



SCAN FOR PAPER

# WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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## WEATHER

MAX: 32.7°C  
MIN: 18.1°C  
RH: 33%  
RAINFALL: 0MM  
FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY  
MAX/MIN temp. 33/18°C

## Brief Insights

**Bhagwant Mann Taken To Mohali Hospital For Exhaustion, Condition Stable**



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was brought to Fortis Hospital in Mohali for a check-up on Sunday after he experienced exhaustion.

The hospital authorities said Bhagwant Mann's condition is stable, and he has been admitted for observation.

Earlier, Bhagwant Mann was brought to Mohali from Sangrur where he, along with AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, paid obeisance at Shri Rankeshwar Mahadev Shiv Mandir in Sangrur district on the occasion of Mahashivratri. A Fortis Hospital statement said the chief minister visited the hospital for a routine medical eval-

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**Om Birla to represent India at Tarique Rahman's oath ceremony in Bangladesh**



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's next prime minister, Tarique Rahman, on February 17, the external affairs ministry announced on Sunday.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Utpal Kumar Singh are also likely to accompany Birla, people familiar with the matter said.

It is learnt that Bangladesh had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the ceremony to be held in Dhaka.

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## Two independent candidates join AIMIM after municipal wins

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Two independent candidates, who won as ward members in Nalgonda and Karimnagar municipal corporations, joined the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Sunday, February 15. Candidate Moinuddin, who was elected from ward number 24 (Rahman Bagh) in Nalgonda Municipal Corporation and Majid Hussain, who was elected from division number 59 (Mukrampura) in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, joined AIMIM in the presence of party President Asaduddin Owaisi.



AIMIM had secured 47 wards in municipalities and 22 in municipal corporations in the recently held Telangana municipal elections. They party secured the highest number of wins in Bhainsa and Bodhan municipalities with 12 seats each. In municipal corporations, they bagged the

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Amid Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi's repeated assertions on India being given a "raw" deal in the India-US trade pact, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has scaled up its attack, accusing the Congress leader of resorting to lies and hearsay to spread a "manufactured narrative" which was far-fetched from reality. A couple of BJP Parliamentarians, speaking to mediaries, brushed aside Rahul's charges on the trade deal, having a det-

erimental effect on India's businesses particularly textile and cotton industry and reiterated the Modi government's promise and pledge of keeping the farmers unscathed and un-hurt from any burden. The congress MP from Rae Bareli, in his latest condemnation of the trade deal, said that it will severely affect cotton farmers and textile exporters in the country.

BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal, speaking to IANS, said, "This is a well-planned conspiracy by Rahul Gandhi and Congress party. When India is progressing rapidly under

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and wherever elections are being held, the public is rejecting the Congress but the Cong-led Opposition is trying to mislead the nation and countrymen on every issue. Referring to the trade agreement, the parliamentarian said that Congress' strategy is to tell the farmers that they have been harmed. He said that Centre has clearly stated that India's interests will not be compromised in any way. But, the Congress strategy is to spread lies and make false claims," he stated.

## BJP hits back at Rahul over India-US trade deal claims



**Uttam Kumar Pushes for Mellacheruvu-Hyderabad Rail Link to Boost Industry, Pilgrimage: P3**

**Maha Shivaratri draws heavy crowds to Hyderabad temples amid tight security: P8**

**Congress committing anarchy to win in hung municipalities, Says KTR: P8**



## Not A 'Now Or Never' Moment But A 'We Are Ready' Moment: PM Modi

**Budget builds on 2014 gains, aiming for a developed India by 2047, Says PM Modi**



This year's Budget was not a 'now or never moment' born out of compulsion but a 'we are ready' moment born out of preparation and inspiration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, asserting that it reflects India's "yearning" to become a developed nation. In an exclusive interview with PTI, Modi asserted that none of his government's budgets have been made with an attitude of creating a run-of-the-mill 'bahi khata' documents as "that is not our approach".

Asked whether he has determined that India is now ready to launch into the next phase of development toward a moonshot for Viksit Bharat by 2047 and was it a now-or-never situation, Modi said the post-pandemic world order is opening new doors for India with coun-

tries eager to partner with it in trade and innovation. "We have a young and increasingly skilled population; and we are focusing on strong growth accompanied by low inflation and macroeconomic stability. Our youth are creating waves in fields as diverse as space, sports and startups. We have ensured political stability and a reform-oriented policy environment," the prime minister said.

"And because of these developments, people are seeing this as a historic opportunity for India. Even as these developments were gaining momentum, the nation also witnessed the historic Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which infused the people with a sense of mission," he said in a written interview. Pointing to the behavioural transformations that have

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi of misleading farmers over India's trade agreements with the US, UK and the European Union, asserting that the government has safeguarded the interests of the agriculture and dairy sectors. Addressing a gathering in Gandhinagar after launching India's first Central Bank Digital Currency-based Public Distribution System, Shah described the Opposition's allegations as "laughable".

"I feel like laughing when Congress's Shahzada Rahul Gandhi stands in Parliament and talks about protecting farmers. The Congress has a long history of misleading the country and now they are spreading lies about trade deals," he said.

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## Rahul Gandhi questions US trade deal impact on farmers

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Upping the ante against the government over the India-US interim trade deal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday posed a string of questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleged that "we are witnessing a betrayal" of Indian farmers. Gandhi, who has been attacking the government and accusing it of a sell-out through the deal, said this issue concerns the future and asked whether India is allowing another country to gain a long-term hold over India's agriculture industry.

"In the name of a US trade deal, we are witnessing a betrayal of Indian farmers," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said in his post in Hindi on X.

Posing questions to the prime minister, Gandhi asked what it means to import Dried Distillers' Grains (DDG). "Does it



mean that Indian cattle will be fed distillers' grains made from GM American corn? Won't this effectively make our milk products dependent on the US agricultural industry?" he questioned. Gandhi further inquired that if India allows the import of GM soy oil, what would its implications be on soy farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and across the country. "How will they withstand another price shock?" he asked.

"When you say 'additional products', what does that include? Does this indicate pressure to open pulses and other crops to US imports over

time?" he questioned. He also asked, "What does it mean to remove 'non-trade barriers'? Will India be pressured in the future to loosen its stance on GM crops, weaken procurement, or reduce MSPs and bonuses?"

Gandhi expressed concern that once the door is opened, it may be difficult to keep it from opening wider each year. "Will it be prevented, or will more crops gradually be put on the table each time?" he said, adding that farmers must receive this clarity. "This isn't just about today. It's about the future too. Are we allowing another country to gain a long-term hold on India's agriculture industry?" he stressed. On Saturday, Gandhi accused the government of cheating cotton farmers and textile exporters in the country over the India-US interim trade deal, noting that the agreement could cause significant harm to both sectors.

**US flags concern over rising 'aggression' in Indo-Pacific Command**

The India-US defence partnership has a unity of purpose to maintain peace through strength, Admiral Samuel J Paparo, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, said on Sunday, even as he complimented the Indian military for displaying restraint during Operation Sindo.

In an interaction with a small group of journalists, Paparo flagged serious concerns over the Indo-Pacific region witnessing increasing "coercion" and "aggression", in an indirect reference to China's military muscle-flexing in the region.

The senior military commander, currently on a visit to New Delhi, said India and the US have a convergence of interests, and both sides are looking at further bolstering the defence and military ties, especially in the maritime domain.

Admiral Paparo said the US-India defence relationship is on a "steeply upward trajectory" and it is set to expand further.



Chasing a target of 176, Pakistan batsmen buckled under pressure and were dismissed for 114 during the ICC Twenty20 World Cup match against India on Sunday.

ESTD-1960

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge  
baar baar aaoge

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

# Summer Heat Rises, But Water Doesn't Flow

## Defunct Hand Pump Leaves Bhongir Travellers Thirsty

### BHONGIR Wakeup telangana

In a glaring example of civic neglect, a borewell hand pump situated near the Housing Board Colony Bus Stop in Bhongir has remained defunct for several years, leaving hundreds of daily commuters and travellers without access to drinking water. The bus stop, located in a busy public area, witnesses constant movement of passengers including students, elderly citizens, women, and long-distance travellers. With summer approaching and temperatures gradually rising, the absence of a functional drinking water facility has become a



matter of serious concern. Local residents allege that repeated in-

formal requests have yielded no response. The hand pump, which once served as a dependable source of free drinking water, now stands abandoned and unusable. As a result, travellers are either forced to purchase bottled water or endure long waits without access to safe drinking water. The situation became particularly noticeable during the recent Mahashivaratri festival, when the town saw increased movement of devotees and visitors. Despite the heavy footfall, the water facility remained non-functional, exposing the lack of preparedness in maintaining basic civic amenities. Citizens have strongly urged the authorities of the Bhongir

Municipality to immediately inspect the borewell and undertake necessary repairs.

They emphasize that ensuring access to drinking water at bus stops and public places is not a luxury, but a fundamental civic responsibility. With peak summer fast approaching, residents warn that delay in action could worsen the hardship faced by travellers. The local public and commuters are now awaiting swift intervention from municipal officials to restore the hand pump and provide much-needed relief. Until then, the broken hand pump remains a silent reminder of unattended public grievances in the heart of Bhongir.

## Registered MPs, MLAs and MLCs As Ex Officio Members

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

With Monday's polls to elect the heads of civic bodies becoming contentious in view of the fractured mandate, several MPs, MLAs and MLCs registered themselves at their respective constituencies to participating in the voting as ex officio members. Their votes will be crucial where the houses are hung. Among those who registered were former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. In the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind, BJP MLAs Dhanpal Suryana, Rayana Gupta (Nizamabad Urban) and Paudi Rakesh Reddy (Armoor) registered as ex-officio members. TPCC pres-

ident, MLC B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Nizamabad rural Congress MLA R. Bhupathi Reddy also registered as ex officio members.

There are seven hung municipalities where ex officio votes will play a crucial role: Khanapur, 12 wards: Congress 3, BRS 4, BJP 4 and independent 1. MLA Vedma Boju of the Congress has registered in the municipality. In Bhainsa municipality, with 26 wards, the AIMIM as 12, BJP 6, Congress 1 and Independents 7. BJP MLA Ramrao Patel has signed up as ex officio member. At the 20-ward Asifabad municipality, the Congress has 7, BRS 9, Independents 4 and BRS MLA Kova Laxmi has signed up to bolster her party. In the 30-ward Kagazna-

## Dr. Varun Raju Unveils "SCOPY" – A Multidimensional Take on Health

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Renowned surgeon Dr. Varun Raju Thirumalagiri launched his new 200-page book "SCOPY" at the IAS Officers Association Club, Hyderabad, on Saturday. The book, comprising 32 chapters, simplifies complex scientific concepts by presenting multiple perspectives on the human body and life. Chief Guest Dr. B. Ja-



nardhan Reddy, IAS (Retd.), praised the interdisciplinary approach, highlighting the rare blend of science, philosophy, and art. Guests of Honour included Mr. M. Chandrasekhar, Prof. Dr. M. Malini, and Rtd. Prof. Dr. A. Y. Chary, with Special Guest Mr. A. Nagarjuna Chary in attendance.

Dr. Varun Raju, also author of the international Textbook of Hernia & Abdominal Wall Reconstruction, integrates surgical expertise with philosophy, psychology, and Carnatic music in "SCOPY", offering readers a fresh, accessible lens to understand health and human existence. The launch concluded with widespread appreciation from dignitaries and attendees.

## 154th Gnana Mala, Sanjeveiah Birth Tribute Lothkunta

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Mission, Lothkunta, organized the 154th Gnana Mala at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue, honoring the legacy of our Messiah. The event also marked the 105th Birth Anniversary of Shri Damodaram Sanjeveiah, the first Dalit Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, former AICC President,



and Union Labour Minister, celebrated for his integrity, introduction of old-age pensions, and enforcement of reservations. Floral tributes were offered to CRPF jawans martyred in the Pulwama attack of 2019. Chief Guests included Shri

Kontham Vijay Kumar, senior Ambedkarite and retired defence service-man, and Mr. Vinay Kumar, Vice President, MALA, GHMC. Organizers expressed concern over rising caste-based discrimination in Telangana and paid homage to all 42 SC martyrs of Pulwama. The event's success was made possible by dedicated volunteers and participants.

## Karimnagar Gears Up for High-Stakes Civic Swearing-In Amid Tight Security

### Karimnagar Prepares for Mayor, Deputy Mayor Election and Corporator Swearing-In

### KARIMNAGAR Wakeup telangana

Karimnagar Municipal Corporation is set for a major political transition as newly elected corporators prepare to take their oaths, followed by the indirect election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Monday, with the indirect election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to follow from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. Oaths will be administered in alphabetical order, and entry passes will be issued to elected members at the main gate. Municipal Commissioner Prafull Desai chaired a review meeting at the corporation's conference hall, directing Engineering and Town Planning officials to ensure smooth execution of all arrangements. He highlighted that the election process would be postponed if the required



### Prohibitory Orders Imposed in Karimnagar Ahead of Municipal Elections

Prohibitory orders have been enforced across the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate limits under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) ahead of the indirect elections for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairperson, and Deputy Chairpersons of municipal bodies on Monday. The orders, effective from 6 a.m. on February 16 to 6 a.m. on February 17, bar gatherings of three or more people in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, as well as Choppadandi, Huzurabad, and Jammiukunta municipal limits, according to an official press release. Authorities have urged citizens to cooperate with the restrictions to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the elections.

quorum is not met, strictly following Election Commission norms.

In view of the high-profile event, civic services at the municipal office will remain suspended until Monday afternoon, and public entry into the

premises is strictly prohibited. Citizens are advised to avail municipal services, including property tax payments, through online platforms during this period. Security measures will be stringent, with heavy po-

lice deployment across the corporation premises. The entire process will be monitored through web-casting and surveillance cameras to ensure transparency. A dedicated media point with live screening has been arranged for press coverage. Administrative instructions include regulated staff attendance through section-wise communication, with only designated personnel permitted inside the office. Officials assigned duties have been instructed to report without fail to ensure seamless operations during the ceremony.

With tight security, digital monitoring, and structured protocols, Karimnagar is bracing for a significant civic event that will determine the municipal corporation's leadership for the coming term. The city administration is committed to conducting the process in a transparent, orderly, and secure manner.

### Chaos Amid Devotion At Ardh Nareeshwara Temple In Kothaguda

Debris left behind the recent demolition of encroachments by HYDRAA made it difficult for devotees heading to the Ardh Nareeshwara Temple at Kothaguda on Sunday for Maha Shivaratri. With devotees walking barefoot as per custom, the rubble caused inconvenience and posed safety concerns. Lighting diyas became particularly challenging amid uneven surfaces and scattered debris. Nearly 3 lakh people were estimated to have gone to the temple for prayers and pujas.

It can be recalled that HYDRAA recently removed encroachments in Madhapur to protect government and lake land reportedly worth Rs 12,200 crore.

Devotees expressed disappointment that the debris and broken concrete remained uncleared in the surrounding area. HYDRAA previously stated that if they demolish any structure, they will either ask the encroachers to remove the remaining debris on the ground, or the Agency will remove the debris.

## BRS Wins Big in Mahabubnagar; KTR, Srinivas Goud Celebrate Victories

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti (BRS) corporators who recently won the Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation elections met party working president K. T. Rama Rao in Hyderabad under the leadership of former minister V. Srinivas Goud. KTR congratulated the victorious corporators, appreciating their efforts in strengthening the party at the grassroots.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Goud highlighted the growing public sentiment across the state, noting that people are expressing confidence in the BRS government's return.

"The BRS government will come soon," he said, emphasizing that the party remains committed



to fulfilling promises made in the M divisions during elections.

Goud also stressed the importance of accountability, urging the ruling party to address public issues responsibly, without succumbing to temptations. He added that once the BRS government returns, the party will expedite the completion of pending developmental projects, particularly in Sircilla and Mahabubnagar, to ensure they match the progress of towns like Siddipet.

Praising the dedication of Srinivas Goud, KTR

remarked that he played a pivotal role in securing the recent victories and is expected to hold a significant position in the next government. Party leaders encouraged supporters to stand firmly behind him, acknowledging his tireless work for the party and the community.

Acknowledging the corporators who were defeated or received low votes, the leadership assured them that the party would recognize their efforts and provide opportunities for key roles in the future.

## Lack of Intimation on Rejected Waqf Properties on Umeed Portal to Makers

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

With the March 3 deadline to complete the registration of Waqf properties just about a fortnight away, several mutawallis (caretakers) are clueless about why their registrations are being rejected. In fact, some mutawallis are even unaware that their submissions have failed. As part of the Waqf properties registration, muta-

wallis who register the details on the Umeed portal receive an acknowledgement that their registration has been submitted. However, if the applications are rejected or are not approved by the authority concerned, no intimation is given to the mutawallis. They are only indicated that registration is under process, which actually is not. They need to log into the portal again to check the status.



This issue came to light when some mutawallis verified details on the portal. One such mutawalli was S.M. Ibrahim Hussaini, who received a jolt on coming to know of the rejection of his registration of a Waqf property. "I casually opened the portal to check if there were any changes but I was shocked to see my application rejection, without mentioning any lapses or reasons for the rejection," Hus-

saini said. "There was no official communication." Syed Fazal Parvez, mutawalli of the Mohd Shukoor Masjid, said there is no intimation even if the notified property registra-

tion is declined. According to Waqf Board member Syed Bandagi Badesha Quadri, when makers fill in the required details and submit their applications, the portal

displays the status as submitted. "During routine verification, it has come to our notice that several applications are rejected without any intimation. This is a serious procedural deficiency as applicants are neither informed of the rejection nor advised to rectify the deficiencies and resubmit their makers, he said.

There is a need to ensure that custodians are in-

said. He said Waqf Board chairman Syed Azmatullah Hussaini was holding review meetings on Waqf properties registration. Waqf Board member Akbar Nizamuddin alleged that the staff were not cooperating in the process. "Makers are uploading the documents but there is a delay in the checking and approval process by the staff," he said.

Ind Councilor Joins Cong in Wardhannapet, Paves Way for Party to Claim Chairperson Post

The Congress is set to secure the chairperson post in Wardhannapet municipality after an independent councillor joined the party on Sunday. The 12-member council had resulted in a split verdict, with the BRS winning six seats, the Congress five and one seat going to an independent. Netavath Sibharani, councillor from Ward No. 5, joined the Congress in the presence of Warangal in-charge minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and MLA K.R. Nagaraju.

With her induction, both the Congress and the BRS have six members each in the council. The deciding factor will be the ex-officio vote of MLA Nagaraju, which is expected to give the Congress the required majority to elect its candidate as municipal chairperson. After joining the party, Sibharani said, "I won as an independent with the support of the 5th Ward residents. However, to ensure rapid development and to bring welfare schemes to the people as promised, I have decided to return to my home party, the Congress." MLA Nagaraju welcomed her decision and said the state government is committed to the development of Wardhannapet, including tribal thandas and other areas in the ward. Warangal DCC president Mohammad Ayub and other party leaders.

## Karimnagar Mayor Race Heats Up

BJP Faces Unexpected Challenge from Congress

### KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana



Karimnagar Municipal Corporation politics has entered a high-stakes phase as the Mayor election approaches, with sudden shifts threatening BJP's previously strong position. Until recently, BJP, holding 33 seats and expected support from ex-officio members, appeared set to secure the Mayor's chair. But overnight developments have dramatically altered the political landscape.

A key figure in this realignment is the independent corporator from the 10th ward. Denied a BJP ticket, he contested independently and won.

After his victory, he stated, "I will join the party that offers me the Mayor post." This remark has become the focal point of intense political negotiations and has prompted Congress to consider new alignments to secure the Mayor position.

Questions now loom large: Has Congress agreed to meet the independent's demand? Will

the Mayor post be offered to him? Is former Mayor Sardar Ravinder Singh from BRS in line for the Deputy Mayor role? With elections scheduled for tomorrow, cross-voting and behind-the-scenes deals are expected to play a decisive role. The outcome could redefine Karimnagar's political balance, challenging BJP's confidence and giving Congress a potential game-changing opportunity.

As the final showdown draws near, all eyes are on the shifting loyalties and strategic maneuvers that may determine who ultimately occupies the Mayor and Deputy Mayor seats in Karimnagar.

## Uttam Pushes for Mellacheruvu-Hyderabad Rail Link to Boost Industry, Pilgrimage

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Maha Shivaratri announced that steps are being taken to lay a railway line connecting Mellacheruvu in Suryapet district with Hyderabad. Speaking to the media after participating in special prayers at the Sri Ishta Kameswari Sametha Swyambhu Shambulingeshwara Swamy temple in Mellacheruvu, he said improved rail connectivity was essential in view of the increasing number of devotees and the expansion of the industrial zone in the district.

The minister stated that a proposal for a double railway

line between Mellacheruvu and Hyderabad, along with passenger train services, was under consideration. He said he was coordinating with the concerned agencies to take the proposal forward. Recalling his earlier representations to the Centre on railway connectivity, he said

the project would strengthen industrial growth and improve accessibility for residents and pilgrims. He also referred to his three-decade association with Mellacheruvu and its development. He further stated that the state government, with the support of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has sanctioned Rs 1 crore this year for Maha Shivaratri festivities and temple development to provide facilities for pilgrims. The minister offered prayers seeking prosperity for the state, timely rainfall and the welfare of farmers. He was accorded a traditional 'Poorna Kumbha' welcome by the temple authorities.

## Over 34% of Winners in Telangana Civic Polls Are Housewives

The results of the Telangana civic elections offer an interesting snapshot of the profile of elected councillors, especially homemakers. According to data provided by the State Election Commission, 1,019 winners across all districts were housewives and homemakers, accounting to 34.02 per cent. Another 22.57 per cent of the winners were running businesses totalling 676 candidates, while 555 candidates mentioned their employment status as "other".

Incidentally, 644 candidates and nearly 21.5 per cent of the winners did not mention their employment status. The age profile of the winners suggests a balanced mix of youth and experience. The mean and median age ranged between 40 and 43 years across different social groups, showing how voters have largely placed their trust in candidates who are seen as experienced, yet still active and closely connected to everyday civic issues.

Meanwhile, nearly half of all winners have completed their undergraduate education. 1,254 winners, amounting to 41.86 per cent, have completed their undergraduate education. 15.89 per cent have completed their graduation, and 6.74 per cent of the winners are post-graduates. Interestingly, 334 winners, nearly 11.15 per cent of the total, are uneducated, and 733, accounting to 24.47 per cent, did not mention their education status.

## Maha Shivaratri Greetings from Mettu Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple Chairman

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Sri Mettu Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple Chairman Paidipala Raghu Chand extended Maha Shivaratri greetings to the public, highlighting the spiritual importance of the festival. He said Shivaratri is a great day to boost spiritual strength, and devotion to Lord Shiva brings peace of mind and guidance in life.

He wished that with Shiva's blessings, all people of the state enjoy health, peace, and happiness.

Raghu Chand emphasized that the festival teaches people to follow dharma, justice, and truth. He noted that fasting, night vigil, abhishekam, and special prayers help devotees purify the soul, leave bad habits, and find the right path. He also said Shivalinga worship promotes harmony and unity in society.

He prayed that all devotees performing Shivaratri rituals receive Shiva's

blessings, and every family enjoys joy, prosperity, and well-being. He urged people to celebrate the festival peacefully with devotion.

The event was attended by local leaders, including MLA K.R. Nagaraju, former Hanamkonda MLA Martineni Dharmarao, Hanamkonda RDO Ramesh Rathod, Kajeet ACP Prashanth Reddy, Tehsildar K. Raju, DCC President, Chairman Inugal Venkatarami Reddy, Additional Collector Hanamkonda K. Ravi, among others. Chairman Raghu Chand also thanked Madhikonda Circle Inspector Pulyal Kishan and his staff for ensuring public safety and security during the celebrations.



Government Advisor Mr. Mohammed Ali Shabbir being felicitated by Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri, Chairman of the Languages Development Organization, during a courtesy meeting on Saturday.

## Jampana Pratap Performs Rudrabhishekam at Bapujinagar Temple



### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Devotees across Secunderabad Cantonment marked Maha Shivaratri with vibrant rituals and deep devotion. Temples across wards witnessed large gatherings for night-long vigils ("Jagaran") and fasting ("Upavasam"), central to honoring Lord Shiva. The Bhola Shankar Temple in Kansari Bazaar, New Bowenpally, became a focal point, adorned for

the occasion and welcoming hundreds of pilgrims. Temple committee members Erapul Paramesh, Rayala Sai, Narsing Rao, Harikrishna, Vijay Babu, Sangeetha, and Nanda Kishore coordinated smooth arrangements as devotees queued for darshan. Special pujas and rituals were conducted at Kashi Shivalingeshwara Swamy Temple in Shivalayangar (Ward 2) under Gadapa Ramulu, Janardhan, Moota Ilayya, Dal Raju, and

## Dhankar Couple Offers Special Shiv Puja at Tulja Bhavani Temple



### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Chinna Raju, while Shiva Panchayat Hanuman Temple in Ward 6 saw committee heads Sai Baba Yadav, Sudhakar, and Narasimha overseeing the ceremonies. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap performed Rudrabhishekam at Nallapochamma Temple in Bapujinagar, praying for community welfare. Temple priests highlighted that fasting and night-long vigil symbolize overcoming ignorance and awakening the soul. Celebrations extended into early Monday, concluding with special Aarti and distribution of Prasadam, leaving devotees spiritually fulfilled and reaffirming the cultural vibrancy of Secunderabad.

To mark the auspicious Maha Shivaratri, former SETWIN Director and Khairatabad District Congress Vice President N. Dhanraj, along with his wife Vandana, performed special rituals at Tulja Bhavani Temple in Shankar Bagh on Sunday. The couple offered abhishekam and prayers to Lord Shiva, seeking his blessings for the welfare and prosperity of the people of Telangana.

Speaking to the media, Dhanraj expressed hope that, under the grace of Lord Shiva, all citizens would lead healthy and happy lives. He also prayed for the success of the Congress party in the upcoming GHMC elections, following its recent municipal achievements.

The puja highlighted the couple's devotion and commitment to both spiritual observances and public service.

## Dr. D. Kaval Kumar: From Academic Scholar to Legal Luminary

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Dr. D. Kaval Kumar, Senior Advocate at the High Court of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, has emerged as one of South India's foremost legal experts, combining scientific precision with deep legal insight. With over 20 years at the Bar, he has handled high-profile cases spanning constitutional law, civil and criminal litigation, land acquisition, and urban development.

Since enrolling with the Bar Council in 2005, Dr. Kumar became an Advocate-on-Record in 2012, earning a reputation for meticulous legal strategy and courtroom mastery.

Dr. Kumar's academic foundation is equally distinguished. He earned a

B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Osmania University before pursuing law, culminating in a Ph.D. This dual expertise allows him to analyze cases with unmatched rigor and clarity. Currently based at Harmony Jewel

His advisory roles with the Government of India from 2011 to 2022 further highlight his ability to bridge law and policy, shaping civil construction contracts, administrative procedures, and urban governance. Colleagues note, "He doesn't just argue the law; he understands the machinery of the state."

Dr. Kumar's academic foundation is equally distinguished. He earned a

## Auspicious Mahashivratri Celebrations at Koti Temple



### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Koti Temple witnessed divine fervor and spiritual grandeur on the sacred occasion of Mahashivratri as Rakesh Jaiswal, Member of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, offered prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva. The auspicious celebration was marked by devotion, traditional rituals, and collective prayers dedicated to Lord Shiva, the supreme symbol of strength, transformation, and divine grace. Jaiswal participated in the spe-

cial Mahashivratri pooja with deep reverence at the historic Koti Temple, joining devotees in chanting sacred mantras and performing rituals that symbolize spiritual awakening and inner purification. Prominent attendees included Mahesh, Ashok,

brate the divine night of Lord Shiva. Speaking on the occasion, Jaiswal expressed his gratitude for being able to participate in the sacred festivities and emphasized the importance of preserving India's rich cultural and spiritual traditions. Mahashivratri, celebrated with immense devotion across the country, signifies faith, self-discipline, and the triumph of light over darkness. The grand observance at Koti Temple stood as a testament to unity, devotion, and the timeless spiritual heritage of India.

## Dr. Narasimhan Kannan Wins National, International Humanitarian Honors

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

TPCC Secretary and senior Congress leader Dr. Narasimhan Kannan was honored with two prestigious awards at a high-profile ceremony in Mumbai this Friday. He received the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Award and the International Presidential Award, recognizing his lifelong commitment to humanitarian and social service. In addition, Dr. Narasimhan was appointed Vice President of the International Human Rights Organization, further solidifying his global influence. The awards acknowledge over 20 years of dedicated



service to marginalized communities, with Dr. Narasimhan's work reflecting the principles of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mother Teresa, and Jyotirao Phule. He has been instrumental in supporting orphanages, old age homes, and various social welfare initiatives nationwide, earning him acclaim as a "rarely honored" social service leader. Dr. Narasimhan, who

appointment sparked celebrations across the Cantonment constituency, with political leaders from multiple parties, local youth groups, colony welfare associations, and social activists joining in the tribute. A youth association representative commented, "Dr. Narasimhan's journey from a dedicated local leader to an international human rights figure is an inspiration to us all."

Dr. Narasimhan Kannan's latest honors not only bring pride to the Congress Party but also underscore Telangana's growing prominence in social leadership and global humanitarian initiatives.

# Budget Shunned Populism, Bets On Capex To Power Jobs And Growth: PM

**GUWAHTI**  
Wakeup telangana

Calling productive spending a hallmark of his government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the just unveiled Union Budget deliberately avoided short-term populism and instead channelled record capital outlays into infrastructure to drive jobs and sustainable growth. In an exclusive interview with PTI, Modi said his government has used its years in office to plug "structural gaps left behind by earlier administrations", pursued bold reforms and laid the foundations for a developed India. He asserted that the latest Budget marks the "next level" of that journey. Describing the Budget

for fiscal year starting April 1 as reflective of his governance approach, Modi said the document "is a good reflection of our governance style and priorities". "This Budget represents the next level in this journey, imparting momentum to our 'Reform Express.' It is designed to accelerate momentum and prepare our youth for the opportunities of a rapidly changing world," the prime minister told PTI.

He cited the pre-Budget Economic Survey to state that capital accumulation, labour formalisation, and digital public infrastructure together have elevated India's potential growth rate to 7 per cent. "Productive spending has been a hallmark of our government. The high capital expenditure re-



flects our focus on infrastructure and capital investment, which are strong engines for long-term growth," he said in the written interview to PTI.

The FY27 Budget sharply scales up capital expenditure to Rs 12.2 lakh crore - a 5-times increase compared to 2013 - as the Modi government reinforces its strategy of prioritising infrastructure creation, logistics expansion and investment in sunrise sectors to drive long-term growth. It lays emphasis on spending on rail, roads, digital and

energy infrastructure, alongside measures to ease compliance and improve credit flow as the central lever for job creation and economic momentum.

"This reflects a conscious strategic choice to invest in assets that create productivity, jobs, and future economic capacity rather than short-term populism. This shows that our focus is on improving the quality of life for the people, creating jobs for our youth and advancing the nation's progress towards Viksit Bharat," Modi said. For a long time, the prime minister said, high-quality infrastructure had been neglected, posing a challenge for the people and Indian businesses.

"Broken and outdated infrastructure has no place in a nation that aspires to

create a Viksit Bharat," he said. "Therefore, we revolutionised the sector with our speed, scale and focus on creating next-gen infrastructure, while upgrading the existing infrastructure. In the last decade or so, India has seen perhaps the most expansive infrastructure-building effort in our history, an unprecedented emphasis on quality! The most important aspect of this has been the way we have created infrastructure with the future in mind." Highlighting the scale of expansion, he said the number of airports has doubled as orders for thousands of aircraft are placed, number of cities with metro services has more than quadrupled, rural roads and internet connectivity.

## India a Very Successful Emerging Economy, Ideal for AI Summit: António Guterres

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India is a "very successful" emerging economy with a bigger influence in global affairs, and is the "right place" to host the AI summit, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said. In an exclusive interview with PTI at the UN Headquarters ahead of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, Guterres underscored that Artificial Intelligence should benefit the entire world and not just be a privilege reserved for developed nations or two superpowers.

"I strongly congratulate India for organising this Summit. It's absolutely essential that AI develops itself to the benefit of everybody, everywhere and that countries in the Global South are part of the benefits of AI," he said. The high-powered



event being held from February 16 to 20 will be the first-ever AI summit hosted in the Global South and is anchored in the three guiding principles of 'People, Planet and Progress'. Guterres, who will be travelling to India to attend the Summit, asserted "it would be totally unacceptable that AI would be just a privilege of the most developed countries or a division only between two superpowers", an apparent reference to the US and China. "It is absolutely essential that AI becomes a universal instrument for the benefit of humankind," Guterres said. "The role of India, (which) is today a very successful emerging economy that is having a bigger and bigger role in not only the global economy but in its influence in global affairs, India is the right place to have this Summit and to make sure that AI (is) being discussed in depth, in all its enormous potential and also in all its risks, but that AI belongs to the whole world and not only to a few," he said.

## Rijiju: Lok Sabha to Debate Speaker Removal Motion on March 9

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Lok Sabha will take up the debate and vote on the no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla on March 9, when the House reconvenes after the recess, Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said on Sunday. The second part of the Budget Session will be held from March 9 to April 2. "On March 9 in the Lok Sabha, we will have the debate on the no-confidence motion moved against the Speaker. It is the rule to take it up on the first day. There will be a vote following the debate," Rijiju said. The Budget Session began with the President's address on January 28 and went into



recess on February 12. The Union Budget for 2026 was presented on February 1. Rijiju said the government plans discussions on specific ministries during the second phase. "In the Lok Sabha, we will discuss the demands for grants in five ministries and in the Rajya Sabha, we will discuss the working of five other ministries. In Rajya Sabha, it will not be on demands for grants but discussions on the ministries," he said. He said the govern-

ment would introduce several important legislations, including a "critical" Bill, during the session. "We will not disclose now as to what the bill is, but we will bring up one very important business in the second part. We will pass all these bills," he said. Referring to possible disruptions, Rijiju said, "If the Opposition doesn't allow the House to function, we will go for the guillotine. It will be a loss for them." He added that if the Opposition does not partici-

pate in the debate, "it will be their loss." On whether a Bill on simultaneous elections would be introduced, he said no decision had been taken as the parliamentary committee examining the proposal has not finalised its report. Rijiju also said that the Trinamul Congress did not sign the no-confidence motion against the Speaker and noted that several smaller parties were not in favour of stalling proceedings. During the first part of the session, the Lok Sabha witnessed repeated disruptions. The Motion of Thanks to the President was passed by voice vote amid protests, and eight Opposition members were later suspended for the remainder of the session.

## Maharashtra ATS Raids 21 Locations, Detains Over a Dozen in Terror Probe

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Sunday morning launched a massive search operation across nearly 21 different locations in the state and detained several suspects for inquiry following a tip-off about terror-linked activities. As per the latest report, more than a dozen suspects were detained for questioning, with incriminating documents, electronic devices and other materials seized. However, no arrest has been made so far. Officials said the raids began around midnight, with ATS teams, along with local police, conducting searches. In Yavatmal district,



operations were carried out in Pusad and Umrikhed towns, where searches are underway at 14 locations, including homes and offices linked to the suspects. Authorities have seized objectionable documents, mobile phones, and electronic devices and have examined CCTV footage. Similar raids were conducted at seven locations in Ahilyanagar district, where police reportedly recovered incriminating material. Officials said the action was based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the alleged radicalisation of youths. The detainees are currently being questioned. The suspects were being interrogated, and no one has been arrested, the official said, adding that the operation is ongoing. The ATS action comes after the arrest of Idhu Islam, a close associate of Chhangar Baba, from

Nagpur by the Uttar Pradesh ATS in connection with its investigation into an alleged religious conversion racket operating in the state.

The operation was carried out by a joint team of local police and the Maharashtra ATS and UP ATS. As per the statement, Idhu Islam played a key role in managing funds and logistics for the conversion network. In October last year, in a major development in the ongoing probe into the Pune ISIS module case, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), along with the Pune police, conducted extensive searches across multiple parts of the city.

### FROM FRONT PAGE

## Meenakshi Natarajan emerges as a frontrunner for Congress Rajya Sabha seat from MP

**BHOPAL**  
Wakeup telangana

With three Rajya Sabha (RS) seats from Madhya Pradesh falling vacant in April-June this year, speculations are doing rounds in the political circles here that former MP and AICC in-charge of Telangana unit of the Congress, Meenakshi Natarajan, may emerge as the dark horse to secure the RS ticket from the party in the ensuing biennial elections to the Upper House in the state. Ms. Natarajan has a clear edge over other aspirants in the party for the RS ticket in upcoming biennial polls in Madhya Pradesh, which are expected to be announced next month, due to her proximity to Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, a senior Congress functionary told this newspaper on Sunday. Her 'good rapport' with Telangana chief minister A Ravanan Reddy is likely to boost her prospect of getting a party ticket for the RS



from Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader added. Tenures of three RS members from Madhya Pradesh are expiring in April-June this year, necessitating biennial polls to these seats probably in April this year. Of them, two are from BJP, and one is from Congress. While tenure of Congress veteran Digvijay Singh in the RS is expiring on April nine, terms of two BJP MPs, Sumer Singh Solanki and George Kurien (both from BJP), are ending on June 21. The BJP is in a position to send two members to the Upper House, while Congress has enough strength in the state Assembly to retain its seat in RS. While lobbying for the RS tickets for BJP particularly Mr. Gandhi.

### Not A 'Now Or.....'

Even as these developments were gaining momentum, the nation also witnessed the historic Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which infused the people with a sense of mission," he said in a written interview. Pointing to the behavioural transformations that have taken root over the last few years, Modi said whether it is cleanliness or any other issue, people know that building a developed nation is not just about infrastructure or economy, but also about social habits.

"So, this is not a 'now or never' moment born out of compulsion. It is a 'we are ready' moment born out of preparation and inspiration. This Budget reflects this yearning to become a developed nation," Modi said. Therefore, this budget should not be seen just as Budget 2026 but as the first budget in the second quarter of the 21st century, he said. This budget consolidates the gains made since 2014 and builds upon them to impart momentum for the next quarter-century. Just as the decisions and initiatives taken in the 1920s laid the foundation for Independence in 1947, the decisions we are taking now are laying the foundation for Viksit

Bharat by 2047," he asserted. Modi said none of his government's budgets have been made with an attitude of creating a run-of-the-mill 'bahi khata' documents. "Because that is not our approach. It is my privilege that people's blessings have been with me for a long time, and I have served for 25 years as the head of government, first at the state level and now at the national level. If one takes a closer look at my approach in the last 25 years, it becomes clear that our work doesn't happen in bits and pieces.

### Shah: Rahul.....

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had ensured protection of farmers' interests in every agreement. "I want to assure the farmers, cattle-rearers and fishermen of this country that in every trade deal signed with the European Union, England and America, Narendra Modi has safeguarded your interests completely. There is no need to worry," he said. Responding to criticism that the agreements would affect the dairy sector, Shah said, "We are the people who expanded the dairy sector, not weakened it. In all the agreements, full protection has been given to dairy (sector)." He also

challenged Gandhi to a public debate on the issue. "Rahul Gandhi ji, decide any platform. Even the president of the BJP Yuva Morcha can come and debate with you on who has harmed farmers and who has worked for their welfare," he said. Recently, following a phone conversation between Prime Minister Modi and US President Donald Trump, both sides announced a reduction of US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent. Last month, India and the European Union concluded negotiations on a proposed free trade agreement aimed at boosting bilateral trade, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal had said earlier.

### Bhagwant Mann.....

After offering prayers at the temple in Sangrur, Mann (52) was supposed to visit Fazilka along with Kejriwal to extend condolences to the family of Sandeep Gilhotra, after he passed away on Friday. Gilhotra was the father-in-law of Cabinet Minister Aman Arora. The chief minister and Kejriwal were to attend a state-level event for its ongoing anti-drug drive in Moga on February 16. In September last year, Mann was admitted for a week at the Fortis

Hospital following exhaustion and low heart rate. In 2024, Bhagwant Mann, who was diagnosed with a bacterial infection, had been admitted to Fortis Mohali for a few days.

### Om Birla to.....

However, Modi will not be able to attend it as he is scheduled to hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Mumbai on February 17.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent the Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government of Bangladesh led by Tarique Rahman, the ministry said.

Rahman led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to a spectacular victory in Bangladesh's parliamentary polls. "The speaker's participation at this important event underscores the deep and enduring friendship between the peoples of India and Bangladesh, reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the democratic values that bind our two nations," the ministry said in a statement. "As neighbours united by a shared history, culture, and mutual respect, India welcomes Bangladesh's transition to an elected government under the leadership.

## 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.

### Akshara Chit Fund Director Held at Bengaluru Airport Trying to Flee to US

#### WARANGAL

Wakeup telangana

Subedari police arrested Perala Srividhya, director of Akshara Chit Funds, at Bengaluru International Airport late on Saturday night in connection with a financial fraud case registered in 2022. Police said she was intercepted while attempting to travel to the United States. She was produced before a local magistrate and remanded to judicial custody before being shifted to Narsampet sub-jail on Sunday. Srividhya had been absconding since multiple

investors lodged complaints at the Subedari police station alleging that the firm had collected lakhs of rupees promising high returns and later shut its offices without settling matured chit amounts or refunding principal investments. Based on information that she was travelling from Bengaluru, a special team of Warangal police coordinated with airport authorities and took her into custody. Police said she had been evading arrest by frequently changing locations across states. Officials have begun examining.

### Hyderabad on Alert: Domestic Help Burglaries Spike

#### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A pattern of calculated home burglaries involving domestic workers, especially of Nepalese origin, has raised concerns over background verification and regularization of placement agencies in the city. Cases of theft involving contracted workers have been reported from Kacheguda, Karkhana and the latest in Jubilee Hills where jewelry worth ₹1.3 crore was stolen. The offences always involved forceful restraint, gagging

of victims and spiking of drinks to incapacitate homeowners before valuables were looted. In Kacheguda last year, two domestic helps allegedly drugged a businessman and his wife before decamping with nearly one kilogram of gold and ₹70 lakh in cash. When the wife briefly regained consciousness after hearing noises, she was reportedly threatened with dire consequences. No arrests have been made so far. An officer connected to the case said teams pursued leads persistently and even travelled up to

the Indo-Nepal border but could not trace the accused. "These gangs operate meticulously. One member usually escapes to Nepal first and disposes of the stolen property there. Others scatter to different states, take shelter with acquaintances, and eventually make their way to Nepal. Once they cross the border, it becomes extremely difficult to catch them," the officer said. A similar method was observed in a 2025 case in Karkhana where a retired Army officer was beaten and tied up by a

Nepal-based theft gang. The victim managed to overpower them briefly and attempted to catch hold of the accused before they fled with ₹25 lakh in cash and gold ornaments. Police later arrested four suspects a couple of months after the incident. An officer said that in both Kacheguda and Karkhana cases, the domestic workers were hired through word-of-mouth recommendations. Neighbours or other helpers shared contacts informally, with no formal background verification.

### 30-Year-Old Hacked To Death In Broad Daylight In Jagtial

#### KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana

A 30-year-old man was murdered in broad daylight on Saibaba Bypass Road in Jagtial on Sunday, police said. The victim, Bore Vishwanath of Porandla village in Jagtial Rural mandal, was allegedly attacked with wooden logs and died on the spot due to head injuries. Police identified the accused as Alakunta Gangadhar and his friend Bodasu Tirupati, both residents of Antargam Oddera Colony. They allegedly fled the scene after the assault, which occurred while Vishwanath was re-

turning from a temple on the occasion of Shivaratri. Preliminary investigation indicates that the attack stemmed from a domestic dispute. Gangadhar had married Lakshmi of Poramalla in Medipally mandal 12 years ago and the couple have two children. They reportedly separated about a year ago. During that period, Lakshmi is stated to have been living with Vishwanath after meeting him through social media. Police said the accused allegedly intercepted Vishwanath on the bypass road and assaulted him with a wooden stick.

### 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.

### Telangana Reels as Two Advocates Killed in a Month, Lawyers Demand Protection

#### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Telangana's legal community is reeling after two brutal murders of advocates in just one month, raising urgent questions about the safety of lawyers. The latest victim, Advocate Mohammad Khadeer, was stabbed to death at his office in Suleman Nagar, Attapur, following the shocking killing of Advocate Swapna earlier this month. The twin tragedies have sparked widespread protests and renewed demands for the Advocates Protection Act. Family Dispute Turns Deadly Police investigations indicate that Khadeer's murder may have stemmed from a family dispute involving property

and alleged dowry harassment. Suspects, reportedly his brothers-in-law, have been detained. In Swapna's case, authorities allege her brother was involved, and earlier attempts on her life disguised as road accidents had gone unaddressed. Lawyers have sharply criticized the police for failing to act on prior complaints, highlighting gaps in protection for legal professionals. Legal Fraternity Voices Outrage Bar associations across Telangana staged protests, boycotting court proceedings in multiple districts. Speaking to the media, Advocate Mir Qurram Ali, President of the Society for Civil Legal Aids, said: "Advocates face threats and violence simply for doing

their jobs. It is unacceptable that those who defend the law are left vulnerable. We need the Advocates Protection Act, now."

Lawyers warned that repeated attacks could erode public trust in the justice system and create an atmosphere of insecurity in the profession. Police Response and Ongoing Investigation Telangana police confirmed that investigations into both murders are ongoing. Authorities are working to identify and apprehend all responsible parties, but lawyers have expressed dissatisfaction over what they perceive as delays and inadequate action in responding to earlier threats. Calls for Legislative Action The incidents have reignited demands

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

every convention, protocol or even common decency. He has infamously threatened to use the special intensive revision of the electoral roll in the state as a tool to disenfranchise the Muslim community. It is completely undemocratic, not to mention inherently inhuman, to paint a whole community as comprising illegal aliens and lead a hate campaign against them.

It is something even chief ministers of other BJP-ruled states have refrained from doing.

Hate is something that India with its diverse social fabric can ill afford. There will be a number of fault lines in every small society in India, something that is unusual in another country. Religion, region, language, race, sex and caste are some of the ready reasons for discovering those fault lines. A sensible society will build bridges over them so that the people can progress as a community. History has proved that divisive tactics have never paid their users expected dividends.



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# IT Stocks Sink, ₹3 Lakh Crore Wiped Off Top Firms' Value

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A broad sell-off in Indian equities last week wiped out more than ₹3 lakh crore in market value from six of the country's top-10 most valued companies, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards amid weak global cues and rising concerns over AI-led disruption in the technology sector.

The benchmark Sensex declined 953.64 points, or 1.14%, during the week, reflecting a bearish undertone across sectors. TCS recorded the steepest fall in valuation, losing ₹90,198.92 crore to close



at ₹9.74 lakh crore, while Infosys saw its market capitalisation shrink by ₹70,780.23 crore to ₹5.55 lakh crore. Other major companies also faced sharp erosion, with HDFC Bank losing ₹54,627.71 crore, Reliance Industries shedding ₹41,883 crore, Life Insurance Corporation of India declining by ₹23,971.74 crore, and Bharti Airtel losing ₹19,244.61 crore in market value. In contrast, select banking and financial stocks showed resilience.

State Bank of India

emerged as the biggest gainer, adding ₹1.22 lakh crore to its valuation. Gains were also recorded by Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, and ICICI Bank. Market sentiment remained fragile, with Friday's session alone witnessing a fall of over 1,000 points on the Sensex,

while the Nifty slipped more than 1.30%. On a weekly basis, the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms declined by over ₹7 lakh crore, underlining the scale of the sell-off. Analysts attributed the weakness to a combination of weak global cues, softer corporate earnings and sustained pressure on

technology stocks. Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd said the Nifty IT index touched a 10-month low, reflecting continued headwinds for the sector. Meanwhile, Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments Limited noted that fading optimism around the US-India trade deal and fears of AI-driven disruption have weakened investor risk appetite. Overall, the week underscored growing caution in equity markets, with heavy selling in IT stocks and limited support from select financial counters, highlighting the fragile sentiment dominating Dalal Street.

**VIYONA Fintech partners with EFICYENT to facilitate cross-border UPI acceptance**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

VIYONA Fintech has entered into a partnership with cross-border payments platform EFICYENT to enable international acceptance of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across select overseas corridors.

The companies said the arrangement will focus on merchant acceptance and cross-border collections in regions including the Middle East, North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. These markets account for a significant share of India's remittance inflows as well as outbound travel and education-related spending.

UPI, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India, has emerged as one of the largest real-time payment systems globally in terms

of transaction volume. The partnership aims to create interoperability between domestic UPI infrastructure and overseas payout and settlement networks.

Under the agreement, international merchants will be enabled to accept UPI payments, while Indian consumers and businesses will be able to transact through compliant cross-border payment rails integrated with foreign exchange conversion and settlement capabilities.

VIYONA Fintech operates as a technology service provider offering UPI and IMPS switching, along with collections and payout infrastructure to banks, NBFCs and fintech companies. EFICYENT provides multi-currency accounts, international payout capabilities and foreign exchange management services. The integration will combine

VIYONA's domestic switching stack with EFICYENT's global payout network.

Executives from both companies indicated that corridor activation will be phased and subject to regulatory approvals in the relevant jurisdictions.

Industry participants note that structured cross-border UPI acceptance could reduce transaction costs and improve settlement timelines compared to traditional correspondent banking channels, particularly in retail payment flows.

India remains one of the world's largest recipients of remittances, and outbound digital commerce and travel payments have been expanding steadily. Policymakers have also expressed interest in expanding India's digital public infrastructure footprint internationally.

## Bill Gates to visit Andhra, hold talks with CM Naidu

**AMRAVATI**  
Wakeup telangana



Microsoft founder Bill Gates will visit Amaravati on February 16 and hold discussions with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on expanding cooperation in health and artificial intelligence initiatives, Andhra Pradesh minister P Narayana said on Sunday. Gates is expected to arrive at the state secretariat here around 10 am on Monday and meet with Naidu, IT Minister Nara Lokesh and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan briefly. "Gates will visit Amaravati on Monday and hold discussions with Naidu on expanding cooperation in health and artificial intelligence initiatives," said Narayana, the state Municipal minister.

The Gates Foundation has been working in Kuppam in Chittoor district on health-related projects, and the proposed talks are expected to explore scaling up these interventions to benefit a wider population across the southern state. Later, the tech czar will proceed to the Real Time Governance system (RTGS) to observe the utilisation of technology in governance, followed by Naidu showcasing the system's procedures and results, a government source had earlier said. Naidu will give a pres-

entation on "Swarna Andhra 2047" (golden Andhra) vision and the reforms ushered in various sectors, including med-tech, diagnostic services and Sanjeevani, a health record digitisation programme, said the source.

Following these engagements at the secretariat, Gates and team will proceed to an agricultural centre in Undavalli village in Amaravati, where he will witness the use of drones and AI technology, the source further said.

Gates had earlier visited the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh twice, and this visit follows an invitation extended by the chief minister to further deepen collaboration with the state government, the minister added.

## India, France to hold key dialogue to boost defence cooperation on Feb 17

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold talks with his French counterpart Catherine Vautrin in Bengaluru on February 17, with some key outcomes expected from the bilateral dialogue to boost defence cooperation.

A defence cooperation agreement is expected to be renewed for another 10 years, with an MoU on joint venture for "manufacturing of Hammer missiles" likely to be signed at the meeting in the presence of both the ministers, the defence ministry here said on Sunday.

"The two ministers are also expected to witness the virtual inauguration of the H125



Light Utility Helicopter Final Assembly of Tata Airbus by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron at Veermagal in Karnataka," it said in a statement. Singh will co-chair the sixth India-France Annual Defence Dialogue with Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France, Catherine Vautrin in

Bengaluru on February 17, the ministry said. The meeting will review the entire gamut of bilateral defence cooperation, with a focus on expanding industrial collaboration, officials said.

An announcement is also expected with respect to the reciprocal deployment of officers at the Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments, the defence ministry said.

Also, military-to-military cooperation is on

the increase. India and France have been regularly carrying out three major exercises — Exercise Shakti with the Army, Exercise Varuna with the Navy, and Exercise Garuda with the Air Force — and several other opportunity engagements, it said.

This would be the maiden visit of Vautrin to India after she took over as the French defence minister on October 12, 2025, the statement said.

The India-France Annual Defence Dialogue is a structured ministerial-level bilateral meeting to review and guide defence and security cooperation.

The fifth edition of the meeting was held in France from October 11-13, 2023.

## Mcap of 6 of top-10 valued firms erodes by Rs 3 lakh cr

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms eroded by more than Rs 3 lakh crore last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards amid a bearish trend in equities. The BSE benchmark declined by 953.64 points, or 1.14 per cent, over the past week.

TCS, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Bharti Airtel faced erosion from their valuation, while State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro and ICICI Bank were the gainers. The market valuation of TCS tumbled Rs 90,198.92 crore to Rs 9,74,043.43 crore, while

Infosys' valuation eroded by Rs 70,780.23 crore to Rs 5,55,287.72 crore.

The market valuation of HDFC Bank declined by Rs 54,627.71 crore to Rs 13,93,621.92 crore, and that of Reliance Industries plunged by Rs 41,883 crore to Rs 19,21,475.79 crore.

Life Insurance Corporation of India's market capitalisation (mcap) dropped by Rs 23,971.74 crore to Rs 5,46,226.80 crore, and that of Bharti Airtel declined by Rs 19,244.61 crore to Rs 11,43,044.03 crore. However, the valuation of State Bank of India (SBI) jumped Rs 1,22,213.38 crore to Rs 11,06,566.44 crore.

The mcap of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 26,414.44 crore to Rs 6,37,244.64 crore, and that of Larsen & Toubro's valuation increased.

## IEEE Nexus-2026 Ignites Innovation at Vasavi Engineering College

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



Compete, Open Source Contribution Sprint, Career Guidance by Alumni, and Shark Tank. Day 2 featured Resume Building Master Class, Design Duel, Coding Competition, AI Apps Workshop using MATLAB, Robo Soccer, System Verilog Workshop, and the highly praised VisionX Hackathon. Day 3 focused on ECE essentials with HAM Radio Demonstration, Antenna and Analog Design workshops, Founder & Engineer Fireside Chats, an Industry Panel, and the Robo Build finale. Dr. S. V. Ramana, Principal, highlighted the college's commitment to

Hyderabad comes alive as Karthik mesmerises fans with a power-packed

Hyderabad,  
WAKE UP TELANGANA

Hyderabad witnessed an unforgettable musical evening as celebrated singer and composer Karthik set the stage ablaze with his electrifying performance as a part of the Karthik Live Tour, produced and promoted by TribeVibe Entertainment and presented by House of McDowell's Soda Yaari Jam. The city came alive with energy, music and emotion as thousands of fans gathered to experience his timeless melodies and high-energy renditions, transforming the atmosphere into a vibrant celebration of music. As the tour made its much-awaited stop in Hyderabad, Karthik enthralled the audience with a powerful mix of chart-toppers, soulful melodies and high-energy crowd favourites. From romantic

classics to high-tempo favourites, Karthik delivered a power-packed setlist such as 'Mahaganpathim', 'Kannula Basalu', 'Muthyalu Dharni', 'Naa Hrudayam' and 'Arare Arare' creating a sea of swaying lights and heartfelt Yaari moments. Adding to the evening's celebration, the event featured a specially activated Yaari Cam that spotlighted groups of friends, capturing their candid moments of camaraderie and joy as they chose Yaar over Pyaar this Valentine's Day. Speaking about the tour, Karthik shared, "As an artist, there is nothing more fulfilling than seeing thousands of people connect with your music with complete fervour. The energy and love I've been showered with is extremely gratifying. Sharing our favourite songs brought everyone together in a beautiful moment of unity and joy." Varun Koorich, Vice President and Portfolio Head, Marketing, Diageo India, shared his excitement, saying, "Music and friendship have always been at the

# O'Romeo becomes first Hindi film to legally remove reviews online

O'Romeo, a Bollywood crime thriller, has been creating a buzz since its release on February 13. Directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, the film stars Shahid Kapoor and Tripti Dimri in the lead roles, with an impressive cast that includes Vikrant Massey, Nana Patekar, and Tamannaah Bhatia. Based on the book Mafia Queens of Mumbai by Husain Zaidi, the film follows a gangster named Hussain Ustara, who finds himself torn between love and crime in 1990s Mumbai. The film performed well at the box office,



collecting Rs. 23.51 crore nett in its first two days. It started strong with Rs. 9 crore on opening day, followed by a 61% jump on Day 2. Despite a mix of reviews, O'Romeo quickly became a popular choice for audiences during Valentine's weekend.

However, O'Romeo made headlines for a unique reason: it became the first Bollywood film to have its audience ratings and reviews disabled on BookMyShow. The film initially had a rating of 6.8, which later improved to 7, but the

reviews section was removed after a court order. A message on the platform now reads, "Reviews and ratings disabled as per court order," which surprised many.

The decision to remove reviews came after the film's

makers took legal action, reportedly to stop negative publicity. This move is believed to be a response to "review bombing," where films are targeted with negative reviews by organised groups. While some people support the decision, claiming it was necessary to prevent unfair attacks, others feel it limits the audience's ability to share their opinions. Despite the review controversy, over 100,000 users showed interest in the film, indicating that O'Romeo still has a strong public appeal.

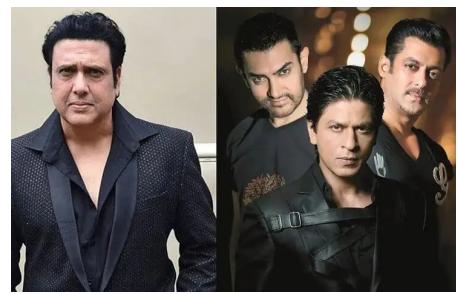
'Let's see how long the Khans last': Govinda's old interview goes viral

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Govinda, one of the biggest stars of Bollywood in the 90s, is still a name many people remember. Known for his great acting, dancing, and comic timing, he became a favourite during his peak years. Even now, he makes news because of his bold statements and personal life issues. Recently, an old interview of Govinda from the 90s has gone viral on social media, sparking a lot of discussion.

In the interview titled "Govinda in Full Blast," the actor talked about his fellow stars, including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, and Ajay Devgn. Govinda, at the height of his success, confidently said, "Let's see how long Aamir, Salman, Shah Rukh, and Ajay are going to last." He also commented on Amitabh Bachchan's career, saying, "Where has even Amitabh given a hit in the last 10 years?" At that time, Amitabh Bachchan was going through a rough phase in his career.

Today, the Khans have proved Govinda's predictions wrong. Shah Rukh,



Salman, and Aamir Khan have become global stars, and their popularity continues to grow. Shah Rukh Khan's films keep breaking records, Salman Khan remains a commercial powerhouse, and Aamir Khan's movies are loved worldwide.

Their success has spread far beyond India, with their films being popular all over the globe.

Govinda made these comments when he was at the peak of his career, with hits like Hero No.1 and Coolie No.1. Some people think his comments were arrogant, but others remember his confidence as part of his star power. While his predictions didn't age well, they remind us of how quickly things can change in Bollywood, and how the industry is full of surprises.

# Vijay Bombs: They Protest With Light Instead of Paint

**MUMBAI**

Wakeup telangana

Los Angeles is a city of dreams, which surely must be in every globetrotter's pockets. It is your first day in here and you happen to pass over some of its iconic areas such as the downtown district, Wilshire boulevard and notice something is odd at this night hour. On some of the public buildings you get to witness some

very Funny, grotesque, absurdist politically satire caricatures being projected such as the re-creation of a Superbowl Leaderboard, but with a Lewd twist with its name recharged into "XXX Pe-dobowl" and the leaderboard ridiculing some of the very powerful faces such as US President Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and many more as the players under the tag "Epstein



Files Leaders", and depicting how many number of times that their names got highlighted totally in these files. This is just a tip of the iceberg and there are even more shocking and controversial ones like a GIF on the walls of a Twin towers jail in LA featuring an ICE agent shooting blindly onto some projected words that contain abstract values like freedom and democracy, along

with human relationships with the words Our children, Our empathy, etc being shot over. Vjay bombs, an anonymous group consisting of filmmakers, are responsible behind creating and throwing these dynamic Guerilla projections under their collection titled "Propaganda" where they successfully combined street culture with cinematic techniques without anybody's approval which

has further pushed the boundaries of protest projection. In an interview they've stated that they've initially started this venture as a fun project but started going political only after the 2024 Presidential election. "We want to show that it's possible to make your voice heard and protest peacefully. Hopefully, we can inspire others to do the same. Right now, it feels more important than ever

to use whatever skills we have to push back against the rise of fascism and fight for our freedoms. We all have more power than we think. It's easy to feel overwhelmed or tune out, but we urge people to stay engaged. Real change doesn't come from one big event – it comes from countless small acts that, together, move the needle". They also maintain an active presence on social media platforms

such as Instagram, TikTok where they regularly post all of these artistic parodies. All across the world, there are political protests. The most conventional ones are boycotts, marches, or rallies consisting of clusters of populace demanding for a change or voice out against They who must not be named, these forms of protest have always been a little more physical in their expression.

# India and West Indies make Super 8, USA stay in contention



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India captain Suryakumar Yadav did not exchange the customary handshake with his Pakistan counterpart Salman Ali Agha at the toss of their T20 World Cup clash in Colombo on Sunday, continuing a protocol that has been in place since the Asia Cup in Dubai last year.

India have followed this position since the Asia Cup 2025, extending it across age-group tournaments as well as men's and women's cricket. Players from the two sides have not shaken hands since last year's Asia Cup in Dubai, staged in the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre and the subsequent Operation Sindoor conducted by the Indian Armed Forces.

"(Do you mind batting first?) Not

at all. We were looking to bat first. We've seen the results here, and we've batted in the last two games and won both the games defending, so we don't want to change anything. (On the big occasion) I think it's easy to say that it's just another game, but it is an occasion. These games are always very high stakes, but at the same time, you've got to know what you want to do. That's more important. Stay in the present, back your skills, put your A game forward and be yourself. (Does form count?) This sport teaches you a lot of things. On a given day, if you're going well, then anyone can have a good day. Two changes. Abhishek Sharma comes in and Kuldeep Yadav comes in for Arshdeep Singh." India captain Suryakumar Yadav said at the toss.

India made two changes to their playing XI, bringing in fit-again

Abhishek Sharma and Kuldeep Yadav in place of Sanju Samson and Arshdeep Singh respectively. Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha won the toss and opted to bowl in the high-voltage Group A encounter. Pakistan named an unchanged team. "It (pitch) looks a bit tacky, so we feel it will assist the bowlers for the first few overs so we want to use that. We are relaxed in our group and excited for this challenge. Bigger ground than SSC and the pitch is slower than SSC," said Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha.

The no-handshake stance first became a major flashpoint during last year's Asia Cup, when Suryakumar's refusal reportedly drew strong reactions from Pakistan and PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi. Pakistan briefly threatened to boycott their next fixture before eventually continuing in the tournament. The controversy lingered through the competition and resurfaced during the final. After defeating Pakistan, India did not accept the trophy from Naqvi, who is also the ACC chairman and Pakistan's interior minister. The Indian team is yet to receive the trophy after Naqvi took it back with him.

**India (Playing XI):** Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan(w), Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav(c), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jaspit Bumrah

**Pakistan (Playing XI):** Saim Ayub, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Agha(c), Babar Azam, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Fahim Ashraf, Usman Khan(w), Shaheen Afridi, Abrar Ahmed, Usman Tariq

# India Clinches HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Mohd Khaleel Afars

India emerged victorious in the HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026, held from 12th to 18th February at HPRC, Hyderabad, defeating

France 21-14 in a thrilling final.

The match saw intense action across four chukkers. In Chukker 1, France led 6-3 with all goals by Romain Daroux, while India's Yusuf Azmi scored 2 and Mohammad Nayeemuddin 1. Chukker 2 ended 8-8, as Azmi (3), Chaitanya Kumar (1), and Kunwar Vishal Singh (1) countered Daroux's 2 goals. Chukker 3 saw India pull ahead 15-12, thanks to Kumar's 3 and Nayeemuddin's 4. In the final chukker, Azmi (4) and Nayeemuddin (1) sealed the win.

Yusuf Azmi, the captain, was declared Star of the Match for his stellar performance.

# CBIT Boys Rule Table Tennis at Mahindra University 2026

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Waheed ulla

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) emerged victorious in the Boys' Table Tennis Team Championship at Mahindra University's Annual Sports Fest, held from 9th to 15th February 2026. CBIT defeated host Mahindra University 3-1 in the final, with standout performances from Pratham Dev, Sachin, and



Prathik, who proudly posed with their trophy. The team's journey began with a convincing 3-1 quarterfinal

win over BITS. Pratham Dev overcame Eshan 3-2, Sachin blanked Arman 3-0, while the doubles pair of Prathik and Pratham fell 1-3 to Pream and Eshan. In the semi-finals, CBIT beat Methodist 3-1; Pratham Dev and Sachin secured a tight 3-2 doubles win, while Prathik advanced via walkover. In the final, Sachin defeated Sadiq 3-1, Pratham Dev edged Rohit 3-2, and the doubles pair lost 1-3. Pratham Dev sealed the victory with a 3-0 win over Sadiq, confirming CBIT as champions.

## Pro-Palestine activists protest against Trump's Board of Peace



Several pro-Palestine activists held a protest on Sunday, February 15, in Sundarayya Park in Baghlanpally, Hyderabad, denouncing United States President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Israel. Distributing pamphlets and engaging in discussions, they appealed to the public to join campaigns opposing the ongoing violence in Gaza. The protests were organised by the Indian People in Solidarity with Palestine (IPSP) along with Disha Students' Organization and Naukaran Bharat Sabha in major Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Rohtak, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Patna, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

## IFAT lists changes to social security draft, submits suggestions to govt

The Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers (IFAT), on Sunday, February 15, submitted its suggestions to Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya regarding the draft rules framed under the Code on Social Security, 2020, for gig and platform workers.

IFAT General Secretary and Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) President Shaik Salauddin submitted the recommendations on behalf of gig and platform workers across the country.

The Union Government released the draft rules on December 30 last year. Salauddin welcomed the move but called it long awaited step. "We have flagged several gaps in the proposed draft," he said. IFAT has called for the removal of a clause that enables minimum engagement of 90 days with a single aggregator, or 120 days across multiple aggregators. It argued that platform work is highly dangerous and workers could lose benefits due to accidents or sudden loss of work.

It objected to a provision that denies benefits if worker data is not regularly updated.

It said that aggregators should be made accountable for maintaining records and bear all costs of social security of a gig or platform worker. Further, the worker should be informed about the updation.

## Karthik Ignites Hyderabad with House of McDowell's Soda Yaari Jam



Music lovers in Hyderabad were treated to an electrifying evening as acclaimed singer Karthik performed at the House of McDowell's Soda Yaari Jam, part of his nationwide live tour produced by TribeVibe Entertainment. Thousands of fans gathered to witness his soulful melodies and high-energy hits, turning the venue into a vibrant celebration of music and friendship.

Karthik delivered a power-packed setlist, performing chart-toppers like Mahaganpathim, Kannula Basalu, Muthyala Dharini, Naa Hrudayam, and Arare Arare, while the specially activated Yaari Cam captured candid moments of friends celebrating together on Valentine's Day. "Seeing everyone connect with my music is truly fulfilling," Karthik shared.

Varun Koorichh, VP & Portfolio Head, Marketing, Dia-geo India, highlighted, "Yaari Jam brings music and friendship alive, reaching over 1,00,000 consumers this year across 15 cities." Shoven Shah, Founder & CEO, TribeVibe Entertainment, added, "Karthik's tour sets a high benchmark for live music, uniting fans across generations."

Following Hyderabad, Karthik's tour will continue across South India, inviting audiences to experience the magic of melody and camaraderie. Tickets for upcoming shows are available on BookMyShow.

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**MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD**

# Maha Shivaratri draws heavy crowds to Hyderabad temples

## Hyderabad Crowds Flock to Temples for Maha Shivaratri



A large number of devotees offered special prayers at the famous Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple, Keesaragutta, on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri on Sunday.----Photo: Mir Zulfequar ali

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana Zaffer abedi

Thousands of devotees thronged temples across Hyderabad from the first light of Sunday to offer prayers on Maha Shivaratri, with the festival coinciding with a weekend

boosting the turnout. Major shrines saw long queues as police enforced strict security measures throughout the morning. Markets had already been buzzing a day earlier, with shoppers buying flowers, fruits, bael leaves, and sweets. Vendors near key temples reported brisk

business as the rush continued into Sunday. At the Ramalingeshwara Temple atop Keesaragutta in Medchal-Malkajgiri district, one of the city's most visited Shiva shrines, elaborate arrangements ensured a smooth flow of worshippers. Queue systems and

crowd-control measures were in place, helping devotees climb the hill safely while offering prayers. As night fell, the festival spirit continued in neighborhoods. Residential welfare associations, youth clubs, and colony groups organized religious discourses, devotional music, and cultural programs, keeping the tradition of Jagaran alive through the night.

The Hyderabad police deployed additional personnel at major temples and key approach roads to manage crowds and maintain law and order. Traffic teams regulated vehicular movement to prevent congestion on roads leading to prominent shrines. From morning to night, the city's streets and temples reflected devotion, as people celebrated Maha Shivaratri with prayers, music, and community gatherings, marking one of the city's most fervent religious occasions of the year.

# Numaish 2026 Sees Nearly 23.4 Lakh Visitors, Young Crowd on the Rise



### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

After 25 years, the All India Industrial Exhibition, Numaish, drew nearly 23.4 lakh visitors over 45 days, the second-highest ever after 23.54 lakh in 2001. The last day saw fewer visitors as Maha Shivaratri coincided with the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match. On average, about 50,000 people visited daily.

Exhibition Society secretary B.N. Rajeshwar said,

"We aimed to give visitors a new experience.

Hawkers were asked to move, and the police helped maintain order. We also saw more youngsters visiting this year."

Society members noted that Rajeshwar personally monitored entry gates, visited stalls, and ensured smooth operations. They added that the rise in young visitors was fueled by YouTube and Instagram reels showcasing exhibition stalls.

Girl students from Exhibition Society institutions, who worked as part-time volunteers at ticket counters, said they were happy to earn extra money to pay hostel fees. Stall owners began packing as lights went off, ending what officials called a successful and lively edition of Numaish, blending tradition with modern attractions.

## Congress committing anarchy to win in hung municipalities: KTR

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao, on Sunday, February 15, accused the ruling Congress in Telangana of committing anarchy to come to power in 34 municipalities that returned hung verdicts in last week's civic elections.

He alleged that the ruling Congress is resorting to actions like kidnapping and luring corporators and councillors, sending police door-to-door, and using goons.

Rama Rao was talking to media persons after par-

ticipating in Sevala Maharaj Jayanti celebrations at the party headquarters Telangana Bhavan.

Chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of municipalities, and mayor and deputy mayors of municipal corporations that went to polls last week are set to be elected by newly-elected councillors and corporators on Monday. On BRS extending support to the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Kothagudem mu-

nicipality, Rama Rao said the decision was taken keeping in view the interests of workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

KTR said that their goal is to stop the exploitation taking place in Singareni. He accused both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress of being partners in the exploitation of Singareni and acting in a way that damages the organisation. He said that CPI and Congress are already in an alliance and it is not surprising that they are sharing the post of Mayor in Kothagudem.

## Hyderabad Customs Marks International Customs Day, Records 8,102 Crores Revenue

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Customs celebrated International Customs Day on Sunday highlighting its role in border security, trade facilitation and enforcement. The event was held in line with the World Customs Organisation's theme namely 'Customs Protecting Society through Vigilance and Commitment.' The celebrations were presided over by Ajazuddin, principal commissioner of customs, Hyderabad zone. National badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, Dr G. Sateesh Reddy, member,

National Security Advisory Board; Kuchipudi exponent Deepika Reddy and Anand Kasula of Foxconn India were participated.

Principal commissioner Ajazuddin said Hyderabad Customs remained committed to safeguarding the country by intercepting substandard consignments, narcotic drugs and other harmful substances, and initiating legal action against offenders. He noted that officers worked in coordination with agencies such as Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Drugs Commissionate, Wildlife and the Narcotics Control Bureau to protect public health, wildlife and the environment.

## Hyderabad police warns against fake Ramzan ration offers

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

With Ramzan less than a week away, the Hyderabad Police have issued a public advisory cautioning citizens against fraudulent messages and fake links circulating on social media platforms that promise free ration and "Ramzan Relief Packages." While the Telangana government has officially announced the distribution of nearly 4.5 lakh Ramzan gift packages for economically weaker sections during the holy month, cyber-criminals have begun exploiting the situation to carry out identity theft and financial fraud. According to police officials, scam messages are being widely shared through WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms, asking people to click on links and fill out online forms

to apply for a so-called "Ramzan Relief Package." These messages falsely claim that essential commodities such as flour, sugar, ghee, oil, pulses, gram flour, dates, rice and other ration items will be delivered to Muslim families in need. Cybercrime officials warned that clicking on such suspicious links can compromise mobile phone security, giving fraudsters access to sensitive personal data, banking information and private documents. Once control of a device is gained, criminals may use it to withdraw money from bank accounts, steal identities, and even extort victims through blackmail. Authorities have urged citizens to immediately delete such messages, avoid sharing personal information online, and refrain from clicking on unknown.

## Cement Waste Heap Chokes Tarnaka Road No. 13, Sunday Market Hit Hard

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A massive heap of cement waste dumped on Tarnaka Road No. 13 and towards Nacharam Vyjayanthi junction and KPN fresh supermarket has turned the bustling Sunday Weekly Vegetable Market into a scene of chaos and inconvenience. The obstruction, lying right on the main road, has severely affected vendors, customers, pedestrians, and motorists. Every Sunday, hundreds of residents from surrounding colonies visit the popular weekly vegetable market to purchase fresh produce at affordable prices. However, this week, the festive and lively atmosphere of the market was overshadowed by frustration and traffic congestion caused by the cement debris occupying



a significant portion of the road. Vendors complained that the waste heap has reduced space for setting up stalls, forcing many to either squeeze into narrow spaces or move away from their usual spots. Customers, especially elderly citizens and women with children, struggled to navigate through the congested and partially blocked roadway. "It is becoming difficult to even walk properly. Vehicles are getting stuck, and there is always a risk

appointment over what they describe as negligence by civic authorities. Community members are now urging GHMC officials to take swift action and remove the cement waste immediately to restore normalcy. They emphasize that the weekly market is not just a commercial hub but also an essential lifeline for middle- and low-income families who depend on it for affordable groceries. With public inconvenience mounting and safety risks increasing, residents hope that authorities will respond promptly and ensure that Tarnaka Road No. 13 Sunday Weekly Vegetable Market junction is cleared before the situation worsens.

Public demand is clear: Clear the road, restore convenience, and ensure safety for all.