans to make industry-friendly changes to a longstanding rule designed to protect vanishing whales, prompting criticism from environmental groups who cite the recent death of an endangered whale. The rules protect the North Atlantic right whale, which numbers less than 400 and lives off the East Coast. The giant animals are protected by a vessel speed rule that requires large ships to slow down at certain times to avoid collisions, which is a leading cause of death for the whales.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a Thursday statement to The Associated Press that it plans to soon announce proposed new rules de-



signed to "modernize" the whale protections. The proposal will be a "deregulatory-focused action" that will seek to "reduce unnecessary regulatory and economic burdens while ensuring responsible conservation practices for endangered North Atlantic right whales," the statement said.

A notice of rulemaking about the right whale rules is listed on the U.S. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs website, but it does not include any details about the proposal. NOAA said in its statement that more

information about the rules was forthcoming and that the agency was focused on "implementing new technologies, engineering approaches, and other advanced tools" to protect the whales.

Several environmental groups criticized the move away from vessel speed rules. Some cited the Feb. 10 confirmation of the death of a 3-year-old female whale off Virginia. The cause of the animal's death was not yet determined, but it died at a far younger age than typical.

How Epstein Used Sham Marriages,

Student Visas To Keep Women Bound To Him

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In early 2013, Jeffrey Epstein's girlfriend, Karyna Shuliak, was stressed about her US visa status. Later that year, she married an American citizen and her worries were gone.

A Green Card followed, and, in 2018, citizenship. Then Shuliak divorced her spouse: a woman named Jennifer who had been in a relationship with Kimbal Musk after Epstein connected them. "now that she's an american you should throw her a big ole party," one of Epstein's go-to immigration lawyers messaged on the day of Shuliak's naturalization interview. "with a mechanical bull, red white and blue balloons, and deep fried snickers bars on flag toothpicks."

Shuliak's immigration story - and the stories of

several other women revealed in a cache of files released by the US Department of Justice - show how Epstein used student visas, English language courses and sham marriages to make sure the women in his orbit stayed right where he wanted them.

The convicted pedophile had arranged for Shuliak's admission to Columbia University's dental school, as a transfer student from Belarus who hadn't finished her degree, via a complicated process that began

in 2011. After she got in, communications between her and members of the Ivy League school's international student office show her immigration case was another hurdle to clear. "I am so sorry if you were given the run a round with the immigration office today," an official at Columbia's dental school wrote to Shuliak in July 2012. "At this time I believe that everything is fine with your immigration status." Columbia and the official didn't re-

spond to a request for comment.

Epstein, apparently, wanted to be sure of Shuliak's immigration status. He reached out to his network seeking help to quietly restore her student visa.

"I don't want to ask as I prefer her not to be a part of my file," Epstein wrote in late 2012 to Ian Osborne, a British investor who appears multiple times in the files. "I recall you had a good lawyer friend for immigrarion in washington."

Osborne said he had someone with links to the highest level at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. That person, Osborne said, was Greg Craig, then a Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom partner, and former White House counsel to President Barack Obama.

FROM FRONT PAGE

Affairs. The Cabinet also cleared a four-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor from Gohpur on NH-15 to Numaligarh on NH-715, including a 15.79-km road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra river. At present, the 240-km road journey between the two points via the Kaliabhomora bridge takes about six hours. The government said the project would improve connectivity in Assam and neighbouring northeastern States, enhance freight movement and generate around 80 lakh person-days of employment.

Centre Clears.....

"We also have to keep in mind that the AIMIM is spreading its base and we must make quick counter moves," said a senior party leader. The party leaders were of the view that MIM's growth would eventually polarise the Telangana electorate. Significantly, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had made the Centre's delay in sanctioning prosecution against Arvind Kumar an electoral issue in the just-concluded campaign for the urban local body polls. "Arvind Kumar played crucial role in the scam and the investigation cannot be taken to its logical conclusion without Centre's sanction of prosecution," Revanth Reddy.

tada/ Movi and Nasarpore-Malotha in Gujarat at ₹4,583.64 crore. The 107.67-km long project is a part of NH-56 which starts at Nimbahera in Rajasthan and traverses through Dahod district in Gujarat, Alirajpur district in Madhya Pradesh and then re-enters Gujarat near Chhota Udepur district, terminating at its junction with NH-48 near Vapi. The project is designed for 100 km/h, enabling 70 km/h average speed which will cut travel time by 40 per cent - from 2.5 to 1.5 hours.

Centre Clears.....

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CRIME

2 Held In Kushaiguda Hit-And-Drag Case

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Two men accused of knocking down a private employee and dragging him for nearly a kilometre were arrested and remanded in judicial custody by Kushaiguda police. The incident occurred on February 9 at around 8 pm. Complainant Panuganti Raju, 20, a resident of Rampally, said he was travelling with colleagues Vijay Kumar and M. Sathish, 45, from Mallapur to Rampally when their car was rear-ended by a sports utility vehicle (SUV) bear-

ing registration number TS09 FP 0094. The SUV, driven rashly, sped away. Raju and his colleagues pursued the vehicle and intercepted it near the NTR statue signal at HB Colony. When Sathish attempted to stop the SUV by standing in front of it, the driver knocked him down and dragged him for nearly a kilometre. Sathish sustained severe bleeding injuries and was shifted to a private hospital. Police registered a case and arrested Uppari Mahesh, 23, of Santhoshnagar, and Anagandula Tarun, 22, of Venkateshwaranagar.

Attapur Police Arrest Man For Damaging Car And Setting Shop On Fire

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Attapur police arrested 24-year-old Mohammed Salman alias 'Shooter' Salman for trespassing into a shop, damaging a car and setting a business premises on fire in Attapur. The complainant, 23-year-old Syed Furkhan runs a second-hand air-conditioner shop at Akber Hills in Attapur. Police said that on February 12 at around 7 pm, Salman barged into the shop and allegedly tried to attack Furkhan with



a stick. Fearing for his safety, Furkhan closed the shop for the night. Soon after, Salman reportedly noticed a black car parked outside the shop, which belonged to Furkhan's friend. Police said the accused broke the car's window glass with a stick, and then set fire to Furkhan's air conditioner shop.

Panel Cuts Land Value By Half, Court Stays e-auction

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Renuka Yara of the Telangana High Court has stayed an e-auction notice issued for the sale of agricultural land that had been offered as collateral security by a guarantor to a nationalised bank. The interim order was passed while hearing a writ petition filed by Malireddy Koti Reddy, who challenged the proposed auction of nearly 11 acres of agricultural land with a reserve price fixed at ₹6 crore. The petitioner contended that he had stood

only as a guarantor for the loan obtained by the principal borrower, who was subsequently declared bankrupt. Despite this, the creditor bank initiated recovery proceedings against the collateral property furnished by him. He argued that such action, particularly at the undervalued reserve price, was unjust and prejudicial. It was submitted before the court that two earlier valuation reports had assessed the fair market value of the land at ₹17.22 crore and ₹19.66 crore respectively. However, a subsequent val-

uation report prepared in January by the same valuers drastically reduced the value to approximately ₹10.66 crore. The petitioner alleged that this steep reduction of nearly 50 per cent was made without assigning any reasons and was arbitrary in nature, especially when agricultural land prices generally tend to remain stable or appreciate over time.

The petitioner further informed the court that he had identified a prospective buyer willing to purchase the property for ₹11 crore. Conducting the auc-

tion at a reserve price of ₹6 crore, he argued, would result in irreparable loss and injury. It was also pointed out that although the auction had earlier been postponed to January 31, a fresh e-auction notice was issued on January 15 scheduling the auction for February 2.

Taking note of these submissions, Justice Renuka Yara granted interim relief and directed that all further proceedings pursuant to the impugned e-auction notice shall remain stayed until the next date of hearing.

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 Aparsh 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.

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, Velupugonda 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 has limited scope on service matters

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court reiterated the limited jurisdiction of the writ court in dealing with punishment in service matters. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparsh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a writ appeal filed by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) challenging the order passed in a review petition. Writ petitioner Kishan Kumar Azmeera, a constable/sweeper in CISF, was removed from service in 2012 on charges of unauthorised absence and exhibiting an incorrigible attitude in light of his past service record. His statutory appeal and revision were dismissed, and a writ petition assail-

ing the removal was also dismissed in 2018. Subsequently, in a review petition, the single judge modified the penalty from removal to compulsory retirement, holding that the punishment was disproportionately re-appraised the proportionality of punishment, which had been examined in the original writ proceedings. It was further contended that the respondent, being a member of a disciplined force, had repeatedly absented himself without authorisation and had failed to participate in the departmental enquiry despite multiple call-up

notices, thereby justifying the penalty of removal. Appearing party-in-person, the respondent argued that the review was necessary to prevent miscarriage of justice and that the court was empowered to correct manifest injustice in exercise of its review jurisdiction. The panel ruled that the power of review was circumscribed and cannot be invoked to undertake a fresh appraisal of facts or substitute a different view on punishment. The court observed that the single judge had effectively reassessed the material on record and altered the penalty, which was impermissible in review proceedings. The panel while allowing the appeal directed release of admissible terminal benefits, including general provident fund amounts.



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

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 underplay 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 apparatus. 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 party, completes the pic-



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Markets slip nearly 1 pc for the week amid IT sell-off and weak global cues

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Indian equity benchmarks lost nearly 1 per cent during the week, weighed down by weak global cues and sharp declines in IT index, tracking Wall Street losses due to AI-related fears.

Nifty lost 0.87 per cent during the week and dipped 1.30 per cent on the last trading day to 25,471. At Friday's close, the Sensex was down 1,048 points or 1.25 per cent at 82,626. It declined 1.14 per cent during the week.

Sectoral performance remained firmly negative, with all major indices ending in the red. Nifty Metal was the worst performer, dropping 3.3 per



cent, followed by realty, down 2.2 per cent and FMCG, down 1.9 per cent.

The Nifty IT index touched a 10-month low before closing 1.4 per cent lower, even as selective buying helped it recover from intraday lows.

Analysts said the IT sector continues to face head-

winds amid rising concerns that rapid AI advancements could disrupt traditional service models and weigh on future revenue visibility.

The US dollar strengthened on the back of stronger-than-expected US January jobs data, which reduced expecta-

tions of near-term interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.

Dollar gained further traction amid media reports that Russia may consider re-entering the dollar settlement system as part of a potential economic understanding with the US, adding additional pressure on precious metals.

Analysts predicted that a "break below the 25,400 mark in Nifty could open the door for a move toward the 25,100 gap area. On the upside, the 25,700-26,000 zone is likely to act as a strong resistance band in case of any recovery."

Broader indices showed divergence from the benchmark indices during the week, with the Nifty

Midcap100 only down 0.11 per cent, while Nifty Smallcap100 added 0.56 per cent.

Apart from IT, FMCG and realty also appear vulnerable to further declines, while banking, auto, energy and select metal stocks may continue to show relatively better strength, market participants said.

Looking ahead, investor attention is expected to shift toward global macro developments, with the earnings season drawing to a close, they said.

Evolving geopolitical dynamics, and key takeaways from the 'India AI Impact Summit' scheduled in New Delhi next week, are other important cues for investors.

Reliance Wins US Licence for Venezuelan Oil, Sources Say

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

The United States has issued a general licence to India's Reliance Industries Ltd that will allow the refiner to buy Venezuelan oil directly without violating sanctions, two sources familiar with the matter said. Following the U.S. capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro earlier this month, U.S. officials said Washington would ease sanctions imposed on Venezuela's energy industry to facilitate a \$2 billion oil supply deal between Caracas and Washington and an ambitious \$100 billion reconstruction plan for the country's oil industry.

A general licence authorizes the purchase, exportation, and sale of Venezuelan-origin oil that has already been ex-

tracted, including the refining of such oil.

Handing a licence to Reliance could speed up Venezuela's oil exports and reduce crude costs for the operator of the world's biggest refining complex. Reliance, which applied for the licence in early January, did not respond to an email request for comment. The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control did not immediately respond outside of regular business hours.

Earlier this month, Reliance bought 2 million barrels of Venezuelan oil from trader Vitol, which was granted, along with Trafigura, U.S. licences to market and sell millions of barrels of Venezuelan oil after Maduro's capture.

Direct purchase of Venezuelan oil will help Reliance replace Russian oil in a cost-effective way, as heavy crude from Caracas

Gold drops 1.82 pc in a volatile week; silver gains on US CPI data

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Gold prices fell almost 1.82 per cent during the week, as investors remain cautious amid huge volatility with the dollar showing occasional bouts of strength. Meanwhile on Friday, MCX gold February futures surged 0.20 per cent while MCX silver March futures added 3.62 per cent. Currently gold futures stand at Rs 1,56,200, while silver futures at Rs 2,44,999 per kg.

The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,52,765 on Friday down from Rs 1,55,593 seen on Monday, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

Gold traded positive in early session on Friday, but overall tone remains volatile to weak after

sharp sell-off from Rs 1,58,000 to Rs

1,54,000, as prices failed to sustain above the Rs 1,60,000 mark, said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst – Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. Resistance is now firmly placed near Rs 1,60,000, and if gold continues to trade below Rs 1,56,000, a retest of the Rs 1,51,000 support zone cannot be ruled out, the analyst said.

Gold and silver prices bounced back strongly on Friday buoyed by the softer-than-expected US CPI data which put pressure on the US dollar. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the US CPI inflation of 2.40 per cent in January 2026 below market expectations of 2.50 per cent, however 0.30 per cent above the December 2025 CPI in-

flation.

Analysts said that structural supply deficits and industrial demand from green energy, EVs, AI and electronics for silver continue to underpin its bullish bias, also noting relentless gold accumulation by the central bank.

Market participants forecasted that gold and silver have entered a 3-5 year bull run, supported by favourable macroeconomic conditions, structural demand trends, and shifting investor preferences. However, they maintained investors to only hold gold and silver as part of a diversified portfolio with 10-15 per cent of their portfolios in precious metals. Any incremental additions should be made during periods of correction, they added.

First outlined in the January 2025 budget speech by India's finance minister, the ₹100 billion fund won cabinet approval this week (more than a year after the speech), allowing the government to move ahead with deployment. A previous iteration of the program, launched in 2016, committed ₹100 billion to 145 private funds that have invested

India doubles down on state-backed venture capital, approving \$1.1B fund

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

India has cleared a \$1.1 billion state-backed venture capital program that will channel government money into startups through private investors, doubling down on its effort to finance high-risk areas such as artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and other sectors broadly referred to by the industry as deep tech.

First outlined in the January 2025 budget speech by India's finance minister, the ₹100 billion fund won cabinet approval this week (more than a year after the speech), allowing the government to move ahead with deployment. A previous iteration of the program, launched in 2016, committed ₹100 billion to 145 private funds that have invested



more than ₹255 billion (about \$2.8 billion) in over 1,370 startups, according to official data released on Saturday.

The program is structured as a fund of funds, a common venture capital model in which governments back startups indirectly by committing capital to private investment firms. It is designed to take a more targeted approach than its 2016 counterpart, focusing on deep-tech and manufac-

turing startups that typically require longer time horizons and larger amounts of capital, while also backing early-stage founders, expanding investment beyond major cities and strengthening India's domestic venture capital industry, particularly smaller funds, per the Indian government.

At the announcement on Saturday, IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the scale of India's startup expansion, pointing

companies including OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Nvidia are set to participate alongside Indian corporates such as Reliance Industries and Tata Group. India, the world's most populous country and one of its largest internet markets with more than a billion online users, has become an increasingly attractive arena for global tech companies looking to expand their user base. At the same time, private capital has become harder to secure. India's startup ecosystem raised \$10.5 billion in 2025, down just over 17% from a year earlier, even as investors grew more selective and sharply reduced the number of deals. The number of funding rounds fell nearly 39% to 1,518 transactions, according to data from Tracxn.

Nothing opens its first retail store in India

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Nothing, the hardware company backed by Tiger Global, is opening its first retail store in India, its biggest market. The store is located in Bengaluru, where the company says a large chunk of its user base is concentrated.

The new, two-story location will showcase Nothing's products and other projects. Customers will also be able to buy hardware products and other merchandise from the store and have select items customized.

"We wanted to create a fun space," the company's co-founder and CEO Carl Pei said. "It's kind of inspired by all the parts that are related to the brand. For instance, the factory: if you buy a product, there's like a production line where the product comes out. We also show machines where phones go through

testing, like USB port testing or water resistance testing. So we just wanted to bring that world together."

The store will feature products from both Nothing and CMF, its budget brand, which it spun off last year.

Notably, CMF is headquartered in India and has a joint venture with local Indian ODM (original design manufacturer), Optiemus.

Pei mentioned that both brands are differentiated in terms of the products they offer, which fall into different price ranges, as well as the audiences they target.

"Nothing is more niche with a higher price. CMF is more [targeted toward] mass [market]. You know it's mass, but it's not just off-the-shelf rebrand products that usually [appear] in this price point. They are also products that we put a lot of care into," he said.

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Gold continues to maintain its status as one of the most trusted investment choices among young Indians, even as modern financial instruments gain popularity. A recent survey of 5,000 consumers aged between 18 and 39 revealed that 62 percent of respondents consider gold their top investment preference, underlining its strong and lasting appeal. Interestingly, 66.7 percent said they make gold-buying decisions on their own, indicating a clear shift away from purely tradition-based purchases toward more informed, logic-driven financial choices.

The survey also highlighted evolving buying habits. Nearly 62 percent of participants reported that their most recent gold purchase was under 5 grams. This trend suggests that younger buyers are moving toward smaller, more frequent investments instead of making large, occasional purchases.

Such behavior reflects a strategic approach, allowing investors to gradually build assets while managing their budgets more efficiently. When asked how they would invest ₹25,000 today, 61.9 percent chose gold, placing it far ahead of other options. Mutual funds were selected by 16.6 percent, fixed deposits by 13 percent, stocks by 6.6 percent, and cryptocurrency by only 1.9 percent.

These figures reinforce gold's strong position as a preferred investment

vehicle, especially among younger individuals seeking stability. During times of economic uncertainty, confidence in gold appears even stronger.

Around 65.7 percent of respondents described it as the safest investment compared with bank savings, equities, or mutual funds. This perception of security continues to drive demand and strengthens its reputation as a reliable asset.

The findings also show that gold purchases are no longer primarily linked to weddings or traditional occasions. About 24 percent of participants said their first gold purchase was inspired by receiving their first salary, while 23.9 percent cited investment motives.

Overall, the survey highlights gold's evolving role as both a cultural symbol and a modern financial asset in today's world.

L&T Finance Doubles Gold Loan Network to 260+ Branches Within 8 Months

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), one of India's leading NBFCs, has rapidly expanded its gold loan business, doubling its dedicated branch network to over 260 locations nationwide within just eight months of entering the segment.

The milestone follows the launch of its 130th new branch earlier this month, matching the 130 branches it acquired in June 2025 as part of its initial entry into gold financing. The aggressive rollout reflects LTF's push to capture rising demand for secured retail credit across regions. The company's gold loan footprint now spans 18 States and Union Territories, including new strategic markets such as Assam, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and

Rajasthan. Officials say the expansion is designed to strengthen geographic diversification while tapping high-growth customer segments. Chief Operating Officer Raju Dodti said the company's rapid scale-up demonstrates the success of its "Lakshya" strategy, aimed at transforming LTF into a digitally enabled, customer-centric retail finance powerhouse. He noted that adding nearly one branch per day in recent months highlights both operational execution and strong market demand for secured lending solutions.

According to the company, the growth is supported by advanced security infrastructure, specialised staff, and a hybrid model combining physical branch access with digital processing for faster loan turnaround and flexible credit options. LTF emphasized that the expansion is not only about increasing presence but also about building customer trust and strengthening its secured lending ecosystem. The gold loan vertical is expected to remain a key pillar of LTF's retail strategy as it continues nationwide branch additions under its ongoing expansion plan.

62% of Gen Z, Millennials Still See Gold as Safest Investment, Survey Finds



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Sreeleela Becomes Dr Sreeleela

Sreeleela Re-Introduces Herself As 'Doctor' After Receiving MBBS Degree: "Your Girl Kept Her Promise"

Actor Sreeleela has officially earned her MBBS degree after six years of balancing medical studies with a demanding film career, with photos and videos from her graduation ceremony going viral across social media. The star later shared unseen moments from the convocation, expressing gratitude to family, friends, colleagues, and supporters who stood by her through exams, shoots, and personal challenges. In her post, she described the milestone as more than an aca-



demic achievement, calling it a journey of "growth, faith, tears, resilience, and becoming." She said the medical campus was her refuge from the pressures of public life and thanked those who believed in her before she believed in herself. Signing off as "Dr

Sreeleela," she emphasized that the chapter humbled and strengthened her. One widely circulated image shows her in maroon graduation robes smiling as she receives her degree, while a popular video captures the emotional moment she steps off stage.

and hugs her family. Another clip features her celebrating with classmates from the 2020 batch, all newly qualified doctors. Born in Detroit in 2001 and raised in Bengaluru, Sreeleela comes from a medical background—her mother is a gynaecologist—which influenced her decision to pursue medicine alongside acting. She gained nationwide attention after her energetic dance appearance in *Pushpa 2*, which expanded her popularity beyond regional cinema audiences. Her filmography

spans multiple industries. She first appeared in *Chitrangada*, later leading the Kannada hit *Kiss* and acting in *Bharaate*. She recently starred with Sivakarthikeyan in *Parashakthi*, directed by Sudha Kongara, released January 10, 2026.

Looking ahead, she is set to appear in *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* opposite Pawan Kalyan and is preparing for her Bollywood debut alongside Kartik Aaryan, underscoring her rare dual success in both medicine and cinema.

Male singers performing in high octaves, says Babul Supriyo

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Singer Babul Supriyo opened up about the ongoing disparity between male and female singers in the music industry. During an exclusive conversation with IANS, he shared that the male singers these days sing in such a high octave that the female singers are forced to lower their voices. When asked about the changing dynamics in the

music industry, Babul Supriyo went on to share, "The male singers are singing in such a high octave that sometimes the female singers, who are extremely talented, are left with no choice but to sing in a low octave. In this, sometimes the actual voice quality ends up suffering. Today, there has come a major change in playback singing. For a lot of songs, there is no lip-syncing; it is all playing in the background."



He further gave an example of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic", which is used as background music and not as a playback.

During the conversation, Babul Supriyo further reacted to Arijit Singh's decision to step away

from playback singing. He believes that we should all have faith in Arijit, as he must have put a lot of thought behind his decision to retire from playback singing.

Speaking to IANS, Babul Supriyo advised all to just wait for what Arijit has in store for us.

He told IANS, "I believe he (Arijit) is an intelligent guy. He is an intense, extremely talented, and one of the best singers we have ever had. So, some-

one who can express his craft in such a beautiful way, it is not like he will not be able to convert his feelings into actions. So, definitely, he has put a lot of thought behind his decision."

"What is important is for us to not create noise about it but to quietly wait and see what new things we are going to see from him in the future because we all love him, that is what it is," Supriyo added.

Shilpa Shetty recreates Titanic pose with Raj Kundra on Valentine's Day

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actress Shilpa Shetty recreated the iconic pose from "Titanic" with husband Raj Kundra on Valentine's Day.

Taking to her Instagram, Shilpa uploaded a picture of herself standing with her husband on the edge of a boat with their arms stretched open, just like Jack and Rose did in the James Cameron directorial.

"Filmy since day one! And unapologetically so... Happy Valentine's Day my darling Cookie @onlyrajkundra (Sic)," Shilpa penned the caption. Reacting to this, Kundra commented, "Love you my cookie #Cheesy". Kundra also shared a hilarious Valentine's Day wish for Shilpa on social



in the caption, "Instagram: Full on glamour, heroine vibes... Ghar pe: Specs on, comfy mode. Meri jaan ek hi dil hai, kitni baar jee-togi? Happy Valentine's my adorable cookie @the-shilpashetty."

For the unaware, Shilpa and Raj got married in a lavish South Indian ceremony in November 2009. The couple is blessed with two children – son Viaan Raj Kundra and daughter Samisha Shetty Kundra.

Apart from showering love on her near and dear ones, Shilpa also uses social media to raise awareness regarding various crucial topics.

Recently, the 'Dhadkan' actress talked about the need to raise digitally aware children instead of digitally addicted children.

Tamannaah Bhatia, Junaid Khan to feature in 'Ragini 3'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Actors Tamannaah Bhatia and Junaid Khan are set to headline a horror film "Ragini 3" from Balaji Motion Pictures.

Directed by Shashanka Ghosh, the project also marks the filmmaker's reunion with Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures, after their collaborations on "Veere Di Wedding" and "Freddy". The film aims to

deliver a bold, fresh, and stylised date night horror experience, according to a press release.

Further details about the project are yet to be announced by the makers.

Bhatia's latest work is "O' Romeo", which released in theatres today.

Directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, the film is headlined by Shahid Kapoor and Tripti Dimri. It also features Nana Patekar, Avinash Tiwary, T Disha Patani and

Vikrant Massey in pivotal roles.

Khan is set to feature alongside Sai Pallavi in "Ek Din", which is set to release on May 1.

It is directed by Sunil Pandey and produced under Aamir Khan's production banner Aamir Khan Productions. The film also marks Hindi debut for Pallavi. It is a Hindi remake of the hit Thai film "One Day", which released in 2016.

Battle of Nerves: Can India's Middle Order Tame Pakistan Spin?

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amid the still-smouldering embers of an impasse that mixed cricket with politics like never before, India will need middle-order stability and a fit-again Abhishek Sharma firing to maintain domination over Pakistan when the two bitter rivals clash in the T20 World Cup's marquee fixture, here on Sunday. A temporary 'peace season' has dawned after Pakistan made a U-turn from its boycott stand and agreed to take the field against India at the Premadasa stadium here. It came after weeks of intense parleys that involved the International Cricket Council, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Practically, the whole of South Asia was turning the wheel to make this match happen, should the weather gods allow, because of its power to attract millions -- fans and bank balance alike.

So, a train of events set off by the BCCI-instructed release of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the roster of Kolkata Knight Riders, that so transformed into a cross-border crisis has come to halt, for now. On their part, cricketers from both the teams have also tried to temper down the accompanying swirl of hype, terming this match as just another game in the calendar. It's hard to fathom the precise nature of their thoughts in that regard, but certainly both sides do not want the result to go against them because of the frenzy of negativity it can kick



up.

For that, they will have to push the thoughts of a fan backlash behind and focus on the more controllable factors. Abhishek bats at nets. For India, the worries start with Abhishek as he was forced to skip the match against Namibia with a stomach bug that needed hospitalisation. But on the bright side, the left-hander batted for a considerable time at nets on Saturday evening, signalling his recovery from the illness.

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"If you guys want, we will play Abhishek," skipper Suryakumar Yadav was in a mood to joke with the media contingent when the obvious query came in. So, it's almost certain that the Punjab man will walk in for Sanju Samson to open with an on-song Ishan Kishan. The nature of the track here also might prompt the management to bring in left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav. But the inclusion of Kuldeep will have to come at the expense of a batter.

Indian Para Cycling Team Wins Big in Asian Championship

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Indian Para Cycling Team delivered a medal-winning and top-ranking performance at the Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships Qassim 2026, securing two silver medals and multiple top-seven finishes against Asia's strongest competitors, signaling India's growing stature in international para-cycling. The standout performer was 16-year-old Vishva Vasani, who clinched silver in both the Individual Time Trial and Road Race events, marking a breakthrough achievement for the national contingent trained by the Aditya Mehta Foundation. The championship, hosted in the Al-Qassim Region of the Saudi Arabia, featured participation from nine countries. India's depth of talent was reflected in several near-podium finishes. Prashant Arkal



Aditya Mehta Foundation trained para athlete Vishva Vasani (WC3), clinched silver medal in the Individual Time Trial and Road Race, marking a breakthrough moment for Indian para-cycling on the continental stage, at Asian Road Cycling Championships held in the Al-Qassim Region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

and Shaik Arshad each secured fourth place in their respective categories, while Kommoji Pavan Kumar and 14-year-old

Anshuman finished fifth. Cheellampalli Aryavardan placed sixth and Yogesh Ahire secured seventh, reinforcing India's consistency across classifications. Competing on an international stage, the squad demonstrated strong preparation, discipline, and resilience—qualities credited to structured training support and institutional backing. The foundation acknowledged partners Invesco, Alcon, GMMCO, and Flutter Entertainment India for their continued commitment to developing para-sport talent. With medals secured, several athletes finished just shy of the podium, and rising confidence on the continental circuit, the Indian Para Cycling Team returns home with momentum, proving that determination and elite training can transform promising starts into podium-level success.

Big Wins for Eagles, Tigers at HPRC 2026

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Day-3 of the tournament at Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club delivered two decisive results as Divyashakti Eagles defeated Radha TMT 6-4 in the Women's Exhibition Match, while Inhabit Tigers overcame Lamarina Panthers 7-5 at the championship underway in Hyderabad from February 12-18, 2026.

In the women's clash,



Florin Meijer and Mona Scharf powered the Eagles with two goals each overall, supported by strong early control in Chukker-1 (3-1). Radha TMT fought back in

and Pierre Hamelin led scoring, while B. Hugo added an early goal. Panthers' resistance came from John Hand, Arsalan Khan, and Erica Grandimar, who kept the contest tight until the closing stretch. With competitive scorelines and international players delivering standout performances, Day-3 reinforced the tournament's reputation for fast-paced, high-skill arena polo action.

Hyderabad Police Intensify Rowdy-Sheeter Checks

The Hyderabad police conducted combing and cordon search operations on Saturday across the Shamshabad zone to curb crime and strengthen law-and-order enforcement. The drive was carried out within Balapur limits under the supervision of B. Rajesh and D. V. Pradeep Kumar Reddy.

More than 300 personnel participated, forming multiple search and cut-off teams to cover sensitive pockets and suspected hideouts. During the operation, officers searched about 800 houses in Wadi-E-Saleheen and Shaheen Nagar. The inspections led to the seizure of 27 two-wheelers without number plates, two autorickshaws lacking valid documents, nine illegal gas cylinders, and one unhygienic fry-onion manufacturing unit operating in violation of safety norms. Police also apprehended 17 rowdy sheeters and seven persons listed as suspects, who were taken into custody for verification and preventive action.

Telangana Pharma Hub Gets Centre Of Excellence Status

In a boost to Telangana's pharmaceutical research ecosystem, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (Niper) Hyderabad has been chosen as one of seven centres of excellence (CoEs) under the Centre's Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) scheme. Each Niper will host a CoE to strengthen research infrastructure, accelerate innovation, and deepen industry-academia collaboration. The Hyderabad centre will focus on bulk drugs, a critical area for reducing import dependence. The PRIP scheme, with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore till FY 2030, supports R&D across the pharma-medtech lifecycle — from early research to product development and commercialisation. Financial assistance is extended to industries, MSMEs, and startups for projects on new medicines, complex generics, biosimilars, and novel medical devices, either independently or in partnership with academia. The announcement comes amid the Centre's wider push for bulk drug manufacturing.

While Telangana has not secured a Bulk Drug Park under the ₹3,000 crore scheme — parks have been approved in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Himachal Pradesh — it benefits from priority land allotment for PLI-prioritised products. Union minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Anupriya Patel, in a Lok Sabha reply, underscored the Centre's strategy to cut API import dependence and promote domestic innovation. With its pharma hub status, Niper Hyderabad is positioned to play a pivotal role in this national drive.

Hyderabad Police Recover 32 Lost Mobile Phones, Hand Them Back to Owners



In a swift recovery drive, police in Hyderabad returned 32 lost mobile phones to their rightful owners on February 14, demonstrating an efficient complaint-tracking system and rapid response mechanism.

According to A Sudhakar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Chandrayangutta, every complaint registered on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal is acted upon immediately. Once a complaint is filed, the phone's IMEI number is blocked and tracked, enabling officials to trace devices quickly and prevent misuse. He cautioned citizens that lost phones can be exploited for online fraud, financial scams, or unauthorized transactions if not reported promptly. To tackle this, each police station now has a dedicated unit focused solely on tracing missing or stolen mobiles. Officials urged the public not to panic if they lose their devices but to file a complaint on the CEIR portal without delay. Prompt reporting significantly improves recovery chances and helps authorities curb cybercrime by disabling stolen devices before they can be misused.

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AIMIM celebrates 68th Revival Day amidst recent electoral gains

Winning candidates from two States to join celebrations as party showcases civic poll surges



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Zaffer abedi

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen will celebrate its 68th Revival Day on Saturday evening with a major show of strength at its headquarters, Darussalaam, in Hyderabad, where party president Asaduddin Owaisi is set to hoist the flag and address supporters. The event comes amid heightened morale after the party's recent civic poll gains in Maha-

rashtra and Telangana, where it won more than 120 seats and around 70 wards respectively. Winning candidates and senior leaders from both States have been invited to attend, underscoring the party's expanding organisational reach beyond its traditional base. A convoy of newly elected representatives from Maharashtra, led by former parliamentarian and State president Imtiaz Jaleel, is already on its way to the city, according to party sources. The leadership views their

presence as symbolic of grassroots consolidation and growing political momentum. During his address, Mr. Owaisi is expected to highlight recent electoral performance and reiterate his long-standing call for nurturing leadership from within Muslim and Dalit communities. Though Revival Day is observed annually on March 2, this year's celebrations were advanced to Saturday evening in view of the upcoming fasting month.

Owaisi takes swipe at Yogi Adityanath

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday (February 14, 2026) took a jibe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for using the word "qayamat" (doomsday) while asserting that the Babri Masjid would never be rebuilt.

In an interview with ANI, Mr. Owaisi said, "At least he had to speak an Urdu word, what would be a Hindi word for 'qayamat'? Ask him."

His remarks come after CM Yogi Adityanath, while addressing a gathering in Barabanki, said, "The day of 'Qayamat' (doomsday) will never come, and hence the Babri structure will never be rebuilt.

Those who are dreaming of the day of 'Qayamat' will rot away; that day will never come."

Further, he denied any role in the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the motion against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

"Neither was I asked nor did I sign the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker... There is nothing in the privilege motion and nothing will happen," Mr. Owaisi said

Numaish exhibition in Hyderabad to end on Sunday with no extension



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The All India Industrial Exhibition, popular as Numaish, will conclude at Nampally on Sunday, with no extension being considered.

The annual event, which draws large crowds from across the city and surrounding districts, also opened on January 1 and will close on the 46th day on February 15. An office bearer of the All India Industrial Exhibition Society said, "Numaish will not be extended. Sunday is the last day."

A few lakh people have visited the annual fair of the city since it was inau-

Telangana Winter Ends, Heat Rising

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Winter has officially withdrawn from Telangana, including its capital Hyderabad, with temperatures set to increase gradually in the coming days, weather forecaster T Balaji said. He also warned of possible unseasonal rains and thunderstorms in parts of the state between February 25 and 28, signalling a brief spell of unstable weather before summer conditions intensify.

For now, daytime temperatures are expected to remain below 33°C for the next few days, while night temperatures will hover between 17°C and 19°C, providing relatively mild conditions despite winter's exit. According to the latest report from the India Meteorological Department, several areas recorded cooler-than-normal readings on Saturday morning. Among them, Patancheru registered the lowest temperature at 13°C, making it one of the chilliest spots in the



state for the day. Other locations that experienced below-normal temperatures included Rajendranagar, Hanamkonda, Khammam, and Medak. Meteorologists note that such brief cool spells during seasonal transitions are not unusual, especially when atmospheric systems shift. However, the overall trend indicates a steady warming pattern across the region, marking a clear transition from winter to pre-summer conditions. Residents are advised to prepare for rising daytime heat in the coming weeks while also keeping watch for sudden rain or thunder activity later this month.

Advocate Killed By Brothers-In-Law Over Dowry Abuse

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A lawyer practising in Rangareddy courts, Mohammed Khadeer, was allegedly killed by his brothers-in-law after a violent confrontation at his office in Attapur on Sunday, police said. Two suspects, Anif and Arshad, were taken into custody as investigators began probing the circumstances surrounding the fatal assault. Preliminary findings suggest the incident stemmed from a long-running domestic dispute involving allegations of dowry harassment and a disagreement over property

ownership. Khadeer's wife had reportedly been living with her parents for some time due to marital tensions. According to sources, her family had allotted a residential plot in her name in the same locality, which Khadeer allegedly insisted should be transferred to him. The demand was refused, further straining relations between him and his in-laws. Police said Khadeer allegedly called one of his brothers-in-law to his office to resolve the issue, but the meeting turned into a heated argument. During the altercation, Khadeer is said to have at-

Indian Army opens Agniveer recruitment, urges Telangana youth to apply

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The central government released a notification for the recruitment of unmarried youth under various categories of the Agniveer scheme on the Indian Army website on February 13, inviting applications from all permanent residents of Telangana. Recruitment is open under the categories of Agniveer general duty, Agniveer technical, Agniveer clerk/ store keeper technical, Agniveer tradesman 10th pass and Agniveer tradesman 8th pass.

Candidates can apply to any two categories based on their eligibility. Additionally, the upper age limit for all categories has been increased from 21 to 22 years.

Online Common Entrance Examinations (CEE) for candidates will be conducted in 13 lan-

guages, including Telugu, and bonus marks will be allotted to ITI, Diploma and National Cadet Corps-qualified candidates.

The online window for submission of applications will close on April 1 and admit cards for the entrance examination, tentatively scheduled from June 1 to June 15, can be downloaded from the aforementioned website.

Candidates are also asked to regularly check the website for any updates and their registered email IDs for the admit cards. For further assistance, candidates can contact the Secunderabad Army Recruiting Office at the number 040-27740059. Candidates have also been asked not to fall for touts and fraudsters who claim that they can help anyone pass or get enrolled, a press release said.

Hitech City Road Widening to Ease Traffic Bottlenecks

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner G Srijana on Saturday inspected a one-kilometre road-widening stretch in Hitech City aimed at easing severe traffic congestion faced daily by more than 1.3 lakh commuters in the IT corridor.

The inspection covered the key corridor from Lemon Tree Hotel to Shilparamam, where officials assessed bottlenecks and reviewed execution timelines. Representatives from the traffic police and civic engineering teams participated, while Managing Director Ashok Reddy of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board joined zonal of-



Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner G Srijana, Managing Director hmwssb Ashok Reddy and Zonal Commissioner Hemant inspect road widening works at Hitech City.

ficers to coordinate inter-departmental works. Authorities said junctions at Madhapur, Mind Space and surrounding zones are expected to benefit most once expansion is completed, as these stretches currently witness peak-hour gridlocks and slow vehicle movement.

In a parallel inspection, officials from multiple de-

partments — including Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation — reviewed sanitation safeguards around Dur-gam Cheruvu to ensure untreated sewage does not enter the water.

Reddy directed that only treated water from Sewage Treatment Plants