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WEATHER

MAX: 28.8°C
MIN: 19.2°C
RH: 42%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY
MAX/MIN temp: 29/19°C

Brief Insights

Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Puducherry Voter Count Drops 69 Lakh

The electorate in Gujarat, Lakshadweep and Puducherry shrank by nearly 69 lakh after the completion of the special intensive revision of voters' list, data shared by the Election Commission on Friday shows. Gujarat, Lakshadweep and Puducherry recently published their respective final electoral rolls as part of the poll roll cleanup exercise. Before SIR was announced on October 27 last year, the combined electorate

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Milan Sea Phase To Begin in Bay off Vizag on Saturday

The five-day sea phase of MILAN 2026 will commence on Saturday in the Bay of Bengal off Visakhapatnam, marking the operational core of the Indian Navy's flagship multilateral exercise involving friendly foreign navies. The sea phase will feature maritime operations, formation manoeuvres and a range of naval warfare exercises aimed at strengthening interoperability among participating navies. Key activities include surface firings, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, cross-deck helicopter operations and aircraft carrier operations.

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Macron Features 'Dhurandhar' Song in India Visit Video

French President Emmanuel Macron included the title track 'Na De Dil Pardesi Nu' from the Hindi blockbuster 'Dhurandhar' in a tribute video marking the conclusion of his recent state visit to India, drawing widespread attention across social media. The 43-second montage, shared by Macron on X after concluding his visit, offered glimpses of ceremonial welcomes, warm embraces with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, temple visits, cultural engagements and even a street jog in Mumbai. Accompanied by a heartfelt "Thank You India!" note,

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WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

VOL. 2 Issue. 729 | SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 21, 2026 | HYDERABAD | PAGES 8 | Rs 2.00



KTR writes open letter to CM Revanth: P2

Kaleshwaram Barrage Repairs Stuck in Standoff With Contractors: P3

Kavitha Accuses Govt Of Betraying RTC Workers: P3



Trump tariffs struck down by us Supreme Court

US SC Ruling Ends Trump Tariffs, Giving India Significant Export Boost and Reduced Trade Uncertainty



NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The US Supreme Court has struck down President Donald Trump's country-specific "reciprocal tariffs," a ruling that clears the way for 55% of India's exports to the US to avoid the 18% duties. The court deemed the tariffs illegal, citing that Trump exceeded his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The judgment nullifies tariffs previously imposed on major trading partners, including India, and also affects fentanyl-linked import duties. Trump had earlier reduced tariffs on India from 50% to 18%, but the Supreme Court ruling renders this move largely irrelevant. The decision reinforces Congress's central role in shaping trade policy and restricts unilateral presidential power over tariffs. Experts say the ruling could give Indian ex-

porters a competitive boost. According to Global Trade Research Initiative founder Ajay Srivastava, the removal of reciprocal tariffs leaves these exports subject only to standard MFN rates. However, Section 232 tariffs, such as 50% on steel and aluminum and 25% on certain auto components, will continue. Products like smartphones, petroleum products, and medicines remain exempt. Analysts note that the ruling may introduce fresh dynamics into the planned Interim Trade Agreement between India and the US. Markets responded positively, with India's GIFT Nifty rising over 250 points, reflect-

What the US Supreme Court said

The court ruled that President Donald Trump had overstepped his authority by levying tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), a 1977 statute that has been designed to address national emergencies. The decision reinforces Congress's central role in shaping trade policy, significantly limiting the president's discretion to use tariffs as a strategic tool and redefining how future administrations may rely on emergency economic powers. Chief Justice John Roberts said that IEEPA does not grant the president the power to impose tariffs unilaterally and noted that the administration failed to identify any law that authorized such action.

The judgment strikes down the country-specific "reciprocal" tariffs as well as fentanyl-related duties applied to imports from key trading partners.

Although Trump may seek to reinstate tariffs under Section 301 or Section 232, those provisions require fresh investigations and formal justification, which would slow implementation and likely trigger additional legal disputes. Moreover, these statutes cannot be deployed as a blanket enforcement mechanism.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conducted a series of high-level engagements, emphasizing artificial intelligence (AI), technology, and strategic international partnerships. The day included a roundtable with CEOs and founders of 16 AI and deep tech startups, seven bilateral meetings, and separate discussions with leaders of two major firms.

At the startup roundtable, Modi discussed leveraging AI across sectors such as agriculture, environmental protection, and regional language education. Startup leaders showcased innovations and emerging technologies, highlighting India's growing role in the global tech ecosystem.

Modi also met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, focusing on inclusive AI and the UN's role in fostering sustainable technological development. The leaders exchanged perspectives on UN reforms and



strengthening the voice of the Global South. In bilateral engagements, Modi met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, reviewing India-Sri Lanka relations and cooperation in energy, infrastructure, healthcare, skilling, culture, and the blue economy. With Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, he reaffirmed strategic partnership commitments in AI, technology, culture, and regional security under the MAHASAGAR vision. Modi's meeting with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini focused on trade opportunities following the India-EU FTA, alongside collaboration in digital technology, startups, defence, and global partners.

Friday's engagements underscored India's push to harness AI for societal and environmental benefits while strengthening global partnerships, trade, and technological collaboration. Modi's interactions reflected a dual focus on innovation-led growth and strategic diplomacy with regional and global partners.

SC Orders Deployment of Judicial Officers for West Bengal SIR

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Flagging the "unfortunate blame game" and "trust deficit" between the Election Commission and the West Bengal government, the Supreme Court on Friday issued an "extraordinary" direction for the deployment of serving and former district judges to assist the poll panel in the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the poll-bound state. The apex court ordered deployment of judicial officers for adjudication of claims and objections of persons put under the logical discrepancy list, as it allowed the Election

Commission to publish the draft list of voters in West Bengal on February 28. Making it clear that a supplementary list can also be issued later, the top court asked Calcutta high court chief justice to spare judicial officers and find former judges to assist in the SIR process in the state.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi asked the Calcutta high court chief justice to hold a meeting with the stakeholders, including the chief secretary, DGP and officials from the poll

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Youth Congress Protests At AI Summit

Shirts Off, Youth Congress Workers Protest At AI Summit Over India-US Deal

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Delhi Police have initiated legal action against cadre of the Youth Congress who were protesting 'shirtless' at the Bharat Manadapam on Friday.

Additional Commissioner of Police Devesh Mahla said the incident took place at around 12:30 pm and that the protesters had registered for the summit online. He said the protesters were wearing sweaters and jackets over objectionable T-shirts.



Near Hall Number 5, one of them removed his outer clothing and waved the T-shirt in protest. The official added that appropriate legal action is being taken and that those detained are being identified. "The incident occurred around 12:30 PM.

They registered online and entered through QR code scanning. They were wearing sweaters and jackets on top and a T-shirt underneath. Near Hall 5, they removed their sweaters and jackets.

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India-US Interim Trade Deal to Start in April: Goyal

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

An interim trade agreement between India and the US is likely to be signed in March and operationalised in April, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

He also said that India's free trade agreements (FTAs) with the UK and Oman are likely to be implemented in April. With New Zealand, the pact is expected to be implemented in September. A



three-day meeting between Indian and American officials to finalise the legal text for an interim trade agreement will begin in the US on February 23.

Earlier this month, India and the US released a joint statement to announce that a framework for an interim trade agreement has been finalised.

Shah Unveils ₹6.9K-Cr Assam Scheme

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah officially launched the second phase of the Vibrant Village Programme in Assam today. The initiative plans to turn 140 villages along the Bangladesh border into hubs of modern education and employment.

"Today, we are officially beginning the Vibrant Village Programme-II, and through this, we will bring development to bordering villages and facilities like any other place across the country. This has



been possible because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said. Shah inaugurated the programme at Natangpur village in Assam's Barak Valley. Shah spoke about how the Vibrant Village Programme initiative will bring development to bordering villages, mirroring the progress and growth seen in any other part of the country. This has

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

India Backs UN Statement on West Bank

Prime Minister Modi is expected to visit Israel next week, though official dates have not been announced.

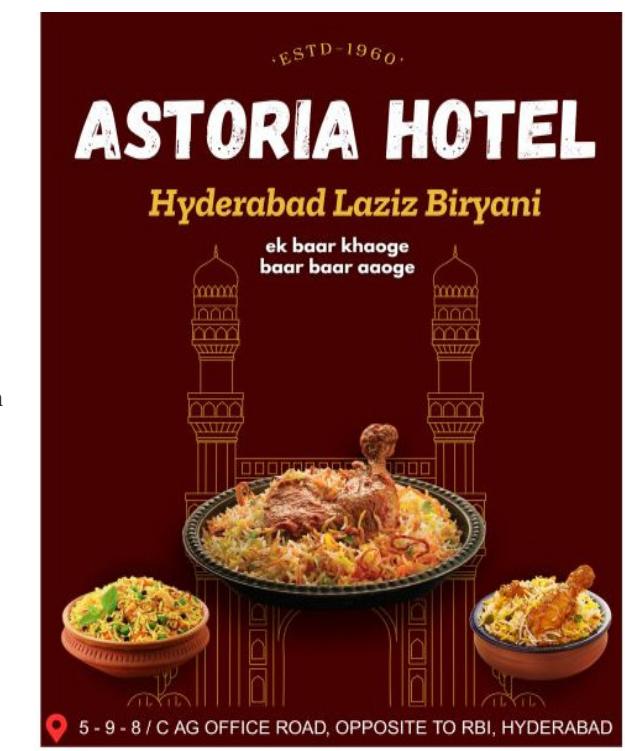
NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India on Friday said it had "associated" itself with a United Nations statement on the Palestine issue, days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Israel. According to media reports, the UN statement criticised Israeli settlement plans in the West Bank and condemned unilateral measures altering the status of Palestinian territories. Reports said India had initially skipped a joint appearance with

several countries at the UN but later associated itself with the statement issued in New York. It is also reported that over 100 UN member states condemned expansion in the West Bank. Prime Minister Modi is expected to visit Israel next week, though official dates have not been announced. New Delhi also confirmed that it attended the US-led Board of Peace meeting in Washington DC as an observer. India had earlier been invited by US President Donald Trump to join the

Board of Peace as a full member but has not done so. The UN statement, as cited in media reports, said, "We strongly condemn unilateral Israeli decisions and measures aimed at expanding Israel's unlawful presence in the West Bank. Such decisions are contrary to Israel's obligations under international law and must be immediately reversed. We underline in this regard our strong opposition to any form of annexation." At his weekly briefing, ministry of external af-

fairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "You may be aware that this was not a negotiated document as is usually the case in the UN. Our position on this issue was most recently expressed in the India-Arab League Ministerial Joint statement, which is as follows: 'Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, according to international law, relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.'



CM Calls For AI War Room With Centre, States Support

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday called for urgent national action to ensure that India does not miss the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution, as it had earlier missed the industrial and manufacturing revolutions, and proposed the creation of a National AI War Room with participation from both the Centre and the states to track and respond to rapid technological developments.

Delivering the keynote address at the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in Delhi, the Chief Minister outlined an ambitious roadmap for positioning India as a global leader in artificial intelligence and said Hyderabad was ready to host the proposed AI War Room if approved by the Centre. Addressing



policymakers, global technology experts, innovators and industry leaders, Revanth Reddy described AI as "mankind's greatest invention," comparing its transformative potential to the discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel and the Industrial Revolution. He said AI marked a fundamental shift in human capability by combining intelligence, autonomy and decision-making power, noting that unlike earlier technologies that

platforms to becoming a producer and owner of core AI technologies. He said India should aim to lead across all layers of the AI ecosystem, including GPU chip manufacturing, green energy-powered data storage, development of core platforms and AI languages, and AI-driven applications and services. Stressing strategic preparedness, he called for immediate steps to manufacture GPU chips domestically and integrate India into the global AI supply chain, including securing access to rare minerals. Revanth Reddy also proposed establishing a world-class AI University with multiple campuses dedicated to original research, creating a National AI Fund to support start-ups and youth-led innovation, and conducting a nationwide

assessment of AI-driven job displacement alongside large-scale reskilling and employment programmes. Telangana, he said, was ready to set up an AI Start-up Village to serve innovators across the country with support from the Centre. Highlighting the need for institutional governance, he advocated the formation of an India AI Council on the lines of the GST Council or Niti Aayog to coordinate national policy, along with a dedicated AI ministry to frame laws preventing misuse, safeguarding national security and ensuring AI contributes to social justice and poverty eradication. The Chief Minister further suggested that India host AI summits every six months in different cities to sustain global engagement and innovation momentum.

Telangana Sees 5.5% Rise in Property Registrations in January

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Telangana has recorded a 5.56 per cent increase in property registrations in January 2026 compared to January 2025, indicating a steady growth in both property transactions and revenue collections in Telangana. In January 2026, 11,941 properties were registered compared to 11,312 in January 2025. Revenue generated through flat registrations rose from Rs 319.57 crore in January 2025 to Rs 348.78 crore in January 2026. The open plots segment registered growth, with revenue increasing sharply from Rs 214.01 crore in January last year to Rs 361.50 crore.

Data shows that the real estate sector in the state is showing signs of revival,

countering the narrative of Opposition parties that the industry has been witnessing a slowdown under the Congress regime. Among districts, Rangareddy recorded the highest rise in registration revenue with a growth of 20.60 per cent compared to the previous financial year's corresponding period.

Open plot registrations also improved, rising from 3,98,862 documents (Rs 2,543 crore revenue) last financial year to 4,06,140 documents, generating Rs 2,965 crore this year, marking a 16.61 per cent increase in revenue. Similarly, house purchase registrations recorded moderate growth. While 4,12,097 documents worth Rs 2,831 crore were registered in the first ten months of 2024-25, the figure increased to 4,14,117 documents generating Rs 2,942 crore during the same period in 2025-26, reflecting.

Farmers Protest Urea Shortage, App Booking Hassle

NALGONDA

Wakeup telangana

Reflecting the hardships being faced by the farming community in securing urea bags in the State, a farmer from Sarvelu village in Yadadri Bhongir district vented his ire at the Congress government for introducing what he called an illogical and senseless measure.

While the Congress government claims there is sufficient urea available in the State, farmers have been struggling to secure even a single bag this season. To make matters worse, the government's move to introduce an app-



based booking system for securing urea bags has left farmers fuming.

"I am illiterate. I cannot use a smartphone to book a urea bag. How can the government introduce such senseless measures and compound farmers' woes," Damodar Reddy, a

farmer, fumed at the Farmer Producer Organisation in the village.

Several farmers from the village gathered at the centre to register their names and book urea bags online. However, due to technical glitches, farmers were not receiving the One Time Password on their mobile phones.

Irrked by the technical snags and the government's failure to supply sufficient urea bags, farmers expressed anger at the officials. "It has been close to two months and still we have not received any urea. Our investments and hard work will go futile. We feel like crying and committing suicide," Damodar Reddy said in a video that is circulating on social media. The farmers also complained that soon after opening the app for bookings, a 'no stock' message was displayed on their mobile screens.

Kyathanpalli stalemate: BRS councillor's wife alleges threats by Minister Vivek using Singareni officials

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Family members of BRS councillor Bhuma Goud in Kyathanpalli have come out alleging that Labour Minister G Vivek was threatening and terrorising him using officials of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Speaking to pressmen, Bomma Vijaya, the wife of 11th ward councillor Bhuma Goud from the municipality, accused Vivek of threatening and



terrorising them by sending Singareni officials to retrieve an open plot located behind their house. She alleged that Vivek was trying to intimidate them to join the Congress using local leaders who called her offering bribes. Vijaya lamented that the SCCL officials tried to

take away material belonging to their tent house dumped in the plot, when her husband was away. She said the officials had also ordered her to vacate the plot and that the officials intentionally reached the spot with directions from Vivek.

On receiving information, former minister Koppula Eshwar consoled Vijaya over the phone and assured all support to the family members of Bhuma Goud. He told her that the BRS would stand with them in the challenging times.

Telangana Governor Celebrates Arunachal, Mizoram Statehood Day



HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, attended the Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram as the chief guest at Lok Bhavan, Hyderabad. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the historic significance of 20th February 1987, the day both States attained statehood, marking the start of their journey toward democratic empowerment and inclusive development. The Governor praised

the rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and vibrant traditions of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, noting their contributions to India's unity in diversity. He emphasized the "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" initiative as a way to foster national integration and celebrate India's cultural plurality, stating that the nation's strength lies in its diversity. He also noted that Hyderabad has long symbolized inclusiveness and hospitality, welcoming people from across the country. Video

Mancherial Mayor inaugurates multi-sports centre

Mancherial Municipal Corporation Mayor Dharni Madhu said playing sports enhances mental growth among children and youth. Along with local councillor Neeli Swapna, he formally inaugurated a multi-sports centre, titled NSS Drive Inn, here on Friday. The centre was founded by Konda Siddharth, a young record holder for the longest motorcycle ride in the country from the town.

Speaking on the occasion, Siddharth said the initiative was aimed at introducing a new and healthy culture in his hometown. It is not just a business project, but an innovative endeavour aimed at providing a healthy and happy environment for youth and children in the Mancherial district headquarters, he said. Sports such as box cricket, football and sand volleyball are available at the centre.

In 2025, Siddharth entered the Asia Book of Records for successfully completing the longest non-repetitive motorcycle expedition spanning nearly 41,000 km and covering all States and one union Territory in 96 days.

Tirumalagiri Hindu Cemetery Boundary Survey Soon

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Members of the Hindu Cemetery Committee, led by former board vice-president Jampana Pratap, met Tirumalagiri Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) Bikshapati on Friday to push for an urgent survey of the cemetery land. The committee highlighted ongoing confusion over the cemetery's boundaries, which has caused administrative and maintenance challenges. The delegation formally requested an official demarcation to prevent encroachments and clarify ownership. MRO Biksha-

pati responded positively, assuring that a joint survey will be conducted with Airport Authority Defense officials to address any overlapping jurisdiction.

He promised that permanent boundaries would be established promptly after the survey. The survey is expected to resolve long-standing land issues, ensuring the cemetery remains protected and properly managed for future

Ashok, Yadaya, and Rama Rao. Committee representatives expressed satisfaction with the MRO's assurance, emphasizing that clear boundaries are crucial for preserving the cemetery's sanctity and proper upkeep.

According to ACB officials, Sub-Registrar Rajender had demanded the bribe from a farmer belonging to Puttakala village to register the latter's land. Unable to pay the bribe, the farmer approached the ACB, which laid a trap and caught Rajender while he was accepting Rs 16,500 through document writer Rasheed. Further investigation is under way.

Manthani Sub-Registrar, document writer caught taking bribe

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Manthani Sub-Registrar Rajender and a private document writer while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 16,500 from a farmer on Friday.

According to ACB officials, Sub-Registrar Rajender had demanded the bribe from a farmer belonging to Puttakala village to register the latter's land. Unable to pay the bribe, the farmer approached the ACB, which laid a trap and caught Rajender while he was accepting Rs 16,500 through document writer Rasheed. Further investigation is under way.

Sri Indu Institute Hosts Global Tech & Innovation Meet

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Sri Indu Institute of Engineering & Technology inaugurated its two-day International Conference on "Next Gen Innovations in Science, Technology, and Management (ICNGISTM'26)" today, 20 February 2026. The event, scheduled for 20-21 February, aims to provide a global platform for researchers to share cutting-edge ideas. The conference was formally inaugurated by Chief Patron Sri R. Venkat Rao, President, in the presence of Patrons Sri R. Anup



Chakravarthy, General Secretary, and Sri J. Srikar, Executive Member. Co-Patron Dr. A. Ramakrishna Rao, Director – Academics & Evaluation, extended his support for the event. Led by Principal & Convenor Dr. K. S. Sadasiva Rao, the organizing team includes Co-Convenors Dr. P. Vedavalli, Dr. B. Ratnakar, and Dr. S. V. Pavan-

and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration. ICNGISTM'26 received over 250 research papers from national and international contributors. On the first day, more than 146 participants presented their research across various technical sessions, highlighting innovative solutions and advanced developments in Science, Technology, and Management. The conference continues tomorrow with additional technical sessions, keynote addresses, and research presentations. Organizers emphasize that ICNGISTM'26 fosters global collaboration.

Telangana HC hears plea over alleged extortion bid to withdraw PIL

Justice J Sreenivas Rao of the Telangana High Court on Friday heard arguments in a criminal petition arising out of allegations that a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was used to demand money for its withdrawal, with both sides making serious accusations against each other. The matter concerns a PIL filed by Gaddila Raghuveera Reddy, a resident of Kondapaka in Siddipet district, relating to the regularisation of plots in NBT Nagar, Banjara Hills. The PIL seeks quashing of GO Ms No. 56 issued by the State Government concerning regularisation of certain plots allegedly linked to K Venkateswara Rao, son of former MP and senior Congress leader Dr K Kesava Rao, and GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi. During the hearing, counsel appearing for K Venkateswara Rao submitted that Raghuveera Reddy had allegedly threatened to withdraw the PIL if an amount.

Congress Stops Devadula Water, Hurts Farmers: Harish

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Thursday accused the Congress government of deliberately stopping water lifting from the Devadula project, causing severe distress to farmers in Warangal district despite ample Godavari river flow. Speaking to the media at the Devannapeta pump house, he said all three motors were shut even as nearly 16,000 cusecs of water flowed near Sammakka Sagar. Farmers in Jangaon, Palakurthi, and Station Ghanpur constituencies were being hit as Gandiramaram lift had also stopped. Rao recalled that on March 18, 2025, officials promised to switch on the pumps but left without ensuring they functioned. Last year,



nearly 60,000 acres of crops dried due to similar inaction. Rao dismissed government claims of repairs and software issues, calling it gross negligence. He highlighted that the BRS government had completed the third phase of Devadula, including the 49.5 km Ramappa-Unikicherla tunnel—one of the world's longest—and built the Devannapeta pump house at a depth of 155 metres, spending ₹7,300 crore. The project

expanded irrigation coverage from 47,000 to over 3.17 lakh acres. He alleged the Congress government failed to add any new aycut in the last 2.5 years and did not operate existing motors. Maintenance funds of ₹8 crore were delayed, leaving pumps idle and causing crop losses of ₹700–800 crore. Even at Bhimganpur pump house, capable of lifting 2,160 cusecs, only 1,700 cusecs were lifted with just five or six motors running.

Rao questioned why the government was not using full capacity and keeping Gandiramaram closed. He slammed the Congress for halting land acquisition and canal works for an additional 2.4 lakh acres, failing promises of March 2026 completion. Rao also criticized the government for neglecting irrigation projects across Telangana, allowing water to Andhra Pradesh while farmers suffered, delaying Rythu Bandhu aid, imposing power cuts, and creating urea shortages. Rao demanded immediate operation of all Devadula motors to irrigate at least 3.5 lakh acres and warned that continued negligence would further jeopardize standing crops. Farmers, he said, should not pay the price for government inaction. The Congress must stop excuses and ensure water supply without delay.

150 Students Rescued After Fire Breaks Out From Power Panel

Around 10.30 am, the fire service staff received calls from locals and passengers travelling by a Metro Rail train stating that a fire had broken out at the building, located behind the Ameerpet Metro Rail station. Reports



According to officials, fire broke out from the panel board located on the ground floor, and fire-fighters brought the situation under control within minutes. They also rescued more than 90 students by using the sky lift from the second floor. The official said that as many as 150 students, including staff of several offices and shops, were stuck inside their offices when the fire broke out. Some students climbed down from the second

Mushroom Cultivation Emerging as a Profitable Cottage Industry

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The third day of the Mushroom Production Training Programme conducted at the Extension Education Institute highlighted the growing potential of mushroom cultivation as a sustainable cottage industry and an additional income source for rural families. The session featured experience-sharing by progressive farmers, including Mr. Chandrashekhar, who explained how he began mushroom cultivation at his own residence with a modest initial operational cost of just Rs. 600–700. Without hiring labour, he successfully managed the unit with the support of his family members, working daily between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Initially, his family was hesitant to take up mushroom cultivation. However, after understanding its profitability and nutritional value, they became actively involved in compost preparation, bed management, spawn monitoring and harvesting. Challenges and Solutions Mr. Chandrashekhar shared that maintaining proper humidity and temperature is critical for successful mushroom production.



Moisture content must be maintained between 65 and 70 per cent. To regulate humidity levels, humidifiers costing around Rs. 26,000 are installed in growing rooms. Separate dark and light rooms are arranged depending on the mushroom variety. One of the major challenges faced was contamination, which once affected more than 100 mushroom beds. Green, pink, yellow and black contaminations were observed, mainly due to fungal infections and improper sterilization. Experts advised strict hygiene, proper compost sterilization, controlled watering and adequate ventilation to prevent such losses. Indoor mushroom cultivation is a systematic long-term process involving compost preparation, spawning, spawn running, incubation, fruiting and harvesting stages. Agricultural waste materials are effectively utilized in compost preparation, making the

Centre Releases Rs 387.53cr to Gram Panchayats in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Centre on Friday released Rs 387.53 crore to gram panchayats in the as the third instalment of grants under the 15th Finance Commission, taking the so far to Rs 1,034.42 crore following the conduct of gram panchayat elections in December last. However, the state government said that nearly Rs 2,000 crore in dues is still pending from the Centre. The release of funds comes after the completion of gram panchayat elections, which enabled the Centre to re-

sume disbursement of pending Finance Commission grants that had been withheld due to the absence of elected local bodies. Officials said the funds would play a crucial role in expediting rural development programmes across villages.

The grants will primarily be utilised for improving basic infrastructure, including sanitation management, drinking water supply, installation of streetlights, and repair and maintenance of internal village roads. According to officials, delays in the release of pending funds have affected the pace of



certain development works in rural areas. Panchayat raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka on Friday urged the Centre to immediately release the remaining dues, stating that timely availability of funds is essential to ensure uninterrupted execution of development

works in villages. The minister directed officials to ensure effective utilisation of the funds already released, prioritise clearance of pending bills, and expedite critical infrastructure projects in gram panchayats. She said that the state government is committed to transparent utilisation of funds and comprehensive village development that delivers direct benefits to people. Earlier, on February 5, after a gap of nearly two years, the Centre had released Rs 259.36 crore as the first instalment of long-pending 15th Finance Commission grants. This was followed by the second instalment of Rs 387 crore on February 12, taking the total release at that stage to Rs 646.36 crore. The grants had been withheld since January 2024 following the expiry of sarpanches' tenure and were resumed after newly elected gram panchayat bodies assumed office on December 22, 2025. Officials said Telangana is eligible to receive nearly Rs 3,000 crore under the 15th Finance Commission for rural local bodies during the 2024–25 and 2025–26 financial years, and further releases are expected

Telangana PDs & PETs Push Sports & Education Reforms

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana PDs & PETs Association, led by State President Dumrala Niraj and General Secretary Mohammad Saber, met Sports Minister Vakati Srihari and IT Minister Duddirala Sridhar Babu to present the 2026 PDs & PETs diary and calendar. They thanked the government for supporting physical education and sports development.

Key demands included promoting eligible PETs to PDs, granting 12-year increments regardless of PAT tests, enabling higher



education during in-service, and raising the sports quota from 2% to 5%. They also sought amateur sports kits for students, regularization of PETs in KGBV, Model Schools, and SSA with

₹30,000 minimum salary, release of SGF dues, increased CM Cup funds, BPED chances for ineligible PETs, and filling PET posts via special DSCs in primary and high schools.

Aedula Pandarinath Condemns Congress Disruption at Global AI Summit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BNZ General Secretary Aedula Pandarinath strongly condemned what he termed an irresponsible and politically motivated disruption during the prestigious Global AI Summit hosted by India. He alleged that certain leaders of the Indian National Congress attempted to unlawfully enter the venue and behaved inappropriately before international delegates, experts, and business leaders. Pandarinath stated that India is emerging as a global trendsetter in Artificial Intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and innovation, earning worldwide recognition.

He said the summit reflects India's growing leadership in AI and its commitment to



global collaboration and ethical technology development. Calling the incident unfortunate, he asserted that such actions attempt to tarnish the nation's image at a time of technological advancement.

Despite the disruption, he noted that the summit proceeded smoothly with strong global participation. Pandarinath expressed confidence that India's rise as a global AI hub will continue uninterrupted and that the people will judge those undermining national prestige.

Minister Laxman Reviews SC/ST Welfare in Medchal

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A high-level review meeting was convened in Medchal-Malkajgiri District to assess welfare initiatives and strengthen the implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble A. Laxman Kumar, Cabinet Minister for Welfare, Government of Telangana; B. Venkaiah, Chairperson of the SC/ST Commission; Avinash Mohanty, Commissioner of Police; Manu Choudary, District Collector; and Bitla Venkateshwarlu, Commission Member (Special State PoA Act). Key Highlights: Review of Welfare Schemes: Hon'ble Minister A. Laxman Kumar reviewed the progress of welfare programs aimed at SC/ST com-



munities and directed officials to ensure timely delivery of benefits. Implementation of PoA Act: Discussions focused on effective enforcement of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to ensure justice and protection for vulnerable communities. Law & Order Measures: Commissioner Avinash Mohanty IPS emphasized strict monitoring of atrocity cases and

speedy investigation to uphold justice. Administrative Coordination: District Collector Manu Choudary assured full cooperation between revenue, police, and welfare departments for smooth implementation of schemes. Appreciation for Commission Efforts: Commission Member Bitla Venkateshwarlu appreciated the district administration and police for proactive measures under the Special State PoA Act. Officials reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the rights of SC/ST communities and ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely redressal of grievances. The meeting concluded with a call for stronger inter-departmental coordination and community outreach programs to create awareness about welfare schemes and legal protections.

Devotional Idol Installation Ceremony at Cherilingampally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Prominent BRS leaders and local residents gathered for a grand idol installation ceremony at Cherilingampally, organized under the invitation of corporator Sujata Nagender Yadav. The event saw the installation of Sri Shirdi Sai Nath, Sri Markandeya Swami, and Sthana Nagadevata idols, blessed by Sri Madhavendra Saraswati Swami. Telangana State BC Unity Forum president, Beri Ramachandra Yadav, along with his team, actively participated in the rituals, performing the pujas and



receiving the blessings of the deities. The ceremony emphasized divine grace and blessings for the well-being of all attendees. The installation of the Sri Baba and Markandeya Swami idols, as well as the Sthana Nagadevata idol, was conducted under the guidance of Sri Madhavendra Saraswati Swami, drawing participation from local communities including Rajiv Gruhakalpa, Papi Reddy Colony, Cherilingampally, Nehru Nagar, Gopi Nagar, and Gulmohar Park. Residents, including women, youth, and senior citizens, joined in prayers and celebrations, marking the event with devotion and enthusiasm. Corporator Na-

gender Yadav and his spouse personally performed the pooja rituals and offered blessings to the Swamis, reflecting the couple's commitment to community service and spiritual welfare. The ceremony also witnessed the presence of Joshi Raghavendra Sharma (archaka), Corporator Mettu Kumar Yadav and his spouse, senior political leaders including Songsas, Berri Ramachandra Yadav, and prominent local figures like reporter Ashok Yadav, Srinivas Mudiraj, RTC Vikram Yadav, and Harikrishna Chari Dakayagoud Veeresham Goud.

200% Tariffs, If You Fight: Trump Reiterates India-Pak Ceasefire Claim

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Former US President Donald Trump claimed that he personally averted a large-scale conflict between India and Pakistan in 2024, asserting that his threat to impose "200 per cent tariffs" on both countries forced them to halt hostilities. Speaking at his Board of Peace event, Trump also revised the number of jets shot down during the conflict to 11, an increase from his earlier claim of eight. Trump described his intervention as direct and personal. He stated that he contacted both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan's leadership, despite India's refusal of any third-party mediation. "I got on the phone with both of them, and I



knew them a little bit. I knew Prime Minister Modi very well... I said, listen, I'm not doing trade deals with you two guys if you don't settle this up," Trump said. He emphasized the power of economic pressure over military engagement.

"If you fight, I'm going to put 200 per cent tariffs on each of your countries. They both wanted to fight. But when it came to money, it's nothing like

money. When it came to losing a lot of money, they said, I guess we don't want to fight... 11 jets were shot down. Very expensive jets," Trump added. Trump's comments referred to the conflict triggered by the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2024, in which 26 people were killed. Following the attack, India launched targeted strikes on Pakistan's terrorist infrastructure under Operation Sinf-

door, significantly escalating tensions between the two countries. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised Trump's intervention, calling him a "man of peace" and a "saviour of the people of South Asia." "Your timely and very effective intervention to achieve a ceasefire between India and Pakistan potentially averted the loss of millions of lives," Shehbaz said, acknowledging what he described as Trump's pivotal role in stopping further escalation.

However, India has consistently rejected Trump's narrative. Officials stated that the ceasefire was achieved bilaterally through the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) and that no external party, including Trump, played any

role in mediating between the two countries. India reiterated its longstanding position that all issues with Pakistan, including those concerning Jammu and Kashmir, are to be resolved directly between the two nations without third-party involvement. The conflicting accounts highlight starkly different perspectives on the 2024 conflict.

While Trump portrays his actions as decisive in preventing a war, India maintains that structured diplomatic and military engagement, not external threats, brought about the ceasefire. The episode underscores the sensitivity of international narratives and the contrasting claims that can emerge following high-stakes geopolitical events.

Heritage Foods Follows Stringent Quality Norms, Empowers Farmers: Nara Bhuvaneswari

AMARAVATI

Wakeup telangana

The mission of Heritage Foods is to deliver fresh, healthy dairy products to every household while empowering every dairy farmer, said Nara Bhuvaneswari, Vice Chairperson and MD of the company. She also asserted that the firm adheres to stringent quality testing procedures to ensure highest standards in its products. Her remarks come at a time when the firm promoted



by the family members of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has come under attack from the opposition YSR Congress, which has allegedly linked it to Indupur Daily, which supplied ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasathanam.

"Every product reaches

your home only after passing 25 quality tests, monitored by more than 500 experts. Across nine states, we work with nearly 300,000 farmers, guided by the principles of transparency, fair pricing, and timely payments," she said in a video posted on X on Thursday night, dismissing the opposition party's campaign regarding the quality of Heritage Food products. According to her, starting as a Rs 4 crore venture and growing

into a Rs 4,000 crore organization, Heritage has never compromised on quality. Heritage follows testing procedures and standards that are more stringent than the legal requirements when it comes to hygiene, safety, and quality. More than 500 experts continuously monitor and oversee these quality standards, she explained. Bhuvaneswari invited people to see for themselves and verify that what the firm says is true.

Amit Shah Unveils Rs 6,900-Crore Programme For Border Villages In Assam

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah officially launched the second phase of the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP-II) at Natanpur village in Assam today, aiming to transform 140 villages along the Bangladesh border into modern hubs of education, employment, and infrastructure. Addressing the gathering, Shah highlighted that the initiative will bring development to border villages, making them comparable to any other part of India. "Today, we are officially beginning the Vibrant Village Programme-II, and through this, we will bring development to bordering villages and facilities like any other place across the country.

This has been possible because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said. Shah emphasized that Natanpur, where the programme was inaugurated, is set to become a model village in India, not due to its border location, but for its excellence in education, employment generation, roads, telecommunications, and



electricity. "This village is going to be number one in everything," he said. The Union Home Minister detailed that the Centre has allocated Rs 6,900 crore under VVP-II to develop 1,954 villages and 334 blocks across 17 states. In Assam alone, the programme will cover 140 villages, 26 blocks, and nine districts, ensuring that these border communities receive facilities on par with other villages in the country. Shah recalled the past neglect of border villages, which were often referred to as "last villages" due to the lack of basic amenities. He stated that under Prime Minister Modi's vision, border villages are now being prioritized to become "first villages" with top-level facilities in roads, sanitation, drinking water, communications,

employment, and education. Highlighting the broader vision, Shah said, "There was a time when border villages lacked many amenities, but now these 140 border villages in Assam along the Bangladesh border will be transformed under the Vibrant Village Programme. They will lead in development, infrastructure, and social welfare." The VVP-II is designed to ensure comprehensive development, combining modern infrastructure, employment opportunities, and quality education to uplift border communities and integrate them fully into India's growth story. The programme marks a major step toward bridging development gaps in remote and strategic areas of the country.

Gujarat.....

In Gujarat, while the electorate before the SIR stood at 5.08 crore, it shrunk to 4.40 crore -- a net change of 68.12 lakh. In percentage terms, a net change of 13.40 per cent. In Lakshadweep, before the poll roll cleanup exercise, the voter base stood at 57,813. But after the publication of the final electoral rolls, it went down to 57,607 -- a net change of 206 electors. In percentage terms, a net change of 0.36 per cent. In poll-bound Puducherry, the total number of electors before SIR commenced was over 10.21 lakh. It shrunk to 9.44 lakh when the final rolls were published -- a net change of 7.57 per cent in percentage terms. While the exercise, which kept the EC in the news, was completed in Bihar, it is ongoing in 12 states and Union territories with nearly 60 crore electors. The remaining 40 crore electors will be covered in these 17 states and five Union territories. In Assam, a 'special revision', instead of SIR, was completed on February 10. Due to a variety of reasons, SIR in the nine states and three Union territories have seen frequent tweaking in schedules. Like Bihar, political parties have approached the Supreme Court challenging SIR in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Milan Sea Phase.....

Scheduled from February 19 to 25, the 13th edition of MILAN focuses on large-scale multilateral maritime operations and provides participating forces with

experience in operating together as a cohesive force. The exercise is being conducted under the theme of camaraderie, cooperation and collaboration, with the objective of enhancing professional bonds and maritime cooperation. The first ten editions of MILAN were hosted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With the increasing scale and complexity of the exercise, it has been hosted in Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command for the past two editions. Earlier editions were primarily engagement-focused, involving junior officers and sailors from a limited number of participating nations.

In 2022, the Indian Navy decided to shift the exercise from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Visakhapatnam. Of the 137 nations invited for MILAN 2026, 71 are participating, with 23 foreign warships and two aircraft taking part. The exercise underscores the Indian Navy's role as a preferred security partner in the region. The opening ceremony of MILAN was held on Thursday, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attending as the chief guest.

Youth Congress.....

"The people detained have been identified as Krishna Hari. He is the National Secretary, age 35, a resident of Bihar. The second one's name is Kundan Yadav. He is also from Bihar. The third one's name is Ajay Kumar and the fourth one's name is Narasimha Yadav. He is the National Coordinator of the Indian Youth Con-

Shaswat Kumar Crowned 'Flash of Karate'

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Indian Karate Grandmaster Shaswat Kumar has been awarded the prestigious honorary title "The Flash of Karate" by legendary Japanese Grand Master Yoshio Tanibata, Black Belt 10th Dan, in a historic ceremony in Japan.

The recognition celebrates Grandmaster Shaswat Kumar's extraordinary speed, technical mastery, and lifelong dedication to Karate. He achieved a rare feat by executing 112 backfist strikes in just 10 seconds, averaging 11 strikes per second, showcasing exceptional precision, power, and control.

Grandmaster Shaswat Kumar, Black Belt 10th Dan and founder of Senkoukai Karate, trained under several acclaimed Japanese masters, including Grand Masters Ma-

saki Watanabe, Ryogo Ito, Yoshimoto Tanaka, and Yoshio Tanibata.

Among them, Grand Master Yoshio Tanibata has played a particularly pivotal role, recognizing Shaswat Kumar as one of his most trusted and accomplished students. While conferring the title, Grand Master Tanibata highlighted that "The Flash of Karate" symbolizes unmatched speed, technical excellence, and unwavering dedication to the martial way. The honor under-

scores Shaswat Kumar's international recognition and leadership in Karate. This achievement not only celebrates an individual milestone but also brings pride to India, strengthening its global presence in martial arts. Through his guidance of the Senkoukai Karate system, Grandmaster Shaswat Kumar continues to inspire martial artists worldwide, promoting the true spirit of Karate and elevating India's standing on the international stage.

Macron Features 'Dhurandhar' Song in India Visit Video

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana



French President Emmanuel Macron included the title track 'Na De Dil Pardesi Nu' from the Hindi blockbuster 'Dhurandhar' in a tribute video marking the conclusion of his recent state visit to India, drawing widespread attention across social media. The 43-second montage, shared by Macron on X after concluding his visit, offered glimpses of ceremonial welcomes, warm embraces with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, temple visits, cul-

tural engagements and even a street jog in Mumbai.

Accompanied by a heartfelt "Thank You India!" note, the video expressed gratitude for the hospitality extended to him during his trip. However, what

truly caught the attention

of the Indian social media users was the song playing in the background -- the energetic and widely popular 'Na De Dil Pardesi Nu', the title track of 'Dhurandhar'. The unexpected inclusion of the track has since sparked excitement online, with fans celebrating what they see as a global nod to one of Hindi cinema's biggest hits. One X user wrote, "That Dhurandhar song in the background is just lit. Another wrote, "Nice song selection..." A third X user commented, "Here India is the real #Dhurandhar in the world..."

FROM FRONT PAGE

while another user wrote, "Goated track. Goated leaders." Macron's visit to India was marked by high-level engagements and strategic discussions. He attended the India AI Impact Summit 2026 and held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi in the capital. Speaking about India-France ties, the French President said the bilateral relationship stands at its "highest point," with both countries keen to deepen cooperation across technology, innovation and strategic sectors.

of the Constitution, soldiers of Rahul Gandhi. We won't back down. We will raise our voice for the youth of the country," Chib added. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on Friday lambasted the Congress party for its protest against the AI Impact Summit, branding it as "characterless, brainless, and emotionless," even as Indian Youth Congress activists staged a dramatic shirtless demonstration at Bharat Mandapam, targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the AI Summit. Poonawalla accused the Congress of undermining national progress and said this was a protest against national achievements."

SC Orders.....

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi asked the Calcutta high court chief justice to hold a meeting with the stakeholders, including the chief secretary, DGP and officials from the poll panel, to remove the stalemate and complete the SIR exercise. The top court said: "The circumstances being extraordinary, the entrustment of work to judicial officers and former judicial officers is also extraordinary." The top court underscored that if there is non-cooperation, then it will ask the poll body to deploy officials from other states. The order came after hearing a clutch of pleas challenging the SIR process in West Bengal, during which the top court issued a slew of fresh directions to ensure completion.

CRIME

Techie Duped of £78.7 Lakh in Stock Market Scam

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad police have registered a case after a 43-year-old IT professional from Nallagandla lost £78.7 lakh in a sophisticated stock market fraud. The victim reported the matter on February 18, stating that fraudsters posing as representatives of a major insurance firm had lured him into a fake investment scheme.

According to the complaint, the victim was first contacted by a woman named Diya Mehra, who invited him to a WhatsApp group promising guidance on stock trading. On joining the group on January 28, he was later added to a second group, where members regularly shared screenshots showcasing



high returns from block trades, upper circuit stocks, IPO allotments, and over-the-counter transactions. Following their advice, the victim downloaded an app via a Google Play Store link and created an account. On the same day, he transferred £10,000 through IMPS to a bank account, later successfully withdrawing £8,109. This early "success" boosted his confidence, prompting him to invest further. Between February 2 and 13, he transferred multiple amounts totaling £78,75,000 to various

bank accounts and UPI IDs linked to the scheme. The victim alleged that on February 9, the app showed an allotment of 18,800 shares in an NSE SME-listed company at £45.17 per share. The app subsequently displayed a listing price of £211.80 per share, reflecting a virtual profit of £3.79 crore. However, when he attempted to withdraw the profit on February 17, he was asked to pay an additional £60 lakh under the pretext of taxes and fees. Realising he had been defrauded, the IT professional immediately

approached the Cyberabad cybercrime police. A case has been registered, and investigation is currently underway to trace the fraudsters and recover the lost funds. Authorities have warned the public to remain vigilant against similar investment scams, especially those promoted via social media and messaging platforms.

The incident highlights the growing sophistication of online investment frauds and the risks posed by unverified trading apps and WhatsApp groups claiming to offer high returns. Cybercrime experts advise investors to verify credentials, avoid transferring funds to unknown accounts, and report suspicious activity immediately.

55-Years-Old Man Killed By Drunk Son

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A 55-year-old man was killed allegedly by his son at Bandameedigudem in Shaligouraram mandal of Nalgonda district after midnight on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Burra Sathaiah, who lived with his wife and son. According to the police, Sathaiah argued with his son Balakrishna, 32, for returning home late in an inebriated condition. During the altercation, Balakrishna allegedly assaulted his father

and forcibly threw him onto the cement concrete road in front of the house. Sathaiah sustained a head injury and died on the spot. On receiving information, Shaligouraram police reached the scene and shifted the body to the Government Hospital at Nakrekal for post-mortem examination. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's wife, Lingamma, police registered a case against Balakrishna and took him into custody. Investigation is underway.

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

The Langar House Police Station has registered a criminal case and apprehended the accused, Arif Khan, for allegedly using a forged registration plate on his vehicle.

According to officials, the legitimate owner of a Honda Activa bearing registration number TS13EX3358 approached the traffic police after receiving illegal traffic challans against his vehicle. During the investigation, authorities found that the accused had replaced his vehicle's original registration number with TS13EX3358 to mislead authorities.

CBI Court Receives Second Hoax Bomb Threat

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A CBI court here received a bomb threat by e-mail on Friday, which was later found to be a hoax, police said. According to court authorities, they received a similar hoax email bomb threat on February 18, and Friday's message was identical, including details of the sender. A thorough check was conducted in the court premises, and the threat was declared a hoax, police said, adding that an investigation is underway to trace the origin of the emails. The email received on February 18 claimed that RDX IEDs

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

were planted in the judge's chamber and court premises and would detonate when individuals carrying remote control devices approached the office. In similar incidents in the past week, anonymous emails threatening to blow up the Karimnagar district court, in Telangana, and in the Rajamahendravaram and Anantapur courts in Andhra Pradesh have triggered panic and heightened security measures. This spate of threats is part of a wider pattern, with similar emails recently reported in courts across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka.

GHMC Reorganisation Challenged

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court admitted a writ petition filed challenging the reorganisation of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparna Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin is hearing a writ petition filed by Daram Guru Reddy, who questioned the legality and constitutional validity of the state's decision to bifur-

cate GHMC into three separate municipal corporations, namely Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. It is the case of the petitioner that the impugned Government Order dated 11th of February 2026 issued by the Government of Telangana seeks to reorganise the existing municipal structure of Hyderabad at a time when a jurisdictional freeze is in force in connection with

Census 2027. The petitioner would contend that the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, through a circular dated 13th August 2025, imposed a freeze on administrative and jurisdictional boundaries with effect from December, 31, 2025 to ensure uniformity and stability of territorial units during census operations. Counsel for the petitioner would contend that once such a freeze comes into operation, no state authority is permitted to alter, divide,

EDITORIAL

SHOULD INDIA JOIN THE GAZA BOARD OF PEACE?

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Of the two developments linked to Gaza, the first was the inaugural meeting of the proposed 'Board of Peace for Gaza,' held on February 19. The second is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Israel on February 25. These events, taken together, make this an appropriate moment to reflect on whether India should associate itself with the newly proposed Gaza peace architecture.

A brief backdrop is essential. The Gaza Strip is a narrow enclave roughly 41 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide. On its eastern flank lies a heavily fortified perimeter separating it from Israel. On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants breached this barrier, killing approximately 1,200 Israelis and taking around 250 hostages. What followed was a prolonged and devastating conflict. After nearly 15 months of war, a ceasefire was declared on January 19, 2025. However, it lasted barely two months, collapsing on March 18, 2025. During that brief window, only three Israeli hostages and 90 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged — a modest outcome relative to the scale of the conflict.

Ceasefire Framework

It was only on October 9, 2025, that the United States brokered a broader ceasefire framework, inviting 60 world leaders to endorse a 'Board of Peace for Gaza'. At a subsequent global economic summit, 26 countries signed the Gaza Peace Accord, pledging \$5 billion in financial assistance and committing troops to an international stabilisation force. India has so far not taken a position.

The Gaza peace plan is structured in two phases. Phase One focuses on stabilisation and security; Phase Two envisages an economic and political settlement. Yet, of the 20 provisions in the plan, only three have been partially implemented: a fragile ceasefire frequently violated, limited exchanges of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the opening of the Rafah crossing solely for medical evacuations. The deeper issues remain unresolved.

The trust deficit between Israel and Hamas continues to impede progress. Israel insists that Hamas must surrender its weapons — a demand Hamas categorically rejects. Hamas, for its part, demands a role in governing Gaza, something Israel refuses to accept. Without movement on these core issues, the peace process risks remaining procedural rather than substantive.

India's Options

India must therefore carefully weigh its options before joining the Board of Peace. Signing the accord may offer the symbolic advantage of a "seat at the high table" in shaping post-conflict Gaza. But symbolism cannot substitute for strategic prudence.

One of the most significant concerns is structural. The Board of Peace is chaired by Donald Trump in his personal capacity, rather than by the incumbent US President ex officio. This raises serious questions about institutional continuity. What happens when a new US administration assumes office in January 2029? Would the Board's decisions bind a future American government? Would India be aligning itself with an initiative whose longevity depends on the political

fortunes of an individual? India can aid humanitarian relief and reconstruction without formally joining a Board whose structure, mandate, and longevity are uncertain.

India has consistently demonstrated strategic autonomy in recent years — whether in navigating the Russia-Ukraine conflict, balancing relations during tensions between Israel and Iran, or managing trade frictions with the United States. Associating with a body that could potentially take politically charged decisions may constrain India's diplomatic flexibility. There is also the broader concern that such extra-UN mechanisms could, over time, dilute or supplant the authority of established multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations. The implications of that shift could extend beyond Gaza to other international disputes, including those directly affecting India.

Another dimension relates to the nature of the initiative itself. President Trump has frequently framed the Palestinian question through an economic lens — prioritising reconstruction funding, investment packages, and development corridors.

While economic revival is vital, the conflict is fundamentally political, rooted in competing national aspirations and questions of sovereignty. If India becomes a member of this Board, it may find itself navigating delicate diplomatic terrain. India's ties with Israel are deep and multifaceted, encompassing defence cooperation, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and high-technology transfers.

India imports significant defence equipment from Israel, including night-vision devices and unmanned aerial vehicles.



Brazil President Visits India With Largest Business Delegation To Boost Trade

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrived in India on a high-profile state visit this week, bringing with him the largest-ever Brazilian business delegation to travel abroad, underscoring trade and economic cooperation as the central pillar of bilateral engagement.

Lula is accompanied by more than 260 Brazilian companies, around 14 cabinet ministers and several top chief executives, as India and Brazil seek to expand commercial ties amid shifting global trade dynamics triggered by tariff actions taken by the United States under President Donald Trump.

The visit coincides with Lula's participation in the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, where he addressed issues related to



technology, digital public infrastructure and the role of artificial intelligence in inclusive growth. The Brazilian leader attended the summit on Wednesday, marking technology cooperation as a new and growing dimension of India-Brazil relations. Lula is scheduled to hold wide-ranging bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 21. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the two leaders will review the "entire gamut of bilateral

relations," with discussions expected to cover trade, investment, energy, defence cooperation, digital technologies and people-to-people links. "The leaders will also exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in multilateral fora, reformed multilateralism, global governance and issues concerning the Global South," the MEA said in a statement. Trade and economic engagement has emerged as the driving force of Lula's

visit, particularly in the context of protectionist measures adopted by Washington in recent years. Brazilian officials see India as a key partner for diversifying markets and strengthening South-South cooperation.

The record-sized delegation reflects Brasilia's push to deepen commercial ties with New Delhi at a time when global supply chains are being reconfigured.

India and Brazil share a long-standing diplomatic relationship, having established formal ties in 1948. The partnership was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2006, rooted in shared democratic values and a common vision of inclusive development. Over the years, both countries have worked closely in plurilateral and multilateral forums such as BRICS, IBSA, the G20, the United Nations,

the World Trade Organization and UNESCO. Lula last visited India in September 2023 for the G20 Leaders' Summit hosted at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Since then, engagement between the two sides has intensified, with frequent high-level interactions reflecting growing strategic convergence.

Prime Minister Modi's state visit to Brasilia in July 2025 marked a major milestone, being the first such visit by an Indian prime minister in over five decades. During that visit, both leaders agreed to establish a trade ministers' level review mechanism and set an ambitious bilateral trade target of USD 20 billion to be achieved by 2030. Bilateral trade has already shown strong momentum. In the calendar year 2025, India-Brazil trade reached \$15.21 billion.

Tharoor breaks ranks, backs India's AI summit as PM Modi charts global push

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

CWC member Shashi Tharoor has broken ranks with his party to defend the ongoing Bharat AI Impact Summit, calling minor lapses "small errors" and praising the event as a global success. Speaking ahead of his address at the venue on Friday, senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said,

"Such incidents can occur at large programmes. There is no need to magnify them. The summit is noteworthy because of the scale of public participation."

The Summit, underway in the national Capital, has faced criticism from Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who questioned organisational shortcomings and flagged controversies such as the display of a Chinese-made robot under the 'Make in India' banner. Tharoor, however,



emphasised India's leadership role in shaping global AI discussions and urged a focus on the summit's larger diplomatic and technological significance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the platform to highlight equitable access to AI for the Global South. He advocated an approach of "opening the skies for AI while retaining regulatory control," stressing that the technology must be shared widely rather than concentrated in the hands of a few corporations or countries. PM Modi called for legal safeguards for women and children, national ownership of data, and mandatory disclosure

for AI-generated content. A plenary session, reflecting India's proposals, brought together leaders from 119 countries, including 20 heads of state and 45 ministers. French President Emmanuel Macron lauded India's efforts to bring 1.4 billion citizens into the digital network. Compared to the last summit in France, which exposed deep divisions over AI regulation, India successfully steered discussions toward consensus and produced a cohesive vision document.

Tharoor's intervention highlights a rare moment of divergence from the party line, with Congress leaders voicing criticism while he emphasises the summit's achievements. His remarks, coupled with the scale of international participation and India's strategic digital vision, position him at the centre of attention as the country showcases its leadership in AI on the global stage.

Tata Brings Punch EV Facelift At Rs 9.69 lakh

PUNE

Wakeup telangana

Tata Motors, India's biggest maker of electric cars, on Friday introduced the updated Punch.EV, the electric subcompact SUV priced at Rs 9.69 lakh at the Mumbai showroom. The top end costs Rs 12.59 lakh. Punch.EV customers also have the option of the Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) model, under which the EV costs Rs 6.49 lakh, while battery usage is charged at Rs 2.6 per km. "With a real-world range of ~355 km, a lifetime HV battery war-



ranty and a highly accessible price point, the new Punch.EV resolves the core concerns that have thus far held customers back from choosing an entry level EV as their pri-

mary car," said Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle. The refreshed SUV comes with a reworked front fascia, which includes new LED DRLs

connected by a black strip, stacked headlamps positioned in triangular pods, and a new front bumper. The rear looks similar to the ICE version, and features reprofiled LED taillights with a sleek, full-width LED light bar. The new Punch.EV comes with a 2-spoke steering wheel, a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster, an air-conditioning system with touch-based controls, and a 10.25-inch central touchscreen with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

IMF Chief: AI Can Boost Global Growth Despite Job Risks

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Kristalina Georgieva on Friday said artificial intelligence (AI) can lift global growth by 0.8 per cent, and India's goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat or a developed nation is achievable. While speaking at a panel discussion at the AI Impact Summit here, Georgieva also said a research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggests that AI has the potential to significantly accelerate



global growth.

"We did some research and here is the answer. Based on what we know, AI can lift up global growth by almost a percentage point. We say 0.8 per cent... It would mean that the world would grow faster than it did before

the COVID pandemic," she said, adding that faster economic growth is 'fantastic' for creating more opportunities and more jobs. India has an aspiration of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047 and achieving \$30 trillion economy. At the same

time, the IMF MD also cautioned that AI poses significant risks for the job market. "This is the magnitude that we see for India, and it would mean that India's Viksit Bharat is achievable," Georgieva said. However, she also flagged some risk factors involving AI globally.

"We calculated this risk is very high. We actually see the impact of AI like a tsunami. Globally, 40 percent of jobs will be affected by AI. In emerging markets, 40 per cent, but in advanced economies, 60 per cent," she said.

Bajaj Decides To Manufacture A New 350-CC Engine

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Regulations and taxation policies have yet again affected the production of Bajaj triumph vehicles. After the Central government's introduction of a new GST policy back in September, the tax percentage on vehicles which are 400CC and above has been increased from 28% to an almost humongous increase of 40%. And whereas at the same time, the tax on 350cc Vehicles had been reduced to a whopping 18%. And Bajaj



Triumph in order to stabilize the market rates of its 400cc line-up, had cut down the price to almost 20,000 rupees in order to boost sales. But that plan didn't seem to stay so long, as the company (Bajaj Auto) had announced that they are in the process of developing a new 350cc Engine,

folio in order to take advantage of the lower GST prices, and stated that these products will be launched soon in the market.

Although, Bajaj didn't specify about their triumph line-up, it can be estimated that, triumph would be the only company under Bajaj's wing that would be affected at a maximum rate because almost all of their motorcycles are above the 350cc segment. However, when compared with the other one's such as the KTM which is also under

the wing of Bajaj Auto, Triumph will be the one that might take a harder hit. These new range of motorcycles which are equipped with a 350cc engine are said to be released by March this year. And the interesting aspect is that, it is not going to be a new engine all together. Rather, it is said to possess the same 400cc engine that the current motorcycles are equipped with, but this so called upcoming 350cc unit will be manufactured by reducing the bore while still retaining the stroke.

India joins US-led strategic alliance Pax Silica

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

India on Friday joined the US-led strategic alliance Pax Silica aimed at building a resilient supply chain for critical minerals and artificial intelligence. The pact joining the coalition was signed at a ceremony at the AI Impact summit. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor were among those present.

The decision to join the coalition came amid efforts by both sides to finalise the proposed trade deal and move forward on several other initiatives to solidify bilateral ties after a period of severe strain. "From the trade deal to Pax Silica to defence cooperation, the potential for our two nations to work together is truly limitless," Gor said in his remarks.

The US envoy said India's entry into Pax Silica is not just a symbolic move but a strategic move that will further bolster the overall trajectory of the bilateral ties.

"India is a nation with

deep talent, deep enough to rival challengers. India's engineering depth offers critical capabilities for this vital coalition. In addition to talent, India has made important strides towards critical mineral processing capacity, and that is something that we are also fully engaged in," he added.

Gor suggested that the US can share trusted AI technologies with India under the Pax Silica framework.

US Under Secretary Helberg hailed India's decision to join the coalition and characterised Pax Silica as an initiative against coercion and blackmail in supply chains, seen as an apparent reference to China.

"We watch as our friends and allies face daily threats of economic coercion and blackmail. They are forced to choose between their sovereignty and their prosperity. We find ourselves grappling with a global supply chain that is massively over-concentrated," he said.

"So today, as we sign the Pax Silica declaration, we say no to weaponised dependency, and together, we say that economic security is national security, but we must be precise

about what that word means," he said. The initiative was launched in December to build a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven supply chain for critical minerals and artificial intelligence. The Pax Silica Summit was held in Washington on December 12 where partner nations signed the Pax Silica declaration. The declaration lays out a shared vision of deep economic and technology cooperation across supply chains — from raw materials through semiconductors and AI infrastructure — and commitment to mutual prosperity and security.

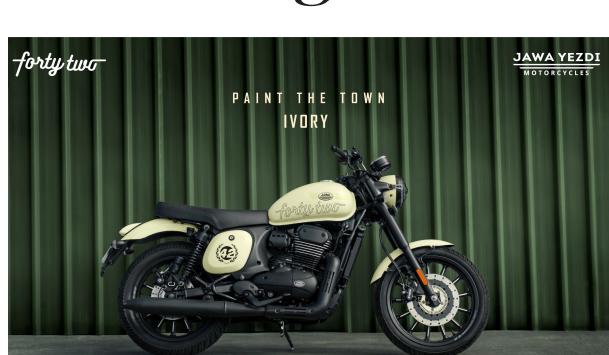
The member nations of the Pax Silica include Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. US Ambassador Gor last month announced an invitation to New Delhi to join the strategic alliance. One key pillar of Pax Silica is to establish a durable economic order to drive AI-powered prosperity across partner nations. "We recognise that a reliable supply chain is indispensable to our mutual economic security," according to the Pax Silica declaration.

Jawa 42 Debuts Elegant Neo-Classic Ivory Shade

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has launched the Jawa 42 Ivory, a fresh pastel shade that blends retro style with modern engineering. The new color reflects the global trend toward calmer, understated tones, offering riders a visual pause from everyday noise. The 2026 Jawa 42 Ivory keeps the signature '42' decals, chequered-flag graphics, and classic badging, creating a neo-classic look that is both vintage and contemporary.



Powered by a 294cc liquid-cooled J-Panther engine, the bike produces 27.32 PS of power and 26.84 Nm of torque, paired with a smooth 6-speed gearbox, A&S clutch, and India-tuned suspension. The motor-

cycle also delivers refined NVH levels, best-in-class braking, and a riding experience tailored for diverse road conditions, making it ideal for both city streets and highways. The pastel Ivory finish carries the number 42 in bold contrast across the side panels and headlight nacelle, symbolizing curiosity, individuality, and the spirit of discovery inspired by Douglas Adams' Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Its retro-racing graphics, including chequered-flag motifs, nod to the classic track bikes of the 1960s and '70s, while the offset instrument console and neo-classic silhouette establish a modern edge.

Priced at Rs 1,84,950 (ex-showroom New Delhi), the Jawa 42 Ivory

comes with Jawa Yezdi's Ownership Assurance Programme, offering a 4-year/50,000 km warranty, extended coverage up to 6 years, roadside assistance up to 8 years, AMC for 5 years, and service at 450+ touchpoints nationwide. With its combination of bold style, proven performance, and reliable ownership, the Jawa 42 Ivory continues to define neo-classic motorcycles for riders who seek individuality and understated cool.

Yash unveils bold new avatar in Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups

A The makers of director Geetu Mohandas's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups' on Friday released a gritty and intense teaser of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The 'Toxic' teaser reveals a massive, cinematic world that is both vibrant and brutal. Moving from a circus setting to an East Asian-inspired backdrop, the story spans different time periods with a dark, edgy atmosphere. Yet, beneath the brutal exterior and high-octane visuals, the teaser offers a glimpse into something deeper: a meticulous focus on storytelling and pow-



erhouse performance that serves as the beating heart of this gritty universe. At the centre of this cinematic storm stands Rocking Star Yash, undergoing a transformation that is nothing short of a total reinvention. His physical evolution serves as one of the film's most powerful statements, showcasing

ing a range of appearances—from a lean, agile silhouette to a massive, battle-hardened physique—all forged through relentless discipline. However, this evolution goes far deeper than mere aesthetics. Yash infuses each distinct look with precise body language and sharp mannerisms, signaling an intense, layered performance that marks a total departure from his previous roles. These transformations are unlike anything witnessed in the film's journey so far, signaling a bold new chapter for the superstar.

It may be recalled that the makers have already disclosed the looks and character

names of the actresses who are a part of the film. Nayanthara plays Ganga, Kiara Advani plays Nadia, Huma Qureshi plays Elizabeth, Rumiini Vasanth plays Mellisa, and Tara Sutaria stars as Rebecca in the film.

For the unaware, 'Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups' is slated to hit cinemas worldwide on March 19 this year.

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has been simultaneously shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and several other languages.

Ranveer Singh Threat: Lawrence Bishnoi Gang Demands ₹10 Cr

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

In a fresh development in the case, Bollywood star Ranveer Singh reportedly received a threat from the Bishnoi gang, which demanded Rs 10 crore through a voice note sent to his manager from an American number.

A senior Mumbai Police official said the crime branch is contacting the concerned agency in the United States through official protocol to obtain details about the number. During its probe, the Mumbai crime branch found that one of the



Bishnoi gang's close aides, Harry Boxer, reportedly sent the voice note threatening Ranveer Singh and demanding Rs 10 crore as extortion. In the preliminary investigation, the crime branch confirmed that the voice note received on Ranveer Singh's manager's WhatsApp bore Harry Boxer's voice. Officials are currently gathering further evidence in the case.

According to the crime branch, the voice note was sent after the firing incident at filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence. The threat was sent to Ranveer's manager's mobile

number following the firing at Rohit Shetty's house. After the threat surfaced, security around Ranveer Singh was tightened. The crime branch has recorded the statement of his manager and is continuing the investigation. Police have not yet registered an FIR in the matter, but have initiated a preliminary inquiry. On

the professional front, Ranveer will soon be seen in the sequel to the blockbuster Dhurandhar. Titled 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', the film is slated to release on March 19. Dhurandhar also stars R Madhavan, Akshay Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, and Arjun Rampal. Serving as the first installment of a two-part film series, it centres on a high-stakes covert counter-terrorism operation. The film follows an undercover Indian intelligence agent who infiltrates Karachi's criminal syndicates and political power structures in Paki-

stan in an effort to dismantle a terror network targeting India.

The film's storyline draws loose inspiration from multiple real-life geopolitical events and conflicts in South Asia, including the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and developments linked to Pakistan's Operation Lyari.

"Dhurandhar 2" resumes with Hamza Ali Mazhari, an Indian undercover agent who has successfully infiltrated Pakistan's underworld.

Hariharan on singers performing at weddings: I need decorum when I sing

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Acclaimed singer Hariharan has opened up about the ongoing debate regarding whether singers should perform at weddings or not. He revealed that he needs decorum when he sings.

He said that singing is done to get happiness, and as long as that goal is achieved while maintaining a proper ambiance, he is happy.

He said, "See, I'll tell you one thing, I do all kinds of concerts. I am very open. But I need decorum when I sing, and I make sure I have it, and I am peaceful with it." "Why do you sing?" To bring happiness, and if you can get happiness, that happiness in any situation with proper ambiance is fine,"



he went on to add. Before Hariharan, several singers have shared their views on people inviting singers to perform at their weddings. Refreshing your memory, earlier, singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya got into a heated argument with Neha Kakkar about singers performing at weddings. Abhijeet said that performing at weddings reduces the status of a singer. "Koi bhi paisa diya or shaadi mein gaane lage, usme aukaat kam ho

jaati hai. Meri aukaat hai, main bol deta hu, main nahi gaunga. Duniya ki koi taakat tumhe khareed nahi sakti. (Performing at a wedding reduces the value. I have the authority, I can say no, I will not sing. No power in the world can buy you.)" However, Neha was of the opinion that no work is big or small. "Aap apni mehnat ka kamao or mehnat ka toh kaise bhi kamaya jaa saka hai. Shaadi mein gaana buri baat nahi hai. Jo fans hote hain, woh aapko pasand karte hain, issliye aapko bulate hain. Kaam koi chhota ya bada nahi hota hai. (Earn from your hard work. Singing at weddings is not a bad thing. Fans like you, that's why they invite you. No work is big or small.)

Global pop sensation Shakira to perform in India after 19 years

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Global pop icon Shakira is all set to perform in India after 19 years. The Colombian superstar will perform in Mumbai on April 10 and in Delhi on April 15, marking the first time the concert will be hosted across two cities. The shows tickets are exclusively managed by District by Zomat.

For the uninitiated, Shakira last performed in India in 2007 during her



Oral Fixation Tour in Mumbai. Her visit this year will mark nearly two decades since she last took the stage in India. Commenting on her return, an excited Shakira said, "Performing in India

has always been special to me, and I'm excited to connect with my fans across Mumbai and Delhi. The Feeding India Concert is about more than music; it's about standing together to ensure every child has access to the nutrition they need to thrive."

With a career spanning over three decades, the pop singer remains one of the best-selling music artists of all time. Shakira began her music journey in the early 1990s.

Bowling Coach Stresses on Smart Cricket

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Initial eliminations done, the T20 carnival moves into the stiffer, Super Eight, stage in which top eight from 20 teams will slug it out for the four semifinal spots. India are clubbed with South Africa, West Indies and Zimbabwe in Group-1, which comprises the cream — every team here has topped their respective group in the opening stage of the tournament. They are yet to lose a match, which makes this winners-all bunch interesting going into the next level. Defending champions India will play last edition's runners-up South Africa here on Sunday, looking for a head start.

On Friday, bowling coach Morne Morkel was confident of his side doing well against his national team. "We have to be smart from Day One. There's a lot going into that and we are prepared," he told reporters before a team training session. Talking about the rivals, the South African added:



"We know their top order gives them momentum. It's always their plan, but we have to bowl in the right areas. It's important to stay awake and to keep on looking for ways to strike." He saw an exciting game coming up. "I think it's going to be world-class players up against each other. We need to stay calm under pressure," he added. In the rival camp is Morne's brother Albie, who is South Africa's

player. It's just a matter of getting that start, and he will get going. So far in the tournament, luckily, some guys have been standing up to Abhishek." One of them has been Shivan Dube, who is delivering not only with the bat but with the ball as well.

"In the last two years, he's become a completely different bowler. He's got a lot of skill with the ball. For him, it was just a matter of getting that confidence and then polishing up. He has a very good understanding of the conditions and reads them very well," Morkel lauded.

Morkel attributed India's dip in totals during the Powerplay periods to playing on different surfaces in the series in the tune-up to the World Cup. Losing early wickets too have contributed to the slump. Asked about India's glitches in the outfield, he replied: "Catches have been dropped, I know but no catch is an easy one. The boys are putting the hard yards in." With the showpiece shifting towards the business,

Australia Dismantle Oman By 9 Wickets To Bow Out On A High

SRI LANKA
Wakeup telangana

Wounded Australia concluded what has been a wretched campaign with a nine-wicket thrashing of Oman in their inconsequential final group league fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Friday. Entering the game with only pride at stake after their shocking group-stage exit following losses to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, seasoned leg-spinner Adam Zampa led the way with four wickets as Australia's bowlers fired in unison to bundle out Oman for 104 in 16.2 overs.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh then blazed away to an unbeaten 64 off 33 balls and Travis Head smashed 32 off 19 deliveries, as the team from Down Under completed the chase in only 9.4 overs. This is the joint fastest chase in the tournament's history for a total in excess of 100. Marsh struck four sixes and seven fours in all, while Head found the fence six times during their rollicking 93-run partnership.



The dominant performance, however, would certainly not mask what has been a disappointing campaign, which has already led to calls for a full-scale review. Once the bowlers did their job admirably, Marsh and Head seemed to be in a hurry, dealing in fours and sixes that left the Oman bowlers scurrying for cover. Earlier, Zampa ended with excellent figures of 4/21, while Xavier Bartlett and Glenn Maxwell took two wickets apiece, as Oman collapsed without a fight in 16.2 overs.

In what would prove to be an eventful first over, Glenn Maxwell dropped a sitter at second slip after Bartlett induced an edge from Karan with a late outswinger. Oman skipper Jatinder Singh skinned down the track to drive Marcus Stoinis through covers for a four and, in the next over, he made room for himself to cut Bartlett for a boundary. Karan Sonavale welcomed Nathan Ellis into

the attack with a boundary off a slower ball, managing to clear the mid-on fielder by some distance. However, Ellis struck in the very next ball, the batter chopping a quick delivery on to the stumps after attempting to play the cut shot. Jatinder got a boundary off Bartlett with a fine shot through cover-point, but the bowler had the last laugh with an excellent delivery that crashed into the stumps and there was no footwork from the captain, the wicket leaving Oman in a spot of bother at 39 for three in five overs. Hamid Mirza showed his class as he smoked a Cameron Green ball over point for a six to help Oman to 47 for three at the end of powerplay. Australia captain Mitchell Marsh continued with Bartlett, and Mirza and Wasim Ali got a four each, following which experienced leg-spinner Adam Zampa was introduced and he succeeded in his first over. Even as Mirza looked to go the back foot, Zampa bowled one that skidded off the pitch to hit the stumps.

Residents Protest Land Acquisition for Musi Project

Rajendranagar RDO Venkat Reddy and officials from the Musi River Development Corporation met residents of Kismatpur on Tuesday after land acquisition notifications were issued for Phase I of the Musi Riverfront Development Project.

The meeting, held as part of a gram sabha, saw farmers and flat owners raising objections over the proposed takeover of their properties. Notifications were issued earlier this month for acquiring land in Kismatpur village of Gandipet mandal and Durgam Khalikhan village. Officials asked residents to submit their objections in writing, assuring that all concerns would be forwarded to the government in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act. Compensation, they added, would be provided as per legal guidelines.

Residents, however, expressed strong opposition. Many arrived with placards questioning the inclusion of their lands in the project. Some argued that the Musi river lies as far as 500 metres from certain properties, while others are nearly two kilometres away. "There must be a limit to how much land is required. Our land is two kilometres away. This feels like a land grab," a resident said. Several residents also voiced dissatisfaction over compensation. One pointed out that the notification sought voluntary surrender even though their plots were legal and outside the floodplain or full-tank level (FTL). "If it is for Musi development, do it within the buffer zone. This is only a beautification project. There is no need to take private lands," he added. Officials confirmed that many residents had demanded higher compensation and reassured them that all objections and concerns would be formally submitted to the government for review. The authorities emphasized that legal procedures would be followed throughout the land acquisition process.

Kausar Mohiuddin Distributes Shaadi Mubarak, Kalyana Lakshmi Cheques



AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin handed out 19 Shaadi Mubarak and 1 Kalyana Lakshmi scheme cheques today at the AIMIM office in Hakeempet for beneficiaries of Shaikpet Mandal, totaling ₹20,02,320. The distribution programme saw participation from Shaikpet Mandal staff, AIMIM primary unit presidents, and active party workers.

Minor Accused of Rape of Girl Still Absconding

Police on Friday were yet to trace the third minor who allegedly sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl at Narsingi; two persons including another minor were arrested in the case on Thursday. According to Narsingi police, the police were examining whether the minor could be tried as an adult as per the Juvenile Justice Act. On Thursday, the Narsingi police had arrested a 24-year-old youth and a minor from Talabkatta for allegedly threatening a minor survivor at knifepoint and allegedly forcing her to consume alcohol, before sexually assaulting her. Another minor involved in the crime is yet to be nabbed. Narsingi police had remanded the two accused to judicial custody. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

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SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD

PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI

MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD

Buildings to Get QR Vault for Permits in Hyderabad

Apart from adding to its revenue, the QR code will enhance municipal services

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

All buildings in the city will have a QR code, which will store the details of all civic permissions issued to them. This system is a part of the state government's centralised, GIS-driven monitoring and data management platform to strengthen urban governance. "First, we will start this task in GHMC and later extend it to Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations," said a municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) official.

As part of this project, QR codes will be issued for 30 lakh properties across all buildings in the post-merger GHMC. The



QR code will function as a vault containing the details of the building permit, property tax, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board's Consumer Account Number, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) number, among others. "We will integrate a module where property tax can be paid by scanning it," said a GHMC official, adding that people can also pay property tax and report grievances by scanning it.

According to GHMC officials, the post-merger GHMC has 23 lakh houses in 650 square km.

After the merger of 27 urban local bodies with it, the number of buildings across 2,053 square km in the post-merger civic body has risen to 30 lakh. Apart from adding to its revenue, the QR code will enhance municipal services. "Bill collectors visiting the house and physically measuring the plinth area and uploading it will not be done once the QR code is in place for buildings. The property owner should upload the details. If the user was found to have uploaded fraudulent details or underassessed the property tax, he will have to pay a penalty, which will be a multiple of the tax owed, and failure to pay it could result in seizure of the property," said a GHMC official.

Kishan Reddy Calls Cong a National Shame Over Topless Protests

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy branded Congress a "national shame" for staging a disruptive protest at the AI Impact Summit in Delhi, where global leaders and technology experts from over 20 countries gathered to praise India's innovation drive. In a social media post, Reddy criticised Congress activists for going topless and interrupting proceedings as India positioned itself as a global technology leader.

"Instead of rising to the occasion, Congress chose confrontation over composure. Under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, party workers' actions reflected poorly on an international audience," he said. The landmark summit showcased India's technological prowess, expanded national AI capabilities, and united top global figures on one platform. Reddy said while dissent is vital to democracy, such antics damage India's image abroad and undermine national interests. "Congress continues de-

meaning us on the world stage," he added. Separately, in a statement, Telangana BJP chief spokesperson N.V. Subash accused the Congress of desperation. "At a time when world leaders and CEOs praise our AI innovation — from policy frameworks to start-up ecosystems — Congress chose national embarrassment over celebration," he said, citing French President Emmanuel Macron's recognition of India's AI prowess.

Reactor Blast at Pharma Unit



Tragic aftermath of the reactor explosion at V.J. Sai Chemical Company in Donthigudem, Yadadri-Bhongir, where chemist Dhara Praveen lost his life.

RTAs Refuse Renewal for Vehicles Without QR-Verified Reflective Tapes

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Regional transport authorities (RTAs) on Friday declined renewal of fitness certificates for vehicles that failed to paste reflective tapes. The transport department had issued instructions making it mandatory for specified categories of vehicles to have reflective tapes and rear-marking plates, with effect from February 12. Officials said vehicles with-

out proper reflective taping were turned back and the renewal process was resumed only after compliance. According to transport department officials, studies have indicated that reflective tapes improve distant visibility of vehicles from the rear and help reduce accidents. The government has been implementing road safety measures to curb accidents across the state, they added.

Tri-Corporations Launch Daily Garbage Drive

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The newly formed Tri-Corporations of Hyderabad—Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation—have kicked off a 100% daily door-to-door garbage collection drive to make the city garbage-free. At a joint meeting on February 20, commissioners RV Karnan (GHMC), G Srujana (Cyberabad), and T Vinay Krishna Reddy (Mal-



kajgiri) met Swachh Auto drivers and sanitation staff. They emphasized that sanitation is a top priority under the 100-day action plan. Each Swachh Auto will now have an assigned sanitation worker to assist with house-to-house garbage collection,

Hyderabad set to lead India in medical value tourism

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In line with the Union Budget 2026 vision of making India a global hub of medical value tourism (MVT), Telangana's Tourism department on Friday, February 20, held a round table conference discussing Hyderabad's potential as a top MVT destination.

At the meeting, the department also proposed to form a Telangana State Medical Tourism Society (TGMTS), which will act as a central coordinating body for medical value tourism in the state. Hyderabad's strong clinical outcomes, advanced healthcare infrastructure, cost advantages, and a seamless healthcare-hospitality-aviation ecosystem will help it emerge as a hub that attracts people from all over the world to come seek affordable and specialised healthcare, participants at the meeting stated.

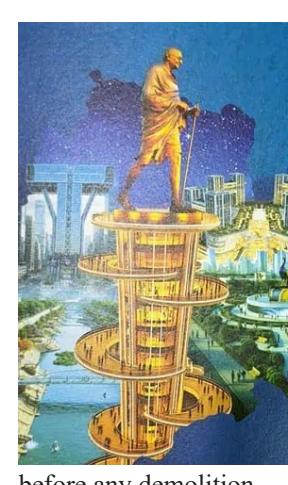


They said that international patient inflows to the city have more than doubled over the past decade, supported by 50+ National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) and Joint Commission International (JCI) accredited hospitals, approximately 12,000 hospital beds, and strong tertiary-care capabilities. Competitive accommodation options, a well-developed tourism ecosystem, and global connectivity through Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, which handles over 31 million passengers annually, also help push Hyderabad to three medical value travel destinations in India.

Gandhi Sarovar Project Sparks Controversy in Telangana

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The upcoming Gandhi Sarovar Project, part of the Musi River rejuvenation initiative, has become a point of contention in Telangana. While the government says it aims to restore ecology, improve the riverfront, and create a landmark celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's legacy, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) alleges forced displacement and inflated costs.



before any demolition, claiming long-term residency in the area.

The Musi Jan Andolan

(MJA), a coalition of activists, environmentalists, and residents, also opposed the project. Representing colonies like Shiva Puri, Dattatreya, Sri Vigneshwara, Dream Homes, and Sai Ram Nagar, they rejected land surrender notifications linked to Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) and raised concerns over missing river boundary maps and buffer zone data. The MJA further criticized GO no 921, claiming it bypassed man-

datory social impact assessments and public consultations.

The Telangana government clarified that the project is in planning, no final budget exists, no tenders for the statue have been issued, and land acquisition in Hyderabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts hasn't started. They stressed that official figures citing Rs 5,000 crore are false. BRS countered by posting land acquisition notices in Ranga Reddy district, highlighting identified parcels including Tourism Department land and the Hazrat Haji Shah Alam Dargah. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi, inviting him to the foundation ceremony. The project aims to develop Bapu Ghat into a cultural, educational, spiritual, and environmental landmark and includes building the world's tallest Gandhi statue at the confluence of the Musi and Esa rivers.