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WAKE UP TELANGANA

WEATHER

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

RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR: 6:20 PM (TODAY)
SEHER: 5:26 AM (TOMORROW)

Brief Insights

EC to Hold Polls to 2 Rajya Sabha Seats in Telangana in March

The Election Commission (EC) of India on Wednesday released the schedule for the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha to fill two seats from Telangana that are set to fall vacant in April. The six-year terms of sitting members K.R. Suresh Reddy of the BRS and Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Congress will end on April 9, necessitating elections to the Upper House from the state. According to the schedule, the notification for the elections will be issued on February 26. The last date for filing nominations is March 5, scrutiny of nominations will be taken up on March 6 and the final date for withdrawal of candidature is March 9.

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President, CM Impressed By Prowess Of Indian Navy At IFR

President Droupadi Murmu and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu watched the three dimensional prowess of the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review held at the anchorage, 22km off the Visakhapatnam shore, on Wednesday morning. The excitement unfolded with the President's arrival at the naval jetty, where she was received by Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Naidu

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WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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Ramzan Arrives: Prayers, Charity and Festive Buzz Begin: P8

No Alternative to Congress in Telangana, Mahesh Kumar: P8



Hyderabad To Turn Net Zero City By 2034, Says Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said that Hyderabad will achieve Net Zero emissions by 2034 and a city-wide carbon footprint audit will be undertaken shortly. Addressing Mumbai Climate Week 2026 in Mumbai on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that within the next five years there would be no factories within the Hyderabad urban area, as all manufacturing units will be shifted from the core urban region to peri-urban zones. He highlighted sustainability initiatives in Hyderabad, including the rejuvenation of river

Musi, restoration of lakes, strengthening of water and energy grids, and the establishment of HYDRAA, described as India's first dedicated environmental police force. Describing energy as central to economic growth, the Chief Minister said development is measured by power generation and consumption. Telangana currently consumes an average of 16,610 MW per day. The

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

peak demand recorded last year was 17,162 MW, which is expected to exceed 19,000 MW this year and projected to cross 34,000 MW by 2034 as the state targets a \$1 trillion economy. Nearly 25 per cent of the state's energy is sourced from green power, he said.

In Hyderabad, he said, axes on electric vehicles have been removed, re-

Modi Holds 7 Bilaterals, To Open AI Summit's Plenary

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday began a series of bilateral meetings with visiting world leaders ahead of the Leaders' Plenary of the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. The Prime Minister held back-to-back meetings at Hyderabad House with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, Kazakh Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Estonian President Alar Karis and Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić.

In the evening, he welcomed the dignitaries at Bharat Mandapam, the summit venue, and hosted a dinner. The leaders also attended cultural performances. On Thursday, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Leaders' segment of the India AI Impact Summit. The opening session will also be addressed by

French President Emmanuel Macron and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The programme includes a visit to the India AI Impact Expo 2026 and participation in the Leaders' Plenary focusing on AI governance, infrastructure and international cooperation.

French President Mac-

ron arrived in New Delhi after talks with Modi in Mumbai. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Slovak President Peter Pellegrini and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam also reached the Capital. During talks with Sánchez, the two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation across trade, technology, defence, space, renewable energy and cultural exchanges. They welcomed progress in the Tata-Airbus C-295 transport aircraft final assembly line at Vadodara and stressed defence industrial collaboration.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Maharashtra Govt Cancels 5 % Muslim Quota

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana



The Maharashtra government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party has scrapped the 5 per cent reservation for Muslims in jobs and education, ending years of legal uncertainty surrounding a 2014 ordinance that never became law. The decision triggered criticism from Opposition parties, including the Indian National Congress

The quota was originally

introduced in 2014 under the Special Backward Class-A category by the government headed by Prithviraj Chavan, with Ajit Pawar serving as Deputy Chief Minister. Soon after, the Bombay High Court stayed its implementation in public employment while permitting it in educational institutions. However, the ordinance required legislative approval before December 23, 2014. As it was never

passed by the state legislature, it automatically expired, leaving the policy in prolonged legal limbo until the government issued orders declaring it void, effectively closing the chapter on the controversial quota. Leaders said the step clarifies the state's legal position, while critics argued it symbolically targets minorities despite having no practical effect because the quota had long ceased to operate.

Moon Sighted, Ramzan Begins



Ramadan crescent moon sighted in Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai; first day of Ramzan 2026 to begin on Thursday, Feb 19.

Adv Mir Qurram ALi
BRSV GHMC Coordinator

@mirqurramali

Fathe Affan
Congress youth leader

Harish Rao Slams Delhi Summons

Harish Rao Calls Delhi Summons of Telangana Cabinet "Humiliating"

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the decision to summon the entire Telangana Cabinet to New Delhi by the All India Congress Committee, describing the move as "deeply humiliating" and an affront to the state's democratic spirit and self-respect. He questioned whether people had voted for an autonomous state government or for one that functions "by remote control from Delhi," asserting that such actions send a troubling message about political independence and federal balance. In an open letter addressed to Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Meenakshi Natarajan, and Siddaramaiah, Rao argued that summoning an elected state Cabinet before party leadership reflects an erosion of federal principles. He said Telangana was achieved after years of struggle, sacrifice, and a mass movement demanding self-rule and political dignity, and therefore any act that appears to place the state leadership under central command undermines the very ideals on which the state was formed. He likened the development to a "Delhi durbar" culture, suggesting that it symbolises excessive centralisation within party structures.

The senior leader further demanded that the Indian National Congress explain what he termed a "collapse of governance and betrayal of promises" in the state. He urged party leadership to direct Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to honour commitments made to the electorate, at least during the remainder of the government's tenure. According to him, voters deserved accountability and timely implementation of assurances rather than political reviews conducted outside the state.

Sharpening his criticism, the veteran Bharat Rashtra Samithi figure accused the Chief Minister of prioritising frequent visits to the national capital instead of focusing on administration and governance at home. He alleged that such travel signalled misplaced priorities and weakened governance delivery, adding that people expected visible development, welfare implementation, and administrative responsiveness rather than political consultations far from the state.

Rao maintained that these developments raise serious questions about autonomy, accountability, and respect for state institutions. He said Telangana's people had fought hard for self-governance and would not accept any arrangement that appeared to compromise that principle. His remarks come amid intensifying political confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS, with both sides trading accusations over governance performance, fulfilment of electoral promises, and the proper balance of authority between state leadership and national party command..



'No Bag Day' Uneven In Telangana Schools

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Two years after Telangana introduced a monthly "No Bag Day" in schools, the policy remains in the academic calendar but implementation is uneven, especially in private institutions. He said Telangana's people had fought hard for self-governance and would not accept any arrangement that appeared to compromise that principle. His remarks come amid intensifying political confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS, with both sides trading accusations over governance performance, fulfilment of electoral promises, and the proper balance of authority between state leadership and national party command..



the third Saturday of each month as a bagless, activity-based day for Classes I to X. It builds on earlier rules capping schoolbag weight, first issued in 2005 and revised in 2017. G. Ramesh, director of SCERT, said reports are being sent from some schools to MEOs and monitoring officers are visiting institutions. "No specific study has been conducted yet, but we plan to," he added, stressing that DEOs have been instructed to ensure compliance.

Feedback suggests un-

even adoption and lack of clarity on activities. "It should not become a mechanical exercise," said Ravi. Some private schools say they observe the day regularly. Madhusudan Sadula, principal of a city SSC school, said his institution holds presentations, stage programmes and practical sessions. Dr Prasad Rao, who runs a group of schools, said his students engage in nature walks, carpentry, robotics, arts and music. He argued the concept should be implemented nationwide, not confined to circulairs. The Centre's School Bag Policy of 2020 also recommends bagless days and limits bag weight to a percentage of body weight, leaving execution to states.

BJP Minority Morcha Urges Civic Arrangements for Ramzan

KARIMNAGAR Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, leaders of the BJP Minority Morcha submitted a representation to the Mayor of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, Kolagani Srinivas, seeking necessary civic arrangements to ensure smooth and peaceful observance of the festival. A delegation led by BJP Minority Morcha State General Secretary Mohammed Mujeeb, State Vice Pres-



ident Mohammed Basheeruddin, District General Secretary Sameeullah Ahmed, and State Social Media Convenor Siddique met the Mayor on Wednesday and highlighted key issues requiring immediate attention. The

leaders urged the municipal authorities to make special arrangements in areas surrounding mosques and minority-dominated wards across the city. They requested proper street lighting near mosques, improved sanitation, timely garbage clearance after Iftar, and adequate drinking water supply. They also appealed for permission to allow hotels to operate late during Sehri hours, temporary traffic diversions or road

closures if required during Taraweeh prayers, and enhanced security arrangements in sensitive areas. Additionally, they emphasized the need for repair of damaged roads and drainage systems to avoid inconvenience to the public. The delegation expressed hope that the municipal administration would take proactive steps to ensure that the holy month of Ramzan is observed in a peaceful and comfortable environment for all.

Sanctus Launches School Group at PhenoLumia Event

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Sanctus PhenoLumia 2026 was held at Sanctus World School, Hyderabad, marking the official launch of the Sanctus Group of Schools in the presence of T. Prakash Goud and choreographer Atul Mehtani. The MLA praised the institution's role in shaping responsible citizens and expanding quality education.



Chairman D. Rajeshwar Reddy and Director D.

value-based, globally aligned learning. The event showcased student innovation projects, sustainability models, and interdisciplinary research reflecting a Finnish-integrated CBSE approach. Cultural performances, a magic show, and a lantern ceremony highlighted community participation, reinforcing Sanctus' focus on academic excellence, emotional wellbeing, and future-ready education.

Ponguleti Orders Code Audit of Dharani Portal

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has ordered a comprehensive code audit of the Dharani portal to detect irregularities allegedly committed during the previous BRS regime. He warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible. Chairing a review meeting with senior revenue officials and members of a high-level inquiry committee at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the minister said the affairs of the portal were akin to "pulling a thread and seeing the entire knot unravel," indicating deep-rooted systemic issues. He alleged that a system originally designed to safeguard people's properties had been misused by influential persons in the past government for



vested interests. The high-level committee probing irregularities related to the alleged siphoning of stamp duty and registration charges by exploiting loopholes in Dharani has unearthed several findings. Ponguleti clarified that the lapses were not mere technical glitches but deliberately created flaws. Preliminary findings revealed that deficiencies identified during an earlier security audit were not rectified, though reports claimed otherwise. The portal was allegedly designed to enable human interference and manipulation. Suspicious land

transaction data was made inaccessible, certain logs were deleted, and confidential login details were found missing. The minister said information relating to land transactions conducted in violation of norms had been rendered unavailable, and a code audit was not undertaken as part of the earlier forensic audit. He noted that issues had arisen after entrusting maintenance of the portal to a foreign firm, Terrasis. Referring to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's instructions, Ponguleti said the government would act firmly against those who misappropriated stamp duty and registration charges. "No one who has committed wrongdoing will be spared. Every rupee due to the government will be recovered," he asserted.

M.D. Wajid Wins Ward 21, Felicitated



He directed officials to conduct a detailed code audit immediately and ensure that lapses do not recur. He instructed that the Bhu Bharati portal, which replaced Dharani, be developed in a transparent, people-friendly manner, eliminating scope for manipulation. Reiterating that there would be no compromise on protecting land rights, Ponguleti said every irregularity committed in the name of Dharani would be exposed. He also directed officials to extend forensic audits to other districts, on the lines of those conducted in Siricilla and Siddipet. M.D. Wajid, elected as Congress councillor of Ward 21 in Sadashivapet, was felicitated by Ravinder Sagar in Hafeezpet, who described the victory as a strong mandate for development. Representing the Indian National Congress, Wajid's win reflects public trust and expectations for transparent, dedicated governance, he said. Sagar expressed hope that the councillor would prioritise civic progress, address local issues, and uphold people's confidence. Calling the result a promising start to public service, he added that Wajid's leadership should earn citizens' appreciation and set an example of accountable administration for others. Residents praised his commitment to development and responsive governance locally.

Panduranga Reddy Slams Govt Over Unfulfilled Welfare Promises

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Kappati Panduranga Reddy, Telangana Jagruti Rangareddy district president on Wednesday strongly criticized the Indian National Congress-led state government, alleging that key election promises to women, elderly citizens, and other vulnerable groups remain unfulfilled even after 26 months in power.



Panduranga Reddy accused the administration of misleading voters during elections and neglecting them afterward. He pointed out that the promised ₹2,500 monthly financial assistance to women under the Mahalakshmi scheme has not been implemented, calling it a betrayal of women who trusted the assurances.

He further questioned the delay in enhancing pen-

worsened the hardships of common people, while the government continues to postpone welfare delivery. Reddy also cited concerns raised by the Telangana High Court regarding house sites and pensions for Telangana movement activists, saying the situation reflects administrative failure. He stressed that those who sacrificed for the state's formation deserve dignity and immediate support.

He demanded that the upcoming budget allocate sufficient funds to implement all pending promises for women, elderly citizens, persons with disabilities, farmers, and activists. Warning of protests, he said Telangana Jagruti would launch large-scale agitations if the government fails to act promptly, asserting that deceiving voters undermines democratic values.

sions—₹4,000 for senior citizens and ₹6,000 for persons with disabilities—as well as unfulfilled pledges such as gold support for girls' marriages and scooters for female students. According to him, rising prices have worsened the hardships of common people, while the government continues to postpone welfare delivery.

Resonance Students Achieve Outstanding Results in JEE Main 2026 Session 1

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Students of Resonance Educational Institutions delivered exceptional results in JEE Main 2026 Session 1, with 63 students scoring above the 99 percentile and 505 securing 99 percentile in individual subjects, reaffirming the institute's strong academic track

record. The achievers were felicitated at a ceremony held at Ashray Conventions in Hyderabad.

Director Purnachandra Rao praised students' discipline, perseverance, and dedication, attributing the success to structured preparation, expert faculty guidance, and personalized mentoring. He emphasized that the



results highlight the institution's integrated academic ecosystem and consistent performance-tracking methods that help students excel in national competitive exams.

COO Markandeya noted that since 2018 the institute's JEE success rate has steadily climbed to an unprecedented 97.8%, significantly

higher than many established institutes. He credited this to high academic standards, a meticulously designed curriculum, and a focused, stress-free learning environment supported by parental trust. Central Academic Dean D. K. Jha highlighted that five students achieved 99.9 percentile while 63 crossed the 99

percentile mark overall, calling the performance a milestone achieved within just six years—an accomplishment that took some institutions decades. He expressed confidence that students would surpass these results in Session 2. Founded in 2001 by R. K. Verma, an alumnus of IIT Madras, Resonance began in Kota and has

Vigilance Officials Raid Illegal Sand Miner

Vigilance and Enforcement department officials have raided sand reaches, where the illegal sand mining and transportation were taking place in Karimnagar. According to vigilance and enforcement director-general Shikha Goel, officials intercepted five sand-loaded tractors, each transporting approximately 5 metric tonnes of sand from the Manair river belt under the guise of free sand meant for Indiramma Houses.

Following the raids, the police have registered a criminal case under the relevant sections of BNS against the tractor drivers and owners for illegal sand transportation, causing damage to natural public resources, theft of state property and rash and negligent driving, and endangering human life and personal safety. With onset of summer, miscreants would indulge in illegal transport of sand from different sand reaches. Following the tip-off, the vigilance would crack the whip on illegal transportation of sand. Similarly, the vigilance officials of Hyderabad rural unit office interpreted the vehicle carrying 12 MTs PDS rice to Zareerabad from Hyderabad. Civil supply officials registered cases and seized PDS rice worth '4.5 lakh. Police registered cases against Pawar Jitu, Pawar Vijay and the driver Md Shabbir.

Youth's Stunt for Social Media Reels Creates Suspicion at Korutla Bus Stand

JAGTIAL
Wakeup telangana

A young man's attempt to create social media "reels" led to tense moments at the Korutla bus stand after he was found moving around in a burqa under suspicious circumstances. According to sources, staff at the Korutla bus station grew suspicious upon noticing a person in a burqa behaving unusually and loitering



around the premises. Acting promptly, the staff detained the individual for questioning.

Upon inquiry, it was revealed that the person was a young man who had allegedly worn the burqa as part of a stunt to shoot content for social media reels. His actions reportedly raised concerns among passengers and staff, prompting immediate intervention.

The bus stand authorities later handed the young man over to the police for further investigation. Officials stated that such acts, especially in public places,

can cause unnecessary panic and security concerns.

Police are examining the incident and have cautioned youth against engaging in irresponsible stunts for online attention, particularly in sensitive public areas. Authorities reiterated that while creativity on social media is not discouraged, it should not compromise public safety or disturb law and order.

BRS leader Balka Suman arrested for attacking Congress minister's convoy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former MLA and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader Balka Suman was arrested on Wednesday, February 18, for allegedly attacking Minister Vivek Venkateswamy's convoy in Mancherial district the previous day.

He has reportedly been sent to a 14-day judicial remand. BRS cadres reportedly pelted stones at the minister when he was enroute to attend the election of the municipal chairperson of Kyathanapally along with his son, MP G Vamsi Krishna, and other Congress leaders on Tuesday. A police constable and a Congress worker reportedly suffered injuries in the attack.

A case was registered against Suman for allegedly behaving rudely with the police and for trying to prevent them from discharging their duties.

Tension prevailed at Suman's residence on Wednesday, when police



arrived to make the arrest, as his supporters gathered there in large numbers and resisted the attempt by police.

KTR, Harish Rao condemn arrest

The arrest attracted condemnation from senior BRS leaders and accused Congress of an "anarchic attitude". "We strongly condemn the arrest and detention of former MLA and Dalit leader Balka Suman for trying to stop the undemocratic and arrogant actions of Congress in Kyathanapally. Even though @BRSParty secured a full majority in Kyathanapally, the way the Congress party openly mocked democracy in broad daylight has made the entire Telangana feel disgusted," said Siddipet MLA Harish Rao.

He alleged that Congress was

grabbing the posts of chairpersons of every hung municipality through "back door" methods. "Not just Kyathanapally — in places like Thorrur, Jangaon, Ibrahimpatnam, Zareerabad and every other hung municipality, they are grabbing the chairman posts through backdoor methods without respecting the people's verdict," his post read. Meanwhile, KTR warned that once BRS comes back in power, all those abetting Congress's actions would have to pay a heavy price. "Despite BRS winning a clear majority, CM Revanth and Minister Vivek are indulging in such despicable politics. The people of Kyathanapally observed a complete bandh today to protest against the undemocratic actions of the Congress government, but this government has not come to its senses. If some police officers who are acting as pawns of the ruling party do not change their attitude, they will have to pay a suitable price." KTR stated in an X post.

Sewal Jayanti Celebrated in Serilingampally



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader Jagdishwar Goud and members of Telangana State BC United Forum joined residents at Netaji Nagar Colony to mark the birth anniversary of Santosh Sewal Maharaj with prayers, cultural tributes, and community service. Organized by Banjara Sangam, the

peaceful life. Guest of honor Beri Ramachandra Yadav praised the community for celebrating the Jayanti annually with devotion and said such events strengthen moral values and social harmony.

Leaders including Pulipati Srinivas, K. Narasimha Yadav, Balraj Mudiraj, Pramod Nayak, Jayaram Nayak, Balraj Sagar, and several vice presidents attended along with youth representatives and women participants, who later joined floral tributes and a community meal. The celebrations concluded in a festive and spiritual atmosphere, highlighting cultural pride and collective unity.

Addressing the gathering, Goud urged people to follow Sewal Maharaj's teachings of righteousness and unity for a

BJP Seeks Tie-Up With BRS To Keep Cong. Out In Khanapur

ADILABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP leaders in Nirmal district on Wednesday expressed readiness to share the chairman and vice-chairman posts with the BRS in Khanapur Municipality to prevent the Congress from assuming control. Khanapur municipality has 12 wards, with the Congress securing three seats, the BRS four and the BJP four, while one seat was won by an Independent. The independent councillor later joined the Congress in the presence of Khanapur BRS in-charge Johnson Naik consulting party leaders on the proposal.

BJP state executive committee member Akula Srinivas said the party was open to a power-sharing arrangement with the BRS and urged its leaders to respond positively.

Sources indicated that discussions were underway on a proposal to share the posts of chairman, vice-chairman and co-option members on a rotational basis, with each party holding office for two-and-a-half years during the five-year term. It is learnt that Khanapur BRS in-charge Johnson Naik is consulting party leaders on the proposal.

Komati Reddy Calls For Push To RRR, HAM Roads

Roads and buildings minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday directed officials to prepare focused and outcome-oriented Budget Estimates for 2026-27, stressing that the department has a key role in driving Telangana's growth. He called for a major push to flagship projects such as the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and roads under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). Reviewing last year's allocations and progress at the Secretariat, the minister said the upcoming budget must be guided by clear planning, measurable outcomes and strict financial discipline.

Referring to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's 'Rising Telangana-2047' vision, Komati Reddy said strengthening the road network is a top priority given rising vehicular load and population. He urged officials to resolve bottlenecks through coordination between departments and emphasised transparency in fund utilisation between the Centre and state. On national highways, the minister announced that the eight-lane expansion of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada stretch of NH-65 is expected to begin soon. He said he would again request Union minister Nitin Gadkari to expedite the project, which could reduce travel time between the two cities to about two-and-a-half hours. He added that he would meet Union ministers to speed up other centrally assisted projects in Telangana.

Collective Efforts Needed to Eradicate Child Marriages: Union Minister Bandi Sanjay



KARIMNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has called upon every section of society to take responsibility in preventing child marriages and safeguarding the future of children. The Minister inaugurated an awareness campaign chariot aimed at eradicating child marriages. The initiative was jointly organized by Sahaaya Welfare Association, a voluntary organization, and Just Rights for Children. The campaign seeks to spread awareness across communities about the harmful consequences of early marriages. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that childhood is a precious phase of life and should not be burdened with responsibilities like marriage. He stated that child marriages severely affect children's education, health, and overall physical and mental development. He warned that discontinu-

Forest Department Launches Online Renewal for Timber, Sawmill Services

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Dr. C. Suvarna, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, on Wednesday launched a fast and convenient online renewal system for Forest Department services, aimed at simplifying procedures for traders, timber depot operators, and sawmill managers.

The initiative was unveiled at Aranya Bhavan in Lakdikapul as part of the government's push to improve ease of doing business in Telangana. Addressing stakeholders after the launch, Dr. Suvarna said the department has taken special measures to



provide faster, transparent, and hassle-free services to business operators dependent on forest-related permissions. She emphasized that the new system allows applicants to obtain renewal certificates online by paying a nominal fee of ₹300

through MeeSeva, eliminating delays and reducing physical visits to offices. She noted that the initiative marks a major step toward digital governance, ensuring efficiency, accountability, and user convenience while strengthening co-

Eradication of Drugs is a Collective Responsibility: Pamela

KARIMNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

The District Collector Pamela Satpathy has emphasized that the eradication of narcotic substances is a shared responsibility of the entire society. She called upon officials, teachers, youth, and parents to work collectively to eliminate the menace of drug abuse from the district. The remarks were made during the District-Level Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting held on Wednesday at the Collectorate Conference Hall.

Addressing the officials, the Collector stated that coordinated efforts by the Police, Excise, Women Development, and Child Welfare Departments have been yielding positive results in controlling drug-related activities in the district. She directed the Police and Excise Departments to intensify joint operations to dismantle drug supply networks at their roots. The Drug Inspector was instructed to closely monitor the sale of medicines in private medical stores and to take strict action against those selling intoxicating drugs without valid prescriptions from registered medical practitioners. The Collector further instructed officials to conduct awareness programmes in all govern-

ment and private schools, hostels, and colleges. She stressed that students must be educated not only about the dangers of drugs but also about the harmful effects of alcohol consumption and smoking. Surprise inspections in suspected areas were also ordered to curb illegal activities. Speaking on the occasion, Police Commissioner Gaus Alam stated that the Police Department has been taking stringent measures to combat drug-related offences. He revealed that since January 2025, a total

Galgotias Throw Out For Chinese 'Robodog' Row

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Greater Noida-based Galgotias University was asked to vacate its stall at the AI Expo on Wednesday after allegedly showcasing a Chinese-made robot as its own innovation, government sources said. The action followed controversy over the display of a robotic dog identified on social media as the Unitree Go2, manufactured by China's Unitree Robotics and priced at about \$2,800. Users claimed the machine was not an in-house development of the university.

IT secretary S. Krishnan said the government would not permit

exhibitors to present items that were not their own creations. "We do not want such exhibits to continue," he said, adding that misrepresentation of exhibits as original innovations would not be tolerated. Sources said the organisers directed the university to vacate the exhibition space after the controversy escalated. By Wednesday, the university's stall reportedly had no display.

The issue gained traction after Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared a video clip of the robotic display on his official social media account. The post was later deleted. In a statement, the university said the robotic



programming exercise was aimed at imparting hands-on AI skills using globally available tools and platforms. "Our faculty and students are deeply distressed by the propaganda campaign against the institution. Our focus remains firmly on student learning and innovation, ensuring access to modern

technologies that provide practical exposure and prepare them for the future. Spreading negativity undermines the morale of students who are striving to innovate, learn and build their skills using global technologies," it said. Professor Neha Singh of the university said there was no claim that the robot had been

manufactured in-house. "Regarding the robot dog, we have never claimed that it was manufactured by us. It was introduced to students as a learning tool to inspire them to design and build more advanced innovations on their own. Our university remains committed to nurturing future leaders by providing access to cutting-edge technologies in artificial intelligence and will continue to do so," she said. On reports that the government had asked the university to vacate the expo area, she said she had no information about it. "What I know is that today we are all present here," she said.

Epstein Files Allegations May Amount to Crimes Against Humanity: UN Experts

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Millions of files linked to Jeffrey Epstein point to what independent specialists appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council describe as a possible "global criminal enterprise" involving acts that may legally qualify as crimes against humanity. In a strongly worded statement, the panel said the material released by the U.S. Justice Department depicts offenses committed within a wider environment marked by supremacist ideology, racism, corruption, and entrenched misogyny. According to the experts, the evidence illustrates a disturbing pattern of exploitation in which women and girls were treated as commodities, stripped of dignity, and subjected to systemic abuse. They emphasized that the scale, organized



nature, and international reach of the alleged crimes are so severe that several incidents "may reasonably meet the legal threshold of crimes against humanity," a classification reserved for the most serious violations under international law. The panel called for a comprehensive, independent, and impartial investigation to determine the full extent of wrongdoing and accountability. It also urged authorities to examine how such conduct could continue for years without meaningful intervention, raising questions about institutional fail-

and risked causing further harm. They added that incomplete transparency and limited investigative scope have intensified frustration among survivors, some of whom say they feel retraumatized and subjected to what they call "institutional gaslighting." Such reactions, the panel noted, highlight the importance of victim-centered approaches, confidentiality safeguards, and credible accountability mechanisms. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment regarding the experts' findings or recommendations. Documents made public so far reveal Epstein's extensive associations with influential figures across politics, finance, academia, and business, both before and after his 2008 guilty plea to prostitution-related charges involving an underage girl.

Congress Targets Centre Over Adani, Renews Demand for JPC Probe

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Wednesday intensified its attack on the Centre over the Adani Group, alleging use of benami funds to build large shareholdings in the conglomerate and reiterating its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, citing a report by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), alleged that close associates of the group, Chang Chung-Ling and Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli, used benami structures to acquire substantial stakes in Adani Group companies. He claimed the two allegedly held nearly \$3 billion worth of Adani shares through hedge



He said an investigation directed by the Supreme Court in March 2023 to be completed within two months remains pending. Recalling remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2014 G20 Summit in Brisbane on eliminating safe havens for economic offenders, Ramesh accused him of shielding the conglomerate and blocking a JPC inquiry into what the party termed the "Adani mega scam". The Congress also alleged misuse of central agencies, biased privatisation, questionable overseas contracts, over-invoicing of coal imports and an alleged solar power bribery case under investigation by US authorities. The Adani Group has repeatedly denied the allegations and earlier rejected the OCCRP re-

Hyderabad Will.....

In Hyderabad, he said, axes on electric vehicles have been removed, resulting in higher adoption. Discussions are under way with EV firms for manufacturing investments. Over 2 lakh auto rickshaws are being retrofitted towards green alternatives, more than 3,500 RTC buses are being replaced with electric buses, and the Hyderabad Metro is being expanded from 71 km to over 200 km, he added. Revanth Reddy said every unit of power that turns green benefits the state, the country and the planet, and underlined the need for manufacturing growth powered by green energy.

Outlining Telangana's long-term development vision, the Chief Minister linked economic growth with environmental sustainability. He said understanding 2047 required beginning with 1947, and noted that between 1950 and 1990 India prioritised education and irrigation, building educational institutions from village schools to premier institutes and constructing major dams for power and irrigation. By 1990, he said, India had achieved food sufficiency, improved life expectancy, and gained global

recognition for its professionals.

Referring to the period from 1991 to 2020, he said the focus shifted to liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, with India emerging as a services-driven economy led by telecom and software. He said that although the period delivered significant success, the manufacturing opportunity was missed, and added that the approach had changed particularly after Covid-19.

Modi Holds 7.....

With Tobgay, Modi discussed cooperation in AI and digital technologies and reaffirmed India's support for Bhutan's development priorities. In meetings with Karis and Orpo, discussions centred on technology partnerships, trade expansion, quantum and 6G collaboration, renewable energy and skilling. Talks with Plenković, Vučić and Bektanov covered defence, infrastructure, connectivity, manufacturing, energy and emerging technologies. On the sidelines of the summit, Modi also met Sundar Pichai, discussing AI collaboration and opportunities for Indian students and professionals. The two-day Leaders' segment of the summit begins on Thursday.

West Begnal Govt Show Cause Notice to Kabir's Wife For Wetland Grab

KOLKATA

Wakeup telangana

Suspended Trinamul Congress MLA of Bharatpur in Murshidabad of West Bengal Humayun Kabir's wife Meera Sultana was served a show cause notice by the district land and land reforms department on Thursday for allegedly grabbing a wetland under the state government. According to sources, Ms Sultana came under the scanner after she illegally filled the water body of two acres by force, converted it into a land and built a house there. Her property is located at Manikyahar Mouja at Beldanga Block II



in Rejinagar. The district land and land reforms department became active after getting a mass petition from the locals. It has sought Ms Sultana's explanation in the show cause notice within seven days, otherwise, her property would be attached. Mr Kabir, who has floated a new outfit, Janata Unnyan Party, and started building a Babri Masjid-styled mosque at Beldanga in

SC Adjourns ED Plea Alleging Obstruction By Mamata Govt

KOLKATA

Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday adjourned the hearing on a petition filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging obstruction by the West Bengal government, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during searches conducted at the office of the political consultancy firm I-PAC and the residence of its director, Pratik Jain. The bench, comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan, deferred the matter to March 18 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the court that a rejoinder would be filed on the issue. The petition by the ED relates to its ongoing investigation into a money laundering case



linked to alleged coal pilferage in the state. The agency has alleged that during searches conducted on January 8, key evidence—including documents and electronic devices—was removed by officials connected to the West Bengal government, during searches conducted at I-PAC's premises and directed the West Bengal police to preserve all CCTV footage recorded during the raids. In response to the ED's petition, the Supreme Court issued notices to the Chief Minister, the West Bengal government, Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar, and other senior police officers. The ED has sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the al-

leged obstruction, arguing that the actions of state officials disrupted its inquiry into the multi-crore coal pilferage scam. The case highlights the ongoing tension between central investigative agencies and state governments, raising important questions about the scope of state authority in interfering with central probes, especially in cases involving large-scale financial irregularities and corruption.

The Supreme Court's next hearing, now scheduled for March 18, is expected to consider the rejoinder and further submissions from all parties involved,

which could determine the future course of the investigation and potential accountability of senior state officials.

FROM FRONT PAGE

EC to Hold Polls.....

With its comfortable majority in the Legislative Assembly, the ruling Congress is expected to bag both the seats. Official sources said that 41 votes are required to win each Rajya Sabha seat. The Congress currently has a strength of 66 MLAs in the Assembly, besides the support of one MLA from its alliance partner CPI. In contrast, the BRS has 37 MLAs, the BJP has 8 and the AIMIM has 7. Except the Congress, no other party has the required 41 votes to secure a seat on its own.

Sources in the Congress indicated that the party high command is likely to nominate Abhishek Manu Singhvi for another term. There are, however, several aspirants for the remaining seat. Senior leaders who could not secure MLA or MP tickets in the 2023 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, as well as those who contested but failed to win, are said to be in the race for a Rajya Sabha berth.

Singhvi, a senior Congress leader and noted Supreme Court advocate, was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana on August 27, 2024, in a by-poll. He secured only a 19-month

tenure as he was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of former BRS MP K. Keshava Rao.

President, CM.....

The excitement unfolded with the President's arrival at the naval jetty, where she was received by Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan. The President, as supreme commander of defence forces, entered the presidential yacht INS Sumedha and led the presidential column. She reviewed 71 ships including 19 from various friendly foreign countries. The review also featured steam past by mobile columns of warships and submarines and fly past by naval aircraft. India's mighty ship INS Vikrant and sail training ship INS Taringini were the main attractions. Several enthralling activities such as the parade of sailing vessels, the search and rescue demonstration by helicopters and a display by marine commandos were part of the fleet review. The President said the international fleet review reflected unity, trust and respect among nations for the maritime traditions. Ships with different flags and sailors from different countries.

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 Upuguda 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.

Ex-defence Staffer Dies by Suicide as Wife Fails to Cook Chicken on Maha Shivaratri

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A 66-year-old retired defence employee died by suicide following a domestic dispute at Prathap Singaram under Medipally police station limits. Police identified the deceased as Dasarajula Prakash. The incident occurred on the night of February 15, coinciding with Maha Shivaratri. According to police, Prakash brought chicken home and asked his wife Padma to cook it. She reportedly advised him against con-

suming non-vegetarian food on the occasion, leading to an argument between the couple. Police said that after the quarrel, Padma stepped out of the house briefly.

On returning, she found Prakash in an unconscious state. He was shifted to Gandhi Hospital with the help of neighbours but died during treatment. A case has been registered based on a complaint lodged by the deceased's son-in-law, Mahesh. Further investigation is under way.

Woman Killed By Ex-Husband In BN Reddy Nagar

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A 30-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her former husband at her residence in Green City Colony, BN Reddy Nagar, on Wednesday. Police said the accused traced her through social media posts and location details before committing the crime. The deceased has been identified as Udukulala Sunitha, a native of Ballarsha in Maharashtra. She married Mahesh, a native of Manthani, in 2022. Mahesh, who was working as a software

professional in Canada, took Sunitha abroad soon after their wedding. However, frequent quarrels led to differences, and Sunitha returned to India within four days of reaching Canada. Later, she filed a criminal case against Mahesh in Manthani. With the case pending, his passport was cancelled, preventing him from returning to Canada. Police sources said the prolonged dispute and separation caused severe stress in Mahesh's family. His mother, unable to bear the strain of her son's troubled marriage and the

ongoing case, suffered a heart attack and passed away before the divorce was finalised.

The couple legally divorced in 2025. By the end of the same year, Sunitha married Srinath, a colleague who had formally approached her parents. The couple moved into an apartment in Green City Colony. While Sunitha worked from home, Srinath attended office regularly. Police said Mahesh bore a grudge over the criminal case, the cancellation of his passport, the loss of his career abroad, and his mother's

death. He began monitoring Sunitha's social media activity, and her Instagram posts about her married life helped him locate her residence.

On Wednesday, Mahesh reached the flat carrying three knives and a can of petrol. Finding the door open, he entered and attacked Sunitha. He first hit her on the head with a flower pot, causing her to scream. Neighbours rushed to help, but Mahesh poured petrol inside and threatened to set the house on fire, preventing them from intervening.

21-Yr-Old Man Dies By Suicide

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A 21-year-old labourer died by suicide at a construction site at Nanakramguda in Gachibowli on Monday night. According to police, deceased has been identified as Dalendra Kumar. A complaint filed by deceased's 40-year-old uncle Tuman Lal, who was staying at the same labour camp at the construction site, stated that Dalendra was staying with him for the past three months and both were working at the same site. Both are natives of Chhat-

tisgarh. Gachibowli police said at around 9 pm on February 16 (Monday), they had dinner together, during which Dalendra was alleged to be in an inebriated condition. Later at about 10 pm, he died by suicide in his room. Tuman said Dalendra was addicted to alcohol and was brought to the city for work and also to get rid of taking liquor. However, he continued consuming alcohol. He was also suffering from stomach ache for the past one month, which may have pushed him to take the extreme step.

Woman Dies Under Suspicious Circumstances in Rajanna Sircilla District

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

ical condition, and it is suspected that she may have attempted suicide. She was immediately shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. Upon receiving information, Vemulawada Town Circle Inspector Veeraprasad visited the scene and initiated an investigation. The incident has sparked protests from the victim's relatives, who suspect foul play and are demanding a thorough probe. Police officials stated that it is yet to be determined whether the death was a case of suicide or homicide, and further investigation is underway.

Telangana HC Examines Legality of Theatre Parking Fees

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

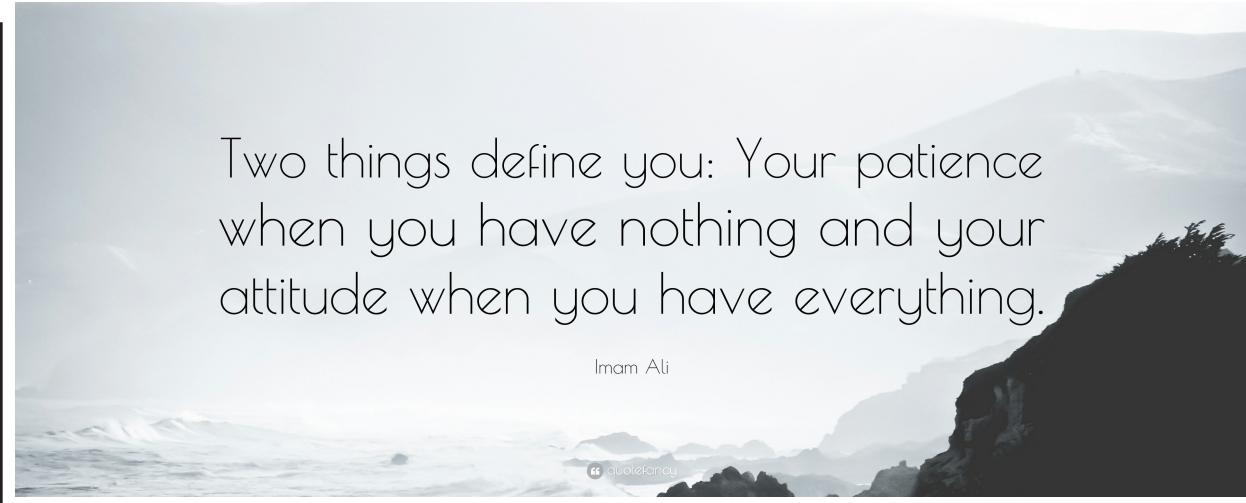
Justice N.V. Shravan Kumar of the Telangana High Court sought the state government's response on the power to collect parking charges at various cinema halls. He was dealing with a writ petition filed by Ramavath Prem Kumar challenging a 2021 government order permitting collection of parking fees at cinema theatres. The petitioner argued that while an exemption in favour of cinema halls was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic as a relief measure, the broader permission to levy parking charges



lacks statutory backing. He relied upon Section 176(6) of the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, which mandates compliance with parking requirements as a precondition for grant of building permission, to contend that commercial establishments are obligated to earmark adequate parking space and cannot impose a separate charge on patrons. It was further contended that cinema theatres, having

already been permitted to enhance ticket prices on account of increased maintenance costs, cannot justify a distinct parking levy under the guise of operational expenditure. Counsel for the petitioner pointed to an earlier judgment of the High Court and argued that customers who produce purchase receipts cannot be compelled to pay parking fees and that selective exemption in favour of certain establish-

ments results in hostile discrimination. During the hearing, Justice Shravan Kumar observed that while provision of parking space is mandatory under statutory regulations, regulation of vehicular movement, deployment of personnel and maintenance of order in high footfall venues necessarily involve expenditure. The Court indicated that any challenge to recovery of such costs must be supported by a clearer legal foundation. The judge, however, granted two weeks' time to enable the state to obtain instructions and place its response on record.



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

Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

ASSAM CM'S HATE TALK NEEDS TO BE REINED IN

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The contents of the petitions moved in the Supreme Court by Left parties CPI and CPI(M) and a few residents of Assam seeking action against the state's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his non-stop spewing of hatred on the Muslim community in the state are a troubling sign of the times which all right-thinking people in the country, and not just the judiciary, must address to find a solution.

The charges against Mr Sarma are not about taking a political position or an ideological stance but instead about what can easily fall into the category of hate speech. It is very tough for an Indian citizen to conceive the chief minister of a state making an open to call to the people to underplay Muslim employees and assuring them that the "Assam police will take care of the rest". His video, purportedly with a gun aiming at two Muslims, shared by the official handle of his party, completes the pic-

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

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

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

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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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AI Summit: Microsoft Says it is on Pace To Invest \$50 Billion in 'Global South' AI Push

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Technology leader Microsoft on Wednesday announced that it is on pace to invest \$50 billion by the end of the decade to help bring AI to countries across the Global South. The announcement was made at the AI summit in New Delhi, where top executives from global AI giants meet several world leaders this week. However, the company warned that AI adoption in the Global North is roughly twice that of the Global South and the gap is widening. "An urgent action is needed to prevent a growing AI divide from deepening global



economic disparities," said the tech giant's vice chair and president Brad Smith and vice president and chief responsible AI officer Natasha Crampston. While announcing the plan at the India AI Impact Summit, they said in a blog that the summit rightly has placed this challenge at the center of its agenda. "For more than a century, unequal access to electricity exacerbated a growing eco-

nomic gap between the Global North and South. Unless we act with urgency, a growing AI divide will perpetuate this disparity in the century ahead," they wrote.

The \$50 billion pledge will be deployed through a five-part programme focused on infrastructure, skilling, multilingual AI development, local innovation and measurement of AI adoption. "The company invested more than \$8 billion in data centre infrastructure serving the Global South in its last fiscal year, including in India, Mexico and countries across Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and the Middle East," Microsoft said.

The company is also pursuing a goal to extend internet access to 250

million people in underserved communities, including 100 million in Africa. It said 117 million people across Africa have already been reached through partnerships, and it is nearing its global target.

The company also said that it is balancing digital sovereignty needs with commitments to cybersecurity, privacy and resilience, while supporting cross-border investment flows.

"We invested more than \$2 billion last fiscal year in cloud, AI and digital skilling programmes across the Global South, including grants, technology donations and discounted products," the company said.

New PAN Quoting Rules For These 5 Transactions Proposed in IT

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Last week, the government released the draft Income Tax Rules 2026 proposing to significantly raise the transaction limits for quoting of PAN for cash deposits/withdrawals in banks, purchase of motor vehicles and property, payment of hotel bills and insurance premium. The following five key PAN-related changes could bring significant relief to common taxpayers and small businesses that handle cash deposits and withdrawals.

Cash deposits at bank or post office—Under the proposed regulation, PAN will be required if total cash deposits or withdrawals from one or more accounts in a financial year exceed Rs 10 lakh. Currently, cash deposits over Rs 50,000 in a single transaction require PAN



disclosure. Sale/purchase of motor vehicle—In the case of motor vehicles (including motorcycles), the PAN requirement will be a must if the price exceeds Rs 5 lakh (excluding tractors). Under the existing Income Tax Rules, 1962, quoting of PAN is mandatory for sale and purchase of all vehicles except two wheelers.

Cash payment to hotel/restaurant—The draft norms have proposed to increase the threshold for quoting PAN if the payment to hotels/restaurant bills exceeds Rs one lakh from the existing limit of Rs 50,000. Life Insurance

premium—The proposed norms shift from payment based threshold to relationship based reporting. PAN will be mandatory for starting an account-based relationship with an insurance company.

Under the old norms, payments aggregating to more than ₹50,000 in a financial year as life insurance premiums require a PAN.

Immovable property transaction—For immovable property including sale, purchase, gift, or joint development agreements, the limit will increase from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh, allowing smaller real estate deals to proceed with less documentation. These draft rules are open for public feedback until February 22, 2026, on the Income Tax portal. After this feedback, the CBTD is expected to notify the norms.

Nvidia To Sell Meta Millions of Chips in Multiyear Deal

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Nvidia has secured a major multiyear agreement to supply millions of artificial intelligence chips to Meta Platforms, underscoring its dominance in the fast-growing AI hardware market and signaling continued confidence from one of its largest customers. The deal, announced Tuesday by Nvidia, covers both existing and next-generation processors, including its current Blackwell AI chips and forthcoming Rubin models. It also includes deployments of the company's Grace and Vera central processing units, which are designed to rival offerings from Intel and Advanced Micro Devices. While financial details were not disclosed, analysts say the scale suggests a substantial long-term commitment tied to expanding data-center infrastructure. The agree-



ment highlights Nvidia's push to expand beyond graphics and AI accelerators into the broader CPU market. Its Grace and Vera processors—built using technology from Arm Holdings—were first introduced in 2023 as companion chips for AI workloads. The latest announcement indicates the company now intends to position them as standalone solutions for high-intensity backend computing, such as database management and large-scale AI agent operations. Industry analysts note the timing is significant because Meta has been developing its own custom AI chips and has also explored potential collaborations with Google for access to Ten-

sor Processing Units. By locking in a new supply agreement, Nvidia appears to have reinforced its role as a primary infrastructure provider even as its customer diversifies suppliers. Technology analyst Patrick Moorhead said the public announcement likely serves a strategic purpose: demonstrating that Nvidia has retained one of its biggest buyers while also proving its CPUs are gaining traction.

Though Nvidia does not break out revenue from individual clients, market observers widely believe Meta is among a small group of customers responsible for more than half of the company's quarterly revenue. Early testing results for Nvidia's Vera processors at Meta have reportedly been promising, suggesting the partnership could deepen as demand for AI computing power accelerates worldwide.

Ramadan in Dubai 2026: The Ultimate Guide to the Best Iftar Experiences

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Ramadan 2026, observed from 19 February to 19 March, transforms Dubai into a city of reflection by day and celebration by night, offering visitors a rare chance to experience its cultural traditions alongside exclusive culinary events. From lavish hotel banquets to atmospheric desert feasts, the emirate's iftar offerings this year highlight its reputation as one of the world's most dynamic Ramadan destinations, especially appealing to Indian travellers who value shared traditions of hospitality, storytelling, and communal dining.

Among the season's standout venues is the Asateer Tent at Atlantis The Palm, widely regarded as a flagship Ramadan experience. Styled



like a grand Arabian majlis and illuminated by ornate lanterns, it serves an expansive buffet featuring Middle Eastern classics such as lamb ouzi, mandi, mezze, lentil soup, and Arabic breads alongside Indian, Asian, and global dishes. Its dessert displays—kunafa, baklava, umm ali, and stuffed dates—are paired with traditional drinks like qamardeen and jellab. For a refined open-air setting, Ramadan Nights

by Armani at Armani Hotel Dubai, located beneath the iconic Burj Khalifa, offers a quieter, elegant alternative. Soft lighting and skyline views frame a menu blending Middle Eastern and international flavours, including slow-cooked meats, seafood, rice dishes, salads, and artisanal desserts designed for a leisurely dining pace.

Travellers seeking cultural immersion can opt for Al Hadheerah at Bab

Al Shams Desert Resort, where iftar unfolds in an open desert setting. Lanterns, palm trees, and Bedouin-inspired décor create an authentic ambience, while live cooking stations serve tagines, grilled meats, flatbreads, and aromatic rice dishes. Evening entertainment—from folk dancers to falconry and horse displays—adds to the traditional atmosphere.

At Madinat Jumeirah, Al Majlis blends scenic wa-

terways with classic hospitality, offering indoor and garden seating ideal for families and groups. Guests can expect regional specialities, grilled selections, soups, and desserts in a relaxed yet picturesque environment. Meanwhile, Palazzo Versace Dubai presents diverse iftar options, from Persian-inspired set menus at Enigma to Giardino's international buffet featuring Arabic, Mediterranean, and Asian cuisines, with desserts and pastries as a signature highlight. Together, these experiences showcase Dubai's distinctive Ramadan spirit—where tradition, cuisine, and community converge—making the holy month one of the most memorable times of year to explore the city.

New Sip in Town: Soma Tea House Opens in Kompally

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A new destination for tea lovers has arrived as Soma Tea House opened Wednesday, offering a wide range of flavored teas and curated biscuits, positioning itself as a fresh social and refreshment hub for residents. The launch was inaugurated by Mainampalli Hanumantha Rao and Jampa Pratap, who praised the founders' entrepreneurial spirit and said such youth-led ventures boost local economic activity and inspire self-reliance.

Several community figures attended, including Dandugula Yadagiri and Nandakishore of VR Hospital, reflecting strong neighborhood support for the initiative launched by founders Akhil Reddy, Preetham, and Nagaraju. Speakers highlighted that



the café's concept blends traditional tea culture with modern flavors, aiming to cater to varied tastes while creating a comfortable hangout spot rather than just a takeaway outlet. With its diverse menu and focus on quality, Soma Tea House seeks to establish itself as a go-to meeting place for friends, families, and professionals, signaling a growing trend of young entrepreneurs entering the hospitality sector and revitalizing local business landscapes.

New Nissan Gravite Comes At Rs 5.65 Lakh

PUNE

Wakeup telangana

Japanese car giant Nissan has introduced its Gravite, the most affordable compact MPV in India in five variants with prices starting at Rs 5.65 lakh at the Mumbai showroom. The all-new 7-seater multi-purpose vehicle is the first product to roll out under Nissan Motor India's renewed product offensive, underlining its commitment in the fiercely competitive car market in India. While the manual variants are claimed to deliver a mileage of 19.3kmpl, the AMT versions offer a slightly higher claimed efficiency of 19.6kmpl.

The five variants of the new MPV are called—Visia, Acenta, N-Connecta, Tekna, and N-connecta. Buyers can choose from five exterior colour options, including Forest



Green, Onyx Black, Metallic Grey, Blade Silver, and Snow White. The Gravite comes with a 3-spoke steering wheel, a 7-inch digital instrument cluster and an 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. It also has automatic climate control with rear AC vents, a wireless charger, rain-sensing wipers, TPMS, a rearview camera and 6 airbags. The MPV comes

MobiKwik turns PAT profitable in Q3 FY26

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

One MobiKwik Systems Ltd. reported a decisive return to profitability in Q3 FY26, posting a ₹47 million profit after tax compared with a ₹553 million loss a year earlier, driven by strong payments growth, improved margins, and strict cost control, according to results filed with National Stock Exchange of India and BSE Ltd. EBITDA turned positive at ₹150 million, reflecting a sharp ₹576 million year-on-year improvement, while contribution profit surged 76% to ₹1,288 million. Total income rose 8% YoY to ₹2,972 million, indicating steady expansion despite a cautious lending environment. Payments remained the primary growth engine. Gross merchandise



value hit a record ₹481 billion—up 63% YoY and the 12th consecutive quarterly high—supported by a 3.2x surge in UPI transactions. The platform's user base climbed to 186.6 million and merchants to 4.79 million, while gross margin in payments reached a record 37%. The company also ranked among the fastest-growing UPI apps and became the seventh-largest operating unit within the Bharat Bill Payment System ecosystem. Its financial services segment rebounded strongly, with ZIP EMi loan GMV jumping 126%

YoY to ₹9,000 million. Gross profit in the division rose 405%, and net margin quadrupled to 4.13% due to better credit quality and collections. Executive Director and CFO Upasana Taku said disciplined execution and cost optimisation enabled profitability ahead of schedule, adding that the company now aims to scale responsibly while delivering long-term shareholder value. Overall, the quarter marks a strategic inflection point as MobiKwik transitions from growth-led expansion to sustainable profitability.

'Tell Me Lies' to end with season 3 finale

Hulu's acclaimed drama 'Tell Me Lies' will officially end with its season 3 finale, set to premiere Monday at 9 pm PT/12 am ET. Creator Meaghan Oppenheimer confirmed that the series will not return for a fourth season, bringing the story of Lucy and Stephen to a definitive close. The announcement comes just hours before the highly anticipated finale airs. In an Instagram post on Monday, Oppenheimer revealed that the decision to end the show was intentional. "After three amazing seasons



of Tell Me Lies, tonight's episode will be the series finale," she wrote, adding that this was always the ending she and her writing team had envisioned. Starring Grace Van Patten and Jackson White, the series has charted the addictive and often toxic relationship between Lucy and

Stephen, and the long-term impact of their dynamic on themselves and those around them. The narrative unfolds across two timelines, one set in 2008 at the fictional Baird College, and another in 2015 during the wedding celebrations of Bree and Evan, where former college friends reunite. Oppenheimer explained that while the creative team explored the possibility of extending the story following the strong response to season 3, they ultimately felt the series had reached its natural conclusion. She described the ending as intentional and expressed pride in being able to tell a complete story—something she acknowledged is a rarity in television. Ahead of the season 3 premiere last month, Oppenheimer had hinted that the culmination of the two timelines would align with her original vision for the series. While she left

room for surprises within the season, she maintained that the overarching ending had long been mapped out, as per The Hollywood Reporter. The ensemble cast includes Spencer House, Sonia Mena, Alicia Crowder, Gabriella Pession, Tom Ellis, Costa D'Angelo, Natalee Linez, Cat Missal and Branden Cook. Throughout the season, cast members praised the finale, with Van Patten previously describing it as an "amazing ending," in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter.

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Indian actor Alia Bhatt is set to present at the upcoming ceremony hosted by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts on February 22, joining an international lineup that includes Kate Winslet, Cillian Murphy, and Ethan Hawke. The event will take place at London's iconic Royal Festival Hall, underscoring her growing presence on the global entertainment stage.

The Academy confirmed the presenter list this week, while Bhatt heightened anticipation by sharing a glimpse of the auditorium on social media.

The visuals revealed names of fellow presenters such as Glenn Close and Monica Bellucci, alongside her playful caption, "Where do you spot me?" The announcement quickly drew attention from fans and industry observers alike, highlighting the significance of her appearance at one of cinema's most prestigious nights.

Her participation marks a milestone mo-



ment, as she becomes only the third Indian actor to present at the ceremony, following Priyanka Chopra in 2021 and Deepika Padukone in 2024.

The development reflects a broader trend of Indian talent gaining visibility and recognition within international film circles.

Industry insiders attribute Bhatt's selection to her steadily expanding global profile. From her Hollywood debut in the Heart of Stone project released on Netflix to her work as a producer and her role as a global ambassador for luxury fashion house Gucci, her international

No Surgery for Salim Khan After Minimal Brain Haemorrhage, Confirms Doctor

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan is currently under medical supervision after suffering a minor brain haemorrhage, doctors confirmed on Wednesday. The 90-year-old was admitted to Lilavati Hospital, where he remains stable and is being closely monitored in the

intensive care unit (ICU).

Pulmonologist Dr Jalil Parkar clarified that the condition did not require surgery. He explained that the haemorrhage was "very minimal" and only required a routine medical procedure rather than an operation. According to the hospital's official statement, the veteran writer was brought to



the emergency department at 8:30 am by his family doctor and later shifted to the ICU for observation. A multidisciplinary medical team attended to him following his admission. The specialists included neurologist Dr Vinay Chavan, cardiologist Dr Ajit Menon, neurosurgeon Dr Nitin Dange, and physician Dr Bineet Ahluwalia, who coordi-

nated his treatment and monitoring.

Several members of the Khan family visited the hospital to be by his side. Among them were superstar Salman Khan, producer Arbaaz Khan, filmmaker Sohail Khan, and veteran actress Helen. Also seen were family members and close relatives who gathered to support him during his treatment.

Longtime friend and former creative partner Javed Akhtar visited the hospital on Wednesday, reflecting the deep bond the duo has shared since their iconic screenwriting collaborations. Politician Rahool N Kanal and television personality Iulia Vantur also stopped by to enquire about his health. Doctors have indicated that Salim Khan's condition

is stable and improving, though he will remain under observation for now. His family has expressed gratitude for the concern and well-wishes pouring in from fans, colleagues, and well-wishers across the country, as the legendary writer continues his recovery under expert care.

India Defeats France 18–15, Clinches HPRC Title



Jupally Krishna Rao, Minister for Tourism and Culture of Telangana, presenting the winners' trophy to Team India at the closing ceremony of the (6 Goals) HPRC International Arena Polo Championship in Hyderabad. J. Anudith Reddy, MLA, Yannam Srinivas Reddy, MLA, Shiva Sena Reddy, Chairman, Sports Authority of Telangana, and Vijender Singh, Vice-President, and Reaz Ahmed, Secretary (Admin), also seen.

India at the closing ceremony. MLA J. Anudith Reddy, MLA Yannam Srinivas Reddy, and Sports Authority of Telangana Chairman Shiva Sena Reddy attended the Celebration, along with Vice-President Vijender Singh and Secretary (Admin) Reaz Ahmed.

In the awards segment, HPRC President Chaitania R Kumar presented the Best Photographer Award to Mohd Waheed Uddin, with Reaz Ahmed and Sheeraz Ahmed present. The championship, held from February 12–18, showcased high-quality arena polo and international sporting camaraderie, drawing strong attendance and enthusiastic support from polo lovers across the region.

Hyderabad Open 2026 Tees Off with Grand Crystal Trophy Unveiling at Boulder Hills

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Open commenced on February 18, 2026, with a grand opening ceremony at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, marking a major moment for amateur golf in India. Conceived by the TGolf Foundation, the tournament has attracted over 300 golfers from across the country.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a custom-made crystal trophy engraved with Hyderabad's iconic land-



marks, including the Charminar and the Buddha Statue of Hyderabad, symbolizing the city's heritage and sporting excellence.

Dr. N.R.N. Reddy, President & CEO of TGolf

Foundation, emphasized the foundation's commitment to nurturing amateur golf talent and creating platforms for players to compete and excel. Backed by leading sponsors such as Zaggle,

Minspace Business Parks (REIT), Client Associates, Earthful, Greenpark, Godrej, Karat, GolfTripz, SkinBae, Novotel, DrewKnot, Voila F9, Firstcut, Continental Hospitals, Golforb, D5 Sports, Playroot Sports, Sports Diary, and Pirates of Marketing, the championship will feature Qualifier Rounds on February 19 & 20, followed by the Final Round on February 21 — reinforcing Hyderabad's position as a growing hub for golf excellence.



Chaitania R Kumar President HPRC Presenting Best Photographer Award To Mohd Waheed Uddin along With Mr. Reaz Ahmed, Secretary (Admin) and Mr. Sheeraz Ahmed also seen in Closing Ceremony of HPRC International Arena Polo Championship 2026

Gadwal Vijayalakshmi Launches GVR Karate Skill Training Program

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Former Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi officially unveiled the brochure for the GVR Karate Academy Skill Development Program at her office, highlighting its potential to empower youth through structured training and employment pathways.

Addressing attendees, she praised the initiative as a timely effort to equip young people with practical skills, confidence, and sustainable career opportunities. She noted that alongside government schemes, private institutions play a vital role in strengthening youth development



by offering career-oriented and hands-on training. The program, organized by GVR Karate Academy, is designed as a two-year course. The first year focuses on karate, self-defense, physi-

cal fitness, discipline, and instructional techniques. The second year provides internships in schools, colleges, and institutions, giving participants real teaching experience along with a stipend.

The launch event was attended by Mahalakshmi Ramanna Goud, corporator of Himayatnagar, and academy director G. S. Gopal Reddy, who expressed confidence that the initiative would create employment avenues for trained candidates. The academy will operate with Hyderabad as its central hub. Interested candidates can contact 9494112424 for enrollment and further details.

After 90 days in jail, iBomma Ravi released on conditional bail

After spending nearly 90 days in jail, Immadi Ravi, the main accused behind the iBomma piracy racket, was released from the Chandraguda Jail on Wednesday evening, February 18. The previous day, he was granted conditional bail by the Telangana High Court, which directed him to submit his passport to the police. He cannot leave the country without the court's permission.

Ravi is also required to appear before the CCS (Central Crime Station) police every day at 11 am and refrain from engaging in social media platforms under any circumstances. Ravi was arrested by the CCS police on November 14 last year after he landed in Hyderabad from France. He is accused of causing losses worth thousands of crores to the Telugu film industry by running a network of 65 mirror websites. He was also found diverting lakhs of users from these piracy portals to illegal online betting platforms such as 1win and 1xbet.

Investigation revealed that he had data of 50 lakh subscribers and about 21,000 movies on his hard disks. His operations earned him approximately Rs 20 crore, which he used to purchase plots and flats and maintained a balance of Rs 3.5 crore in his bank account, which has now been frozen by the police.

Ravi created the iBomma piracy website in 2019, using his background in web hosting and development. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the platform exploded in popularity by offering newly released films in HD for free, drawing nearly 5 million users per month.

MIM MLC Alleges 'Protocol Breach' During Azhar Event

Tension prevailed at an event organised by the Telangana Minority Finance Corporation (TMFC) after AIMIM MLC Mirza Rahmath Baig objected to the presence of Siasat news editor and former MLC Amer Ali Khan on the dais, citing protocol concerns.

The programme, attended by several dignitaries, witnessed brief disruption when Baig said he would not share the stage with a person who does not currently hold a government position. He stated that if Amer Ali Khan was attending in his capacity as a media representative, he should be seated in the designated media enclosure.

The objection led to discussion at the venue over protocol and the presence of representatives from different political parties on the same stage. TMFC chairman Obedulla Kotwal intervened and persuaded the MLC to take his seat. Following the intervention, both Baig and Khan remained on the dais and the event proceeded.

Students flag Priorities In UoH Spending



An RTI reply has detailed how Institution of Eminence (IoE) funds were received and spent at the University of Hyderabad (UoH), drawing criticism from the Students' Federation of India (SFI) over spending priorities. According to the IoE directorate, UoH received allocations between 2019-20 and 2025-26, including ₹22 crore in 2019-20, ₹52.80 crore in 2020-21, ₹57.79 crore in 2021-22, ₹43.29 crore in 2022-23, ₹54.57 crore in 2023-24, and ₹70 crore in 2025-26.

The RTI revealed that over ₹330 crore has gone into IoE buildings, ₹59.07 crore into equipment, ₹11.83 crore into library resources, and ₹102.74 crore into other capital expenditure. Project-wise, ₹116 crore was spent on the Interdisciplinary Research Centre, ₹22.76 crore on a guest house, and ₹50.76 crore on lecture hall complex-IV (80 per cent complete). Two hostels for 400 students each cost ₹35.79 crore apiece, while the administration building cost ₹55.93 crore, with most of the amount already spent.

On academic support, the RTI lists ₹68 crore for research calls, ₹8.56 crore for conferences and workshops, ₹4.4 crore for travel grants, and ₹3.38 crore for publication incentives. SFI alleged that while infrastructure spending is high, direct student support remains limited.

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Ramzan Arrives: Prayers, Charity and Festive Buzz

Ramzan begins after crescent sighting in Hyderabad first time in February after 33 years

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Zaffer abedi

The holy month of Ramzan commenced on Thursday after moon-sighting committees in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh confirmed the crescent was visible Wednesday night, marking the start of fasting across the Telugu states and much of India. In Hyderabad, mosques immediately began special nightly Taraweeh prayers as thousands of worshippers gathered.

This year's observance is notable because it begins in February for the first time in over three decades. The last such occurrence was in 1993. Because the Islamic lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar, Ramzan shifts earlier each year and cycles through seasons roughly every 33 years. As a result, fasting durations this year are among the shortest in decades, ranging in the city from about 12 hours and 40 minutes at the start to roughly 13



An illuminated view of the historic Mecca Masjid during the holy month of Ramzan in Hyderabad. — Photo: Mir Zulfequar ali

hours and 21 minutes later in March.

Authorities and community groups have made extensive arrangements to support devotees. Several charitable organisations are providing free pre-dawn Sahar meals to students, especially girls living in hostels, while some services offer paid doorstep delivery. Select railway stations will also supply Sahar meals to passengers who pre-book.

In addition, a few hotels in the old city are serving complimentary meals to the poor.

Markets witnessed heavy crowds late Wednesday night, particularly around the historic Charminar, where streets were illuminated and decorated. The state government has allowed shops to remain open until 5 a.m. throughout the month to accommodate festive shopping and night-time activity.

Mosque committees are also using the gatherings to raise awareness about the upcoming voter list revision scheduled for March-April, helping citizens verify their names and documents. Officials meanwhile cautioned the public to beware of fraudulent charity links, urging donors to verify organisations before making Zakat or other contributions online.

Shops in Telangana allowed to operate till 5 am for Ramzan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The Telangana Labour Commissioner M Dana Kishore on Tuesday, February 17, issued an order allowing shops and establishments in Telangana to operate beyond their regular hours till 5 a.m. for the month of Ramzan.

As per the order, all

shops and establishments

have been exempt from

provisions of Section 7

(1), 12 (1) and 31 (1) of

the Telangana Shops and

Establishment Act 1988

from February 19 and

March 20. That means

shops can remain open till 5 a.m., or Sehri time, during the holy month. Section 7(1) stipulates that no shop shall open earlier or close later than the hours fixed by the government, while the other two sections deal with employees' holidays and working hours.

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Section 7(1) stipulates that no shop shall open earlier or close later than the hours fixed by the government, while the other two sections deal with employees' holidays and working hours.

Meanwhile, female employees are exempt from the extra hours of work and no female employee is allowed to work after 8:30 p.m.

Centuary Mattresses and Sofas Opens Experience Store

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Strengthening its Telangana expansion, Centuary Mattresses and Sofas has inaugurated a new experience store in Vinayak Nagar, Nizamabad, offering customers advanced sleep and comfort solutions along with inaugural discounts and bundled offers. The launch reflects rising demand for premium mattresses and ergonomic furniture in emerging urban markets across Telangana.

Located at Building No.

1-13-4052 beside Rukmini Chambers on Hyderabad Road, the outlet features mattresses, sofas, and sleep accessories designed for varied comfort and health needs. Launch offers include up to 20% off mattresses with complimentary pillows, bed sheets, and protectors, Buy-1-Get-1 deals on select accessories, and up to 40% off sofas with mattress purchases. Customers can also access financing via Bajaj Fin-serv, free delivery on se-

lect orders, and gift hampers for early buyers.

The store was inaugurated by Uttam Malani in the presence of partners and customers. He said the outlet aims to provide a personalised, educational buying experience that helps shoppers choose the right sleep solutions for long-term well-being.

Telangana BJP seeks equal festival benefits after Ramzan relaxations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Criticising the Congress government in Telangana over its order allowing Muslim employees to leave offices early during Ramzan, the BJP on Wednesday, February 18, said similar courtesies should be extended to the Hindu community.

Selective concessions risk creating a perception of discrimination, Telangana BJP Chief Spokesperson N V Subhash said. He cited instances where Hindu employees observing the 41-day 'Ayyappa Deeksha' vow were discouraged from attending work in traditional black attire.

Restrictions are also frequently imposed on Hindu festivals, particularly during Ganesh Chaturthi and Deepavali, including limitations on firecrackers, he added. "While no one objects to

Minority Welfare Schemes Launched, Assets Distributed in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



the schemes. Among those present were MLCs Patnam Mahender Reddy, Riyaz Ul Hassan Effendi, Mirza Rahmath Baig; Afzal Biyabani Khusro Pasha, chairman of the Telangana Haj Committee; Mohammed Faheem Qureshi from TGMREIS; and B. Shafullah, Secretary of the Minorities Welfare Department. Dis-

19 to 28 via the official portal. At the same event, beneficiaries received mopeds for members of Muslim Fakheer/Dudekula and other vulnerable minority groups, subsidy cheques up to ₹50,000 for women under the Indiramma Minority Mahila Yojana, sewing machines under the Indiramma Minority Mahila Shakti scheme, and work orders initiating skill-development training



for minority youth. Kothwala urged eligible youth and Turka Kasha community members to apply within the registration window and utilize

No Alternative to Congress in Telangana: Mahesh



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted during a media chit-chat that there is no alternative to the Congress Party in Telangana. He said the All India Congress Committee will review party performance in all states tomorrow, noting that assessments for 11 states have already been completed. Discussions are focusing on organizational strengthening and welfare initiatives, he added. He stated that local body election results proved Congress is strong at the grassroots, highlighting that 67% of BC ward