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

Brief Insights

Telangana Sets New Ramzan Timings For Staff And Schools

For the holy month of Ramzan, the Telangana government has allowed government employees who follow Islam to leave work at 4 pm and directed Urdu medium government and aided schools to function from 8 am to 1.30 pm from February 19 to March 20.

A memo issued by the general administration department on February 17 states that the relief applies to employees across departments, including teachers, contract and outsourcing staff, boards, corporations and public sector undertakings. The director of school education also issued an order revising school hours for Urdu medium institutions.

However, upper primary and secondary schools must compensate for the loss of daily school hours by working one extra day. Primary schools must add half an hour on two working days, as was done last year.

EC Eyes April for Elections in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry

The Election Commission is likely to conduct Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry in April, the announcement is expected in mid-March. Elections could take place on different dates in April, sources said. The terms of the five assemblies end on different dates in May and June. While the five-year term of the Puducherry Assembly ends on June 15, the terms of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal assemblies end on May 20, 23, 10 and June 7 respectively. The poll panel has already started touring the poll-bound states and is touring Assam to assess poll preparedness. Last time, Assembly polls in West Bengal were held in eight phases. In Assam, elections were held in two phases, and in a single phase in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.



Didi Backs 7 Suspended WB Govt Officials: **P4**

BRS celebrates KCR's 72nd birthday with Telangana-themed programmes: **P2**

KTR hits back at KCR critics, calls Telangana his lasting legacy: **P2**



Hyderabad Will Be Global Life Sciences Hub: Revanth

HYDERBAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said Hyderabad has the potential to rise from a global vaccine capital to a global life sciences capital, citing investments and policy support for the sector in Telangana. Inaugurating the 2026 edition of the event, the Chief Minister said BioAsia stood as proof of Hyderabad's emergence as a life sciences hub and expressed confidence that the event would soon gain international recognition on the lines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

He attributed the state's progress to a clear policy framework, availability of skilled human resources and the presence of reputed educational institutions. He also described Hyderabad as a



global hub for global capability centres (GCCs), with strengths in research and design. Referring to recent initiatives, the Chief Minister cited the launch of the Telangana Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy at Davos, expansion of Genome Valley, the rollout of 1Bio for research and innovation, acceleration of the Green Pharma City project and the opening of several GCCs in Hyderabad. "In the last two years, we have received over ₹73,000 crore in investments in life sciences," he said, adding that Hy-

derabad had emerged as a preferred destination for setting up GCCs, designing molecules and drugs, managing clinical analytics, building AI platforms and driving digital manufacturing.

Highlighting the scale of participation at BioAsia 2026, which drew over 4,000 delegates representing 500 leading life sciences companies globally, the Chief Minister said the event could eventually outgrow its name and be recognised as "Bio-World".

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India, France Forge Special Strategic Ties For 'Stability'

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

After talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Mumbai on Tuesday evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India and France have now elevated ties to the level of a "special global strategic partnership" that "knows no boundaries" and stretches from the "deep oceans to the tallest mountains". Mr Modi hailed the bilateral ties as a "force for global stability" that will "open a new chapter" in times of global uncertainty.

After wide-ranging talks between Modi and Macron, India and France agreed on 21 outcomes, including pacts and announcements in sectors including defence, economy, health, digital, critical minerals and skilling. This includes a "joint venture between BEL and (French company) Safran to produce Hammer mis-



siles in India". The two sides are also inching towards the acquisition of another 114 Rafale fighter aircraft, the bulk of which are to be manufactured in India.

The Prime Minister and the French President jointly inaugurated the final assembly production line of the Tata-Airbus H-125 light multi-role helicopters at Vemagal in Karnataka that have both civil and military variants in virtual mode. As Modi put it, these helicopters have the capability of fly-

ing to the heights of Mount Everest and will also be exported. The Prime Minister referred to this year as the "turning point" in ties between India and Europe and referred to the India-Europe free trade agreement (FTA) announced by both sides just last month. He referred to France as one of India's oldest strategic partners.

The 21 outcomes agreed upon between India and France include the "establishment of an annual foreign ministers dialogue

for regularly reviewing implementation of the elevated partnership and Horizon 2047 Roadmap, renewal of the agreement between the Government of India and the French Republic on defence co-operation, and launch of the India-France Year of Innovation". The agreed outcomes also include the "reciprocal deployment of officers at Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments, joint declaration of intent for co-operation in critical minerals and metals, joint declaration of intent on establishing an Indo-French centre for digital sciences and technology, launch of the Indo-French centre for AI in health at AIIMS New Delhi, agreement for the establishment of an Indo-French centre for metabolic health sciences, letter of intent to establish a national centre of excellence for skilling in aeronautics" and renewal of an MoU.

Middle Class To Get Houses At Affordable Rates: Ponguleti

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday announced that the state government would introduce an affordable housing policy to construct houses for middle-class families in the area between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR). The houses will be built on the lines of housing developed by previous Congress governments in the KPHB Colony in Hyderabad.

The minister directed officials to identify land parcels at four locations in the ORR-RRR area and submit a report within 10 days. Srinivas Reddy said



the government would also launch construction of Indiramma houses for the poor in a G+5 or G+10 format in the CURE (Core Urban Region Economy) area covering Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy and Medchal districts. These houses will be distributed free of cost to eligible beneficiaries.

He announced that the government would complete and distribute the 2BHK houses in the city

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Modi Hails AI Expo as Showcase of Indian Talent and Intent

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the India AI Impact Expo 2026 a powerful convergence of ideas, innovation and intent. "India AI Impact Expo 2026 was a powerful convergence of ideas, innovation and intent. "It showcased the extraordinary potential of Indian talent in shaping the future of Artificial Intelligence for global good," Modi said. He inaugurated the expo featuring more than 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions showcasing international col-



laboration in the AI ecosystem. The Prime Minister also said that above all, the Expo reaffirmed India's commitment to harnessing AI responsibly, inclusively and at scale for human progress. The Expo features global technology firms, start-ups, academia and research in-

stitutions, central and state governments and international partners. Spread across 10 arenas covering more than 70,000 square metres at Bharat Mandapam, the Expo brings together global technology firms, startups, academia and research institutions, Union ministries, state govern-

ments and international partners. The expo also features 13 country pavilions, showcasing international collaboration in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem. These include pavilions from Australia, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, Estonia, Tajikistan and Africa. The expo is hosting more than 300 curated exhibition pavilions and live demonstrations, structured across three thematic chakras -- people, planet and progress.

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

SC Upholds Conviction In Pratyusha Death Case

Dismissing the plea of a man challenging his conviction in the death of Telugu actress Pratyusha in 2002, the Supreme court on Tuesday directed him to surrender within four weeks in a case of abetment to her suicide. Ruling out that there was strangulation and rape in the case, the apex court also dismissed the plea filed by P. Sarojini Devi, the victim's mother, who alleged foul play in the death.

Pratyusha died in Hyderabad on February 24, 2002. A two-judge bench of Justice Rajesh Binal and Justice Manmohan said: "Murder by strangulation is ruled out. Two, overwhelming ocular and medical evidence proves death due to poisoning. Three, the offence of rape against the appellant accused is not made out.

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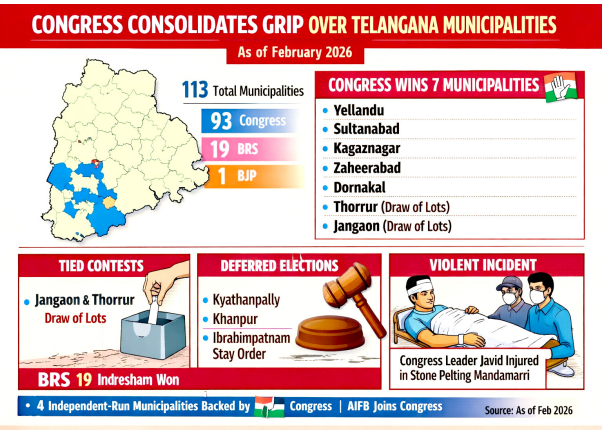
Congress Wins Chair Posts In 7 More ULBs, Tally Rises To 93

Congress Strengthens Urban Grip Winning Seven Municipalities Tally Reaches Ninety Three Out Of One Thirteen After Indirect Poll Victories Statewide

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Congress further tightened its grip over urban local bodies in Telangana on Tuesday by winning seven additional municipalities in indirect chairperson elections, taking its total control to 93 out of 113 municipalities across the state. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi secured 19 municipalities, while the Bharatiya Janata Party holds just one. Though elections were pending in 11 municipalities, polling could be conducted in only eight, as voting in three others

was postponed due to legal hurdles and tense law-and-order situations. The Congress won chairperson posts in Yellandu, Sultanabad, Kagaznagar, Zaheerabad, Dornakal, Thorur and Jangaon municipalities. Meanwhile, the BRS managed to secure the chairperson post in Indresham municipality located in Sangareddy district. In Zaheerabad municipality, Younus was elected chairperson and Shirisha deputy chairperson, while in Kagaznagar, Shaheen Sultana and Lavanya were elected chairperson and deputy chairperson respectively.



In two municipalities—Jangaon and Thorur—the contests ended in a tie after both Congress and BRS candidates secured equal votes. Officials resolved the deadlock through a draw of lots,

with both results favouring the Congress, adding to its growing tally. In addition, four municipalities where Independents held a majority are currently functioning with Congress support. The lone municipi-

ality previously won by the All India Forward Bloc also came under Congress control after all its ward members joined the ruling party. However, the election process was not without disruptions. Polling in Kyathanpally and Khanpur municipalities was deferred following clashes between Congress and BRS workers that created tense conditions. In Ibrahimpatnam municipality, the election for chairperson was stalled after the Telangana High Court issued stay orders. Meanwhile, violence was reported from Manda-

marri, where a Congress leader identified as Javid sustained severe head injuries in a stone-pelting incident allegedly involving supporters of Balka Suman. He was immediately shifted to a hospital and is said to be in critical condition. With most pending results now declared, the Congress has significantly consolidated its dominance in Telangana's urban civic bodies, strengthening its political position at the grassroots municipal level and leaving its rivals with limited presence in the state's local governance structure.

ESTD - 1960.

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge  
baar baar aaooge

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

# BRS celebrates KCR’s 72nd birthday with Telangana-themed programmes

The 72nd birthday of BRS president and Opposition leader K Chandrashekar Rao was celebrated at Telangana Bhavan with senior leaders and party cadres in attendance. A 72-kg cake was cut by KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav and others.

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The 72nd birthday of BRS president and Opposi-tion leader K Chandra-shekar Rao was celebrated at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday with senior party leaders in at-tendance.

To mark the occasion, BRS working president KT Rama Rao, deputy floor leaders T Harish Rao and Talasani Srinivas Yadav along with other leaders cut a 72-kg cake.

Cultural programmes, songs themed on the Te-langana movement and a documentary highlight-ing initiatives of the



Chandrashekar Rao government over a de-cade were screened. Addressing party workers, Harish Rao said they were not celebrating just a leader’s birthday, but the birthday of a movement. He credited Chandrashekar Rao with leading the Telan-gana statehood move-

ment at a time when the region faced injustice in water sharing, funds and government jobs. He recalled the BRS chief’s indefinite hunger strike at NIMS, stating that his determination was crucial in bringing the Delhi powers to its knees and achieving Telangana statehood.

He recalled that Chan-drashekar Rao had sac-rificed positions, including MLA and Union Minister posts, for Telangana. He also pointed to flagship schemes such as Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagi-ratha and irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram, which became models for the nation. Talasani Srinivas Yadav said Chandra-shekar Rao would be remembered in history for achieving Telangana and implementing wide-ranging welfare pro-grammes during his decade in office. He ridiculed attempts to erase Chandrashekar Rao and his achieve-

ments, pointing out that no one can erase Telan-gana State, achieved by him, from the nation’s map. He expressed con-fidence that the BRS would return to power in the next elections. He said while the Chan-drashekar Rao govern-ment initiated numerous development and welfare schemes, the Congress regime should be cred-ited for new means of atrocities and threats against the opposition parties and those ques-tioning it. “The Congress taught us a lot, and we will return it when we come back to power,” he said, taking a jibe at the Congress.

# Middle Class To Get Houses At Affordable Rates: Ponguleti

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Housing minister Pon-guleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday announced that the state government would introduce an af-fordable housing policy to construct houses for mid-dle-class families in the area between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR). The houses will be built on the lines of housing developed by previous Congress gov-ernments in the KPHB Colony in Hyderabad. The minister directed of-ficials to identify land par-cels at four locations in the ORR–RRR area and submit a report within 10 days. Srinivas Reddy said the government would also launch construction of Indiramma houses for



the poor in a G+5 or G+10 format in the CURE (Core Urban Region Economy) area covering Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy and Medchal districts. These houses will be distributed free of cost to eligible beneficiar-ies. He announced that the government would com-plete and distribute the 2BHK houses in the city that were left unfinished during the previous BRS regime. Pending works on incomplete 2BHK units will be taken up on prior-ity and allotted to benefi-ciaries. Srinivas Reddy stated that the process of

identifying beneficiaries for Indiramma houses in the CURE region would be completed by the end of March. The minister was speaking during a re-view of issues relating to land acquisition for Indi-ramma model colonies in urban slums, completion of unfinished double-bed-room houses and allot-ment of completed units at a meeting held at Sec-retariat on Tuesday. The meeting was at-tended by ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnamm Prabhakar and Mo-hammed Azharuddin, along with housing secre-tary V.P. Gautam, district collectors of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sanga-reddy, and commissioners of GHMC, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal cor-porations.

# KTR hits back at KCR critics, calls Telangana his lasting legacy

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

BRS working president KT Rama Rao hit back at critics of party chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and attempts to erase his achievements in the State, asserting that Telangana’s very existence stood as the latter’s historic legacy. He took strong objection to remarks questioning the BRS chief’s community and race and him being called as “Father of Telan-

gana“. Participating in the 72nd birthday celebrations of Chandrashekar Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Rama Rao dis-missed attempts to belittle the former Chief Minister and erase his achieve-ments after the BRS moved into the Opposi-tion. “Telangana itself is KCR’s landmark achieve-ment. How will you erase that?” he asked. Without naming Chief Minister A Revanth

Reddy, the BRS working president lashed out at those questioning Chan-drashekar Rao’s lineage and the right to be called the “Father of Telangana”. He pointed out that the BRS chief never claimed the title, but people gave it to him out of affection for achieving Statehood. He opined that those mak-ing such comments neither understood the Telangana movement nor the sacrifices behind it. “Only those rooted in Telan-gana’s soil, suffered lathi

blows, served in jail and took bullets during the movement, understand the importance of identity and self-respect,” he said, adding that those who carried bags for united Andhra forces had no moral au-thority to speak on Chan-drashekar Rao and Telangana pride. Rama Rao invoked a long line of Teluguna icons including Rudrama Devi, Kumram Bheem, Sammakka Sara-lamma, Sarvai Papanna, Doddi Komuriah, Cha-kali Ailamma.

# Excise Official Scores Big in National Hockey

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

In the Hyderabad Prohi-bition & Excise Depart-ment, R. Krishna stands out as both an efficient Junior Assistant and a na-tional-level hockey player who has represented civil services teams across India since 2012. Balanc-ing enforcement duties with elite sport, he exem-plifies rare dual excel-lence in public service



and athletics. Krishna also serves as Vice President of the Te-

langana Non-Gazetted Officers Excise unit, ad-vocating for staff welfare while maintaining a de-manding training and competition schedule. His decade-long presence in the All India Civil Ser-vices hockey tournaments has made him one of the department’s most consis-tent sporting performers. Colleagues describe him as disciplined, focused, and team-driven—traits that translate seamlessly

from office files to the hockey turf. His career re-flects how sporting rigor can strengthen admin-istrative performance. With more than 12 years in national competition, Krishna’s journey symbolizes the ideal modern civil ser-vant: committed to duty, dedicated to fitness, and driven by excellence—proving that public ser-vice and sporting glory can thrive in the same stride.

# Chairperson polls in three municipalities deferred again as Congress unleashes anarchy

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The final phase of Telan-gana’s municipal election process on Tuesday was marked by the postpone-ment of the election of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in three mu-nicipalities of Kyathanpalli, Khanapur and Ibrahimpatnam, and widespread misuse of power and official ma-chinery and selective en-forcement of rules by the Congress government. With no formal explana-tion from the authorities on next schedule, the re-peated deferrals have triggered political contro-versy and sharp allega-tions from the opposition BRS against the ruling Congress. Local officials cited a lack of quorum and law and order con-cerns as reasons for the postponement. A Senior State Election Commission (SEC) official said a fresh notifica-tion would be issued but declined to specify a time-



line. “At this point of time, we cannot reveal when the notification would be issued. It may be in a couple of days or even more,” the official said. The three municipalities had already seen post-ponements on Monday, along with eight others for which elections were completed on Tuesday, amid tense conditions. BRS captured Indresham, while the Congress se-cured Yellandu, Sultana-bad, Kaghaznagar, Zaheerabad, Dornakal, Jangaon and Thorur. In Jangaon and Thorur, the results were decided by draw of lots after a tie, but not before the Congress resorting to misuse of of-

ficial machinery espe-cially the police, intima-dation tactics and finally, creating ruckus to stall the proceedings. The developments in Kyathanpalli and Thorur turned contentious. In Kyathanpalli, where the BRS-CPI combine won 14 of 22 wards, the elec-tion was postponed de-spite sufficient quorum, according to BRS leaders. Soon after oath-taking, the Congress councillors allegedly created a ruckus inside the meeting hall, damaging furniture and disrupting proceedings. BRS also alleged that its women councillors were abused. Earlier, police re-sorted to lathi-charge when BRS leaders, in-

cluding Balka Suman and MLA Kova Lakshmi, at-tempted to enter the mu-nicipal premises. The BRS alleged blatant mis-use of police machinery to stall its victory. In Thorur, unprecedently heavy police deployment and house arrest of senior BRS leaders including Legislative Council Op-position leader S Madhu-sudhana Chari and former Minister Satyavathi Ra-thod added to tensions. BRS councillors were stopped en route, while Congress leaders moved freely. The BRS secured nine of 16 wards against the Congress party’s seven seats. But the contest was levelled be-tween the BRS and the Congress through the latter’s ex-officio votes, including that of Waran-gal MP Kadiyam Kavya, whose registration in two civic bodies has been questioned by BRS. The chairperson was even-tually decided by lottery in favour of the Congress.

# Chaos Amid Devotion At Ardha Nareeshwara Temple In Kothaguda

Debris left behind the re-cent demolition of en-croachments by HYDRAA made it difficult for devo-tees heading to the Ardha Nareeshwara Temple at Kothaguda on Sunday for Maha Shivaratri. With devo-tees walking barefoot as per custom, the rubble caused inconvenience and posed safety con-cerns. Lighting diyas be-came particularly challenging amid uneven surfaces and scattered debris. Nearly 3 lakh people were estimated to have gone to the temple for prayers and pujas. It can be recalled that HY-DRAA recently removed encroachments in Madha-pur to protect government and lake land reportedly worth Rs 12,200 crore. Devotees expressed dis-appointment that the de-bris and broken concrete remained uncleared in the surrounding area. HY-DRAA previously stated that if they demolish any structure, they will either ask the encroachers to re-move the remaining debris on the ground, or the Agency will remove the debris.

# Jangaon Municipality chairperson, vice chairperson election held amid protests

**JANGOAN**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The election of Jangaon Municipality chairperson and vice chairperson was held amid protests by BRS councillors and MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy here on Tuesday. Tight security arrange-ments were made for the election and prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNS have been im-posed within 200 meters of the municipal office to avoid any untoward inci-dents. The BRS councillors and Rajeshwar Reddy arrived first at the municipal hall for the election and were later joined by Congress councillors and MP Cha-mala Kiran Kumar Reddy. BRS has 13 councillors, Congress-12 while there were four independent councillors and one CPI (M) councillor. MLA Ra-jeshwar Reddy and MP Kiran Kumar Reddy were the ex-officio members



for BRS and Congress re-spectively. Two independ-ent councillors supported BRS while the CPI (M) councillor and two inde-pendent councillors sup-ported Congress. The election presiding of-ficer Gopiram after ex-plainning the election procedure counted the votes polled for chairper-son and vice chairperson candidates. As both the candidates secured 16 votes each it was decided to elect chairperson and vice chairperson through a draw of lots. Congress councillor K Balamani was elected as the chairperson while in-dependent councillor

Busha Parvatalu sup-ported by BRS was elected vice chairman. During the election pro-cess an independent coun-cillor Pandu and a Congress councillor man-handled a female inde-pendent councillor and pulled her hand down when she raised it in fa-vour of BRS. It led to loud altercations among the BRS and Con-gress councillors. BRS councillors and MLA Ra-jeshwar Reddy demanded action against the council-lors for the misconduct. After the election, the BRS councillors staged a dharna inside the hall in support of their demand.

# Hyderabad Collector Inaugurates SUDHEE 2026 Technical Fest at CBIT with Grand Student Participation Enthusiastically

**HYDERABAD**  
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The prestigious SUDHEE 2026 Technical Fest was inaugurated with grandeur at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, Gandipet, with Hyderabad District Collector Hari Chandana Dasari as Chief Guest, who highlighted the role of innovation-driven technology in na-tion-building and urged students to design practi-

cal solutions tailored to India’s needs. Addressing students and faculty, she stressed that creativity combined with technical knowledge can solve real-world problems and encouraged partici-pants to move beyond textbooks to develop in-digenous solutions under a “Design for India” ap-proach. Her remarks set the tone for the fest, which focuses on emerg-ing technologies and ap-



plied innovation. Guests of Honour in-cluded Prof. A. Krish-naiah, Dean of

Engineering, Osmania University, and Ravi Kumar Meduri, Executive Vice President in Inno-

minds. Prof. Krishnaiah noted that technical festi-vals cultivate research orientation and help stu-

dents sharpen analytical and problem-solving skills. Meduri emphasized the importance of digital technologies and intellec-tual property awareness, advising students to align learning with industry de-mands and convert ideas into patents and scalable solutions. CBIT Principal Prof. C.V. Narasimhulu described SUDHEE as one of the in-stitute’s flagship plat-forms that enables

students to showcase in-novation, technical ex-pertise, and creativity before academic and in-dustry leaders. Prof. K. Radhika, Head of AI & DS and Chairper-son of SUDHEE 2026, said the fest features hackathons, competitions, workshops, and project expos in cutting-edge do-mains such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber Security, and Robotics, with partic-

ipants from multiple states enhancing its com-petitive spirit. The programme con-cluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. M. Bala-subbareddy, who ex-pressed appreciation to dignitaries, organizers, faculty, and students for contributing to the event’s successful launch, marked by enthusiastic participa-tion and vibrant academic energy.

Telangana police have become puppets of the Congress, says Balka Suman

BRS district president Balka Suman expressed anger against the police for preventing him from accompanying the party's councillors.

He, along with Asifabad MLA Kova Lakshmi, staged a sit-in on the road protesting the stance of police officials discharging duties at the Kyathanpalli municipality during a special meeting held to elect the chairperson of the civic body on Tuesday.Suman alleged that the police were acting as puppets of the Congress, which was trying to capture the chairperson post in the Kyathanpalli municipality despite not securing a majority. He accused them of becoming slaves of Labour Minister Dr G Vivek and faulted Bellampalli ACP Ravi Kumar and other police officials for stopping BRS leaders from entering the premises of the municipal office.

Suman and Kova Lakshmi raised slogans against the police, seeking justice, and criticised them for registering a case against councillor Swamalatha from the 21st ward while she was on her way to attend the meeting.

Suman said they were accompanying the councillors to prevent the alleged abduction of BRS-CPI councillors by the Congress, which, he alleged, was illegally attempting to capture the chairperson post.

Earlier, BRS leaders led by Suman and Kova Lakshmi were stopped by the police on a flyover while heading to the municipal office, citing norms.

SIPAHE Delegation Explores Manuscript Preservation

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A delegation from SIPAHE NGO visited the Telangana Oriental Manuscripts Library and Research Institute on February 16, 2026, to study manuscript conservation, preservation, and digitisation practices. The visit featured an interactive session with Dr. Palepu Subba Rao, Director (F.A.C.), who shared expert insights into conservation science, heritage safeguarding, and research methodologies. The delegation felicitated him in recognition of his contributions to preserving India's manuscript legacy.



The academic tour introduced participants to laboratory facilities, palm-leaf manuscript conservation techniques, and protocols followed before digitisation. Officials also explained the role of the National Manuscripts Mission, descriptive cataloguing processes, and strategies for managing large archival collections. Discussions highlighted exhibitions, workshops, and publications as tools for promoting manuscript culture and scholarship. The delegation included Highness Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, President Mansoor Ahmed

Khan, Dr. Syed Adil Khundmiri, Adv. Fazil Mohammed Khan, Dr. Zareena Sultana of ISL Engineering College and advisor to National Human Rights Community of India, Dr. Sajida Khan, Mrs. Archana Rani Dubey of Deccan Terrain & Co - Heritage, journalist Shahid Ali Khan of SPN, Habeeb Mohammed Khan Faheem of Deccan Tutorial, Sogra Begum, and Muddassir Ali Khan. The visit enhanced understanding of manuscript heritage and reinforced the need for systematic conservation and digitisation initiatives.

Amid ruckus, Kyathanpalli municipal chairperson election postponed again

Amid a ruckus created by Congress councillors, the much-awaited election of chairperson and vice-chairperson of Kyathanpalli municipality was once again postponed until further orders, even though sufficient quorum was present at a special meeting held to conduct the process on Tuesday.

Fourteen councillor-elects belonging to the BRS and its ally CPI attended the meeting to select a governing council for the 22-member Kyathanpalli civic body. Seven Congress councillors were also present. Labour Minister Dr Vivek and Peddapalli MP G Vamsi Krishna attended the meeting as enrolled as ex-officio members to participate in the election.

However, Congress councillors allegedly damaged furniture in the meeting hall soon after the oath-taking ceremony was completed. They then resorted to abusing and assaulting women councillors in a suspected attempt to halt the process, resulting in disorder. Minister Vivek and his son Vamsi Krishna left the meeting following the ruckus, prompting officials to postpone the proceedings. Citing clashes among councillors of the two parties, officials designated to oversee the process declared that the election.

Osman bin Mohammed Al-Hajri Inspects Karwan Civic Problems



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader and Karwan constituency in-charge Osman bin Mohammed Al-Hajri conducted a field inspection with officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation in Bhajewadi and Maratha Basti areas of Karwan, assuring residents that civic grievances would be resolved swiftly. The visit aimed to assess infrastructure conditions firsthand and ensure prompt administrative response to long-pending complaints.

Residents raised concerns over damaged sewer pipelines, stagnant drainage, broken internal roads, and lack of basic amenities. Responding immediately, Al-Hajri instructed officials to replace old sewage lines on priority, strengthen rainwater drainage systems, and construct durable CC roads in affected localities. He emphasized that civic issues directly impact daily life, public health, and sanitation standards, adding that delays in such works would not be tolerated.

He said that under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, governance has become more responsive, boosting public confidence.

He added that the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee is actively addressing grassroots concerns across constituencies.

Locals noted that development has accelerated compared to the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi tenure and welcomed leaders personally visiting neighborhoods. Al-Hajri assured residents that drainage and road issues would be fixed soon and pledged to develop the constituency into a model segment through sustained civic improvements.

Women Sarpanches Asked to Act Independently



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

District Collector Ila Tripathi on Tuesday urged newly elected women Sarpanches to work with dedication for holistic village development and uphold strong grassroots leadership while addressing a five-day training programme at Nizamabad. She emphasized that effective governance,

proper fund utilization, and coordination with officials are crucial for transforming villages and ensuring welfare schemes reach genuine beneficiaries.

Highlighting 50% reservation for women in local bodies, she said Sarpanches must use this opportunity to prove their leadership capacity and maintain independence in decision-making without

external interference. She described them as the "first citizens" of their villages and noted that strong performance could open doors to higher public responsibilities.

The Collector stressed prioritizing essential infrastructure such as drinking water, sanitation, roads, education, and healthcare, and directed Sarpanches to regularly inspect schools, hostels, residential institutions, and Anganwadi centres to address deficiencies promptly. She also called for action against social evils like child marriages, prevention of encroachments on government land, and strengthening local revenue sources for development works.

Telangana State Food Commission to Visit Kamareddy

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The District Collector of Kamareddy Ashish Sangwan has informed that the Chairman and Members of the Telangana State Food Commission, Hyderabad, will visit the district on Friday, 20-02-2026. The Commission team will be led by Chairman Goli Srinivas Reddy, along with Members Anand, Govardhan Reddy, Sharada, Bharati and Jyothi. During the visit, the Commission will conduct field inspections to review the implementation of schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013. A district-level review meeting on civil



supplies and welfare programs will also be held to assess the progress and functioning of food security initiatives. The review meeting is scheduled to take place at the IDOC Meeting Hall from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM. The District Collector has directed all concerned officials to make necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the visit and review meeting.

Telangana Turns Festive: Leaders Across the State Celebrate KCR's Birthday

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The birthday celebrations of Telangana's founding leader K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) were held grandly across the state. In Sangareddy district, former MLA of Andole constituency Kranti Kiran led the celebrations, where leaders and party workers gathered to cut a cake and extend their birthday wishes to KCR. Despite earlier doubts about the possibility of a separate Telangana state, KCR had unwavering faith that Telangana would emerge, and he believed it would become a "Golden Telangana." Known for his iron determination, he is credited with establishing the Telangana movement as a model for the nation in just a decade. The celebrations organized by the Bharat Rash-



tra Samithi (BRS) saw participation from senior leaders and party members, including former MLAs Chanti Kranti Kiran, Jaipal Reddy, Narayana, Y. Veerareddy, and other prominent figures from the party.

Talasani Dharmendra Yadav Leads Grand KCR Birthday Celebrations

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Grand celebrations marked the birthday of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao as senior BRS leader Talasani Dharmendra Yadav, popularly known as Daram Anna, led service programmes and tributes, declaring that his legacy defines the identity of Telangana. Addressing cadres in Hyderabad, he said the state's formation was the result of determined people's struggle shaped by KCR's leadership and vision.

At events held in Sanat Nagar constituency, Dharmendra Yadav conveyed



greetings to K. T. Rama Rao and reaffirmed that the mission of building a "Bangaru Telangana" continues under the guidance of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi. He emphasized that earlier phases of the Telangana demand lacked momentum until 2001, when it transformed into a unified mass movement

non-violent path to that of Mahatma Gandhi, he highlighted major protests such as Sakala Janula Samme and Sagara Haram as defining moments. He also recalled the 2009 hunger strike that compelled the United Progressive Alliance government to act on statehood. He concluded by urging youth to remember the sacrifices behind Telangana's formation and uphold the ideals that shaped the state's history.



mobilizing students, employees, and workers. Comparing the struggle's

Annadanam Marks Amavasya at Temple

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

In a display of devotion and community spirit, a large-scale Annadanam program was organized Tuesday at the Sri Devi Nalla Pochamma Temple in Secunderabad, drawing significant participation from residents and devotees. The event celebrated Amavasya and followed the temple's recent Amavasya Award recognition, highlighting its growing spiritual and social influence in the Cantonment region.

Former vice president of the Cantonment Board, Jampana Pratap, attended as chief guest and inaugurated the food distribution



after performing special pujas for community welfare. He also personally served meals to devotees, symbolizing the spirit of service associated with the ritual.

Addressing attendees, Pratap stressed the religious importance of Annadanam, calling it the highest form of charity. He said offering food on

Amavasya is believed to remove obstacles and bring prosperity and peace to individuals and families.

The event was jointly organized by committees from Bapujinagar and Jayanagar Chowrasta, whose coordinated arrangements ensured smooth conduct of rituals and food service. Organizers from the Bapujinagar committee included Ajith Kalyan, Putti Narasimha, Srikanth, Rama Rao, and Vishwanath, while Srinivas Goud, Satyanarayana, Nagesh, and Shashidhar Goud represented the Jayanagar Chowrasta committee.

Held in New Boinapalli, the program witnessed strong turnout from local residents and leaders, reaffirming the temple's role as a focal point for faith, charity, and cultural unity in the area. Organizers said such initiatives will continue to strengthen communal harmony and uphold traditional values through service-oriented celebrations.

# 4 States, 4 Elections, 4 Potential Crises For Congress Hoping For Poll Wins

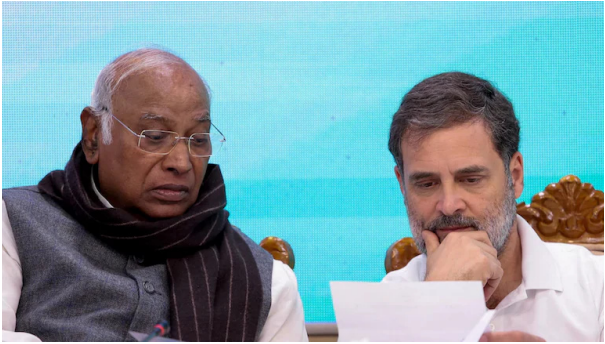
NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Four states - Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu - are scheduled to hold elections in April/May, handing the Congress four opportunities to begin 2026 on a winning note.

And after defeats in the only two full elections last year - Delhi and Bihar - the party needs at least one win to re-establish itself as a relevant player in the national political landscape, particularly with the 2029 Lok Sabha election on the horizon. But it is not that simple.

Congress' 2026 election hopes

The party is hoping to do well in Kerala on the back of a strong showing in the December 2025 local



body election; the Congress-led United Democratic Front, the main opposition, secured over 38 per cent of combined vote share across corpora-tion, municipality, and panchayat polls.

The mood is similarly upbeat in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. The Congress is allied with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and expects the partnership to ease to a second consecutive term

while inflicting another block to the Bharatiya Ja-nata Party's hopes of breaking into the state.

There is, though, some caution over seat-share talks that have yet to begin and are expected to run into trouble over the Congress' demands, which include an active role in the government.

In Bengal and Assam, however, the story is very different.

In Bengal the Congress

has decided, again, to fight a solo battle against the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP, the main opposition party, each of which is a formidable rival on its own.

It is hard, therefore, to see how the Congress - which failed to win any of the 91 seats it contested in the 2021 election, and lost 9.32 per cent of its vote share - might improve.

But then again, the party has nothing left to lose in Bengal.

Assam presents a separate challenge. The Congress has 29 seats to defend, even if its chances of upstaging the ruling BJP are widely seen as bleak. The task must be to retain those 29 and build on ground support with a view to victory in, perhaps, the 2031 election.

However, in each state the party must be aware of certain problems.

The good news? Kerala, Tamil Nadu

In Kerala the Congress faces a possible face-off between Shashi Tharoor, its four-time Thiruvananthapuram MP, and veteran Ramesh Chennithala, a four-time MP and five-time MLA, over the chief minister's chair, should the party win the election and form the government.

For now, though, there is peace. The party has named Chennithala as the leader of its election campaign and Tharoor as his deputy. Sources told NDTV the party has made it clear there will be no 'face' to its campaign, i.e., it will present a 'collective leadership' pitch to the voters.

## C'garh: 22 Naxals Surrender In Sukma, 4th Mass Surrender Of Maoists In The Year So Far

RAIPUR  
Wakeup telangana

In a fresh mass surrender of Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region ahead of the March 31 deadline to end Leftwing extremism, 22 Maoists on Tuesday laid down arms in Sukma. This was the fourth mass surrender of Naxals in Bastar the current year so far. The surrendered Maoists, who included a woman, included a GRD (Gram Raksha Dal) militia commander, members of RPC (Revolutionary People's Committee), a jungle committee president, a Janatana



Sarkar functionary, and a member of KAMS (Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangathan).

All of them are residents of remote areas in Sukma district under south Bastar, according to Sukma district superintendent of police Kiran Chavan.

With this, a total 226

Maoists have surrendered in the Bastar region in the current year so far. As many as 22 Maoists were killed and 72 were arrested in the region during the period. Union home minister Amit Shah has declared that Maoism in the country will be eradicated by March 31 this year.

## Wildlife Corridors Essential For Seasonal Movement of Animals, Experts

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

A two-day awareness programme, including a corridor walk and public meetings, was organised along the Debrigarh-Gomarda inter-state wildlife corridor connecting Odisha and Chhattisgarh to sensitise people and forest staff about its ecological importance.

The initiative was organised by the Ever Green Forum in collaboration with the Hirakud Wildlife Division of Odisha and the Sarangarh-Bilaigarh Forest Division of Chhattisgarh. The corridor walk began at the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary and concluded at Paikini near the Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Wildlife corridors en-



able animals such as elephants, tigers, gaurs, wild boars, nilgai and wild dogs to move between forests for food, water and breeding.

However, rapid population growth, urbanisation, mining, road expansion and deforestation have severely impacted these corridors, officials said. The Debrigarh-Gomarda corridor connects major protected areas, including the Achankamar, Indravati and Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserves in Chhattisgarh and the

Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, facilitating seasonal wildlife movement.

As part of the programme, four public meetings were held at Lakhampur, Karla, Kapasira and Paikini, while awareness sessions were conducted in two schools in Lakhampur. Forest officials, wildlife experts, local representatives and community members participated in the events. Among those present were former PCCF Ashok Biswal,

former DFO Suresh Mishra, Hirakud Wildlife DFO Ansupragnyan Das, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh DFO Bipul Agarwal, Ever Green Forum president Dr Prakash Jena and wildlife expert Arindam Parichha.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle, T. Ashok Kumar, appreciated the initiative and said the department would discuss the corridor's conservation with officials and take necessary steps. Dr Jena said the forum plans to launch a research proposal on World Wildlife Day 2026 to study the current status of elephant corridors identified since 2009 across Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand as part of elephant conservation efforts.

## Didi Backs 7 Suspended WB Govt Officials, Threatens 'Worldwide Campaign' Against EC, BJP

KOLKATA  
Wakeup telangana

A day after the Election Commission (EC) suspended seven West Bengal government officials for their dereliction of duty as the assistant electoral registration officers (AERO) in the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list, chief minister Mamata Banerjee came out in their full support. She also threatened to launch a "world wide campaign" against the BJP-rule at the Centre for destroying democracy through the EC in the country while addressing a press meet at the state secretariat Nabanna on Tuesday.

Referring to the seven suspended officials, the CM made clear that they would not lose their jobs and would be engaged in "alternative work", other than anything related to



SIR due to the EC action on them, as they did not get a chance to defend themselves against the charges they were accused of. She said, "I'm sure they will perform well in the districts. Whoever will be demoted by others, will be promoted by us" before attacking the central government. "After 2026, this government will not exist at the Centre. We have not spoken out though many incidents have happened meanwhile. Showing courtesy, we allowed the parliament to function," the Trinamul Congress su-

premo pointed out.

She added, "If anyone thinks of snatching democratic rights and finishing the polls before it actually happens then it should be kept in mind that I retaliate when I get hit. I will conduct a world wide campaign on this democratic set up and culture in India, if needed. It does not mean I'm against my country. I love it." Calling the EC "Torture Commission, Tughlaqi Commission" over its frequent orders, Ms Banerjee argued, "Recently Bangladesh went to polls. Every-

body thought there might be violence. But see how peacefully they did it! And for a democratic country like India, it is a matter of shame for the Tughlaqi Commission. Your threat culture has demolished democracy. You have become a super-Hitler!"

Meanwhile, the state government has registered FIRs against five of its personnel for "wrongful addition of names" in the voters' list in two assembly constituencies-Baruipur Purba in South 24 Parganas and Moyna in East Midnapore more than six months after it was ordered by the EC. The five are Debottam Dutta Choudhury, posted as deputy project director (monitoring), district rural development cell in South 24 Parganas and electoral registration officer (ERO) of Baruipur Purba, Tathagata Mondal.

## Final Voter List Released In Gujarat; Political Parties Clash Over SIR

GANDHINAGAR  
Wakeup telangana

The political parties in Gujarat, on Tuesday, reacted strongly following the release of the state's final voter list, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the Congress raising concerns over transparency and procedural issues.

Gujarat BJP Spokesperson Anil Patel defended the voter list purification exercise, known as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), noting that it has been conducted repeatedly across India since independence.

"Errors such as duplicate entries or unremoved names of deceased voters occur from time to time. For Gujarat, the final electoral draft has now separated correct entries from incorrect ones. Citizens who turned 18 years by January 1 can still submit Form-6, and any remaining errors can be cor-



rected using Forms 6, 7 and 8," Patel said.

He also criticised Congress leaders, asserting, "Under the guidance of Rahul Gandhi, Congress leaders sometimes created misleading narratives against the Election Commission and attempted to affect democratic processes. Media channels were also used to create controversy. The statistics from the Election Commission clarify the truth."

State BJP Spokesperson Patel emphasised that the BJP views voters as partners in democracy rather than merely as a vote bank. The political parties in Gujarat, on Tuesday, reacted strongly following the release of the state's final

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### Hyderabad Will.....

The Chief Minister said Hyderabad had evolved into a stable and future-ready ecosystem. "From bulk drugs to biologics, from manufacturing to innovation, from India to the world, Telangana is moving up the value chain." He also presented the Genome Valley Excellence Award to Prof. Bruce Levine of the University of Pennsylvania. IT and industries minister D Sridhar Babu said the state government had set a target of attracting \$25 billion in life sciences investments by 2030 and generating five lakh jobs. The Telangana Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy (2026-2030) aimed to position the state among the top three life sciences clusters globally by the end of the decade, he said.

Sridhar Babu said India was increasingly being recognised as a source of advanced scientific solutions. "Telangana is preparing for this shift — from a manufacturing base to a global centre for innovation, research and advanced drug discovery," he said. He noted that Hyderabad was the only Indian city featured in the CBRE Global Life Sciences Atlas alongside established hubs such as Boston, San Francisco, Beijing

and Tokyo. The minister said efforts were underway to strengthen research, innovation and high-end manufacturing through structured interventions, including skill development in emerging areas such as mRNA technology, gene editing and AI-driven drug discovery.

He also referred to a dedicated policy to develop Hyderabad as a global medical tourism hub. "Telangana is ready to collaborate with global industry leaders to shape the next phase of Life Sciences innovation," he said. The announcements signal the state government's focus on positioning Hyderabad as a global centre for innovation-led life sciences growth.

### SC Upholds.....

A two-judge bench of Justice Rajesh Binal and Justice Manmohan said: "Murder by strangulation is ruled out. Two, overwhelming ocular and medical evidence proves death due to poisoning. Three, the offence of rape against the appellant accused is not made out. At the belated stage, it is difficult to allege that the cause of death was rape and strangulation."

A trial court had in 2004 sentenced G. Siddharth Reddy to

five years' imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on charges of abetment of suicide. It had also awarded him one more year of imprisonment and a fine of ₹1,000 for attempting suicide. In 2011, the then undivided Andhra Pradesh High Court had reduced the jail sentence of G. Siddhartha Reddy, who was convicted for her death, to two years from the five years earlier awarded. According to the remand report, Reddy and Pratyusha were in love with each other for six years. While the relation was acceptable to Pratyusha's mother, Reddy's mother did not agree to the alliance on account of which both of them decided to commit suicide. On February 23, 2002, both of them went in a car, and attempted to die by suicide.

### Modi Hails AI.....

In addition, the Expo is featuring more than 600 high-potential startups, many of them building globally relevant and population-scale solutions. Hailing the ongoing India AI Impact Expo 2026 as a powerful convergence of ideas, innovation and intent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed the use of science and technology for public interest

as the summit in New Delhi enters its second day. "Intelligence, rationality and decision-making make science and technology useful to the masses. The India AI Impact Summit aims to see how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used in public interest," he wrote in a post in Hindi.

Sharing his thoughts in the inauguration on Monday, Modi also said the Expo highlighted the extraordinary potential of Indian talent in shaping the future of artificial intelligence for global good. "Above all, the event reaffirmed India's commitment to harnessing AI responsibly, inclusively, and at scale for human progress," Modi said in a post on X. Besides, PM Modi's post also contained an interesting Sanskrit verse, which translated into English: "the desire to listen, attentive listening, comprehension, retention, reasoning, decision-making, understanding meaning and knowledge of principles -- all these are qualities of the intellect and form the foundation of intelligence."

In line with Modi's thoughts, industry experts also hailed the summit, saying AI would be a game-changer for India in future.

CRIME

Excise Raids Fetch 9.6 Kg Ganja Chocolates

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The excise special task force A-Team arrested a man for mixing ganja-infused chocolates in than-dai, a popular milk and dry fruits-based drink, and selling them in the Old City.

The accused, B. Vikash Sharma, a native of Agra in Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly selling the product between Chudi Bazaar and Begum Bazaar under the Charminar excise station limits.

Acting on credible information, Excise STF A-

Team leader Anji Reddy and his staff raided Sharma's residence in Up-puguda and seized 1,920 ganja chocolates weighing 9.60 kg.

Preliminary investigation revealed that each chocolate contained about five grams of ganja. Officials said Sharma sourced the chocolates from Agra and brought them in bulk, anticipating high demand during the Holi festival season.

The accused, the seized chocolates, and his motorcycle were handed over to the Charminar Excise station for further legal action.

Complaint filed against Haldiram staff

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A complaint has been registered against staff of Haldiram's Attapur branch for alleged criminal negligence and selling unsafe food items to customers.

According to the complaint filed by Kotagiri Sidhartha, a 29-year-old law student, he and his sister Jhansi visited the outlet around 3 pm to eat sweets and samosas when they noticed visible fungus growth on the sweets, rendering them unsafe for consumption. When they

raised the issue with a salesman named Muna-war, Kotagiri alleged that the staffer responded rudely, saying: "Do whatever you want. It is an all-India branch. We can't do anything." Kotagiri further stated in his letter to the SHO of Attapur police station that Munawar manhandled him and Jhansi, who was recording the incident, causing humiliation and distress. He alleged that the conduct amounted to assault, criminal force and intentional insult to his sister's modesty.

No Charges in 90 Days, Ravi Granted Bail

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has granted default interim bail to Im-madi Ravi alias iBomma Ravi, who is alleged to be the mastermind behind a large-scale online movie piracy network, after the prosecution failed to file a chargesheet within the statutory 90-day period.

Justice K. Sujana allowed a batch of five criminal petitions, holding that Ravi

was entitled to statutory bail as a matter of right due to non-compliance with the mandatory time limit prescribed under criminal procedure law.

The court imposed conditions including daily reporting to the investigating officer, surrender of his foreign passport, prohibition on operating piracy platforms, and compliance with all investigative requirements. The cases were registered by the cybercrime police sta-

tion, CCS, Hyderabad, based on complaints by film production houses and the Telugu Film Chambers.

Palle Nageshwar Rao, public prosecutor representing the police, argued that the petitioner operated piracy websites, diverted online traffic to illegal betting platforms, and caused losses running into thousands of crores of rupees to the film industry. It also contended that he possessed sophisticated

equipment abroad and held foreign citizenship, raising concerns of flight risk and evidence tampering.

The court noted that the petitioner had been in judicial custody for over 90 days and that the chargesheet had not been filed.

While observing that the evidentiary value of alleged confessional statements would be tested at trial, the court granted bail on strict conditions.

Mechanic alleges assault by cop

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A man has alleged that he was physically assaulted by police in Shadnagar following a scuffle at a wine shop.

In a video circulating online, the victim identified himself as K. Venkatesh, a mechanic. With visible injuries on his eyes, thighs and hands, Venkatesh claimed that a police constable took him to an isolated area and beat him. The inci-

dent reportedly began near Shakti Wines, where the constable allegedly yelled at him and hurled abuses while the shop owner handed over a black cover. As the argument escalated, the constable allegedly dragged him away and assaulted him, leaving him with blood clots and severe injuries.

Venkatesh later informed his family, who shifted him to hospital. Police have not responded to queries.

HC Asks Condition of a Baby Who Kept in Protection House

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has asked the state's women and child welfare department to submit a comprehensive report on the condition and well-being of a minor girl who was taken from her adoptive parents during an investigation into an alleged child trafficking network and lodged in a state home.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin was dealing with an appeal filed by the adoptive parents who were seeking legal remedies to get back

the two-year-old baby. Earlier, a single judge had declined to hand over custody of the girl to the couple, observing that the adoption had not been carried out through legally prescribed procedures.

The aggrieved parents then filed an appeal which was heard by the division bench.

The parents agreed that procedural lapses had taken place in the adoption process and admitted that money had been paid to a mediator to secure the baby. They argued that the child's best interests, security, and her future well-being, warranted restoring custody to them.

Collector gets 6-month jail for disobedience

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has sentenced Medak district collector Rahul Raj to six months' simple imprisonment for wilful disobedience of its earlier directions in a land dispute case. The court also imposed a fine of Rs.2,000 and directed that it be paid within four weeks.

The order was passed by Justice K. Lakshman while allowing a contempt case filed by Nagavelli Lakshmi. The court suspended the sentence of imprisonment for four weeks. The contempt proceedings arose from the alleged non-compliance with an order dated June 4, 2024, in a writ petition filed by Lakshmi over 2.22 acres of land in

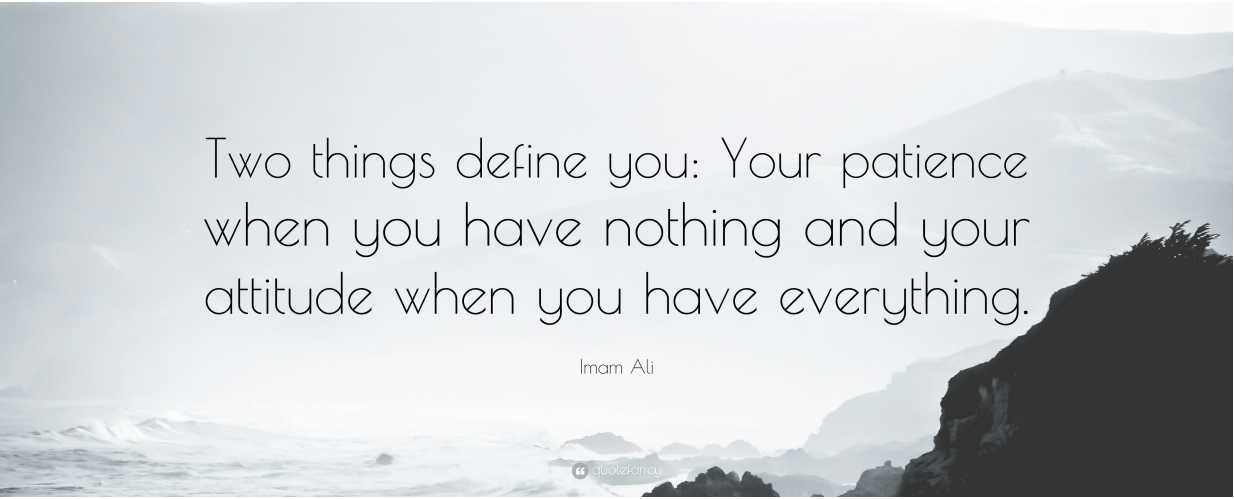


Survey No. 284/A/2 situated at Bonal of the district's Chegunta mandal. Lakshmi had claimed succession to the property and sought mutation of her name in the revenue records along with issuance of a pattadar pass-book. Earlier, the High Court had set aside the collector's proceedings dated January 20, 2024, and directed him to conduct a fresh inquiry strictly in accordance with law.

The court had specifi-

cally instructed the collector to issue notices to the petitioner and private parties who are opponents — Thipparaboina Gangaiah, Golla Narayana and Kashaboyina Mallaiah — examine unregistered sale deeds (sada bainama) and regularisation proceedings, and pass fresh orders within the stipulated time. The fresh proceedings issued on December 31, 2024, once again rejected the petitioner's claim. During the hearing

of the contempt case, the court examined the original records and found no material to show that notice had been served on the petitioner prior to passing the fresh order. Though the state submitted that notice had been sent through WhatsApp, the same was not disclosed in the counter affidavit filed before the court. The court held that there was no proof of proper service of notice and that the petitioner had been denied a fair opportunity of hearing. Observing that the matter had reached the court for the second time and that a 51-year-old woman was being made to repeatedly approach the judiciary over a two-acre land dispute, the court concluded that the disobedience of its earlier order was deliberate and wilful.



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 underpay Muslim employees and assuring them that the "Assam police will take care of the rest". His video, purportedly with a gun aiming at two Muslims, shared by the official handle of his party, completes the pic-

ture of a ruler who has failed to live up to the oath that he took while entering the office. He is constitutionally mandated to treat every citizen under his government equally and "act without fear or favour".

Mr Sarma has been out to prove that he is more loyal than the king to the Hindutva cause ever since he assumed office in 2021. The politician who grew up in the Congress and was made a minister by that party several times switched his loyalty to the saffron side late in the day. He now appears to be in a hurry to establish himself as a true-blue Hindutva apparatchik. His statements and actions targeting the Muslim community must be seen as only a part of this hidden agenda.

Mr Sarma and his party have every right, and responsibility, to act against illegal migrants in the state. There are established and legal ways to carry out that responsibility but Mr Sarma is not seen doing just that. Instead he indulges in rhetoric that flies in the face of

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

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

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



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Please mention your name, addresses and email id. You can also share photographs or videos about the issue.



Infosys Partners With Anthropic For AI Solutions

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Infosys on Tuesday announced a strategic collaboration with American artificial intelligence company Anthropic to develop and deploy advanced enterprise AI solutions for companies across telecommunications, financial services, manufacturing, and software development. The partnership will launch in telecommunication sector a dedicated Anthropic Center of Excellence to build and deploy AI agents tailored to industry-specific operations, before expanding into other regulated sectors, Infosys said in a statement.

"The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to ensuring AI drives real transformational value, not just efficiency gains," it said.



At the core of the collaboration is the integration of Anthropic's Claude models, including Claude Code, with Infosys Topaz AI offerings. The companies aim to help enterprises automate complex workflows, accelerate software delivery and adopt AI with governance and transparency suited to regulated environments.

A key focus will be agentic AI - systems capable of independently handling multi-step tasks such as claims processing, compliance reviews and code generation and testing. Using tools including the Claude Agent SDK, the companies plan to enable AI agents that can

operate persistently across long, complex processes. The partnership will also support modernization of legacy systems, combining Infosys Topaz and Claude to accelerate migration and reduce infrastructure upgrade costs.

The collaboration will see development of industry-specific AI agents. In telecommunications, AI agents will modernize network operations, streamline customer lifecycle management and enhance service delivery. AI systems in financial services will detect and assess risk faster, automate compliance reporting and personalize customer interactions. Claude-pow-

ered capabilities will accelerate product design and simulation, reducing R&D timelines in manufacturing and engineering.

For software development, teams will use Claude Code to write, test and debug code, accelerating development cycles. Infosys is already deploying Claude Code within its Exponential Engineering organization to build internal expertise, the statement said. Dario Amodei, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder, Anthropic, said, "There's a big gap between an AI model that works in a demo and the one that works in a regulated industry - and if you want to close that gap, you need domain expertise." Infosys has exactly that kind of expertise across important industries: telecom, financial services, and

manufacturing, he said. "Their developers are already using Claude Code to accelerate their work and to create AI agents for industries that demand precision, compliance, and deep domain knowledge," he said. Salil Parekh, Chief Executive Officer, Infosys, said, "AI is not just transforming business - it is redefining the way industries operate and innovate. Our collaboration with Anthropic marks a strategic leap toward advancing enterprise AI, enabling organizations to unlock value and become more intelligent, resilient, and responsible." From modernizing financial services with intelligent risk management and compliance, to enabling engineering businesses to lead with AI-driven design and manufacturing, the goal is to leverage the joint expertise of Infosys.

Adani Group to Invest \$100 Billion in AI Data Centres by 2035

MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

The Adani Group on Tuesday announced a sweeping \$100-billion investment plan to build renewable-energy-powered, hyperscale AI-ready data centres across India by 2035, positioning the project among the largest integrated energy-and-compute initiatives globally.

The conglomerate's flagship arm, Adani Enterprises, said the initiative could catalyse an additional \$150 billion in investments spanning server manufacturing, cloud ecosystems and allied industries, creating a projected \$250 billion artificial-intelligence infrastructure market in the country. Group chairman Gautam Adani described the development as a strategic step toward what he called an "intelligence



revolution" more transformative than previous industrial shifts.

He stressed that nations capable of synchronising energy generation with high-performance computing capacity would shape the next decade of technological leadership, asserting that India is uniquely positioned to do so.

The roadmap builds on the existing 2-GW national data-centre platform of AdaniConneX, which the group now plans to scale up to 5 GW. This expansion is supported by recent partnerships with Google to establish what is expected to be India's largest gigawatt-scale AI data-centre campus in Visakhapatnam, as well as collaborations with Microsoft for similar facilities in Hyderabad and Pune. According to Adani, the broader vision is to build a fully integrated five-layer AI stack powered by renewable energy, aimed at strengthening India's technological sovereignty and reducing dependence on foreign infrastructure. He said the company intends not only to meet domestic demand but also to position India as a global exporter of advanced AI capabilities, signalling a long-term strategy that links green power generation with digital infrastructure growth. Industry analysts view the announcement as a landmark bet on the convergence of clean energy, cloud computing and artificial intelligence sectors.

Aakash Telangana Shines in JEE Main 2026

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) students from Telangana delivered outstanding results in JEE Main 2026 Session-1, with Jayanth Shekhar emerging as state topper by securing 99.996 percentile and leading a strong cohort of high scorers, according to results announced on February 16 by the National Testing Agency.

Overall, two students scored above 99.99 percentile, six crossed 99.9 percentile, 24 exceeded 99.5 percentile, and 43 achieved above 99 percentile, reflecting exceptional academic performance across AESL's Telangana centres. Alongside Jayanth Shekhar, other top achievers include Hanzalah Abedeen (99.992), Alamuri Chaitanya (99.97), Harish Adithya MG (99.92), B Abhijeet



Reddy (99.91), and Lokesh Vudumula (99.91), highlighting consistent high-level preparation.

Commenting on the achievement, Dheeraj Kumar Misra, Chief Academic and Business Head of AESL, said the results demonstrate students' dedication as well as the strength of the institute's academic ecosystem, adding that disciplined study, structured preparation, and continuous assessment played key roles in success.

Students credited their performance to regular mock tests, timely mentoring, focused revision, and systematic practice that helped them identify weaknesses early and

steadily improve scores. Conducted twice annually, JEE Main offers candidates opportunities to enhance performance and serves as the gateway for admission into premier engineering institutions such as the National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, and other centrally funded colleges, while also qualifying top candidates for JEE Advanced required for entry into the Indian Institutes of Technology. The latest results reinforce AESL's strong academic track record and Telangana's growing reputation as a hub of competitive exam excellence.

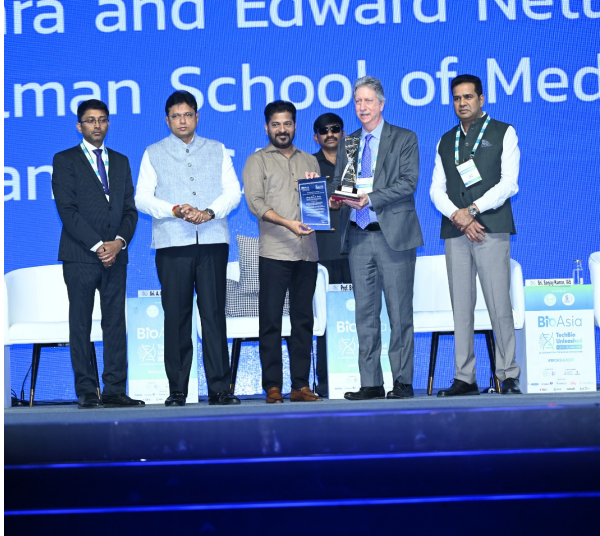
BioAsia 2026 Showcases Future of Global TechBio

BioAsia 2026 Opens in Hyderabad Showcasing TechBio Innovation and Major Investments Driving Future Healthcare

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The 23rd edition of Bio-Asia 2026 opened in Hyderabad with major global participation, investment announcements, and policy signals positioning Telangana as a fast-growing global hub for life sciences, pharmaceuticals, and AI-driven healthcare innovation. The forum's theme, TechBio Unleashed: AI, Automation, and the Biology Revolution, set the tone for discussions on next-generation drug discovery, diagnostics, manufacturing, and digital health solutions.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who emphasized that cross-border collaboration, international investment, and shared innovation would drive the state's life sciences growth under its upcoming policy roadmap. He said Telangana is



building a future-ready ecosystem that translates scientific breakthroughs into real-world healthcare solutions while strengthening economic growth and global competitiveness.

Four multinational companies announced significant investments. Opella Healthcare revealed plans to expand its GCC operations with a 42,000-sq-ft facility expected to create up to 500 jobs. Vaksindo Animal Health Pvt Ltd, a

division of JAPFA, will set up a BSL-3 vaccine manufacturing plant in Genome Valley. Tredence Inc announced a dedicated AI-driven healthcare analytics hub, while Rx Propellant will develop a 1-million-sq-ft laboratory campus over six years.

Swiss pharma major Novartis also unveiled a logo marking 25 years of its GCC presence in India, noting that Hyderabad hosts its largest global

center outside its headquarters in Basel. During the conference, the Chief Minister met delegations from Miltenyi Biotec, Sanofi, MSD, and Takeda, along with representatives from Indonesia. IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu held parallel discussions with NIBRT and Google DeepMind to strengthen technology partnerships.

The inaugural sessions featured keynote addresses by Prof. Bruce L. Levine of the University of Pennsylvania, who received the Genome Valley Excellence Award for pioneering cancer therapy research, and Dr. Howard Y. Chang of Amgen, who spoke on next-generation therapies. Pushmeet Kohli of Google DeepMind highlighted AI's transformative role in biomedical discovery.

Officials said the forum is designed to accelerate partnerships across research, manufacturing,

policy, and investment. Special Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar stated that Telangana is building regulatory frameworks and infrastructure to support advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies. Telangana Life Sciences CEO Shakti M. Nagappan added that the convergence of biology with automation and data sciences is reshaping global healthcare and positioning Hyderabad as a key TechBio innovation center.

Over two decades, Bio-Asia has evolved into a global platform linking biotechnology, medtech, pharmaceuticals, and digital health stakeholders. Organizers said this edition focuses on translating scientific discoveries into scalable healthcare solutions, strengthening supply chains, and enabling resilient health systems worldwide.

Infosys Stock Rises Over 3 Pc After Strategic Tie-Up With Anthropic

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Shares of IT major Infosys rose more than 3 per cent on Tuesday after the company said it has entered into a strategic collaboration with Anthropic to develop and deliver advanced enterprise artificial intelligence (AI) solutions. On the BSE, the scrip of company increased 3.27 per cent to Rs 1,410.95 per piece. BSE-focussed IT index gained 1.45 per cent, with Infosys emerging as the top performer.

Markets are trading in the positive territory, with the 30-share BSE Sensex rising 126.19 points, or 0.15 per cent, to Rs 83,403.34. Infosys on Tuesday announced a strategic collaboration with Anthropic, an AI safety and research company, to develop and deliver advanced enterprise AI solutions to companies across

telecommunications, financial services, manufacturing, and software development. The Bengaluru-based Infosys said the collaboration with Anthropic will focus initially on the telecommunications sector through a dedicated Anthropic Center of Excellence to build and deploy AI agents tailored to industry-specific operations.

The partnership will further expanded across industries, including financial services, manufacturing, and software development, the company said in a regulatory filing. At its core, the strategic alliance integrates Anthropic's Claude models, including Claude Code, with Infosys Topaz AI offerings to help enterprises automate workflows, accelerate software delivery, and adopt AI with governance and transparency for regulated industries.

Maruti Enters Electric Market With e-Vitara at Rs 10.99 lakh

MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Tuesday introduced its much awaited first electric SUV called the e-Vitara, at a starting price of Rs 10.99 lakh at the Delhi showroom, plus a battery rental fee of Rs 3.99 per km. The e-Vitara is pitted against rivals such as the Hyundai Creta EV, Mahindra XEV 9e, MG ZS EV, Tata Curvv EV and upcoming Toyota Ebella. The electric SUV arrives with ownership incentives including a 60 per cent assured buyback after three years, complimentary home charger installation and one year of free public charging.

The company offers an 8-years/1,60,000 km battery warranty whichever is earlier. The e-Vitara is sold in three variants: Delta, Zeta and Alpha, the prices of the last two trims are not yet announced.



The e-Vitara is offered with two battery options: 49 kWh and 61 kWh. The base Delta trim comes with a 49-kWh battery, offering a claimed range of 440 km. It powers a single electric motor that generates 142 BHP and 193 Nm of torque. The battery can be charged in 6.5 hours using a 7.4 kW AC charger and in 45 minutes using a DC fast charger.

The Zeta and Alpha trims get the larger 61 kWh battery pack, which gives the car a claimed maximum range of 543 km. The electric motor is slightly more powerful and produces 172 BHP and 193

Nm. The battery can be charged in 9 hours using a 7.4 kW AC charger and in 45 minutes using a DC fast charger. The e-Vitara has a two-tone interior with screens and a 2-spoke steering wheel. It has a floating centre console housing the drive mode selector, the electronic parking brake and other switches. It is equipped with features like automatic climate control with rear AC, ventilated front seats, a sunroof, wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay connectivity, a wireless charger, and ADAS.

New Holland Launches Workmaster 105 HVAC Tractor in Telangana

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

New Holland, a brand of CNH, has launched the Workmaster 105 tractor with an HVAC cabin in Telangana, introducing an all-weather, high-horsepower machine designed to boost productivity and operator comfort in demanding farm conditions. The unveiling took place in Hyderabad as part of the company's strategy to expand its premium tractor lineup in fast-growing agricultural markets.

The 106 HP tractor is powered by a 3.4-litre engine from Fiat Powertrain Technologies that delivers strong performance with improved fuel efficiency at lower RPM. Its enclosed HVAC cabin features heating, air conditioning, six roof vents, low noise levels, and an air-suspended seat for reduced fatigue. A pneumatic reversible fan



allows uninterrupted operation in dusty environments, especially during post-harvest baling.

According to Narinder Mittal, President and Managing Director - India, CNH, Telangana is emerging as a key mechanization market, and the new variant is designed to support longer working hours while ensuring operator comfort in heat-intensive conditions.

The tractor includes a 20F+20R Power Shuttle transmission, 3,500-kg lift capacity, and a complete wet clutch sys-

tem for both main drive and PTO, enabling reliable performance in heavy applications such as potato planting, trenching, forage harvesting, and rig operations.

Already successful in global markets including the United States, the Workmaster series has crossed 15,000 unit sales worldwide.

With the HVAC variant, the company aims to accelerate adoption of high-HP tractors in India's evolving mechanized farming sector.

# Rajpal Yadav Breaks Silence On Rs 9-Crore Debt Case: "Yeh 2012 Mein Shuru Hua, Aaj 2026 Hai"

Actor Rajpal Yadav walked out of Tihar Jail on Tuesday after being granted interim bail by the Delhi High Court in a Rs 9-crore cheque bounce case. The actor exited the jail premises amid heavy security and media presence. "Mujhe 30 saal ho jayege Bollywood mei. Pure desh ka bacha bacha mere saath raha, isiye main 200-250 film-ein kar paya. Bharatiya cinema ka bacha, bud-dha, naujawan mere ka-leje ka tukda hai...mere saath tha aur mere saath hai. Pure desh ki



janta mere saath thi. (I'm about to complete 30 years in Bollywood. Every person in the entire country stood by me, which is why I was able to make 200-250 films. Everyone in this country is a part of my heart...they were with me and are with me)," he told the media. Addressing the ongoing legal battle in connection with the cheque bounce case, Rajpal Yadav added, "Yeh 2012 mei shuru hua, aj 2026 hai. Pichle 10 saal mei High Court ne jahan

jahan aadesh diye hai, main hazir mila hu aur aage bhi jahan aadesh milega, main hazir milunga. Mujhe jis tarah se pure desh, duniya aur Bollywood ne pyaar diya, agar mujhe koi aarop hai, toh main 100 per cent available hu. Thank you High Court, aapne mujhe sunne ka mauka diya. (This began in 2012; today it's 2026. In the last 10 years, I've appeared wherever the High Court has issued orders, and I will appear wherever orders are issued in the future. The way the entire country, the world, and Bollywood have loved me, if I

face any allegations, I'm available to answer. Thank you, High Court, for giving me the opportunity to be heard)." The Delhi High Court on Monday granted an interim suspension of his sentence until March 18. The bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, while passing the order, directed Rajpal Yadav to furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh along with one surety of the same amount. The Court noted that Rs 1.5 crore has been deposited in the respondent's bank account while considering the relief.

# Salman Khan's Father Salim Khan Hospitalised

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan, 90, has been admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai, sources told NDTV. The writer's eldest son and Bollywood superstar Salman Khan left Lilavati Hospital in Bandra an hour ago after visiting him, they added. According to PTI, Salim Khan was hospitalised in the morning. He is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital. Salim Khan's second wife, actor Helen, son Arbaaz Khan, daughter-in-law Sshura Khan, daughter Alvira Khan, son-in-law Atul Agnihotri, and grandsons Ayaan Agnihotri, Arhaan Khan, and Nirvaan Khan also visited the legendary screenwriter at the hospital. Salim Khan's adopted daughter Arpita Khan's husband, actor Ayush Sharma was also spotted at the hospital. Salim Khan, known for penning iconic films with his former partner Javed Akhtar such as Sholay, Haathi Mere



Saathi, Zanjeer, and Mr India, celebrated his 90th birthday on November 24, 2025. Last year, Salim Khan's youngest son and producer Sohail Khan shared a fun picture of his parents and his stepmother, actor Helen on Instagram which went viral on social media. He captioned the photo as "The best triangular series ever played". Days ahead of his 90th birthday, Salim Khan and his first wife Salma Khan celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary with family and close friends. During an appearance on The Great Indian Kapil Show, Salman Khan once revealed that his father is still quite a foodie.

# Sidharth Malhotra's Father Sunil Malhotra Dies In Delhi, Actor Pays Tribute

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

Sidharth Malhotra is mourning the loss of his father, Sunil Malhotra, who died in Delhi four days ago. The actor, along with his wife Kiara Advani, rushed to the capital to attend the last rites and stand by the family during this difficult period. Sunil Malhotra, a former

Merchant Navy captain, had been unwell for some time. Following his death, Sidharth shared an emotional note for his father that read, "He was a man of rare honesty, integrity and culture. He lived by values that never bent. Discipline without harshness. Strength without ego. Positivity, even when life tested him beyond measure." He further added, "From commanding the seas as a



Merchant Navy Captain to facing illness with quiet courage, he never compromised, never lost his grace. Even when the stroke confined him to a wheelchair, his spirit stood tall. Papa, your integrity is my inheritance. Your strength guides me every day. Your positivity still holds this family together. You left us peacefully in your sleep, but the space you leave behind is immeasurable. I

am who I am because of you. And I will carry your name, your values and your light forward always. Love you Dad." In 2025, Sidharth had spoken openly about his father's health struggles and the emotional impact it had on his family. During a conversation with Lilly Singh, he admitted that the situation had sometimes made him anxious and impatient, especially towards his

mother, Rimma Malhotra, who was handling most of the caregiving responsibilities on her own. He had said, "My father's not been healthy for a while, and me being scared or angry at times, tend to be a little more harsh on my mother because she's the one who's taking care of the meds. My father's not keeping well to do that and within that I realized... she suddenly... we got up one

morning and just having coffee and tea in Delhi and she started speaking about 20 years back...what she had to deal with when we were much younger or when I wasn't there or when I was trying to make my own life." Known for his disciplined life, Sunil Malhotra played a significant role in shaping his son's values and outlook.

# India Eye Tune-Up Win as Dutch Face Exit Test

AHMEDABAD Wakeup telangana

Already assured of a Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup, the India national cricket team will aim to polish form and combinations when they meet the Netherlands national cricket team in their final Group A fixture at Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday night. India sit comfortably atop the table with six points from three wins, while the Dutch remain on two and must not only defeat the hosts by a huge margin but also rely on other results to sneak through. The qualification scenario for the Netherlands will become clear before the match begins, as the earlier clash between the Namibia national cricket team and the Pakistan national cricket team will determine whether their hopes remain alive or are reduced to mere arithmetic. Even in the best-case scenario, they face a daunting assignment against one of the tournament's strongest sides. India, led by Suryakumar Yadav and



guided by coach Gautam Gambhir, have looked largely dominant but not flawless. Victories over the USA national cricket team and Namibia exposed brief vulnerabilities — a top-order collapse in one match and a loose grip while defending a big total in another. Those phases, though eventually corrected, highlighted areas the team management will want tightened before sterner tests arrive in the next stage. The upcoming phase is expected to pit India against stronger opposition such as the South Africa national cricket

team, Zimbabwe national cricket team and the West Indies cricket team, making this match an ideal opportunity to fine-tune strategy, batting order stability and bowling combinations. With qualification secured, experimentation becomes both possible and practical. One player who could benefit from that approach is Washington Sundar, yet to feature in the tournament. Including him would allow India to test bench strength and assess match readiness before the high-pressure knockout rounds begin. Squad rotation at

this stage could also help manage workload and maintain freshness for key performers. For the Netherlands, however, the contest carries entirely different stakes. Their campaign has been marked by flashes of competitiveness, notably pushing Pakistan close earlier in the tournament. That performance offers a psychological boost and proof that they can challenge higher-ranked teams on their day. During an intense training session on the eve of the match, the squad displayed visible determination, signalling they are not prepared to concede without a fight. The clash therefore presents a classic contrast: one side building momentum with confidence and strategic freedom, the other battling odds for survival. Whether it turns into a routine tune-up for India or a dramatic upset attempt by the Dutch will depend on how boldly the underdogs seize their slim chance and how seriously the favourites approach what, on paper, appears a mismatch.

# France Storms Into Final, Crush USA 10–2



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana Mohd Khaleel Afsar

France delivered a commanding performance to defeat the USA 10–2 in the second semifinal of the HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026 held at HPRC, Hyderabad, on February 18, sealing a dominant berth in the final. Star of the Match Roman Darroux led the charge with a brilliant four-goal display, orchestrating France's decisive victory. France set the tone early, racing to a 5–1 lead in the opening chukker with

goals from Huge Bastard and Pierre Hamellin, alongside Darroux's brace. The USA's only reply in that period came from Erica Grandomar. The second chukker saw France tighten control, adding three unanswered goals to stretch the margin to 8–1 and effectively put the contest out of reach. In the third chukker, France maintained composure and outscored the USA 2–1, completing a comprehensive victory. Darroux's field vision, Hamellin's finishing, and Bastard's attacking support proved too strong for the American side, whose



resistance relied largely on Grandomar's efforts. With this emphatic semifinal win, France heads into the championship match as strong title con-

tenders, showcasing sharp coordination, clinical finishing, and defensive discipline throughout the encounter.

Week after GHMC demolition drive in Mallepally victims hesitant to talk



A week after encroachments in Mallepally were removed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), many victims are hesitant to voice their concerns, and fear speaking out may invite more trouble.

While most of the encroachments demolished were located opposite the Anwar ul Uloom Junior College, some malgis (structures) opposite the mosque were also razed.

Siasat.com contacted the victims to understand their challenges since the incident, but many were hesitant or rather unwilling to speak, citing political and bureaucratic repercussions. One person, who wished to remain anonymous, said his shop was partially demolished and expressed hope that things would be better soon. “We plan to start business again, inshallah!” he said. The demolition took place in the presence of police personnel. Officials alleged that illegal shops were razed down following complaints about encroachments. Jayant, who has been running a dosa joint outside the Anwar ul Uloom Junior College for four decades, said, “We have been functioning smoothly without any trouble.

Hyderabad Police debunk viral video on woman luring children

The city police, on Tuesday, February 17, debunked a viral social media message claiming that a woman was roaming the city to lure children, stating it is completely false. City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar clarified that no such incident or organised gang activity has been reported anywhere in Hyderabad. He said the message appears to have been circulated only to create unnecessary panic.

He cautioned residents against forwarding false content, stressing that rumours can spread fear, disrupt public order and even put innocent people at risk. He also urged the public not to take the law into their own hands based on social media forwards. Residents have been advised to rely only on official sources for information and to immediately inform the nearest police station or dial emergency services if they notice any genuine.

‘Ganja prasadam’ video: Falaknuma police arrest two after outrage



Hours after a video of two young men offering prasadam allegedly mixed with ganja in front of a Shiva temple during Maha Shivaratri celebrations went viral on social media, the Falaknuma police arrested them on Tuesday, February 17. The two accused – C Charan, 19, and Vijay Krishna, 21 – are residents of RN Colony in Falaknuma. Both men work in a local gym. A case has been registered, police said.

The Instagram reel was recorded in Shamshabad on Sunday. The duo is heard saying that they came to offer “prasadam” to Lord Shiva, bragging that while the devotees offer coconuts, they will serve “something different.” One of them is seen holding a narcotic drug, suspected to be ganja, in his hand.

The video gained traction after it caught the attention of Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, who flagged the video on his X account.

“Maha Shivaratri is a symbol of devotion... a path to liberation. On such a sacred and holy occasion, displaying intoxicating substances in the name of offering prasadam is an extremely disgraceful act. It is a perverse behaviour.” “Once the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act are invoked, you may have to regret it for the rest of your life,” he warned the youth.

Police Step Up Security at Mecca Masjid Before Ramzan

Police Review Ramzan Security Arrangements at Mecca Masjid, Assure Public Safety Fully

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana  
Zaffer abedi

In preparation for the upcoming holy month of Ramzan-e-Shareef, authorities on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive security and logistics inspection at Mecca Masjid and surrounding markets near Charminar, with officials assuring that elaborate arrangements are in place to ensure a safe and smooth festive period for devotees.

V. C. Sajjanar, who led the review along with Mir Zulfqar Ali and senior officers, said adequate police personnel have been deployed across sensitive zones and that multi-department coordination has been completed to manage crowds, traffic flow, and law-and-order during the high-footfall season in Hyderabad.

The inspection assessed security deployment, surveillance systems, emergency response readiness, and public convenience



facilities to ensure worshippers can observe the holy month peacefully. Officials confirmed that additional surveillance cameras have been installed at key locations, with live monitoring carried out from both the ACP Charminar office control room and the central command and control centre.

Senior officers accompanying the visit included Tafseer Iqbal and Kiran Khare, who reviewed on-ground arrangements and coordinated with local

teams regarding traffic diversions, pedestrian flow, and emergency access routes. The Commissioner stated that special police teams will patrol market areas to deter anti-social elements, while SHE Teams will conduct decoy operations to prevent harassment and ensure a secure environment, particularly for women and families visiting the area during evening hours.

Authorities emphasized that public cooperation will be crucial for main-

taining peace. Citizens were urged to promptly report suspicious activity and follow traffic advisories, as coordinated vigilance between the public and police remains key to ensuring orderly and peaceful Ramzan observances. Officials said continuous monitoring and real-time coordination among departments will continue throughout the festive month, with contingency teams on standby to address any emergencies swiftly.

IHM Hyderabad Hosts Vibrant Little India Food Fest Celebrating Entrepreneurship

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The 3-day Little India Food Fest hosted by Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Hyderabad in Hyderabad concluded successfully, showcasing student entrepreneurship through diverse culinary stalls and competitions, with Canara Bank as the main sponsor.

The festival featured student-run counters serving Indian street food, regional specialties, global dishes, desserts, and beverages, giving participants practical exposure to menu design, pricing, operations, and customer en-



gagement. Traditional highlights ranged from litti chokha and Gongura Kodi Pulao to Pootharekulu, alongside international offerings like ramen and Korean corn dogs, drawing strong visitor turnout.

An inter-collegiate flower arrangement contest added a creative dimension, with participants from institutes including

IIHM Habsiguda, Regency College of Hotel Management, and Global Institute of Hotel Management competing in Free-style, Ikebana, and Bouquet categories. Judges Ho-Kiku A. Vineetha of Ikebana International Hyderabad and Pranith Sakilam of ITC Kakatiya praised the students’ artistic precision.

Dangerous Drainage Cover Near Nagole Metro Station Raises Safety Concerns

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A damaged iron drainage cover on the busy highway near Nagole Metro Station is posing a serious risk to motorists and pedestrians. The hazardous spot is located near MELD HAUS Showroom, on the stretch from LB Nagar towards Uppal X Road.

This is a heavily trafficked highway with constant movement of two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and pedestrians. According to daily commuters, the iron cover over a roadside drainage has become damaged or



displaced, creating a dangerous opening on the road. Two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable, especially during night hours and peak traffic times.

Residents have expressed concern that if immediate

repairs are not carried out, the damaged drainage cover could result in serious accidents and potential loss of life. Authorities are urged to inspect the site promptly and undertake necessary repairs to ensure public safety.

Telangana HC halts Ibrahimpatnam Municipal Council election process

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday directed the authorities not to conclude the election process for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Ibrahimpatnam Municipal Council until further orders, following the alleged disappearance of a municipal councillor.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by the son of Ward No. 19 Councillor Akula Yadagiri, who alleged that his father had been kidnapped. The petitioner sought directions to the respondent authorities not to proceed with the election process notified under Notification No. 209/TGSECULBs/2026 dated 27-01-2026, without



securing the participation and vote of the missing councillor.

Taking note of the seriousness of the allegations, the Bench directed the police authorities to trace and produce Akula Yadagiri before the Court. The Court also granted an interim stay on the election process until further notice. The postponement of the municipal election process comes amid concerns raised before the Court that the absence of the councillor could affect the fairness of the election. The matter has been posted for further hearing on Wednesday.

Grand celebrations mark KCR’s 72nd birthday as thousands flock to Erravelli

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The 72nd birthday of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao was marked with massive public events, service activities, and cultural programmes across the State and in several countries. Despite Chandrashekhar Rao himself refraining from celebrations, thousands flocked to his Erravelli residence, prompting him to come out and greet them.

Thousands of supporters, including youth, women, farmers, and party activists, thronged the BRS chief’s residence in Erravelli to greet him. The premises reverberated with slogans of “Jai Telangana” and “CM KCR.” Chandrashekhar Rao personally greeted visitors and posed for photographs



for nearly five hours between 1.30 pm and 8 pm, with short breaks. Youth continued to arrive till evening.

Part MPs, MLAs, and senior leaders also called on Chandrashekhar Rao at his residence. Among those present were BRS working president KT Rama Rao, BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao, Rajya Sabha members KR Suresh Reddy, B Parthasarathy Reddy, Deevakonda Damodara Rao, and Vaddiraju Ravichandrababu Naidu, besides several former Ministers, legis-

lators, and senior leaders. Vedic scholars who performed a yagna in Varada Rajapuram met the former Chief Minister, presented sacred ritual items, and blessed him with a long life. At Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, senior leaders led official celebrations with KT Rama Rao, T Harish Rao, and others cutting a 72 kg cake. Cultural performances themed on the Telangana movement were held at select venues.

In Odisha, a sand sculpture of Chandrashekhar Rao was installed on Puri beach by Serilingampalli activist Chirra Ravinder Yadav, drawing attention from tourists. In Sangareddy district, leaf artist Shivakumar Ravi created portraits of the former Chief Minister on leaves incorporating the Telangana map, which were circulated widely on social media.

Farmers in Lakshimpur village celebrated in agricultural fields, cutting a cake and recalling the BRS president’s pro-farmer initiatives. Mallepalli Narsimhulu and his family from Parigi constituency distributed tiffins to patients at Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, remembering that their son Suman was named by Chandrashekhar Rao.

Across the State, BRS leaders and cadre celebrated Chandrashekhar Rao’s birthday with cake-cutting ceremonies and by distributing fruits, sweets, and food to the needy. In other places, abhishekams were performed on his portraits by pouring milk, while several others offered prayers at temples, mosques, and churches, seeking blessings for the BRS chief’s health and long life.

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