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# WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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## CM Revanth's Strategy To Secure Control of Hung ULBs Pays Off



gram panchayat elections in which Congress-backed candidates secured 67 per cent of sarpanch posts. The ruling party has now set its sights on the upcoming ZPTC and MPTC elections, aiming to cross the 90 per cent mark as it seeks to extend its dominance across all tiers of local governance.

In the **Nizamabad Municipal Corporation**, where the BJP had emerged as the single largest party, the Congress leadership moved swiftly to alter the political arithmetic. Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and TPCC president B.

Mahesh Kumar Goud were sent to Nizamabad to explore options for securing the mayoral post. After negotiations with the AIMIM and Independents, the Congress managed to gather the required numbers. The Congress won the mayoral post, while the deputy mayor position was allotted to AIMIM as part of the post-poll understanding between the two parties.

In **Kamareddy municipality**, the Congress secured the chairperson post even though the BJP had won more seats than the Congress and the BRS. With support from the BRS, the Congress ensured the BJP was even kept out of the deputy chairperson position. In return, the BRS was accommodated with the deputy chairperson post as part of the arrangement.

Bill Gates Lauds

PM Modi, CM Naidu for Digital Revolution



Microsoft co-founder and Gates Foundation chairman Bill Gates has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for playing a "crucial role" in the digital revolution of India. In an interaction with Naidu, ministers and secretaries at the state Secretariat on Monday, Bill Gates said India had a strong foundation in the digital revolution and it was witnessing innovations and fast decisions to ensure rapid progress.

He appreciated the Sanjeevini project being taken up with support from the Gates Foundation, at Kuppam in Chittoor district,

and enquired about the kind of healthcare services that were being provided after diagnosing the health issues of the people.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## Modi Inaugurates Six-day India AI Impact Expo & Summit 2026



NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Exploring multiple exhibition pavilions, engaging with start-ups, researchers, and technology leaders showcasing artificial intelligence or AI applications across all the sectors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the six-day summit, India AI Impact Expo 2026 summit, which kicked off in the national capital. As the first major AI summit hosted in the Global South, the event underscores India's ambition to shape global AI norms while advancing domestic capacity.

The summit, themed as Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya — welfare for all, happiness for all, however, reflects India's commitment to harnessing artificial intelligence for human-centric progress and inclusive devel-

opment. Earlier in the day, Modi also said that India stands at the forefront of AI transformation and its strides in artificial intelligence reflect both ambition and responsibility.

However, he also highlighted the role of AI across diverse sectors including healthcare, education, agriculture, governance and enterprise.

"AI today is transforming several sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, governance and enterprise. The summit will enrich global discourse on diverse aspects of AI, such as innovation, collaboration, responsible use and more. I am con-

fident that the outcomes of the summit will help shape a future that is progressive, innovative and opportunity-driven.

Thanks to the 1.4 billion people of India, our nation stands at the forefront of the AI transformation," he said.

Through working groups and thematic sessions, the summit also aims to produce actionable proposals, including shared compute frameworks and AI commons for public good. At its core, the event positions India as a bridge between innovation and equitable global impact. The summit, which will host a total of 300 pavilions and 600 high-potential startups, will provide live demonstrations, structured across three thematic chakras — people, planet, and progress — is expected to draw thick crowds that would feature international delegates.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## EC Suspends 7 WB Officials, Starts Disciplinary Action



Using its powers under the electoral law, the Election Commission has suspended seven officials in West Bengal with immediate effect for serious misconduct, dereliction of duty and misuse of statutory powers in connection with SIR. All the suspended officers were working as assistant electoral registration officers for the EC. Booth-level and electoral registration officers and their assistants are state government employees who work on deputation for the EC to update the voters' list and help hold elections.

Quoting orders, EC officials said the poll authority has directed state

## Karnataka Court Sentences Three To Death In Israeli Tourist e-case



NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

The First Additional District and Sessions Court, Koppal sitting in Gangavathi on Monday sentenced three men to death for the gang rape of two women including a foreign national and also the murder of an Odisha native in Sanapur of Koppal district. The incident occurred last year and had attracted strong criticism. The convicted men are Mallesh alias Handi Malla (22), Sai alias Chaitanya Sai (21), and Sharappa alias Sharana Basavaraj (27). On February 6 the Court headed by Sadananda Nagappa Naik convicted the three. The quantum of punishment was reserved for today. Mallesh alias Handi Malla alias Mallayya (Accused No.1), Sai alias Chaitanya Sai alias Saikumar (Accused No.2), and Sharappa alias Sharana Basavaraj alias Sharana (Accused No.3) were convicted by the court for committing murder of Bibash, a tourist of Odisha origin, attempting to murder two persons, robbing an Indian woman, and causing grievous injuries.

While Accused No 1 and Accused No 2 were held guilty of gang-raping the Indian woman, Accused No 2 and Accused No 3 were held guilty of gang-raping an Israeli woman. The crime occurred around

10.30 pm on March 6 near Sanapur Lake, when a homestay owner took four guests — two foreigners, including a woman, and two Indian tourists — to the banks of the Tungabhadra canal for stargazing. Three men who arrived

on a motorcycle first asked where they could get petrol and then demanded money before turning violent, assaulting the group, pushing three men into the canal, and raping the homestay owner and an Israeli woman tourist.

One of the men, Bibash who was pushed to the canal died in the incident. The special teams formed by the Koppal SP had arrested two accused Mallesh and Sai within 48 hours and Sharappa was arrested later from Chennai Railway station.

India, US Officials

Meet Next Week

for Trade Deal

Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal on Monday said that a team of Indian officials will visit the US next week to finalise the legal text for an interim trade agreement, which is likely to be signed in March. However, the visit is likely to start on February 23. The official's statement came after India and the US released a joint statement earlier this month to announce that a framework for an interim trade agreement has been finalised. "The joint statement lays down the contours of the deal. Now, the contours of the deal have to be translated into a legal agreement, which will be signed between the two sides," he told reporters here. Both sides are engaged in finalising that legal agreement, and virtual talks are going on for that. "Next week, India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain Jain, who is the joint secretary in the commerce ministry, will be leading a delegation to the US to finalise the legal (pact) to work towards the legal agreement.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## Cong, BRS, BJP Forge 'Unholy Alliances' to Bag Top Posts in ULBs

Congress, BRS, BJP, and AIMIM formed strategic local alliances, electing chairpersons and deputies, sidelining largest parties for governance



collaborations were determined at the local level, reflecting the priorities and calculations of municipal leaders rather than state or national electoral strategies. In Adilabad, Independent candidate Bandari Anusha was elected chairperson with the combined support of Congress, BRS,

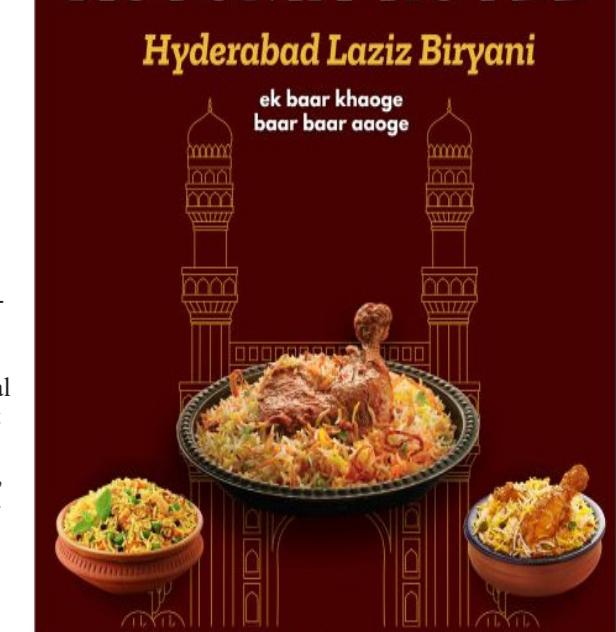
In Narsapur and Aliyabad, Congress and BJP members collaborated to outnumber the BRS, resulting in the election of Machunoori Laxmi and Kamtam Shirisha as chairpersons, with BJP nominees Vanamula Buchesh Yadav and Kanreddy Malath as vice chairpersons. Conversely, in Jinnaram and Yellampet, the BRS aligned with the BJP to prevent Congress from gaining top posts. Nakkirthi Yata Janardhan and Lavudya Sri Devi were elected chairpersons, while BJP nominees Vangetti Prathap Reddy and Mekala Rajitha became vice chairpersons.

Congress-BRS cooperation continued in Devarakadra, Vemulawada, Isnapur, and Amarchinta, resulting in chairpersons G.S. Damayanthi, Pulkam Raju, Mote Sumalatha, and Jinka Suvarna being elected alongside respective vice chairpersons. In Bodhan, Congress joined forces with AIMIM to prevent BJP control, electing Padma Tumu and Mir Ilyas Ali. In Bhanisra, an Independent candidate won with backing from Congress, BJP, and AIMIM. At the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, Congress and AIMIM combined forces to counter the BJP, result-

ing in Mayor Kuragayala Umarani and Deputy Mayor Salma Tahseen.

Analysts noted that these fluid combinations highlight a shift in contemporary municipal politics, where alliances are often pragmatic and development-driven, with ideological differences taking a back seat. Local leaders emphasized that municipal collaborations are distinct from Assembly or Lok Sabha electoral strategies, reflecting a political environment where adaptability and coalition-building at the local level are key to governance.

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# Revanth Reddy Support-Women Policy Clicks

13 women leaders elected in open seats; women to head 70 urban local bodies; BRS backed one woman

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Keeping his word on empowerment of women, both social and political, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy ensured the victory of 11 women leaders from the Congress as heads of municipalities in the general category — open for all genders — in the indirect elections held on Monday. While BRS made space for only one woman candidate in the general category, two other women, one independent and one from AIFB, also got elected

reservation fixation, with more than half the seats in 116 municipalities and two in the seven corporations.

The Chief Minister had inducted two women ministers — Konda Surekha and Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya, in sharp contrast to the BRS regime which had no women representation in the Cabinet for a long time. Revanth Reddy launched free bus travel for women as part of fulfilling his election promise within a week of taking oath. He said women had saved '9,000 crore in travel expenses.

from the category after joining the ruling party. This will take the number of women accommodated by the Congress in general category to 13 and total women chiefs of urban local bodies (ULBs) to 70 so far. Women have already got the or lioness' share in

The Chief Minister also fulfilled his promise of two gas cylinders free of cost and allotment of weaker section housing in the name of women. His government revived interest free loans to women self help groups and launched ambitious project of solar power generation units by the SHGs.

Women chairpersons elected from general category Congress Devari Samatha (Chevella) V Manasa (Makthal) Padma Tumu (Bodhan) Morishetti Niveditha (Suryapet)

Smt Seema Shetkar (Bichkunda) Dhillikar Saraswathi (Maddur) Smt Patlolla Neeraja (Tandur) Dubba Soniya (Moinabad) Dontha Anjali (Laxettipet) Manasa Swarna (Nandikonda) Dandi Laxmi (Husnabad) (SC) BRS (1) Jinka Suvarna (Amarchinta) AIFB (1) Manjula (Waddepalle), joined Congress Independent (1) Jyothi Guguloth (Mahbubabad), joined Congress

# Jangaon chairperson election postponed amid high drama

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Amid high drama and tension, the election of chairperson and vice chairperson was postponed to Tuesday. MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy along with 15 BRS councillors protested in front of the municipal office against the election postponement. He alleged that the election was postponed due to pressure from Congress MP Chamaala Kiran Kumar Reddy. The Congress leaders wanted to prevent the BRS from winning the chairperson and vice chairperson posts. Officials and police acted in favour of the Congress. Some Congress leaders booked a false case stating that a BRS councillor BRS from 28th ward was

kidnapped. Police tried to stop her even after she told the officials that she was not kidnapped and she was willingly supporting the BRS as she got elected on the BRS B-form, Rajeshwar Reddy noted adding that the public would teach a lesson to Congress. Earlier in the day, high tension prevailed as police allegedly overacted by stopping Fatima from taking part in the election process. Police told her to come to the police station instead of attending the election as a complaint.

# Guru Nanak University Launches Cisco Academy Hub

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Cisco and Guru Nanak University inaugurated Telangana's first Cisco Networking Academy Centre of Excellence at the university's Ibrahimpatnam campus, aiming to equip students with globally competitive digital, networking, and cybersecurity skills aligned with industry needs. The academy was inau-

gurated by Marcella O'Shea alongside Chancellor Sardar G.S. Kohli and Vice-Chancellor Dr. H. S. Saini. The initiative integrates Cisco's internationally recognized cur-

riculum with academic instruction to prepare students for emerging technology careers in India's fast-growing digital economy. Operating in more than

190 countries, the Cisco Networking Academy has trained over 28 million learners since 1997 in networking, cybersecurity, programming, IoT, and other career-ready skills. The new centre will provide certification-aligned courses, hands-on labs, simulation-based training, faculty development support, and access to industry mentorship and internships.

# Sanctus Launch Marks Visionary Expansion

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Sanctus World School in Hyderabad hosted Sanctus PhenoLumia 2026 on February 16, marking the formal launch of the Sanctus Group of Schools and outlining its expansion vision. Chief guest T. Prakash Goud praised the initiative, highlighting schools' role in shaping responsible citizens. Guest Atul Mehtani

stressed experiential learning and global exposure for future readiness. Founder D. Rajeshwar Reddy said the launch reflects a commitment to holistic, value-based education. Students presented scientific, sustainability, and interdisciplinary projects aligned with the CBSE framework and international methods. Cultural performances

and a lantern ceremony symbolized hope, marking a milestone in Sanctus' community-focused academic journey attended by parents, educators, and well-wishers, reflecting unity, disciplined growth, and a shared vision for nurturing confident, compassionate, and socially conscious learners for the future across communities and generations alike ahead.

# 90,000 Govt Staff to Be on Census 2027 Work in State

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Nearly 90,000 government employees will be deployed across Telangana for Census 2027, officials announced after a high-level review meeting that emphasized tight coordination, digital readiness and comprehensive coverage as top priorities for the state's largest administrative exercise in years.

Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao chaired the State-Level Census Coordination Committee meeting at the Secretariat on Monday, directing departments to begin immediate groundwork, prepare staff deployment estimates and ensure seamless logistical planning. He stressed that strong inter-departmental cooperation and timely decisions would determine the success of what will be

India's first fully digital census. Officials said a conference of district collectors will be convened shortly to brief them on timelines, operational responsibilities and execution strategy. Authorities were instructed to guarantee that every habitation — including slums, remote settlements and marginalised localities — is covered without omission during enumeration. Director of Census Bharati Holikeri described Census 2027 as a transfor-

mational milestone, noting that about 90,000 personnel, preferably teachers and other government staff, will serve as enumerators and supervisors in the first phase alone. The scale of deployment, she said, reflects both the complexity and importance of the nationwide population exercise.

The Chief Secretary also underscored the need for intensive training to maintain data accuracy and operational efficiency, directing departments to

design structured capacity-building programmes before fieldwork begins. Officials indicated that digital enumeration tools will require both technical preparation and field-level orientation to avoid disruptions.

Among those attending the meeting were principal secretaries Sandeep Kumar Sultan, Nadeem Ahmed, N. Sridhar, Christina Zongthu, and Lokesh Kumar, along with secretaries E. Sridhar and T.K. Sridevi, highlighting the multi-departmental nature of preparations.

With groundwork underway and administrative machinery mobilising, officials said the state aims to ensure that Census 2027 is conducted smoothly, accurately and inclusively, setting a benchmark for digital governance and data-driven policymaking.

# 10-Bed Cardiac ICU Opens at Gandhi Hospitals

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (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.

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

# A large-scale capacity-building programme covering 3,704 Ward Members has commenced in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

training programme for Panchayat Ward Members those are newly elected.

Large-Scale Capacity Building Initiative

The programme will cover Ward Members from 421 Gram Panchayats across 450

villages in the district. Training will be conducted in six batches, with approximately 600 participants per batch to ensure systematic and effective learning.

First Batch: February 17 to

February 21, 2026

Subsequent Batches: Continuing until April 4, 2026

Strengthening Grassroots

Governance Officials stated that the primary objective of the training is to equip Ward Members with essential knowledge on:

Panchayat Raj administration

Roles and responsibilities of Ward Members

Financial management

Village development planning

Sanitation and public health

Welfare schemes implementation

Transparency and accountability mechanisms

The district comprises the

following 17 Mandals: Alair, Athmakur (M), Bommalaram, Bhongir, Bibinagar, Choutuppal, Mothkur, Pochampally, Narayapur, Rajapet, Ramnagar, Thurukapally, Valigonda, Yadagirigutta, Gundala, Addaguduru, and Motakondur. Officials emphasized that empowering Ward Members through structured training will significantly enhance decision-making at the village level and ensure effective implementation of government schemes. Training Structure and Im-

plementation The training sessions are being organized at Mandal Headquarters with adequate infrastructure, including spacious halls, audio-visual equipment, and essential learning materials. Six training halls with a seating capacity of 100 participants each are being arranged to conduct sessions simultaneously. The Telangana Institute of Rural Development (TIGRD) recently completed a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on February 13, 2026. A

total of 775 participants, including Panchayat Secretaries, were trained across five batches. From Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, 25 trained resource persons will now serve as Master Trainers and conduct the Ward Member training in six teams. District authorities have directed all Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) and Mandal Panchayat Officers (MPOs) to ensure full participation of Ward Members as per the schedule. Attendance will be uploaded batch-wise in the

Training Management Portal (TMP) to maintain transparency and accountability. Focus Areas of Training The structured sessions will focus on: Roles and responsibilities of Ward Members Gram Sabha functioning Preparation of Village Development Plans Implementation of welfare schemes Maintenance of records and transparency Sanitation and public health initiatives Social audit and accountability mechanisms

Officials stated that this comprehensive training programme will play a vital role in improving governance standards at the grassroots level and promoting participatory democracy. The district administration has appealed to all Ward Members to actively participate and make effective use of the training to serve their respective villages efficiently. All concerned Mandal Parishad Development Officers and MPOs are instructed to make necessary arrangements for the Ward

## BJP activists attack Jagtial district chief over cross-voting row

Enraged BJP activists on Monday attacked their party district president Dr Yadagiri Babu accusing him of facilitating cross-voting by delaying the issue of the party whip during the election for the posts of chairman and vice-chairman of Metpally Municipal Corporation. A group of party workers entered into heated arguments with the district president and grilled him on reasons for delaying in the issue of the whip. As the argument turned serious, some of them dragged him by the collar.

Though he tried to escape, they caught hold of him and argued. Later, his family members took him inside the home. Angry BJP cadre then ransacked the district president's house and damaged furniture. Police rushed to the scene to restore order and have taken some assailants into custody.

Though the party won the highest number of wards in Metpally municipality, it failed to bag the chairman post after one of the BJP councillors voted in favor of the Congress party nominee. They alleged that the cross voting took place in view of the delay in issuing a whip by the district president. Though the whip should have been issued 24 hours before (on Sunday 11 am), the president issued it at 5 pm. So, the whip became invalid, they alleged. Out of 26 wards, BJP had won 10, Congress 6, BRS 6 and Independents 4. Congress strength became equivalent to BJP as four independents joined with the ruling party.

## BRS Bags 18 Chairperson Posts

BRS won 18 municipalities in Telangana municipal polls; Congress retained control over most urban local bodies

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The BRS won chairperson posts in 18 municipalities in the recently concluded municipal elections, while the ruling Congress retained control over a majority of urban local bodies across Telangana.



According to official data, the Congress secured 82 municipalities, while the

BRS won 18.

Independents emerged victorious in Adilabad, Mahabubabad and Bhainsa municipalities. The BJP won Narayanpet, while the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) secured Vaddepalli. Of the 116 municipalities in the State, results have been

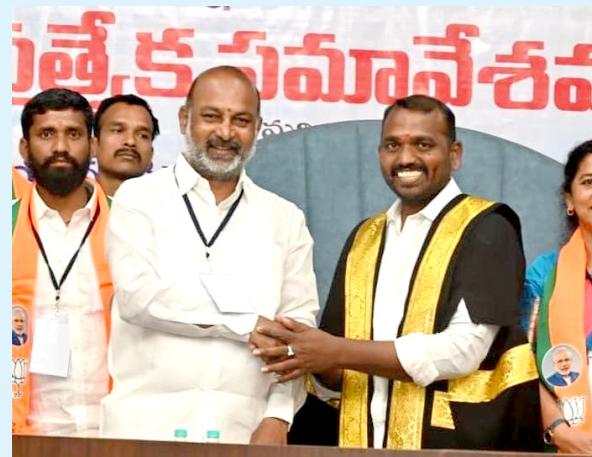
declared in 105. The election process in 11 municipalities has been postponed and fresh polls will be conducted under the supervision of district collectors on Tuesday. BRS is expecting to win at least five out of these 11 considering its majority.

## BJP Wins Karimnagar Mayor, Deputy Posts

### KARIMNAGAR Wakeup telangana

Karimnagar Municipal Corporation on Monday elected Kolagani Srinivas as Mayor and Y Sunil Rao as Deputy Mayor, handing the Bharatiya Janata Party control of the civic body after it emerged as the single largest party in the local polls. The victory marks a significant political gain for the party in Karimnagar, strengthening its urban foothold in the region.

State BJP president N Ramchander Rao said the party had successfully secured both top municipal posts despite what he described as attempts by rivals to overturn the electoral mandate. In a public message, he asserted that the BJP's leadership in the corporation would



steer the city toward the vision of a developed Telangana and a developed India, emphasizing governance, infrastructure, and civic progress as priorities.

In the 66-ward municipal corporation, the BJP won 30 seats, falling short of an outright majority but still ahead of all rivals. The Indian National Congress secured

14 wards, while Bharat Rashtra Samithi won 9. Smaller parties also made gains: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and All India Forward Block captured three seats each, and independents claimed seven, reflecting a fragmented local mandate. Political observers note that the mayoral outcome underscores the

BJP's growing organizational strength in northern Telangana's urban centers, where it has been steadily expanding its base over recent election cycles. The development is also seen as symbolically important because Bandi Sanjay Kumar, currently Union Minister of State for Home, represents the parliamentary constituency covering the city, giving the party both parliamentary and municipal influence in the area.

With leadership positions now secured, attention shifts to governance, coalition management within the council, and delivery on civic promises as residents watch how the new administration translates electoral success into local development.

## Health Minister orders suspension of absent Jogipet doctors

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

After nearly six decades of purposeful living — twenty-five years of education and thirty-five years of dedicated service — retirement is expected to be a celebration, a gentle landing, a long-awaited pause.

For many retirees today, however, the reality feels surprisingly different.



In several cases, retirement benefits remain pending in government finance departments. Without the timely release of pensions, gratuity, or other dues, many retired employees face financial uncertainty. Planned milestones — a child's marriage, purchase of property, starting a small business, or making investments — are put on hold. Hands that worked tirelessly for decades now find themselves tied by procedural delays.

**Sangareddy Collector P Pravinya, and Health Department officials, who found several doctors absent from duties in the past, served notices on them. However, they failed to change their behaviour.**

After coming to know about this, the Minister made another surprise visit and found the doctors not on duty. Speaking over the phone with Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Damodara Rajanarasimha directed him to suspend all those who were absent from duties.

The Health Minister also inquired about the number of tests that were being conducted in the lab. He also enquired about the medicines availability, and shortage of other facilities. The minister interacted with the staff, and patients.

specific pilgrimage sites could affect one's afterlife. Retirement becomes a race against time — a bucket-list marathon. Instead of peace, there is pressure.

**Health: Advice Without End** Health messages arrive daily — and often contradict each other.

Walk briskly. Walk slowly. Jog. Never jog.

Drink moderately for heart health.

Avoid alcohol completely. Eat this. Avoid that.

The result? Confusion. Retirees who have managed careers, households, and responsibilities for decades are suddenly treated as if they are incapable of making basic life-style decisions.

**The Subtle Psychological Shift** Perhaps the most troubling impact is psychological. Constant exposure to such messaging can make even energetic sixty-year-olds feel prematurely old. The narrative suggests vulnerability, dependence, and fragility — even when none exists.

Retirement, once seen as independence, is increasingly portrayed as risk.

**Reclaiming the Meaning of Retirement**

Retirement is not decline. It is transition.

It is the reward for perseverance. The freedom to choose one's pace. The opportunity to revisit passions postponed for years.

Most retirees are not helpless. They are experienced, capable, and resilient. Their relationships are often strong.

Their judgment has been refined by decades of living.

The real challenge in modern retirement is not merely managing money or health — it is managing noise:

Filtering information.

Resisting fear-based messaging.

Trusting one's own life experience.

After a lifetime of responsibility, retirement should not become another arena of anxiety.

It should be what it was always meant to be: A season of dignity, autonomy, and well-earned peace.

## Telangana Fitness Festival Celebrates Strength, Wellness, Champions Rise



### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Fitness Festival 2026 concluded at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium with vibrant participation from athletes, trainers, and fitness enthusiasts, highlighting the region's growing commitment to strength sports and wellness cul-

ture. Organized by former army coach Shafi Sami with support from Googe Group, the event showcased competitive bodybuilding contests, live demonstrations, and expert sessions focused on discipline, training, and nutrition.

A Waheed Khan secured the Overall Champion of Champions title in the

Classic Physique category, earning recognition for outstanding performance and physique excellence.

Distinguished attendees included Tareq Ansari of the Telangana Minorities Commission, Mittu Sai of the Fisheries Federation Govt of Telangana, along with Osman Alhajri and Habeeb Rashed.

The festival emphasized healthy living, sportsmanship, and professional networking, providing emerging athletes visibility and reinforcing Hyderabad's reputation as a rising destination for competitive fitness and athletic excellence.

## Grand Mahashivratri Celebrations Draw Massive Devotee Crowds Thousands



### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Mahashivratri celebrations concluded with large-scale participation at Sri Bhavani Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple in Tad Bandi Sawaipura under Cantonment Sixth Ward Area, where hundreds of devotees attended special pujas and a final-day food distribution marking the end of three-day Brahmotsavams. Chief priest Parankusa Sharma distributed theertha prasadams and blessed devotees, while temple chairman Sada Kesava Reddy and representatives including Dhananjaya Goud, secretary Gali Pelli Durgayya and treasurer Shiva Reddy supervised arrangements. Organizers said elaborate facilities ensured smooth darshan and rituals, maintaining a devotional atmosphere across surrounding areas. They added the temple conducts special pujas and annadanam every full moon to strengthen spiritual engagement.

## Dr. Satyam Srirangam Attends Maha Shivaratri Celebrations in Kukatpally

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri, PCC Member and TPCC Official Spokesperson Dr. Satyam Srirangam participated as Chief Guest in the Kalyana Mahaotsavam ceremonies held at prominent temples across the Kukatpally constituency, including temples in Allapur, Fatehnagar, and Kukatpally.

He performed milk abhishekam and special pujas, and joined devotees in the spiritually vibrant celebrations conducted amid Vedic



chants. Temple authorities felicitated him with a traditional shawl and offered Teertha Prasadams.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Srirangam prayed that Lord Shiva's divine blessings bring happiness, health, prosperity, and success to every household. He expressed hope that Lord Shiva's philosophy

would guide society on the path of righteousness and wished that devotees observing Shivaratri rituals be blessed with peace and well-being.

The event was attended by Suraj Tiwari, Kulkala Ramesh, Krishna Rajput, Narasimha Yadav, Satyam, Sappidi Bhaskar, Temple Chairman G. Nageswara Rao, Dharmakartha Srikanth Mudiraj, Giridhar, Ahmed, Bharathamma, Varahala Swamy, Vinay Mudiraj, Gunda Jyothi, Rameshwari, Ramu, along with numerous devotees and local residents who participated in large numbers.

## CBIT Partners Global Vision Consultancy for Student Skill Growth



### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) has formalized a strategic partnership with Global Vision Consultancy to expand industry-linked opportunities for students through training, internships, and skill-development initiatives. The Memorandum of Understanding signed at the campus of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology in Gandipet, Hyderabad, is aimed at aligning academic learning with real-world industry requirements and

strengthening placement prospects. CEO Sri Sai Krishna of Global Vision Consultancy affirmed the firm's commitment to supporting students through mentorship, live projects, expert lectures, and internships to build job-ready skills. Faculty members includ-

ing Prof. P. V. R. Ravindra Reddy, Prof. Umakanta Chowdary, Dr. B. Indira, Dr. Venkat Barla, and Dr. G. N. R. Prasad emphasized that the collaboration would encourage experiential learning, joint research, and knowledge exchange benefiting both students and staff. MCA department staff also attended.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and optimism that the partnership would produce tangible academic, research, and career outcomes in the coming years.

## 10-Bed Cardiac ICU Opens at Gandhi Hospital

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a major boost to public healthcare, a newly renovated 10-bed ICU cardiology unit was officially handed over on February 16, 2026, at Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad, significantly strengthening emergency cardiac treatment for economically disadvantaged patients. The facility was completed in just one month by Arpan Promoters in collaboration with Rogi Sahayata Trust, and is equipped with advanced life-saving cardiac technology designed to improve survival rates



during critical emergencies. Officials said the rapid execution reflects strong coordination, efficient planning, and dedicated volunteer support. Major contributors to the project included SVS Refcomp Pvt. Ltd., Khivraj Manik Surana Family, Sri Hariprasad Gopikishan

tals directly benefits the common public and can save countless lives, especially those unable to afford private treatment. The organization described the effort as part of its guiding philosophy, "Arpan – A Devotion to God through service to humanity."

Representatives also thanked donors, volunteers, and well-wishers for transforming the vision into reality and reaffirmed their commitment to future healthcare and humanitarian initiatives aimed at improving access to quality medical services for all sections of society.

## Kerala Govt To Take a Stand on Sabarimala Women Entry Issue After Examining All Sides: Law Minister

### KERALA Wakeup telangana

Kerala Law Minister P Rajeev on Monday said the LDF government would formulate its position on the issue of allowing women of menstruating age to enter Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, after examining all sides, including religious practices and constitutional issues, ahead of the Supreme Court hearing review petitions related to the case in April 2026. The state government is dealing with the issue cautiously in the wake of the Congress and the BJP, alleging that the government had betrayed Ayyappa devotees by declining to withdraw its earlier affidavit in the Supreme Court, which favoured women's entry into the Sabarimala tem-



ple. As per the traditions, the Sabarimala temple is out of bounds for women between the ages of 10 and 50. On September 28, 2018 a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered its verdict in the Sabarimala temple entry case. The majority of the judges held that the temple's practices of excluding women are unconstitutional. It held that the practice violated the fundamental right to freedom of religion of female worshippers. However, the

apex court later referred the matter to nine judge bench for review. At the press conference on Monday, Minister Rajeev declined to state whether the state government had changed its stand on women's entry. He cited the 2007 affidavit filed during V S Achuthananda government's tenure. "The government stated that non-entry of menstruating women was a long-held tradition and had proposed the setting up of a commission made up of

Hindu scholars and social reformers with impeccable integrity to study the issue," the minister said. However, instead of Commission, the apex court appointed an amicus curiae and eventually issued an order allowing the entry of women. "We all know the Supreme Court order is binding and that's why the government tried to implement the verdict," he said. The minister said when the court decided for a judicial review, the state government did not implement the earlier order, taking a stand that technically there was no stay on the earlier order. In 2016, during Oommen Chandy's tenure the 2007 affidavit was revised to state that menstruating women will not be allowed entry. However, in 2016, the Pinarayi Vijayan government went back to

2007 affidavit stating that no law prevented the entry of women in Sabarimala temple. Meanwhile, on Monday, the Supreme Court has directed parties, including the Kerala government to file their written submissions on or before March 14, 2026. Opposition Leader V D Satheshan has asked the government to declare that it would alter its affidavit and state categorically that menstruating women would not be allowed entry into the temple. "It takes only ten minutes to revise and submit an affidavit," he said. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the government is confused and is not coming out with a clear stand. The government, which organised the Sabarimala Ayyappa devotees conclave, has betrayed them.

## MP: Budget Session Commences With 6-Stanza Vande Mataram

### BHOPAL Wakeup telangana

The budget session of Madhya Pradesh assembly commenced here on Monday with the singing of the complete six-stanza Vande Mataram. This was the first time, the complete Vande Mataram was sung at an official function in Madhya Pradesh following January 18 directive by the Centre mandating singing of the all six stanzas of the poem, at official programmes. Madhya Pradesh governor Mangubhai Patel later addressed the assembly marking the opening of the budget session.

He underlined the Mohan Yadav government's achievements and its future plans to make the state developed. He said that the state government has designated



this year as the Year of Agriculture for development of agriculture and allied sectors in the state. The governor said that a favourable environment for industries has been created by holding the Global Investors Summit at Bhopal. The state government has set a target to make Madhya Pradesh a two-trillion dollar economy by 2047. He highlighted the initiation of the river inter-linking projects in the state to expand irrigation as well as mitigate drink-

## President Murmu to Witness the International Fleet Review (IFR)

### NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday will witness the International Fleet Review (IFR), organised by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam, a congregation of warships and submarines of friendly countries displaying their military skills. "The President of India Droupadi Murmu will visit Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam) on February 17 and 18, 2025. On February 18, the President will witness the International Fleet Review at Visakhapatnam," said a government release.

The President will review the assembled fleet at the Review Anchorage Area off Vi-



sakhapatnam on Wednesday morning. An indigenously-built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sumedha, will serve as the Presidential Yacht and lead the Presidential Column. The review will include anchored ships from India and friendly foreign countries, a steampast by mobile columns of warships and submarines, and a flypast by naval aircraft. The event will also feature a parade of sailing ves-

sels, search-and-rescue demonstrations by helicopters and displays by marine commandos.

The Indian Navy is hosting the IFR at Visakhapatnam from February 15 to 25, bringing together warships and delegations from partner navies within a framework of professional exchange, ceremonial engagement and maritime co-operation. In a separate statement, the Navy said the event

will feature a Presidential Fleet Review at sea, showcasing indigenous naval platforms and reflecting India's transformation into a "Builder's Navy". Indian Navy ships will be joined by vessels from friendly foreign countries, the Indian Coast Guard and the merchant marine. A time-honoured naval tradition, the IFR assembles ships and sailors from friendly foreign navies and serves as a platform for confidence-building, mutual respect and operational familiarity. For India, the event reflects its naval heritage and contemporary role as a responsible maritime nation committed to dialogue and partnership at sea.

## Hyderabad Student Vivan Sharad Maheshwari Tops JEE Main Session-1 From Telangana

### NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's Vivan Sharad Maheshwari has emerged as the top scorer from Telangana in the JEE Main Session-1 Paper-I by securing a perfect 100 percentile, according to results announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday. Vivan is among 12 candidates nationwide to achieve a flawless score, marking a remarkable academic accomplishment. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Vivan expressed his excitement and said his family and faculty are immensely proud of his success. "I did not put too much pressure on myself. College material and mock tests helped me achieve a good score. My present



focus is on JEE Advanced. Whenever I felt stressed, I used to relax by playing table tennis," he shared. Although his parents wished for him to pursue higher education abroad, Vivan decided to stay in India and contribute to the country. He revealed that he began preparing seriously for the JEE in Class 11, balancing studies with personal interests. Alongside Vivan, two students from Andhra Pradesh,

centres in 326 cities, including 15 abroad, with 13,55,293 registered candidates, and 13,04,653 appearing. The exam was held in computer-based test mode in 13 languages. NTA clarified that scores are normalized across multi-shift papers based on the relative performance of candidates in the same shift, transforming marks to a scale of 0 to 100. The agency released the final answer key, dropping nine questions in total—seven from Physics, one from Mathematics, and none from Chemistry. The JEE Main 2026 Session-2 is scheduled between April 2 and 9, offering another opportunity for aspirants to secure top ranks.

### FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Modi Inaugurates.....

Under the India AI Mission, the government has invested Rs 10,372 crore to build a comprehensive AI ecosystem. More than 38,000 GPUs have been onboarded for shared compute access, 12 indigenous foundation models are being developed, and over 30 India-specific AI applications have been approved. Talent development is central, with thousands of undergraduate, post-graduate, and PhD students supported through targeted initiatives. Not only the Prime Minister, but also many top government officials and AI giants welcomed the summit, saying that the AI adoption gap between the global north and south, building trusted and sovereign tech stacks, promoting ethical governance, and ensuring that AI augments livelihoods rather than displacing them. Chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said that AI adoption cannot just happen by drift and requires a clear commitment to aligning technological adoption with mass employability. "Countries need to move decisively by strengthening foundation or education, high quality skills, expanding labour-intensive service sectors, and re-

moving the regulatory bottlenecks. The window is still open, but it is not indefinite. We must act and act now," he said. MeitY secretary S Krishnan said that India's AI strategy is the future of IT jobs, semiconductor ambitions, and new rules on AI-generated content. "AI could create more jobs than it displaces, India plans to boost domestic electronics manufacturing, and the regulation of artificial intelligence will look like in practice," said Krishnan. Union minister Jitin Prasada also said that India has the highest level of AI skill penetration and has adopted a policy approach of avoiding over-regulation to ensure innovation thrives. "The present government is agile and listens to all ideas and it fine-tunes its policies, programmes, as per the need of the hour. India has trajectory, speed, and scale to offer to the world in the AI space," he said.

#### India, US Officials.....

That work will carry on next week in Washington and, if need be, thereafter in July and March," Agrawal said. Under the interim trade pact between two large democracies, both sides would extend duty concessions to each other on a number of goods

traded between them. The US has announced that it will reduce the reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. It has already eliminated the 25 per cent punitive tariffs on India for buying Russian crude oil. The secretary further said that there is an effort to close and sign the deal in March, but he declined to put a deadline on it. "Because legal agreement finalisation also has certain intricacies, which both sides will have to resolve. "The US is working on reducing the reciprocal tariffs from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. I am told they are processing it. It should be done fast," he said, adding that our expectation is that it should be done this week, but, in case it is not done, the team is there next week, and we can pursue and see why it is taking time.

#### Bill Gates Lauds.....

He appreciated the Sanjeevini project being taken up with support from the Gates Foundation, at Kuppam in Chittoor district, and enquired about the kind of healthcare services that were being provided after diagnosing the health issues of the people. Gates also appreciated the offer of Sanjeevini digital health cards to the people to enable them

## 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.

change their lifestyles and food habits through appropriate advice at the right time.

The visiting dignitary praised the practice of providing healthcare services to the people with the help of AI.

He enquired about the plan to provide extensive health care services in future with the help of Bharat Biodesign. Referring to the need for pregnant women to undergo a series of tests like ultrasound and scanning, causing them more financial burden, Gates said it would be good if the diagnostic services were available at affordable cost, which would be a major relief to pregnant women.

On development of the capital city, Gates was impressed by the plan having

30 per cent of water bodies and the development of greenery and described the ongoing pace of works as 'great.' Bill Gates lauded the use of technology by the disaster management services to prevent loss of life and property during times of natural calamities.

He complimented Naidu for his efforts to implement digital governance when "I am trying to explain to the world about it."

## CRIME

### Bank can give account details to Police : HC

#### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Justice Renuka Yara of the Telangana High Court juked a plea seeking to restrain disclosure of banking information to investigating authorities in connection with a cyber-crime case. M/s Jubilee Hills Mercantile Cooperative Urban Bank Limited sought a direction against Yes Bank Limited not to disclose any information pertaining to its bank accounts to the Cyber Crime Division, CID Headquarters.

It also challenged a notice

issued by the Investigating Officer on January 14 in a funds siphoning off case registered with the Davangere Cyber, Economic and Narcotic Offences (CEN) Police Station. The notice required production of account opening and KYC details, transaction and banking records, and organisational records within seven days, and also directed preservation of physical and electronic evidence. It was contended by the petitioner that there was no statutory mandate empowering the second respondent to issue such directions and that disclosure of KYC details.. would af-

### 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.

Sridhiva 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.

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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## Heartiest Congratulations to Advocate Naresh Kaleru

#### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Advocate Naresh Kaleru, EC Member, TSHCAA, has been empanelled as a Panel Lawyer by the High Court Legal Services Committee for the State of Telangana with effect from 01.02.2026. This prestigious recognition reflects his dedication, legal excellence, and unwavering commitment

to justice. His empanelment will further strengthen access to legal aid and quality legal representation for the people of Telangana. Warm congratulations and best wishes to Advocate Naresh Kaleru for continued success, service, and meaningful contribution to the justice system.

— Advocate Mir Qurram Ali President, Society for Civil Legal Aids



### 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 Aparash 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.

### HC Panel Tells Mahbub College To Ensure continuity in functioning of educational institutions

#### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The ongoing battle relating to the management of the well-known Mahbub College, Secunderabad, echoed yet again in the State High Court. A two-judge panel issued a set of directions, pending resolution of disputes under the Arbitration Act. The panel comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar refused to suspend a termination notice issued by Mahbub College against Venkat Narayana Educational Society (VNES), issued by the management of Mahbub College.

It is pointed out that there was an agreement under which the parties

were to jointly manage the institutions, and following the disputes relating to financial transactions, administration and alleged contractual breaches, Mahbub College issued a termination notice on 3rd October 2024, which led to multiple proceedings, including petitions invoking provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The Trial Court granted an ad interim injunction restraining Mahbub College from entering and interfering with the functioning and administration of VNES, while refusing to suspend the termination notice and refusing to restrain Mahbub College from approaching statutory authorities, observing that disputes

between managements should not disrupt students' education. The panel also held that a restraint against Mahbub College from addressing letters or approaching statutory and regulatory authorities such as AICTE, JNTUH and the State Government would be legally impermissible, particularly since statutory approvals and affiliations stand in Mahbub College's name, and any such restraint could jeopardize compliances and adversely affect students and staff. Accordingly,

the panel relegated the parties to arbitration and appointed Justice L. Nagendra Rao, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the sole arbitrator.



# Goods Trade Deficit Widens in Jan

## NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to \$34.68 billion in January, the highest level recorded so far in the current fiscal year, as imports surged and exports slipped month-on-month, according to official government data. The gap expanded significantly from \$25.04 billion in December and \$23 billion in January last year, underscoring mounting external sector pressures despite steady annual export growth.

Imports jumped to \$71.24 billion in January from \$63.55 billion the previous month and



\$59.42 billion a year earlier. The surge was led primarily by higher purchases of petroleum and crude products worth \$13.39 billion, followed by gold imports at \$12.07 billion, electronic goods at \$10.19 billion and machinery at \$5.41 billion. The spike in inbound

shipments outpaced export performance and pushed the deficit closer to the record \$41.68 billion logged in October 2025.

Merchandise exports declined to \$36.56 billion in January from \$38.51 billion in December, though they remained marginally

above the \$36.43 billion recorded in the same month last year. Key sectors supporting outbound shipments included electronic goods, meat, dairy and poultry products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and marine products. Cumulatively, exports during April–January FY26 rose to \$366.63 billion compared with \$358.91 billion in the corresponding period last year. Imports during the same ten-month period climbed more sharply to \$649.86 billion, resulting in a goods trade deficit of \$283.23 billion.

Trade patterns with major partners showed mixed trends. Exports to the United States fell

to \$6.58 billion in January from \$7.01 billion in December, although cumulative shipments to the U.S. still increased 5.8 percent year-on-year to \$72.46 billion. Meanwhile, bilateral merchandise trade with China reached \$124.06 billion during April–January, with a widening deficit of \$92.30 billion. Exports to China rose annually to \$15.88 billion but moderated sequentially to \$1.63 billion in January. Overall, the combined merchandise and services trade surplus narrowed on a yearly basis in January, reflecting persistent pressure from strong import demand and volatile global trade conditions.

# Royal Stag Launches RS Code Success Campaign Nationwide

## MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Seagram's Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water has launched the "Royal Stag Code of Large" (#RSCode), a data-driven campaign decoding success through four core personality traits, in collaboration with Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma and mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton. The initiative combines performance analytics with brand philosophy to help fans identify their own path to success using an AI-powered interactive tool. The campaign analyses Rohit Sharma's career data to identify four defining traits—Selfless, Driven, Fearless, and Inspiring—which it presents as the foundation of sustained achievement.

These qualities, the company says, reflect both Sharma's leadership journey and the brand's "Live It Large" ethos. Sharma, notably among the few players associated with multiple ICC Men's T20 World Cup victories, is positioned as the embodiment of these principles. To enhance credibility, Upton interprets the performance insights, translating analytics into practical lessons for au-



diences. The campaign rollout began with teaser promotions and culminated in a digital talk show featuring Sharma and Upton, including a surprise appearance by Suryakumar Yadav, reinforcing the "Inspiring" trait. According to Pernod Ricard India CMO Debasree Dasgupta, the initiative empowers fans to create their own "Live It Large" journeys through personalised AI-generated video messages from Sharma after answering a short questionnaire. Designed as a digital-first engagement strategy, the #RSCode campaign blends storytelling, technology, and sports analytics to extend beyond cricket, positioning success as a mindset applicable to everyday life.

# 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.

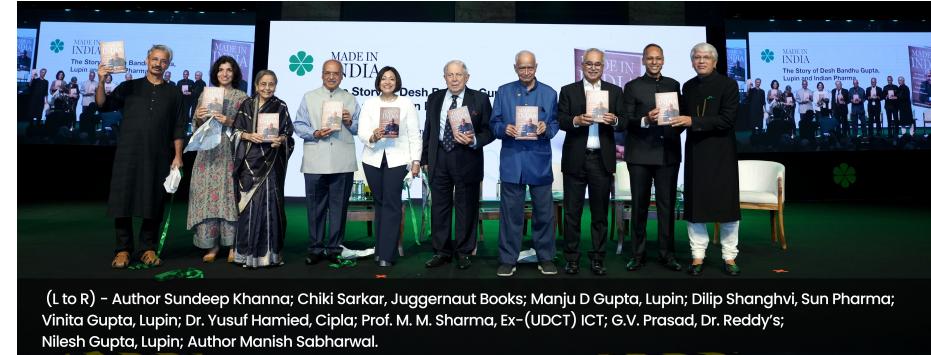
Gates had earlier visited the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh twice, and this visit follows an invitation extended by the chief minister to further deepen collaboration with the state government, the minister added.

# Book on Lupin Founder Launched

New book chronicles Lupin founder's journey and India's pharmaceutical rise globally

## NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana



(L to R) - Author Sundeep Khanna; Chikl Sarkar, Juggernaut Books; Manju D Gupta, Lupin; Dilip Shanghvi, Sun Pharma; Vinita Gupta, Lupin; Dr. Yusuf Hamied, Cipla; Prof. M. M. Sharma, Ex-(UDCT) IIT; G.V. Prasad, Dr. Reddy's; Nilesh Gupta, Lupin; Author Manish Sabharwal.

Made in India, a new book chronicling the rise of India's pharmaceutical industry, the growth of Lupin, and the life of its founder Desh Bandhu Gupta, was launched in Mumbai in February 2026, bringing together leading industry voices to reflect on India's transformation into the "pharmacy to the world."

Authored by journalist Sundeep Khanna and Manish Sabharwal of TeamLease Services, the book traces how a boy from rural Rajasthan rose from modest beginnings as a teacher and pharma employee to build a \$10-billion global enterprise supplying medicines to

more than 120 countries. It highlights leadership struggles, financial crises, and personal sacrifices behind institution-building, while spotlighting the support of his wife Manju Gupta and their community initiatives.

A panel discussion featuring industry stalwarts including Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharma, Yusuf Hamied of Cipla, G. V. Prasad of Dr. Reddy's, Vinita Gupta, and scientist M.

M. Sharma explored the sector's past achievements and future challenges. Speakers emphasized how Indian pharma leaders helped dismantle the myth that multinational firms always hold an edge. The book underscores India's global pharmaceutical dominance with striking statistics: nearly half of the 400 billion pills consumed annually in the United States are produced in

India, about 60 percent of the world's vaccines originate there, and roughly one-third of the 700 facilities approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to supply medicines to America are located in the country.

It also credits pioneers such as the founders of Ranbaxy, Zydus Cadila, and Wockhardt for shaping India's pharmaceutical rise alongside Gupta, portraying them as nation-

# Tata Motors Launches 17 Advanced Trucks

## NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

In a major boost to India's commercial vehicle sector, Tata Motors has launched a next-generation lineup of 17 trucks ranging from 7 to 55 tonnes, introducing new benchmarks in safety, efficiency, and profitability. Announced in New Delhi, the portfolio includes the all-new Azura series for the ILMCV segment, the expansive Tata Trucks.ev electric range built on the advanced I-MOVEV architecture, and upgraded versions of the Prima, Signa,



and Ultra platforms. Designed to meet stringent European ECE R29-03 safety standards, the trucks aim to enhance driver protection and road safety while improving fleet uptime. The company says the models deliver higher payload capacity, better fuel efficiency, and reduced total cost of ownership, supported by Fleet Edge digital services. With this launch, Tata Motors targets stronger transporter earnings and signals a significant technological leap in India's trucking ecosystem.

Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India has launched two premium coated steel products—Vibrance and Optima—to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities and meet rising OEM demand for precision, aesthetics, and reliable performance. Announced in Mumbai and Delhi on 16 February 2026, the new offerings aim to reduce import dependence while providing globally benchmarked quality within India.

The company said the additions enhance its value-added portfolio of coated steels designed for appliances and industrial applications, sectors driving strong demand for consistent surface quality, tight tolerances, and scalable performance. India's coated steel demand, currently about 11.1 million tonnes annually, is projected to grow 8–10%

# AM/NS Launches Vibrance, Optima to Boost Steel Manufacturing

## MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana



CAGR, with appliance usage alone rising roughly 10% each year.

Vibrance is a colour-coated steel engineered for appliance manufacturers seeking refined finishes, controlled gloss, and durability for products such as refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, and water dispensers. Optima, a True Zero-Spangle galvanised steel, delivers high surface uniformity, predictable bending, and consistent finishes suited for AC outdoor units, panels, and cleanroom installations.

Ranjan Dhar, Director

# TALHealthFest 2026 Unites Global Leaders in Hyderabad to Boost Healthcare Access

## HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Touch-A-Life Foundation successfully convened global healthcare leaders, policymakers, innovators, and clinicians at TAL-HealthFest 2026 in Hyderabad, spotlighting technology-driven solutions and cross-sector partnerships aimed at expanding healthcare access for underserved populations worldwide.

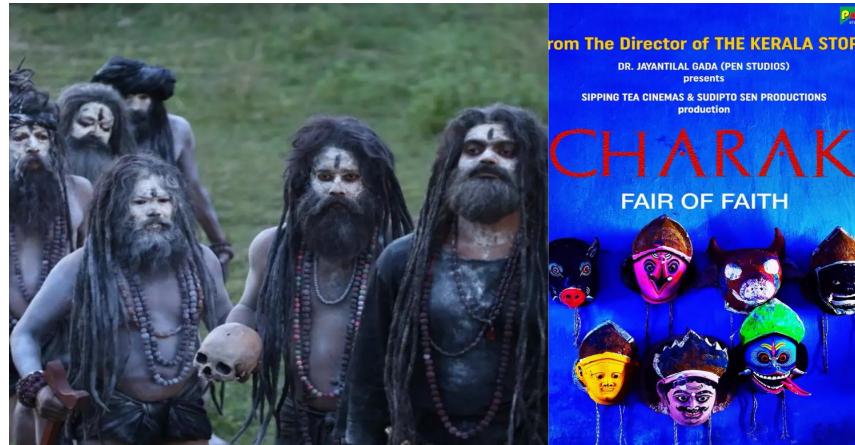
Hosted at T-Hub, the conference focused on scalable healthcare innovation, pro bono medical networks, and emerging technologies transforming patient care. Karnataka Minister N. S. Bosesraju, delivering the inaugural address on behalf of the Government of Karnataka, emphasized that integrating trust, accessibility, and innovation is critical to building sustainable healthcare ecosystems and ensuring technology reaches every citizen.

CEO Sai Gundavelli highlighted the foundation's mission to bridge

healthcare gaps through its TALHospitals initiative, which connects underserved patients to hospitals offering free surgeries and consultations. He also announced the launch of TALMedora, a global platform designed to link doctors worldwide for collaborative care delivery. Healthcare policy and collaboration were central themes. Govinda Hari of AHPI stressed that post-pandemic healthcare demands stronger partnerships among governments, nonprofits, and medical institutions to expand both quality and access. Keynote sessions featured leaders including Mark Lee of Solix Technologies, legal experts Nishith Desai and Mihir Parikh from Nishith Desai Associates, and biotech innovator Dr. Ramesh Matur of myRNA Therapeutics. Discussions explored advances in mRNA vaccines, precision drug delivery, data governance, and the growing role of AI in diagnostics and treatment. Panel sessions moderated by industry experts including Uday Saxena of Whale Tank Biocatalyst, hospitality leader Murali Krishnam, strategist Joe Lancaster, tech leader Raju Puspati, ophthalmologist Dr. Bala Vidyadar Malladi of Pushpagiri Vitreo Retina Institute, and social innovator Gopal Garg of Ashoka addressed major global

# When The Story Doesn't Let Me Sleep: Sudipto Sen

When you speak to Sudipto Sen about his journey into cinema, it becomes clear that filmmaking was never a career choice in the conventional sense. It was an inevitability. Ask him when the "absurd dream" turned into a risk he was willing to take, and he reflects on his early years. "In a very early stage I understood that I can't do anything but to tell stories," he says. That certainty was forged in North Bengal, where he grew up during the turbulence of the Naxalite movement. "It was a very very difficult time... Bengal was the epicenter of that," he recalls. The socio-political



unrest reshaped institutions, public life and cultural spaces. Between what he calls the "rich Bengali tradition" and the violence of an ultra-left uprising, his worldview was being formed. "With all obvious reason I thought that I have to

tell my stories, how I see the world, how I see the life which I am leading to." Watching world cinema in Kolkata further sharpened that instinct. By the time he finished his studies, he already knew the destination. "I knew that one

day I have to become a filmmaker and I did that." His academic path was deliberate. He studied physics as an undergraduate and later pursued applied psychology. To him, they are deeply intertwined. Physics is "the philosophy of science," while applied psychology is "an extraction of human philosophy." Both, he believes, are essential to cinema. "These are very very intriguing subject interconnected and it has lot to do with your invocation as a filmmaker." Understanding matter and understanding the mind became twin pillars of his storytelling grammar. The Himalayas played an equally formative role. His debut feature, *The Last Monk*, emerged not from a neatly outlined story but from lived experience. "You will be surprised to know I never wrote a story at all. I straight wrote the script," he says.

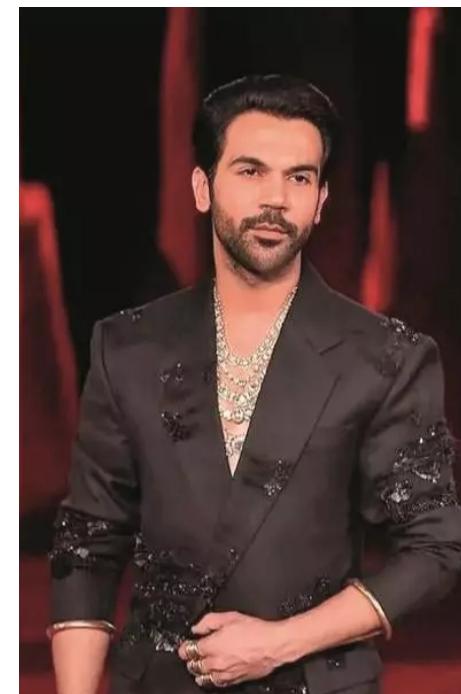
## Rajkummar Rao Begins Prepping for Saurav Ganguly Biopic

### MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Rajkummar Rao is fast becoming Bollywood's go-to biopic actor. He recently wrapped work on *Nikam* and is now set to begin preparation for a biographical project on former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly, for which he will need to undergo major physical transformation. Talking about the biopic on public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam, known for handling high-profile cases such as the 1993 Bombay bombings and the Gulshan Kumar murder case, Rao said the role was physically demanding.

"I am not a believer in prosthetics. If I can achieve a transformation through hard work, whether it's gaining weight, ageing naturally on screen, or even thinning my hair, I prefer to do that. For *Nikam*, I gained nearly 10 kilos. I even thinned my hair despite people asking me not to," the actor said. He revealed that he was on a high-fat diet during the shoot, indulging in pizzas and sweets, including his favourite aloo parathas and biryanis. "I hope people see the hard work that went into



it," he added. As pre-production begins on the Sourav Ganguly biopic, Rao is now in reverse sweep, so to speak. "I need to shed the weight to play our very own Dada," he said. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, the film is scheduled to go on the floors next month in Kolkata.

# "Being 'King' Means Responsibility, Not Power," Says SRK

### MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

He's King Khan to his fans and the industry and his next film quite coincidentally is called "King" too. Shah Rukh Khan, however, brushes off the power the title bestows on him, saying it's less an identity and more "a reminder to live with heart, humility, and purpose". "The word 'king' has never meant power to me. It has always been about

responsibility -- to the people who believe in you and the stories you choose to tell..." Shah Rukh told PTI in an email interview. The star, first seen in the TV show "Fauji" in 1989, has worn the 'Bollywood king' crown with ease over three decades. Maybe not any more. "As time passes, you realise that what truly matters is not the title, but the intention behind your work," said Shah Rukh, who has lent his voice to fireworks



show "The Lion King: Celebration in the Sky" aboard Disney Cruise Line's latest ship, Disney

Adventure next month. "At this stage of my life and career, the title 'King' feels less like an identity

and more like a reminder to live with heart, humility, and purpose. Whether it's narrating a story aboard the Disney Adventure or choosing my next film, what matters most to me is creating work that brings people together, makes them feel something, and leaves behind a little bit of joy," the 60-year-old said. Shah Rukh, who began his acting career in English theatre in Delhi, gave voice to Mufasa in the Hindi version

of Disney's 2024 film "Mufasa: The Lion King". His sons joined in too -- the older Aryan (28) was the voice for Simba and the younger AbRam (12) was the young Mufasa. He and wife Gauri have a third child. Daughter Suhana, 25, shares the screen with her father in Siddharth Anand's upcoming film "King". While "The Lion King" clearly holds a special place, classics like "The Jungle Book" continue to enter-

tain the Khan clan. The children are also drawn to Pixar favourites like "Toy Story" and almost anything from the Marvel universe are "huge hits". "Each generation finds its own connection, but what never changes is how these stories bring us together. Whether it's re-watching a classic at home or sharing a magical moment on a Disney Cruise or at the Parks, that sense of connection stays the same," he said.

Discussing "The Lion King", he said it will always be close to his heart as it's a timeless story about growing up, understanding responsibility and finding your place in the world. Disney's "The Lion King" is the coming-of-age story of Simba, a young lion prince who must reclaim his kingdom after the death of his father, Mufasa. The film explores themes of responsibility, loss, and the circle of life.

# Shaswat Kumar Wins Global Karate Legend Prestigious Title

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

In a major international recognition for India's martial arts community, Shaswat Kumar, a 10th Dan Black Belt Grand Master, has been awarded the prestigious "Global Living Karate Legend" title in Indonesia. The honor was conferred by Henri Hendarto, founding father of SABUNG KENKI, recognizing Kumar's lifetime contribution to martial arts, leadership, and humanitarian service.

The distinction makes him the first Indian Grandmaster to receive this global title from the Indonesian martial arts institution, marking a historic achievement for India on the international combat sports stage.

Widely respected for his technical mastery and philosophical depth, Kumar is known for blending tradi-



tional discipline with innovative training approaches. His influence extends beyond competition, with a strong focus on character building and social empowerment through martial arts education.

He currently serves as World President of the International Combat Martial Arts Council, which functions under the Shreyanavi Charitable Foundation. Through this platform, he organizes free martial arts training programs across India

and abroad, making professional instruction accessible to underprivileged communities.

Kumar is also the International Chief Instructor of the Watanabe Shotokan Karate Federation, where he contributes to technical development and global expansion of structured karate training.

Unlike many masters who strictly adhere to traditional systems, Kumar developed his own independent methodology after years of research and practice. His system has gained national and international recognition for its scientific training approach and disciplined philosophy.

The conferment of the "Global Living Karate Legend" title acknowledges his originality, global outreach, leadership, and lifelong dedication -- further strengthening India's stature in the world martial arts arena.

# Rashid Khan Becomes First Cricketer To Take 700 Wickets in T20s

### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan became the first player to achieve 700 T20 wickets during Afghanistan's group-stage match against the United Arab Emirates (UAE), being played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi on Monday. He got one wicket in the match, conceding 24 runs in his four overs as Afghanistan halted the UAE to 160/9 in 20 overs after inviting them to bat first. The 27-



year-old Afghanistan skipper achieved the feat during the 16th over in the first innings when he dismissed Muhammad Arfan by a hit-wicket. Arfan made zero runs off two balls, before his wicket while trying a reverse sweep against the ace

spinner. Afghan spinner is way ahead of any other cricketer in terms of wickets in the shortest format. Retired West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo is in second place with 631 wickets. Among the active players, Sunil Narine is behind Rashid with 613 wickets and is third overall in the list. Rashid is also the leading wicket-taker in the T20 Internationals with 191 wickets. The second place is occupied by retired New Zealand seamer Tim

Southee (164), and his compatriot Ish Sodhi is in third place with 162 wickets. Sodhi is part of the Black Caps in this tournament.

Afghanistan are looking to chase down a modest target of 161 runs to remain alive in the race for the Super 8 of the competition. Azmatullah Omari was the best bowler for Afghanistan as he picked up four wickets while conceding 15 runs in his four overs. Mujeeb Ur Rahman also took a couple of wickets.

# India Crush Germany 12-3 in HPRC Polo Championship



### HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Mohd Khaleel Afsar

India crushed Germany 12-3 to storm into the final of the 6-goal semi-final at the HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026, held at Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club, Hyderabad, on February 16. A dominant start and relentless scoring sealed the nine-goal win.

India took control early, finishing the first chukker 4-0 with Arsalan Khan striking twice while Saif Attari and Chaitanya Kumar added one each. The second chukker followed the same script as India extended the lead to



US Consulate General Laura Williams with the US Team and the HPRC Officials, Mr. Chaitanya R Kumar, President; Mr. Vijender Singh, Vice-President; and Mr. Reaz Ahmed, Secretary (Admin).

7-0, with goals from Arsalan, Salim Azmi, and Chaitanya, leaving Germany searching for answers. Germany finally responded in the third chukker through Brad Rainford and Leopold Ludort, but

India's attack proved unstoppable. Salim netted three goals in the period while Arsalan and Chaitanya added one each, closing the match decisively. The victory highlighted India's strong coordi-

nation, sharp riding, and clinical finishing across all chukkers. Their defense also held firm for most of the contest, allowing only late goals when the result was already beyond doubt.

### Banished Rowdy Sheeter Held for Abduction and Attack



A 27-year-old rowdy sheeter who had earlier been exonerated from Hyderabad was arrested on February 16 by police in Balapur for allegedly kidnapping a man and robbing him of ₹2 lakh. The accused, Asad of Kalapathar, reportedly has about 15 criminal cases registered against him, prompting authorities to consider invoking the Preventive Detention Act.

According to police, Asad and five associates — Saif, Mahmood, Quddus, Farhan and Jahangir — allegedly abducted Syed Moiuddin on February 10, confined him in a room in Balapur, assaulted him and robbed him of cash. The victim was later rescued, while the suspects initially fled. Four accomplices were arrested earlier; Asad and Jahangir were taken into custody on Monday.

Investigators said Asad had been banished from the city for a year during the tenure of former police commissioner CV Anand but allegedly continued criminal activities. He is also accused of attacking another rowdy sheeter, Kayum, brother of Shanur Ghazi, who was assaulted in 2020. Police seized weapons including knives, an axe, a sickle and six mobile phones. Further investigation is underway.

### Swift Police Action Leads to 1 Kg Gold Recovery

Swift action by the Panjagutta crime team led to the arrest of a suspect and recovery of 1 kilogram of stolen gold within 24 hours of the theft. According to police, the complainant Sebastian reported on Sunday that 1 kg of gold biscuits had gone missing from the Joyalukkas showroom at Panjagutta. "We formed three special teams and took up the case on priority," said ACP Muralikrishna.

Under the directions of Khairatabad DCP K. Shilpavalli, the team led by station house officer M. Ramakrishna and detective inspector S. Nagaraju examined footage from 90 CCTV cameras. By early Monday, they arrested the accused, Karampudi Gopala Krishna, and recovered the gold. Investigations revealed that Krishna, a native of Andhra Pradesh, had joined the showroom as a salesman two months ago. On February 14, he allegedly concealed the gold biscuits in his nylon socks when the counter was unattended and fled.

### University of Hyderabad, MNJ Hospital partner to advance cancer research



The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and Mehdi Nawaj Jung Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday, February 16, to advance cancer research and development in precision oncology. Precision oncology is an innovative approach to cancer treatment, different from the more general mode of research. Instead of treating a patient solely based on the location of the cancer, in this approach, doctors study the specific genetic basis of the tumor to prescribe the most effective treatment.

The partnership aims to leverage the strengths of both institutions to develop solutions for cancer diagnosis and treatment. While the UoH will contribute with its expertise in advanced research and technology, MNJ Institute will provide clinical insights, patient data and access to its research facilities, a press release said. "We look forward to working together to develop innovative solutions for cancer treatment and improve patient outcomes," Director of MNJ Institute Dr GJ Benjamin said.

Through the partnership, both institutions will engage in joint research and knowledge sharing while strengthening their capacity. The agreement also helps the two parties to own or protect their intellectual property and creates a plan to turn the research into products that can be sold to the public, commercialising their research outcomes.

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# Musi Project Faces Residents' Objections

Musi project faces residents' protest over transparency concerns

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Zaffer abedi



The Musi Jan Andolan (MJA), a coalition of activists, environmentalists, rights groups and residents, on February 16 strongly opposed the state government's handling of the Musi riverfront initiative in Hyderabad, alleging that authorities are moving ahead without transparency or public consultation. The group described the process as "unilateral and brazen," particularly criticising a February 10 newspaper notification that began procedures for land-owners to surrender property in exchange for Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).

Representing residents from multiple riverbank colonies—including Shiva Puri, Dattatreya, Sri Vigneshwara, Dream Homes, Karywell Homes, PG Colony, Vishal Nagar, Sai Ram Nagar and Madhu Park Ridge Apartments—

The coalition also ob-

jected to GO No. 921 issued on December 16, 2025, by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. It said the order exempts the riverfront project and associated works from certain provisions of national land acquisition law that normally mandate social impact assessments, public hearings and expert review. Removing these safeguards, the group contended, weakens legal protections for residents and should be reversed immediately.

MJA further argued that initiating acquisition without a final DPR is unjustified, stating that citizens cannot engage meaningfully when project scope,

land requirements and design plans remain unclear. It urged authorities to release all relevant documents and conduct open consultations before proceeding.

Earlier, the Chief Minister informed legislators that the DPR would cover stretches from Osman Sagar to Gowrelli and from Himayath Sagar to Bapughat, incorporating blue-green master plans, land-use frameworks, infrastructure proposals, marquee projects and financial models. However, the coalition claimed none of these planning components have been finalised. Concluding its statement, the group warned that many families in the affected colonies are still repaying housing loans and that displacement would disproportionately affect senior citizens and children. It called on the government to halt further action until transparency measures, consultations and clear documentation are provided.

### V.C. Sajjanar Urges Peace Panels to Safeguard Harmony in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Monday called on Peace Committee members to serve as a vital link between law enforcement and citizens to preserve communal harmony and ensure the city remains crime-free, warning against misinformation and urging proactive coordination ahead of upcoming festivals.

Speaking at a coordination meeting of the Central Peace and Welfare Committee at the Telangana Integrated Command Control Centre auditorium in Banjara Hills, Sajjanar described Hyderabad as a "towering testimony to communal harmony" and said protecting its distinctive "Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb" is a shared civic duty. He stressed that false propaganda and social media rumours intended to inflame tensions must be swiftly countered with facts to prevent unrest.

Highlighting institutional legacy, the Commissioner noted that Peace Commit-

tees, formed in 1984, have played a decisive role in maintaining law and order for decades. He credited their grassroots engagement and public cooperation as key factors behind Hyderabad's emergence as a global development hub built on stability and peace.

The meeting also addressed rising concerns over cybercrime and drug abuse, with Sajjanar stating that strengthening trust between citizens and police is essential to tackling these challenges and keeping Hyderabad the safest city in the country. To improve responsiveness, officials announced that Peace Committee meetings will now be conducted mandatorily at the zonal level once every three months, ensuring faster resolution of local issues and stronger field-level coordination across communities.

### TGHRC Seeks Report from DGP on Advocate Swapna's Murder Case

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has sought a report in connection with the murder a practicing advocate G Swapna Kumari from the Director-General of Police B Shivadhar Reddy by March 6. In their complaint, 163 advocates led by Mohd. Aazam alleged gross negligence and failure on the part of the Station House Officer (SHO) of Moinabad police station and the local sub-inspector, in preventing the murder of Swapna on February 4, 2026. Swapna was a practicing advocate at a Court at Chevella.

She was brutally murdered by her brother G. Raju and his associates while surveying the land. The deceased had lodged a complaint with Moinabad police on November 6, 2025, after a car intentionally rammed against her scooter, but no action has been taken on the complaint. Again on January 12, 2026, the deceased had lodged another complaint with Moinabad police suspecting that her brother, Raju had orchestrated the accident, in view of the disputes between them over land, basing on which, a case in Crime No. 17 of 2026 was registered for the offence under Section 109 BNS.

Swapna had clearly mentioned the name of her brother in the complaint but the Moinabad SHO had mentioned the name of the suspect as 'unknown' in the FIR. Despite explicitly mentioning the name of Raju as the perpetrator of these incidents, the Moinabad police, for the best reasons known to them, have desperately failed to protect the life of the deceased, which resulted in her murder in broad daylight. Had the Moinabad police acted in promptitude and in accordance with law upon the complaint lodged by the deceased, the incident could have been averted.

### 10 Days' Time for Entries Into UMEED Portal

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Pending entries on the Umeed portal must be completed within 10 days, directed Syed Azmatullah Husseni, chairman of the Telangana Waqf Board, during a review meeting in Hyderabad on Monday. Stressing urgency, he instructed officials to clear all remaining verification and approval processes for Waqf institutions within the fixed deadline. The meeting was attended by CEO Mohammed Asadullah, along with superintendents and inspectors, who assessed the status of pending institutional entries. Husseni cautioned officers to be particularly careful while uploading Gazette-notified records of large Waqf land parcels, citing

legal sensitivities and the need for accuracy. He further ordered that documentation of Kitab-ul-Auqaf registers and second-survey Waqf properties begin immediately after completion of Gazette entries. The IT section was directed to resolve technical glitches promptly in coordination with the Umeed helpline to prevent delays.

Highlighting the broader objective, Husseni said proper implementation of the portal is vital for transparency, protection, and efficient management of Waqf assets across Telangana, and warned that timelines must be strictly followed.

### Public Money, Private Lock

#### Sanitation Promise Falls Flat as Tarnaka Public Toilet Remains Closed

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



The construction of public toilets in busy areas is an essential step toward improving civic amenities and public health. Recently, a public toilet with an RCC rooftop has been constructed at Tarnaka Junction near the RTC bus stop in Hyderabad. This initiative by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) deserves appreciation, as such facilities are very much needed in crowded public places. Tarnaka Junction is one of the busiest areas, with constant movement of commuters, shoppers, students, and daily wage workers. The presence of a permanent RCC-constructed public toilet in such a location is a thoughtful decision. GHMC has also been constructing similar toilets at bus stops, road center points, temples, function halls, and other busy public centers across the city. Lakhs of rupees are being spent to provide these minimum but essential facilities to the public.

However, while construction is being done on a large scale, proper maintenance of these public toilets

is not up to the mark. Due to poor upkeep, lack of cleanliness, irregular water supply, and insufficient supervision, many of these toilets become unusable. As a result, what was meant to be a public service turns into unfruitful expenditure. Public toilets are not a luxury; they are a basic human necessity. Natural calls are unavoidable, and access to clean sanitation is a matter of dignity and health. Women, girl children, and elderly people particularly face severe inconvenience when they are outside their homes. Many people feel uncomfortable speaking openly about toilet-related prob-

lems, but it is a daily reality faced by everyone. The government is spending significant public funds to improve sanitation infrastructure.

Therefore, along with construction, equal importance must be given to regular cleaning, water availability, security, and proper monitoring. At the same time, the public also has a responsibility to use these facilities responsibly, maintain cleanliness, and participate in awareness programs. Civic sense and cooperation between authorities and citizens are essential to make such initiatives successful. Some may consider this a small issue or even laugh at the discussion.

However, sanitation is directly linked to public health, safety, and human dignity. Clean and well-maintained public toilets are a sign of a progressive and responsible society. It is hoped that GHMC will not only continue constructing public toilets but also ensure their proper maintenance, so that the money spent truly benefits the people. Suggestions: Maintaining public toilets may be given on a contact basis\*PAY & USE\* system for better usage and maintenance.