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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

Delhi on high alert after Lashkar threat

Security was significantly heightened across major religious and heritage locations in Delhi on Saturday following intelligence warnings of a potential terror attack. Central intelligence agencies alerted Delhi Police about a possible explosion threat near the Red Fort, prompting immediate security arrangements in surrounding areas, including Chandni Chowk. According to official sources, the alert was issued after intelligence inputs suggested that

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PM Should Put India-US Trade Deal on Hold: Congress

With the American Supreme Court striking down President Donald Trump's global tariffs, the Congress on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should put the India-US interim trade agreement on hold and renegotiate the terms of the deal. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the government must state categorically that there will be no import liberalisation till clear cut clarifications from the American side and ensure that Indian farmers' interests are not hurt.

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

PM Modi's Betrayal Stands Exposed: Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the India-US trade deal, following the US Supreme Court's verdict on striking down global tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. In a post on X, Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister had compromised India's interests in the trade negotiations. "The PM is compromised. His betrayal now stands exposed. He can't renegotiate. He will surrender again," Gandhi wrote. His remarks came after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the global tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, a ruling that has triggered political reactions in India over the recently announced trade framework between New Delhi and Washington.

KTR Slams Congress Over SLBC Tunnel Tragedy: P2

TPCC Moves To Strengthen Role Of DCCs: P2

Congress Misusing Police Power, Alleges Harish Rao: P2

India-Brazil Relations Strengthen with \$30B Trade Goal

Modi, Lula Set \$30 Billion Trade Target in 5 Years

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, marking a significant milestone in the deepening of India-Brazil relations. The high-level meeting reflected a shared commitment to expanding cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, and developmental sectors. During the talks, both sides signed multiple agreements covering digital technology, critical minerals, mining, MSMEs, health, and defence, while also agreeing to strengthen collaboration in key areas such as aeronautics and submarine technology. Addressing the media, Prime Minister Modi described the partnership as a "win-win" relationship and proposed doubling bilateral trade to over \$30 billion within the next five years, up from the current \$15 billion. He also called for



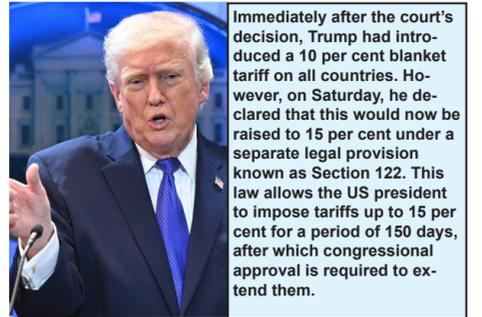
the expansion of the India-Mercosur trade agreement to enhance market access, promote economic integration, and unlock new commercial opportunities for businesses in both countries. One of the most significant outcomes of the talks was cooperation in critical minerals and rare earths, which Modi highlighted as essential for building resilient, diversified, and secure global supply chains. These resources are increasingly vital for clean energy, digital technologies, defence manufacturing, and advanced industries, making this partnership strategically important for long-term economic and technological security. Defence cooperation was identified as another strong pillar of the relationship, reflecting growing mutual trust, shared interests, and strategic coordination between the two major democracies. Both countries also agreed to increase the supply of affordable and quality medicines from India to Brazil, strengthening health cooperation and access to essential pharmaceuticals. In addition, plans were announced to establish a Centre of Excellence for Digital Public Infrastructure in Brazil, highlighting India's growing role in digital governance and inclusive technology plat-

forms. Energy cooperation was further expanded to include hydrocarbons, renewable energy, ethanol blending, and sustainable aviation fuel, with Brazil participating in the Global Biofuel Alliance. On defence collaboration, President Lula stated that Brazilian aerospace major Embraer would establish an assembly line for regional jets in India, while Prime Minister Modi proposed setting up an additional MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facility. An MoU was signed with Embraer, and India's Navy also signed an MoU with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for naval cooperation, including discussions on Scorpene submarines. The leaders further agreed to expand cooperation in agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals, Ayurveda, digital governance, and disaster-resilient infrastructure. On global issues, both reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue, diplomacy, counter-terrorism, and reform.

Trump raises US tariffs to 15%, India among countries

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump has announced an increase in temporary tariffs on nearly all US imports, raising them from 10 per cent to 15 per cent — the maximum level permitted under American law. This decision follows a ruling by the US Supreme Court, which struck down Trump's earlier tariff programme, stating that he had exceeded his authority by imposing higher duties under an economic emergency law. Immediately after the court's decision, Trump had introduced a 10 per cent blanket tariff on all countries. However, on Saturday, he declared that this would now be raised to 15 per cent under a separate legal provision known as Section 122. This law allows the US president to impose tariffs up to 15 per cent for a period of 150 days, after which congressional approval is required to extend them.



Immediately after the court's decision, Trump had introduced a 10 per cent blanket tariff on all countries. However, on Saturday, he declared that this would now be raised to 15 per cent under a separate legal provision known as Section 122. This law allows the US president to impose tariffs up to 15 per cent for a period of 150 days, after which congressional approval is required to extend them.

administration also plans to rely on additional taxes that allow import taxes on specific countries or products based on investigations into national security concerns and unfair trade practices. Reacting to these developments, the Government of India stated that it is carefully studying the US Supreme Court judgment and the new tariff announcements. The Indian Commerce Ministry said it is examining the implications of these decisions on trade and economic relations. Earlier this month, India and the US had agreed to finalise an interim trade deal, under which punitive tariffs of 25 per cent were reduced. With the new announcement, Indian goods that were earlier facing a 10 per cent additional tariff may now

be subjected to a 15 per cent levy. These new tariffs will be imposed over and above the existing MFN (Most Favoured Nation) import duties. For example, if a product carries a 5 per cent MFN duty, the new 15 per cent tariff would raise the total effective duty to 20 per cent. This move is expected to increase pressure on exporters and may further complicate global trade relations. Additionally, the tariff hike is likely to affect supply chains, increase consumer prices in the US market, and slow cross-border trade flows, forcing businesses to reconsider sourcing strategies, pricing models, and long-term investment plans amid growing global economic uncertainty.

MVA Faces Internal Rifts Ahead of Rajya Sabha Election

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

With elections to seven Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra scheduled for March 16, differences have surfaced within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), particularly in the Shiv Sena (UBT), over the allocation of the alliance's likely lone seat. The issue came to the fore after Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut suggested that NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar could be considered for nomination. However, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray asserted that the seat should remain

with his party and backed the renomination of Priyanka Chaturvedi, whose term is set to end next month. Seeking to quell speculation, Mr Raut said he would abide by the party's decision and work to ensure the victory of the candidate nominated by Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. "I am always bound by the party's decision. If Uddhav Thackeray gives the nomination to someone, it is our collective responsibility to ensure their victory. However, if a leader like Sharad Pawar expresses a desire, there

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India at the Centre of Global AI Governance

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The week-long India AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded with strong global support, as 88 countries and international organisations endorsed a shared vision for building collaborative, trusted, resilient and inclusive artificial intelligence, marking a major milestone in global AI governance. Briefing the media, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 86 countries and two international organisations formally signed



the joint declaration, including major economies such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, China, Denmark and Germany. The declaration is guided by the principle of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (welfare and happiness for all), reflecting the human-centric AI vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It emphasises equitable sharing of AI benefits, stronger inter-

national cooperation, respect for national sovereignty, and development of accessible and trustworthy AI systems. The summit highlighted cooperation in innovation, human capital development, and AI infrastructure, with participating nations agreeing to work together across these sectors. The declaration states that AI's promise can only be realised when its benefits are shared by all humanity, calling the AI era a defining turning point for future generations.

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480 Central Forces Companies In West Bengal From March

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union home ministry has decided to send 480 companies (coys) of Central forces for "initial deployment" for area domination, confidence-building measures and other election-related duties in poll-bound West Bengal from March 1. While the ruling TMC questioned the Central forces deployment even before the announcement of the Assembly elections, the BJP defended the

move. Amid the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list in West Bengal, the Union home ministry, in a letter to state chief secretary Nandini Chakravorty on Friday, conveyed the troops' dispatch and deployment plan, which will be in two phases—each comprising 240 companies. The ministry of home affairs (MHA) letter stated, "In pursuance of the Election Commission's communication dated

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Merit is the Only Quota for Congress Posts: CM Revanth

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the party leadership was closely monitoring the functioning and conduct of every leader

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday said that there was no 'quota system' in the Congress other than the merit quota for securing organisational posts and responsibilities. Only leaders who perform effectively would be rewarded with positions, he said. Revanth Reddy said the party leadership was closely monitoring the functioning and conduct of every

leader. He was addressing the inaugural session of a training programme for district Congress presidents of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh at Vikarabad and said party leader Rahul Gandhi was likely to attend the concluding session of 10-day training programme on March 2. Revanth Reddy said that differences of opinion were natural in a democratic party but they should not lead to divisions. Suppressing dissent would weaken the



organisation, he said and added that collective functioning had enabled the Congress to expand its vote share from about 2.5 per cent prior to the 2023

Assembly polls to nearly 40 per cent in the recent municipal polls. He pointed out that the vote gap between Congress and its rival party was

around two per cent in 2023 Assembly elections, which widened to four per cent in the Lok Sabha polls in 2024 and further to 12 per cent in municipal polls and attributed the growth to the confidence reposed in the party by its workers and the public. The Chief Minister urged DCC presidents to focus on digital membership expansion, noting that the party had enrolled 42 lakh digital members across 119 Assembly constituencies.

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaoge

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

Congress Misusing Police Power, Alleges Harish Rao

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Saturday came down heavily on the Congress government for what he described as blatant misuse of police machinery to intimidate opposition workers and manipulate the municipal elections.

He was speaking after meeting 13 BRS workers, who are in remand at the Sangareddy district jail here. Dubbing the cases false and politically motivated, Harish Rao charged that the police had become partisan and were acting at the behest of the ruling party. The Congress party, unable to defeat BRS democratically, was resorting to intimidating politics, illegal arrests and fabricated cases to suppress opposition



voices, he said, citing the movement of a Congress MLA through Medak municipality wards at midnight after the campaign deadline and calling it a clear violation of election rules. "Why did the police fail to act despite the Model Code of Conduct being in force?" he asked, expressing outrage over incidents of intimidation and violence, including attacks on women councillors and members of SC and ST communities,

and the filing of SC/ST Atrocities Act cases against BRS workers in a retaliatory manner. "How are serious charges like attempt to murder booked without medical reports?" he asked, accusing the police of shielding ruling party leaders while targeting BRS activists. Even the vehicles involved in violations were not seized and FIRs were not registered despite video evidence being submitted. "DGP Shivadhar

Reddy should respond on these instances of selective policing," he said, also pointing out that BJP leaders, who abused or manhandled police personnel, were not arrested, while BRS workers were being booked and jailed for merely questioning illegal actions.

Citing the incidents in Kaithanpally, Amangal and Jangaon, the former Minister alleged that councillors were intimidated and women from Dalit communities were attacked in full view of officials. "Yet, no action is taken against the perpetrators," Harish Rao said, adding that the municipal election outcomes proved that despite intimidation, people had reposed faith in the BRS, which secured nearly 800 councillor seats and around 20 chairperson posts. The few positions secured by

Congress, he said, were achieved only through the misuse of administrative and police power.

Harish Rao also demanded the immediate release of Rythu Bandhu as the Model Code of Conduct was lifted.

"If the government fails to deposit Rythu Bandhu, BRS will launch state-wide protests and lay siege to the offices of the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister," Harish Rao warned, also cautioning police officers at all levels that acting on oral instructions from political leaders and filing illegal cases would make them personally accountable in the future.

"Officers, who violate the law and function as agents of the ruling party, will have to face consequences. No one will be able to shield them," he warned.

KTR Slams Congress Over SLBC Tunnel Tragedy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

K. T. Rama Rao, working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi, on Saturday accused the Indian National Congress government of administrative failure over the unresolved Srisailem Left Bank Canal tunnel disaster, alleging that even a year after the collapse, authorities have failed to retrieve the bodies of trapped workers.

Addressing the issue on X, Rama Rao said the lack of progress reflects "sheer negligence and incompetence" on the part of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his administration.

He stated that the delay has caused severe mental distress to victims' families, who have been unable to perform last rites or gain closure since the incident. The tunnel ceiling collapse occurred on



February 22 last year during construction work, trapping eight workers underground. <

According to Rama Rao, not only have rescue and recovery efforts failed to yield results, but project works also remain stalled, raising concerns about safety oversight, crisis response, and accountability. He alleged that the government's priorities were misplaced, claiming leaders were focusing more on contracts and commissions than on labour welfare and infrastructure safety.

Such negligence, he warned, risks repeating similar tragedies if systemic lapses are not addressed immediately. Calling for urgent corrective measures, the BRS leader urged the state government to intensify recovery operations, support affected families, and implement stricter safety protocols across major projects. He stressed that ensuring workers' safety must be treated as a top governance priority rather than a post-disaster formality.

Dasoju Sravan Flags ₹160 Cr KGBV Bed Scam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dasoju Sravan, BRS MLC, has alleged a massive ₹160-crore "bunker bed tender scam" in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools, accusing officials and political leaders of colluding to siphon public funds meant for student welfare. He demanded immediate cancellation of the tender and a comprehensive probe into what he described as systematic financial irregularities. Posting on X, Sravan shared doc-



uments he claimed show inflated pricing and questionable specifications in the procurement process. According to him, bunker beds that previously cost between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000 when supplied by local Telangana MSMEs are now priced at ₹35,830

each under the new tender—nearly triple the earlier rate. He alleged that this pricing difference could result in excess payments exceeding ₹100 crore above fair market value. The MLC also questioned the technical specifications, stating that earlier beds used about 95 kg of heavy-duty 16-gauge steel, while the new tender reduced weight to 75 kg. Logically, he argued, reduced raw material should lower costs, not drastically increase them. He urged the government

to publicly explain the pricing logic and procurement criteria. Sravan further called on Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to intervene, noting that KGBV schools are funded in a 60:40 ratio by the Central and State governments.

He insisted that protecting taxpayer money requires urgent central oversight, transparent re-tendering, and priority opportunities for genuine local manufacturers to ensure both fiscal accountability and student welfare.

TPCC Moves To Strengthen Role Of DCCs

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has initiated steps to make District Congress Committees (DCCs) more active and accountable as part of efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Newly appointed DCC presidents are participating in a training programme organised by the TPCC in Hyderabad. Party leaders said the training focused on municipal election out-



comes and the steps taken by DCCs to strengthen the organisation in their respective districts after their appointment. Adilabad DCC president Naresh Jadhav, Nirmal MLA Vedma Bojju, Atram Suguna of

Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Rathunath Reddy of Mancherial are among those attending the programme. It is learnt that DCC presidents, along with their families, will attend an interaction meeting scheduled for March 2. Political circles are abuzz with reports that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi may attend the training camp and interact with the newly appointed DCCs. Party sources said this is the first time the TPCC has organised a

dedicated training programme for new DCC presidents as part of preparations for the next Assembly elections. Experts are delivering lectures on social and political issues and strategies to take party programmes to every household. The TPCC is said to be considering DCCs as key to decision-making and implementation of party programmes at the grassroots level, with a larger role envisaged for them under the new organisational framework.

Congress Leader Held Driving Car Towards BJP MLA Camp Office



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Congress and BJP activists clashed near the camp office of BJP MLA K. Venkataramana Reddy in Kamareddy on Saturday amid an ongoing dispute over alleged encroachment of land belonging to the Government Degree College and Shishu Mandir. Government adviser Mohammad Ali Shabbir had accused the BJP MLA of land grab and Venkataramana Reddy had denied the charge and challenged him to an open discussion. On Saturday, former sarpanch Giri Reddy Mahender Reddy, along with Congress workers, reportedly drove past police barricades and headed towards the MLA's office. Meanwhile, Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajendar, dispatched by the BJP to inspect the damage and meet MLA Venkatara-

mana Reddy, was placed under house arrest as he tried to leave his residence. Rajendar criticised the police action and said the party workers and the public would deliver a fitting rebuke to the Congress. Speaking to reporters, Venkataramana Reddy said there were no irregularities in the 263-acre government degree college land and asked that any alleged sale of even one square yard be proved. He stated that if anything happened to him, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would be responsible. Congress district leader Sandeep Srinivas said the party had no connection with Mahender Reddy's visit to the MLA's residence and accused the MLA of trying to divert the issue. He also alleged that the MLA was threatening police officials. A case has been registered at Kamareddy town police station. Mahender Reddy was taken into custody, arrested and remanded. Police said he had been involved in criminal cases earlier and that investigation is under way.

Sahiti Wins Color & Click Contest

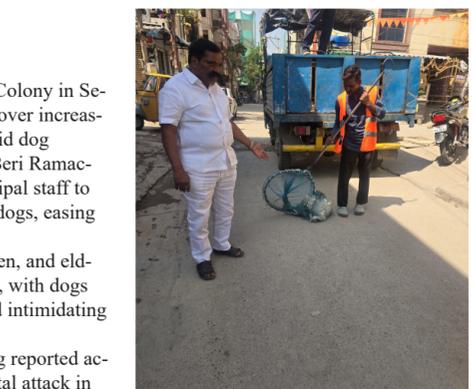


Gade Sahiti secured first prize in the "Color & Click" drawing competition organized by SIP Academy. Principal Anjan Reddy of Sri Sai Vani Grammar School presented winner certificates to the students who excelled in the contest. Congratulating the participants, he said such competitions play a vital role in encouraging students and bringing out their hidden talents and creativity. He appreciated SIP Academy for conducting programs that support students' overall development. The event provided a platform for young learners to showcase their artistic skills and boost their confidence. Teachers, organizers, and parents congratulated the winners and wished them continued success in future competitions.

Stray Dog Threat Sparks Concern

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents of Netaji Nagar Colony in Serilingampally raised alarm over increasing stray and suspected rabid dog attacks. Colony president Beri Ramachandra Yadav called municipal staff to capture a pack of roaming dogs, easing public fear. Locals say children, women, and elderly people are most at risk, with dogs often moving in groups and intimidating pedestrians. Similar complaints are being reported across Telangana. A recent fatal attack in Nizamabad district has further heightened concern. Residents have urged people to stay cautious, avoid dog packs, and take bite victims immediately to a



nearby hospital in Kondapur. People of Serilingampally are demanding long-term municipal action to control the stray dog menace.

No case data lost in FSL fire

Officials from the National Institute of Fire Safety Engineering, Nagpur, visited the Telangana Forensic Lab where a fire broke out a few days ago and examined burnt files and devices. They confirmed on Saturday that no case-related data was lost. Special teams from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and the Fire Safety Institute have begun retrieving data from partially damaged files and devices using advanced tools. "Experts are working to recover information, but no case files or data were damaged," a senior officer said, adding that a comprehensive report will be submitted.

Pratap Backs Displaced Traders Facing Corridor Demolitions Now

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Jampana Pratap, ex-Vice President of the Cantonment Board, has pledged to take up the cause of nearly 60 small traders facing displacement due to the proposed elevated corridor expansion in Secunderabad. The assurance came after affected shopkeepers from Chinna-thokatta and Sanjeevayya Nagar met him Wednesday seeking compensation and rehabilitation support. The traders said demolition notices threaten businesses many have run for 30-40 years, warning that the



project could wipe out their only source of livelihood. The group includes carpenters, painters, sofa makers, mechanics, welders, TV technicians,

cobblers and other daily earners who rely on small rented shops for income. Submitting a petition, they cited past instances where tenants

displaced by development works in the city's old quarters received government compensation. They argued that long-term tenants who contributed to the local economy deserve similar financial protection and relocation assistance. Pratap assured them he would raise the matter with the local legislator and push for state-level intervention. "Development should not come at the cost of hard-working families who have served the community for decades," he said, promising sustained efforts until relief measures are announced.

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 Gadila Raghuvvera 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 Raghuvvera Reddy had allegedly threatened to withdraw the PIL if an amount .

Infant's death after alleged caste abuse triggers unrest in Telangana's Nagarkurnool

NAGARKURNOOL
Wakeup telangana

The death of a two-month-old baby and allegations of caste discrimination against a family triggered unrest in Kummera village of Nagarkurnool district on Saturday, days after an alleged altercation at a temple.

Although the incident occurred on Wednesday, tensions escalated after the infant, who was hospitalised following the episode, died in the early hours of Saturday. One of the accused is allegedly associated with the Congress party, adding a political dimension to the incident.

According to the complaint lodged with the Nagarkurnool police, C



Chandrakala, along with her son, two daughters and the infant, had visited the Kummera Mallikarjuna Swamy temple for darshan on Wednesday. The family belongs to the BC washermen community. She alleged that trouble began when one person she identified as U Srinivas Reddy abused them in the name of caste and demanded that they purchase a Rs 100 ticket for darshan. "He made derogatory comments and abused us. He also physically assaulted me and my

family members in public view," Chandrakala said, adding that when her son Ganesh intervened to protect her, he was pushed to the ground. She further alleged that Srinivas Reddy, along with S Madhu, Srikanth Reddy, Satish Reddy, P Pavan, Naresh, Kuphender Reddy and others, attempted to attack Ganesh using a coconut husk remover. Ganesh managed to escape, and during the altercation, Srinivas Reddy reportedly sustained an injury after falling against a coconut

storeroom wall. "angered by this, he caught me and my son and assaulted us. He took away my earrings and bangles and threatened to kill us if we stay in Kummera," Chandrakala alleged, adding that they were also threatened with demolition of their house using earthmovers. "Despite appealing him to spare my daughter-in-law, daughter and the baby, they did not relent. Madhu kicked the baby," Chandrakala alleged, urging the Nagarkurnool SI to initiate stern action against those involved. Following the incident, the infant was admitted to the Government General Hospital in Nagarkurnool, where he died on Saturday.

Robots, Drones to Lead Next Wave of Farm Transformation

There were systems designed to help a farmer zero in on a stressed part of the crop on his or her farmland, based on data gathered by satellites.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The days of farmers pushing a wooden plough pulled by bullocks, and staring at the sky and praying for rain, may become history soon what with an array of robots, drones, automated land levellers, and satellite tech becoming available. All of these promise to make agriculture more efficient and productive and are on display at the three-day agri show that concludes at the NTR stadium here on Sunday.

The expo has stalls displaying proven systems like drip irrigation to satellite-based crop health monitoring technology that promise effective solutions to some of the more challenging tasks a farmer faces. Jostling for space in the tightly packed tented expo is a demonstration of how far agriculture has come, and where it is headed. While



the use of drones has caught on for spraying pesticides, or fertilisers, there were other machinery and gadgets on display including a small robotic vehicle that can tug along a cart carrying heavy sack loads of materials, or harvested crops along a predetermined path, while another promises effortless levelling of land, not just filling holes in a field but also ensuring proper drainage by creating slopes as required, and determined by farmers. Also on display were systems designed to help a farmer zero in on a stressed part

of the crop on his or her farmland, based on data gathered by satellites. These systems provided data on a phone that can pinpoint where a disease is starting, with resolution that comes down to as small an area as nine square metres. For those who are not into agriculture but have a green thumb, there is plenty to choose from too from plants — both ornamental and vegetable — from various nurseries, as well as smaller gadgets that can make home gardening a little easier.

Advance India Initiative Hosts HR Dialogue in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Advance India Initiative, in collaboration with Kingswell and Svyasys, convened leading HR professionals, industry experts, and organizational heads on February 20 for a high-level dialogue focused on workforce transformation, digital sovereignty, and long-term economic growth in India.

The forum emphasized strengthening talent ecosystems, building indigenous technological capabilities, and creating scalable employment pathways for the country's youth. Participants stressed that collaboration between industry, academia, and policymakers is essential to reduce dependence on external digital frameworks and accelerate innovation-led development.

Discussions centered on aligning education with emerging technologies and market needs to generate sustainable jobs and position India as a global economic leader. The initiative is led by founder Surabhi, who highlighted the importance of national self-reliance and people-centric progress. She said the country's future depends on empow-



ering citizens with skills, opportunities, and technological ownership, noting that a strong workforce forms the foundation of economic strength and global competitiveness. Organizers said the event also explored the broader concept of digital sovereignty — the ability of a nation to design, own, and manage its digital infrastructure and intellectual capital. Speakers underlined that strengthening domestic innovation ecosystems would enhance resilience, protect national interests, and enable India to shape its technological future independently.

Strategic partners Svyasys and Kingswell bring over three decades of experience in HR and staffing across five countries and have collectively

supported employment for more than 50,000 professionals worldwide. Their expertise, organizers noted, strengthens the initiative's mission to expand job creation and prepare the next generation for future-ready careers. The dialogue also acknowledged historical economic challenges stemming from colonial-era resource extraction, while emphasizing constructive global engagement and forward-looking growth strategies. Leaders concluded that sustained co-operation, skills development, and innovation will be key to unlocking millions of employment opportunities and advancing India's ambition to become one of the world's leading economies.

Ramchander Rao Placed Under House Arrest Ahead of Kamareddy Visit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana BJP Chief N. Ramchander Rao was placed under house arrest late on Saturday night as a preventive measure ahead of his proposed visit to Kamareddy scheduled for Sunday. Speaking over the phone, Rao said, "Police have placed me under house arrest tonight." He confirmed that he was confined to his residence in Tarnaka. Tensions escalated in Kamareddy following what the BJP described as a "ghastly attack" by alleged Congress workers on the camp of-



office of BJP MLA Kati-pally Venkata Ramana Reddy. Rao had planned to visit Banswada to meet victims injured in the stone-pelting incident. Violent clashes between BJP and Congress workers broke out in Kamareddy town on Feb-

ruary 20 and 21. The unrest was reportedly triggered by a dispute over Government Degree College land, which the BJP MLA alleged was being illegally handled by Congress leaders, specifically targeting Mohammed Ali Shabbir. During protests

on Saturday, a vehicle belonging to a Congress leader was overturned, and stone-pelting led to injuries among party workers and police personnel.

The Telangana BJP also condemned the arrest of BJYM leaders who were planning to protest against alleged misconduct by Youth Congress workers during the India AI Global Summit in New Delhi. Rao accused the Congress government of suppressing opposition voices and questioned its intentions in preventing him from meeting the victims. Senior BJP leaders, including

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, termed the state government's actions as "dictatorial" and alleged that it was attempting to cover up political failures.

Earlier this week, Rao expressed satisfaction over the BJP's performance in the recent state civic polls, highlighting that the party secured both the mayor and deputy mayor posts in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation for the first time. He stated that the BJP emerged as the single largest party in Adilabad, Kamareddy, and Nizamabad.

Passengers Flag Poor Hygiene In SCR Trains On Social Media

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Passengers have flagged hygiene concerns in trains operated under the South Central Railway (SCR) zone, posting images and complaints on social media about poorly maintained coaches and unclean washrooms. Madhura Sridhar Reddy, who travelled from Tirupati to Charlapalli in Train No. 07252, raised the issue on X, stating, "I travelled from Tirupati to Charlapalli on Train No. 07252 and was appalled by the

condition of the AC coach. The washrooms were poorly maintained, and there were cockroaches and even rats inside the compartment. Passengers pay a premium for AC travel with the expectation of basic hygiene, safety and proper maintenance.

Such conditions are unacceptable and reflect serious lapses in upkeep. I urge the authorities to immediately review on-board sanitation standards and strengthen monitoring and supervision."

Following the post, sev-

eral passengers shared similar grievances online, alleging poor upkeep of coaches and washrooms, particularly in the SCR zone.

Chandra Mouli, a resident of Chikadpally and a marketing manager, said, "As a frequent train traveller, I have observed that the toilets are usually clean at the start of the journey. However, as the trip progresses, especially on longer routes, the cleanliness deteriorates significantly, and the toilets become filthy."

Cricket Tournament Held to Push Cantonment-GHMC Merger Demand



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A three-day cricket tournament advocating the merger of civilian areas of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation began Saturday at Boinpalli Play Ground, drawing local residents, activists, and players in support of the civic demand. The event was inaugurated by Jampana

Pratap, who said the tournament aims to spotlight residents' call for equal municipal services and development benefits under GHMC administration. The opening match between local teams set the tone for the campaign, which organizers say uses sport to mobilize public engagement and build momentum for the merger movement across Secunderabad.

IIIT-H Researchers Design Custom Semiconductor Chips For Critical Public Systems

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amid India's push to grow its semiconductor ecosystem, a research group at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) is working on something less visible but more foundational — designing electronics that move from silicon to real-world systems. The Integrated Circuits Inspired by Wireless and Biomedical Systems (IC-WiBES) group, led by Prof. Ab-



hishek Srivastava, develops application-specific integrated circuits with full systems being built around them. Instead of treating chip design, signal processing and applications as separate areas, the team works across all three, refining hardware based on field feedback.

"For strategic areas like

healthcare or critical infrastructure, generic hardware can become a bottleneck," Prof. Srivastava said. "We design custom chips where they matter most." One focus area is millimetre-wave radar sensing. Unlike cameras, certain radars work in fog, rain and low light conditions and return signatures. The lab has built contactless systems that measure heart rate and breathing using subtle radar reflections. Clinical trials are underway in hospital settings to prove the

systems. The same technology is being tested for road monitoring, where the system can detect vehicles and pedestrians in poor visibility without raising surveillance concerns, they stated. When deployed, the systems could be exposed to signal noise or interference. Those insights are fed back into new chip designs, including programmable radar generators and low-noise circuits that are tailored to specific needs, Srivastava explained.

Suddala Srinivas funeral rites by his daughter

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a tragic incident, an agricultural labourer from Mator village in Motakondur mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district passed away due to a heart attack. Suddala Srinivas (40), who was earning his livelihood as an agricultural labourer, died suddenly following a cardiac arrest, leaving the village in deep sorrow.

With his untimely demise, his family has been left devastated and financially vulnerable. He is survived by his wife Sulochana and two daughters. The elder daughter, Vani, has completed her degree, while the younger daughter is cur-



rently pursuing her school education. Srinivas had lost his mother

during childhood, and his father, Mallayya, passed away recently.

According to Hindu customs, funeral rites are traditionally performed by sons. In the absence of a male heir, Srinivas' elder daughter performed the last rites of her father.

Expressing deep condolences over the incident, the village Sarpanch, Janne Siddulu, extended financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 to the bereaved family to support the funeral expenses. Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu was also present during the occasion. Villagers prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and wished strength and courage for the grieving family during this difficult time.

PM Modi's Pitch For Made In India Chips For Developed Nation

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The foundation of developed India will be laid on the basis of self-reliance for which having chips made in India is very important, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

In a virtual address to lay the foundation stone of India Chip Pvt Ltd -- the HCL Group and Foxconn JV -- PM Modi said a weak supply chain of tiny chips during the Covid-19 pandemic halted development of several economies and stopped work at various factories.

"Developed India will be built only when India is self-reliant. For this, Made in India chip is very important. Whatever India is doing in the field of technology in this decade, it will become the foundation of our capability in the 21st century," PM



Modi said.

He said with chips being made in India, the country will not have to depend on others for manufacturing our modern equipment.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw how fragile the chip supply chain was. When chip supply was disrupted, factories stopped and economies faltered. India learned from that crisis and turned it into an opportunity. We decided to make India self-reliant in chip manufacturing. For this, we are building a

semiconductor ecosystem in India," PM Modi said.

The India Chip Pvt Ltd -- the HCL Group and Foxconn joint venture for Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly & Test (OSAT) facility -- will come up in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) at Jewar, Greater Noida.

This new factory of HCL and Foxconn will strengthen UP's identity as a technology powerhouse.

As a Member of Parlia-

ment from Uttar Pradesh, this is also a moment of great pride for me. This semiconductor factory will create large-scale employment opportunities for the youth of Uttar Pradesh and across India, PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said even though India started its journey in the semiconductor sector somewhat late it is moving forward at great speed. "In the 20th century, countries with oil had prosperity and power. In the 21st century, this power lies in the tiny chip, in the skills and materials connected to it," PM Modi said.

India Chip Pvt Ltd is a 60:40 joint venture between HCL Group and Foxconn. The advanced OSAT facility is expected to be operational by 2028. The company has earmarked an investment of Rs 3,700 crore over the

next few years in the facility that will produce display driver chips.

The investment is expected to create over 3,500 direct and indirect jobs, build local supply chains, and attract ecosystem partners across the semiconductor value chain.

With a planned capacity to process 20,000 wafers per month, the facility aims to meet India's growing domestic demand for semiconductor components while strengthening a resilient, self-reliant semiconductor supply chain.

"In the last 11 years, the Prime Minister has established India as powerhouse of electronics manufacturing. India is now ranked third among nations that export electronics. In a month, 3.6 crore chips will be produced from this plant.

PM Should Put India-US Trade Deal on Hold: Congress

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With the American Supreme Court striking down President Donald Trump's global tariffs, the Congress on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should put the India-US interim trade agreement on hold and renegotiate the terms of the deal. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the government must state categorically that there will be no import liberalisation till clear cut clarifications from the American side and ensure that Indian farmers' interests are not hurt.

Speaking with reporters here, Ramesh sought clarifications from the government on the India-US interim trade deal and called for renegotiating the deal afresh. He asked Modi to clarify



whether he agrees with Trump's statement that nothing changes in the trade deal with India. Asserting that the India-US interim agreement will adversely affect farmers, Ramesh said the government should put this deal on hold till clarifications are made.

"We demand that the PM should categorically state that we will not carry out import liberalisation after the Supreme Court decision as there is a rethink in India's policy and we will not carry out import liberalisation till clarifications are made," Ramesh said. "On February 2, President Trump made the announcement of the deal stating that he

is happy that a deal has been reached and on the request of the PM this is effective immediately," he said, adding that the chronology of events is important. The first question arises is why did the PM was in a hurry to announce this, he said. "We believe that this was connected with Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the Lok Sabha, raising the issue of China and former Army chief Naravane's book. We believe that in order to divert from that, PM Modi requested Trump to announce this," Ramesh said. "Our second question is that when the PM, the commerce minister (Piyush Goyal), knew from December that any time (now) the Supreme Court verdict could come, many believed that it could be struck down. Why did you hurriedly strike a deal when you knew the verdict could go against Trump," Ramesh said.

NHAI May Discontinue National Highway Toll In Cash From April 1

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is contemplating discontinuing cash transactions at National Highway fee plazas across the country from April 1, 2026, with all toll payments proposed to be processed exclusively through digital modes such as FASTag and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). According to an official statement issued on Thursday, the move is aimed at developing a fully digital tolling eco-

system and consolidating the gains achieved in electronic toll collection. The transition is expected to enhance 'Ease of Commuting' by improving lane throughput, reducing congestion at fee plazas and ensuring greater consistency and transparency in toll transactions.

NHAI said that over the past few years, FASTag penetration has crossed 98 per cent, significantly transforming toll collection practices in the country. Currently, a majority of toll transactions are processed electronically through RFID-en-

abled FASTags affixed to vehicles, enabling seamless and contactless movement across toll plazas. In addition, UPI payment facilities have been operationalised at National Highway toll plazas to provide instant and accessible digital payment options.

As per National Highway fee rules, vehicles entering a fee plaza without a valid and functional FASTag are charged twice the applicable user fee if payment is made in cash. Users opting to pay via UPI are charged 1.25 times the applicable user

fee for the respective vehicle category. Plaza-level assessments indicate that cash-based payments contribute to congestion, longer waiting times during peak hours and transaction-related disputes. A complete shift to digital-only payments is expected to strengthen operational efficiency, improve traffic management and minimise delays at more than 1,150 fee plazas across National Highways and Expressways in the country.

Rahul Appears Before Bhiwandi Court in RSS Defamation Case

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared in a Bhiwandi court Saturday for a 2014 defamation case involving the RSS. Gandhi named Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal as his new guarantor, replacing the late former Union minister Shivraj Patil. The visit was met with hostility as BJP supporters staged a black-flag protest at the Mulund toll naka, chanting slogans against him. The defamation case was initiated by RSS worker Rajesh Kunte, who



claimed that during an election rally in 2014, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the RSS was responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. According to the complainant, the Congress leader is liable for defamation under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code as his false remark maligned the image of the RSS.

Mr. Gandhi's lawyer Narayan Iyer said, "The original surety, former Home Minister Shivraj Patil, passed away. Which is why we had to provide a fresh surety." Mr. Kunte's cross-examination and re-examination during the trial are over. Advocate Iyer confirmed that the cross-examination of the investigating officer (IO) would resume now that the bail formalities are complete. "We have full faith in the Indian judiciary and are confident that justice will prevail. While Gandhi has been granted permanent exemption from personal appearance

in future hearings, we will present our defense witnesses at the appropriate time," the lawyer said. Mr. Gandhi landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai in the morning and travelled by road to Bhiwandi in neighbouring Thane district to appear before the court. En route, he faced protests by a group of BJP workers. However, the police had made elaborate security arrangements for Mr. Gandhi's visit to prevent any confrontation between BJP and Congress party workers.

Delhi on high alert after Lashkar threat

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Security was significantly heightened across major religious and heritage locations in Delhi on Saturday following intelligence warnings of a potential terror attack. Central intelligence agencies alerted Delhi Police about a possible explosion threat near the Red Fort, prompting immediate strengthening of security arrangements in surrounding areas, including Chandni Chowk. According to official sources, the alert was issued after intelligence inputs suggested that Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyabba (LeT) had allegedly included prominent religious sites in India on its target list. Specific information indicated that a temple in the Chandni Chowk area could be a potential target. Authorities said the inputs are currently being verified and assessed by multiple intelligence agencies. As a precautionary measure, security has been intensified across sensitive religious locations and crowded public areas. Enhanced surveillance has been implemented through extensive CCTV monitor-



ing, vehicle checks, and the deployment of additional police personnel at vulnerable points. Bomb disposal squads, dog squads, and quick reaction teams have been placed on high alert to respond to any emergency situation. Intelligence agencies also indicated that the group could attempt an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)-based attack. Sources further revealed that the alleged plan is being linked to the February 6 blast at a mosque in Islamabad, raising concerns about a coordinated pattern of attacks. The alert also comes against the backdrop of the November 10, 2025 car explosion near the Red Fort, where a vehicle laden with explosives detonated near Gate No. 1 of the Red

Fort Metro Station, killing 13 people and injuring more than 20 others. Officials have urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with security agencies by reporting any suspicious activity, objects, or movement to the police immediately. Authorities clarified that the measures are preventive in nature and that there is no cause for panic at this stage. Further verification of intelligence inputs is ongoing, and security agencies remain on continuous high alert to ensure public safety. 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.....

but now called for a "Congress-mukt Bharat." The Congress believes that the soul of India resided in its villages and stood committed to protecting the Constitution at a time when attempts were allegedly being made to weaken or alter it, he said. Recalling the sacrifices of national leaders, and citing the legacy of the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, whose welfare initiatives and padayatra strengthened the Congress, Revanth Reddy advised DCC presidents not to consider themselves as district "heads" but as coordinators responsible for uniting leaders and workers. He said he had personally visited leaders' homes to seek their support after becoming TPCC president in 2021, and collective efforts helped Congress return to power in Telangana. "Leaders should focus on resolving public issues rather than pursuing recommendations or lobbying", he added. Launching a sharp attack on the BJP, the Chief Minister alleged that attempts were being made to politically target the Gandhi family through cases and to silence Rahul Gandhi in Parliament. He claimed the ruling party was attempting to weaken the Gandhi family politically despite their history of sacrifices for the nation. Revanth Reddy alleged that BJP government at the Centre was conspiring to abolish the Constitution as well as reservations for the BC, SC, ST and minorities communities and DCC presidents should lead from the

front in thwarting these attempts by creating awareness among people. Stressing unity, he said the Congress must grow stronger in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh despite the bifurcation, adding that the party and the nation were inseparable. Calling upon DCC presidents to utilise the training programme effectively, he urged them to work collectively to strengthen the organisation and uphold democratic values.

Milan Sea Phase.....

The ministry of home affairs (MHA) letter stated, "In pursuance of the Election Commission's communication dated February 20, it has been decided to initially deploy 480 Coys of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) for area domination, confidence-building measures, polling-related duties, guarding of EVM/strongroom centres and counting centre arrangements, etc. during the election process in the state of West Bengal..." The MHA added that 240 companies of Central forces will be deployed from March 1 in the first phase. These include 110 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) companies, 55 Border Security Force (BSF) companies, 21 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) companies and 27 companies each from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). The second phase of deployment, according to the MHA, will start on March 10. It will include another 120 CRPF companies, 65 BSF companies, 16 CISF companies,

FROM FRONT PAGE

20 ITBP companies and 19 SSB companies. In the letter, the MHA also asked the West Bengal government to work out the detailed deployment plan in consultation with the respective CAPFs and chief force coordinator. "The movement and deployment of CAPFs shall be coordinated by the CRPF. Out of 9 sections of a coy of CAPFs, 8 sections shall be utilised for deployment at polling stations and for other duties, while the remaining 1 section shall be deployed in QRT duties, under the Coy Commander," the letter said.

India at the Centre....

The declaration states that AI's promise can only be realised when its benefits are shared by all humanity, calling the AI era a defining turning point for future generations. The outcome comes alongside corporate investment commitments exceeding \$250 billion in India, strengthening the country's position as a global AI leader, particularly for the Global South. However, differences on global AI governance remain. The United Nations announced the formation of an independent scientific panel on AI, while the United States delegation cautioned against centralised global control of generative AI, underlining challenges in creating binding global rules. The joint declaration supports voluntary, non-binding global guidelines, reaffirming continued international collaboration to translate shared AI goals into concrete action, guided by the three Sutras and seven pillars of the India AI

Impact Summit 2026, with a focus on inclusive growth and human development.

MVA Faces.....

"I am always bound by the party's decision. If Uddhav Thackeray gives the nomination to someone, it is our collective responsibility to ensure their victory. However, if a leader like Sharad Pawar expresses a desire, there has to be a discussion. That is all I said. I have not taken anyone's name. I am committed to my party's stand," Mr Raut told reporters in Malegaon on Saturday. The Maharashtra Legislature currently has 286 members. A candidate requires 36 votes to win a Rajya Sabha seat, according to a senior legislature official. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has 20 MLAs, the Congress has 16, and the NCP (SP) has 10 — giving the MVA a combined strength of 46 MLAs, enough to comfortably secure one seat. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is expected to win six of the seven seats. Taking a swipe at the Shiv Sena (UBT), Maharashtra BJP media department chief Navnath Ban alleged that Mr Raut was attempting to push for Mr Pawar's return to the Upper House at the expense of Ms Chaturvedi. According to Mr Ban, if Ms Chaturvedi is renominated, the Shiv Sena (UBT) may have to concede a Rajya Sabha seat to the NCP (SP) in the next election cycle, potentially affecting Mr Raut's own prospects. Two days ago, Aadiya Thackeray reiterated that party MLAs were keen on retaining the seat.

CRIME

Tenants locus to challenge illegal constructions questioned by HC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar of the Telangana High Court raised serious doubts about the maintainability of a writ petition filed by a tenant alleging official inaction against an illegal construction on a neighbouring property. The case was filed by A. Vijaya, a tenant residing in a premises at Moosapet, Kukatpally, who approached the High Court seeking directions to the authorities to take action against an alleged unauthorised structure in the adjacent property. During the hearing, Justice Shraavan Kumar questioned the very locus standi (legal standing) of the petitioner to maintain such a writ petition. The Court observed that since the petitioner was only a tenant and not

the owner of the property, her right to challenge the alleged illegal construction was legally questionable. The Judge remarked that if the petitioner was genuinely aggrieved by the surrounding conditions or developments, she always had the option of vacating the premises, instead of invoking the extraordinary jurisdiction of the High Court under writ proceedings. The Court further raised a crucial issue regarding the legality of the building in which the petitioner herself was residing. Justice Shraavan Kumar specifically questioned whether the structure occupied by the petitioner had been constructed with all the necessary statutory permissions and approvals and in strict compliance with law. This observation highlighted the principle

that a person approaching the Court must themselves be in lawful occupation and must not be benefiting from any illegality. Another significant concern expressed by the Court was the absence of the building owner as a party to the proceedings. The Judge questioned why the landlord or owner of the petitioner's premises was not impleaded and why the tenant alone was prosecuting the litigation. The Court observed that such proceedings, especially those relating to construction permissions and building violations, are ordinarily matters for property owners and not merely for tenants. Reiterating the well-established legal principle that "those who approach the Court must come with clean hands," Justice Shraavan Kumar directed the con-

cerned authorities to inspect both sites—the allegedly unauthorised neighbouring structure as well as the building in which the petitioner was residing. The authorities were instructed to submit a report regarding any illegalities or violations in either of the constructions, thereby ensuring a fair and comprehensive inquiry. At this stage, the petitioner sought time from the Court to implead the owner of the building. Accepting this request, the Judge granted permission to implead the owner either as a joint petitioner or as a respondent in the writ petition. The matter was accordingly posted for further hearing, keeping all issues open for detailed consideration. This order reflects the Court's balanced approach—ensuring that alleged illegal.

HC admits HUL writ, grants interim stay

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court stayed further proceedings initiated by the labour Appellate Authority against Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) under the Telangana Shops and Establishments Act. Justice Renuka Yara was dealing with a writ petition filed by the company. According to the petitioner, the appellate authority proceeded to pass the impugned order in disregard of the statutory framework governing the appellate remedy and without appreciating the legal consequences arising from non-compliance with earlier directions within the mandatory period of 30

days. Such non-compliance, according to the petitioner, rendered the second appeal infructuous. The company sought issuance of a writ of certiorari to quash the impugned order and a consequential direction to hear and dispose of the main appeal on merits. A caveat entered appearance on behalf of the contesting respondent, contending that substantial dues amounting to about ₹60 lakh were pending against the petitioner. HUL contended that nearly ₹41 lakh had been paid and placed material on record evidencing such payments for the perusal of the court.

PBEL Case: Court Orders Compensation For Boy's Parents

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed Golden Star Facilities to pay ₹10 lakh as compensation to a bereaved family following the death of a six-year-old boy who was electrocuted at a gated community in Narsingi. The incident occurred in February 2019 at PBEL City, where the child, Monish, was playing in the lawn of the residential complex at around 6 pm. He touched a lamp post to retrieve a ball and collapsed. Inquiry revealed that he had come into contact with a live underground electrical wire and

died on the spot. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera. Monish was the son of Diwakar, a software professional from Chennai, and was studying at a private school in Bandlaguda. The Narsingi police had then booked Incor, Golden Star, and the residents' welfare association. Then-inspector G.V. Ramana Goud had told Deccan Chronicle in 2019 that the boy's body had been taken to Chennai, his family's native place, and that the case, though registered in Telangana, had involved co-ordination with Chennai police for the postmortem and inquest. No arrests were made at the time, he said.

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

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.

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

A man was booked for allegedly procuring and storing teak timber illegally in his house at Chintapalli village in Jannaram mandal on Friday. Timber worth over Rs.24,000 was seized from his possession. Jannaram Forest Range Officer Sushma Rao, in a statement, said a case was registered against Muthyram Venkanna from the village for procuring and storing the teak timber at his house. Venkanna was found to have stored the timber logs during a surprise raid conducted by the Forest officials, following a tip-off. The timber was shifted to the office of Jannaram FRO for further inquiry and legal action.

Telangana HC Dismisses Appeals Against Penalties for Storing Banned Tobacco Products

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court dismissed a batch of criminal appeals filed by food business operators from Nalgonda district against penalties imposed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for storing and selling prohibited tobacco products. The panel comprising Justice K. Lakshman and Justice

B.R. Madhusudhan Rao was dealing with the appeals filed by P. Lakshmi Narasaiah and others. The appeals arose from proceedings initiated after food safety authorities conducted inspections in 2021 following a state notification banning gutka and certain smokeless tobacco products. Officials reported seizure of banned stock allegedly worth about ₹95 lakh. It was the contended that

the adjudicating officer imposed total penalties of Rs. 5 lakh and ordered discarding of the seized products, which were subsequently confirmed by the Sessions Court, Nalgonda. The appellants alleged procedural violations and stated also that chewing tobacco did not fall within the definition of "food". The state defended the proceedings and contended that inspections and adjudi-

cation were conducted lawfully and that the validity of notification had been upheld. The panel ruled that the objections raised were largely factual disputes that did not establish procedural illegality or jurisdictional error. Relying on binding precedent upholding the regulatory powers of the state under the Act, the panel found the penalties legally sustainable and dismissed the appeals.

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.



‘Studying developments’: India’s first reaction to US court order

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A day after the US Supreme Court invalidated tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Saturday said that it is ‘studying’ the implications of the decision. “We have noted the US Supreme Court judgement on tariffs yesterday. President Trump has also addressed a press conference in that regard. Some steps have been announced by the US Administration. We are studying all these developments for their implications,” the Ministry said. This assumes significance as an Indian delegation is expected to



leave for Washington on Sunday for three days of talks to finalise the legal agreement. The legal text was expected to further lower the tariffs from 25% to 18%. However, after the US court order, the US tariff would come down to 15% on India. Washington had already rolled back an additional 25% tariffs, which were imposed citing Russian oil purchases.

The US Supreme Court order is especially consequential for India, as the US, earlier this month, agreed to sign an

agreement under which India agreed to purchase \$500 billion worth of US products, and Washington agreed to lower tariffs on India to 18% from 50%. However, the trade agreement has not been officially signed yet. Market access-related concessions agreed under the trade deal would only be given by the Indian side when the legal agreement is signed, Indian government officials said.

Hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Trump announced a

10% global tariff, later increasing it to 15% on almost all imports to the US under a rarely-used provision known as Section 122. Alongside that, two other provisions – Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act – that are already in use and have firmer legal grounding will remain in place, the White House clarified after the SC ruling. Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 on national-security grounds. These have already been deployed in the case of steel, aluminium, semi-conductors and other products—and the Trump administration is looking to impose even more.

Former trade officer and founder of Delhi-based think tank GTRI,

Ajay Srivastava said that the removal of the reciprocal tariffs will free about 55% of India’s exports to the United States from the 25% duty (including the 18% rate yet to be implemented under the interim framework announced in the February 6 joint statement), leaving these exports subject only to standard MFN tariffs.

“On the remaining exports, (i) Section 232 tariffs will continue — 50% on steel and aluminium and 25% on certain auto components — while (ii) products accounting for roughly 40% of export value, including smartphones, petroleum products and medicines, will remain exempt from U.S. tariffs,” Srivastava said.

Net FDI remains in negative zone in Dec too amid highest ever repatriation

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India’s net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained in the negative territory for the fourth month running, as outflows overshadowed the inflows by \$1.61 billion during December last year, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Even though gross FDI inflows rose to a five-month high of \$8.58 billion in the month under review, the net FDI figure was (-) \$1.61 billion due to an increase in Indian companies’ foreign direct investments and repatriation of past investments by foreigners.

Foreigners repatriated a record \$7.45 billion in the last month of 2025, exerting pressure on the rupee as it fell past the 90- and 91-per-dollar marks and hit multiple fresh all-time lows. Meanwhile, FDI by Indian companies also increased in December, ris-



ing to \$2.75 billion—up 78% from November and 31% from December 2024.

Net FDI is calculated after adjusting for investments that are repatriated by foreign companies and overseas investments made by Indian companies. Repatriation of FDI refers to foreign investors taking back money they had previously invested in India. This repatriation can be in the form of profits, dividend, or sale of assets. The repatriation of funds by foreign investors, which surged to \$7.45 billion, was the highest on record as per data available from the RBI. The amount was almost 40% higher com-

pared to November as well as December 2024. Foreign investors are increasingly pulling out money invested in Indian assets via FDI, with the total for the first nine months of 2025-26 adding up to \$44.45 billion, up 10% from the same period of 2024-25.

Much of the exit — or \$42.62 billion — has been by way of foreign investors reducing their equity holdings.

“For outward FDI, key destinations were Singapore, the US, the UAE, the UK and the Netherlands and the major sectors included financial, insurance and business services, and wholesale/retail trade, restaurants, and hotels,” RBI staff said in the central bank’s monthly State of the Economy article, also published on Friday.

In the first nine months of 2025-26, overseas investments by Indian companies totalled \$24.88 billion, up 35% year-on-year.

USTR Greer likely in India next month

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is expected to be in India next month for the signing of the first tranche of the India-US trade deal which is scheduled to take effect in April, government officials said Friday. This means that the pact with the US will come into effect even before the trade agreements with the UK and EU. With the US rolling back the additional 25 per cent tariffs imposed on India



over its purchase of Russian oil, an Indian delegation is expected to leave for Washington Sunday for three-day talks to complete the legal agreement. This process could be crucial because US trade deals under the Trump administration have been unconventional, posing a challenge for legal teams.

On Friday, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said Indian goods exports rate touched double digits in February and that exporters had begun exploring opportunities in free trade agreement countries, even before the operationalisation of the trade pacts. Indian goods exports in January remained flat, and shipments to the US fell by 22 per cent.

Responding to Opposition criticism that “India got nothing in return” for opening its economy to American products, Goyal said, “All of you here are

exporters. Were you happy with the 50% tariff? Was your business prospering? Were your jobs safe? Was Tiruppur able to export apparel? What was happening to your leather industry where lakhs of workers work? What had happened to our marine seafood exports? All labour-intensive sectors were suffering.” He said businesses will prosper at the 18 per cent rate that India negotiated under the trade pact with the US. It will help boost exports of gems and jewellery, and spices also.

Gold climbs to Rs 1.59 lakh/10g; silver at Rs 2.64 lakh/kg

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Gold prices in the national capital climbed by Rs 850 to reach Rs 1,59,500 per 10 grams on Friday, February 20, reflecting strong global trends, according to market sources. The 99.9% purity gold had previously closed at Rs 1,58,650 per 10 grams on Thursday, indicating renewed buying interest after recent volatility. In contrast, silver prices remained steady at Rs 2,64,000 per kilogram



in the domestic market. Internationally, spot gold rose by USD 30.83, or 0.62%, to trade at USD 5,027.13 per ounce. Silver also strengthened overseas, gaining 2.55% to USD 80.5 per ounce. Ana-

lysts attribute the bullish movement to geopolitical concerns and investor caution ahead of key US economic data releases. According to Kaynat Chainwala, gold has rebounded above USD 5,020 per

ounce while silver surged near USD 81, largely driven by worries about a possible US-Iran conflict. She noted that traders are closely watching indicators such as PCE inflation, Q4 GDP figures, and flash PMI data. Meanwhile, Gaurav Garg said bullion prices are rising after a consolidation phase, as investors are buying on dips. He added that despite short-term corrections, the overall outlook for precious metals remains positive.

Omnitech Engineering Sets Rs 216-Rs 227 Price Band For IPO

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Omnitech Engineering has announced a ₹583-crore initial public offering (IPO) priced between ₹216 and ₹227 per share, with the issue scheduled to open on February 25 and close on February 27, 2026. The public offering consists of a fresh issue worth ₹418 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of ₹165 crore, positioning the company to raise funds for expan-



sion, debt reduction, and infrastructure investment. The company plans to allocate over ₹233 crore from the proceeds to establish two new manufacturing facilities and ₹18 crore for capital expenditure at an existing unit. Additionally, ₹50 crore

will be used to repay outstanding borrowings, strengthening its balance sheet and supporting future growth. With nearly two decades of operational experience, Omnitech Engineering specializes in high-precision engineered components and assemblies designed primarily for safety-critical applications. Its products serve multiple sectors, including energy, motion control and automation, industrial equipment sys-

tems, metal forming, and other diversified industrial industries. The firm currently operates three manufacturing facilities located in Metoda, Chhapara, and Padavala near Rajkot, Gujarat. These units form the backbone of its export-oriented manufacturing operations. During the six months ended September 30, 2025, and across fiscal years 2025, 2024, and 2023, the company supplied precision-

mached components to more than 256 customers across 24 countries, including the United States, India, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Bulgaria, Sweden, United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Canada. The IPO marks a strategic step for the company as it seeks to scale global operations, expand production capacity, and strengthen its presence in high-value precision engineering markets.

LVPEI Launches Glaucoma Institute



Faculty of Glaucoma Department with the Kalathur Family and Friends at the inauguration of the Kalathur Venugopal Reddy Glaucoma Institute at LV Prasad Eye Institute, Kallam Anji Reddy campus, Banjara Hills.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad has inaugurated the Kalathur Venugopal Reddy Institute of Excellence in Glaucoma at its Kallam Anji Reddy campus, strengthening its global leadership in advanced eye care, research, and education. Headed by Dr Sirisha Senthil, the institute will function as a Global Resource Centre dedicated to cutting-edge glaucoma treatment, training, and scientific innovation. The facility was inaugurated by Mallika Reddy Kalathur in memory of her late husband Kalathur Venugopal Reddy, whose personal battle

with glaucoma inspired the initiative. Family members including Kavitha Kalathur and Ravi Kolli have supported LVPEI’s glaucoma awareness and treatment programs for over a decade, reinforcing their commitment to accessible eye care across India and developing nations.

Dr Senthil’s recent election to the prestigious Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis places her among the world’s top 100 ophthalmic academicians recognized for advancing eye science globally. Her research has significantly shaped modern understanding of childhood glaucoma, complex surgical care, and second-

ary angle-closure disease. With her induction, LVPEI now has three faculty members in AOI, alongside Dr Gullapalli N Rao and Dr Prashant Garg, underscoring the institute’s international academic influence.

Established in 1987, LVPEI is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness and delivers more than half of its services free of cost through its five-tier Eye Health Pyramid model. With over 5,000 scientific publications, the institute remains at the forefront of global ophthalmic research while expanding equitable access to quality vision care.

Current Policy Rate Appropriate, Says RBI Gov Malhotra

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, with all six members of the Monetary Policy Committee supporting the status quo, citing strong economic growth and subdued inflation as key reasons, according to minutes released Friday. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the current policy rate remains appropriate given

“buoyant growth and benign inflation,” noting that recent global developments have improved the external outlook and created room for cautious optimism. The decision comes after cumulative rate cuts of 125 basis points since February 2025, with policymakers emphasizing that the full impact of the most recent reduction in December is still transmitting through the economy. The committee observed that India’s economic mo-



mentum continues to remain resilient despite global volatility. It projected FY26 growth at 7.4%, while early estimates for the first half of FY27 were slightly raised to about 6.9-7%. Members attributed this outlook to strong domestic demand, steady investment activity, and

trade agreements expected to support exports and capital inflows.

RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta reinforced the cautious stance, stating that growth is turning out to be robust and likely to sustain into FY27, while inflation is expected to stay moderate across sectors. She added that since the central bank has already delivered significant rate cuts in four of the last six meetings, and with fresh GDP and in-

flation data from the new statistical series still awaited, further easing is not warranted at this stage.

The MPC’s unanimous decision signals a preference for policy stability while assessing the lagged effects of earlier rate reductions. Analysts view the hold as an indication that the central bank is balancing growth support with inflation vigilance, choosing to monitor incoming data before making any further adjustments.

KH X RK promo clip: Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth reunite for Nelson's

Fans across the country are psyched as the film bringing together two of the biggest stars of South cinema — Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth — is officially on. The film is tentatively titled KH X RK, and it will mark their on-screen collaboration after 47 years. After unveiling the film's poster, the makers have now dropped the first promo video of the film on Saturday, further fuelling excitement among fans.

The promo video opens on director Nelson Dilipkumar caught in a comic bind, pacing the corridor as he wonders which superstar's room he should enter first, Rajinikanth's or Kamal Haasan's. Just then, composer Anirudh Ravichander walks in with a dilemma of his own, asking Nelson which raaga he should choose. Holding up two fingers,



Anirudh suggests the classic "pick one when in doubt" trick.

After helping him decide, Nelson amusingly adopts the same method for his bigger problem. What follows is a playful montage of Nelson assisting both Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan as they get dressed, confidently but incorrectly assigning items, insisting a particular shoe belongs to Rajini, for instance,

much to their growing irritation. The promo then shifts gears as the heroes' looks are revealed in style and they stride towards a car parked in a dimly lit garage. With Kamal Haasan taking the driver's seat and Rajinikanth by his side, the swagger-filled moment culminates in both legends turning to Nelson and asking the ultimate question, who is the hero? Earlier, the makers un-

veiled the film's poster. Heavy on vintage aesthetics, the poster features the hands of two men wearing full-length leather jackets, a gold watch, and a ring. The visual is a clear nod to the actors' iconic "retro swag." The tagline on the poster reads, "Some men set rules, some men rule." The striking poster was shared while announcing the release of the film's first promo video.

Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan were last seen together on screen in the 1979 fantasy film Alauddin Albulthala Vikram. The two legends have also starred together in several classic films, including Apoorva Raagangal, Avargal, Moondru Mudi-chu, and Pathinaru Vayathinile. Fans have been demanding to see the two stars reunite on screen for decades, making KH X RK one of the most anticipated projects in recent times. After months of speculation, the makers confirmed that Nelson Dilipkumar will direct the film. Nelson previously helmed Rajinikanth's blockbuster Jailer and is also set to direct its upcoming sequel, Jailer 2. The music for KH X RK will be composed by Anirudh Ravichander, adding further buzz to the ambitious collaboration.

Rishab Sharma fires back at Anoushka Shankar with proof as she denies he was father Ravi Shankar's disciple

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Musician Anoushka Shankar recently denied the claims of sitarist Rishab Rikhiram Sharma being a disciple of her father, Pandit Ravi Shankar. She said that while Rishab is talented, her father was never his guru. Now, the sitarist and music producer has hit back at Anoushka, along with an official statement and pictures with Ravi Shankar as proof of their guru-shishya relationship. Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, who belongs to the Rikhi Ram family of instrument makers, has built a strong fan following, known for becoming the first sitarist to perform a solo set at the White House. However, his credibility of being the last and youngest disciple of the late icon was challenged by Shankar's daughter, Anoushka. Now,



Sadaphal, Shruti Sadamal, and Panditji with his wife Sukanya Shankar. This followed a personal call from Panditji to Sanjay Sharma on 2nd January, requesting Rishab's presence for the Ganda Bandhan ceremony the next day," a part of the statement read.

In a statement released by Rishab's team, he claimed that he was personally assessed by Pandit Ravi Shankar in 2012, and then formally accepted him as his disciple through the Ganda Bandhan ceremony. "On 3rd January 2012, at the Ravi Shankar Centre (Saraswati Pooja Hall), a private meeting was held at the express request of Pandit Ravi Shankar between 13-year-old Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, his parents Sanjay and Manjul Sharma, his brother Mukul Sharma, Pandit Parimal

It further detailed their lessons, which went on for several hours and added, "Sukanya Shankar noted that during their stay in the USA she had shown Panditji a YouTube recording of Rishab performing Raag Tilak Kamod at a Sanjay Rikhi Ram Vadya Parampara event in New Delhi on 10th February 2011. After reviewing the recording again on the morning of 3rd January, Pandit Ravi Shankar decided to accept Rishab as a Shishya, intending to personally nurture his potential."

Do Deewane Seher Mein Review: Slow Romance That Quietly Wins You

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Cast: Siddhant Chaturvedi, Mrunal Thakur, Ila Arun, Sandeepa Dhar, and others

Director: Ravi Udyawar
Producers: Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Prerna Singh, Umesh Kumar Bansal, Bharat Kumar Ranga
Duration: 2h 18m | Certification: U/A
Release Date: 20 February 2026

An Urban Loneliness Set in the endlessly moving lanes of Mumbai, Do Deewane Seher Mein unfolds like a soft sigh rather than a loud declara-



tion. It isn't interested in dramatic twists or sweeping gestures. Instead, it lingers — sometimes too long — on pauses, silences and fragile emotions.

The story follows Roshni Srivastava and Shashank Sharma, two flawed yet deeply relatable individ-

uals trying to make peace with themselves before they can truly love someone else. Shashank battles a speech quirk that chips away at his confidence, while Roshni quietly wrestles with body image issues and the fear of inadequacy. Their romance blooms not through cine-

matic spectacle, but through hesitant conversations and shared vulnerability.

The film beautifully captures a specific kind of metro-city isolation — being surrounded by millions, yet emotionally alone. However, its biggest artistic strength is also its narrative weakness. The first half moves at an indulgent slow pace, often circling around emotional beats instead of progressing them.

Director Ravi Udyawar opts for sensitivity over melodrama. His approach is observational, allowing characters to breathe and

moments to settle. While this lends authenticity, it occasionally slips into self-indulgence. Several scenes in the first half feel stretched, testing the viewer's patience.

The film reflects modern relationship anxieties — dating fatigue, career insecurities, fear of emotional exposure. A little more depth in the dialogues could have added to the scenes naturally, which went missing. Though not always striking enough that could be carried outside theatres by the audiences, indeed not very relatable, thus won't linger on in our minds.

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna: Net Worth Revealed

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are making headlines with news of their upcoming wedding. The couple is set to get hitched on February 26 in Udaipur and has reportedly already jetted off to the city to begin the festivities. The Haldi and Sangeet ceremonies, followed by the grand wedding, will all take place on February 26. Ahead of their wedding, let's have a look at the



power couple's assets. The Arjun Reddy star is a massive star with a lifestyle to match. He owns a luxury mansion in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills valued at Rs 15 crore. His impressive car collection includes a BMW 5 Series, Ford Mustang, Volvo XC90, and a Range Rover. He also owns a private jet. Currently, Vijay's

net worth is estimated to be around Rs 70 crore. Rashmika Mandanna has solidified her place as one of the most sought-after actors in Bollywood. With an estimated net worth of Rs 66 crore, she charges approximately Rs 4 crore per film. The Chhaava actress owns properties across Mumbai, Goa, Coorg, and Hyderabad, including a Rs 8 crore home in Bengaluru. Her garage features luxury rides such as an Audi Q3, Range Rover Sport, and a Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

Dutch Top Olympics Medals Table In Short Track



The Dutch topped the medals table in short track at the Winter Games while local favourite Arianna Fontana wrote her way into the record books by taking her medal haul to 14. Over two weeks, medal wins were intertwined with personal stories, from athletes returning from career-threatening injuries to first-time Olympians whose hopes of leading their teams went sometimes unfulfilled.

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Skipper Surya Set For Super Show

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India may not yet have played the explosive cricket they are known for so far in the tournament, but captain Suryakumar Yadav is not quite worried. He feels the big one is round the corner. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, the eve of their opening Super Eight match against South Africa, Surya put it down to the variety of pitches the team has been playing on. "We have been trying to explode from the start of the tournament but have got into situations where we lost two or three wickets quickly. So we had to be smart and bat well between overs 7 and 15. Now, whenever we get a good start, we will bat with those (eruptive) templates," he said. "We also have expectations to make 220, 240, 250 runs but the wickets are a little different here (to the ones on which matches in the bilateral



series were played in the build-up to the World Cup). The four wickets we have played on so far were different and challenging. Off-spinners were not bowling earlier but are now. So we have started preparation for that and hopefully we will tackle it as we start our Super 8 journey," Surya explained. SKY did not think too much about triple-duck Abhishek Sharma's dry run in the tournament so far. "Agreed he has not yet scored but when he does, you have seen what happens," he said, adding "The team has a requirement that the boy should play with his identity, which is what he is doing. If it clicks, fine, if it doesn't, then we are there to cover (for him).

India Women Beat Australia by 17 Runs; Clinch Historic T20I Series Victory



SRI LANKA
Wakeup telangana

India clinched a historic 17-run victory over India Women's arch-rivals Australia Women in the third T20I on Saturday, sealing a 2-1 series triumph — their first bilateral T20I series win against Australia in a decade and first on Australian soil since 2016.

The decisive result was powered by a commanding 121-run second-wicket partnership between Smriti Mandhana

and Jimimah Rodrigues, whose polished strokeplay guided India to a competitive 176/6 after opting to bat. Mandhana struck a fluent 82 off 55 balls with eight fours and three sixes, while Rodrigues anchored the innings with 59 off 46 deliveries. Their stand came off just 66 balls and laid the platform for a defendable total. India's bowlers then delivered a clinical performance. Young spinner Shreyanka Patil triggered Australia's collapse with

3/22, while pace spearhead Renuka Singh struck early to dent the top order. Left-arm spinner Shree Charan added three crucial wickets as Australia slipped to 32/3 inside four overs and never fully recovered, finishing at 159/9.

Earlier, India faced an early setback when Shafali Verma fell for seven, but Mandhana and Rodrigues steadied the innings with calculated aggression. Mandhana reached her half-century in 38

balls — her 33rd international fifty — and punished the bowlers, particularly in the middle overs, to maintain momentum. A late cameo from Richa Ghosh, promoted by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, added impetus as the wicket-keeper smashed 18 off seven balls to push India towards a strong total. Australia's chase briefly showed promise through Ashleigh Gardner, who scored a fighting 57 off 45 balls, but her dismissal in the 16th over ended hopes of a comeback. India's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding ensured control throughout the innings, preventing any late surge. The victory not only sealed the series but also marked a statement performance from India's experienced batters and emerging bowlers, underlining their growing dominance and depth in women's T20 cricket against one of the game's strongest sides.

Hyderabad Police Teams With Influencers Against Cybercrime

The Hyderabad City Police on Saturday launched a new public outreach initiative in Hyderabad to combat rising cybercrime by collaborating with social media influencers, aiming to spread awareness through short, engaging videos explaining common online fraud tactics. The programme is part of the "Jagrut Hyderabad - Surakshit Hyderabad" campaign spearheaded by Commissioner VC Sajjanar, who urged digital creators to use their platforms responsibly to educate citizens about cyber threats. According to police, the initiative has already received an encouraging public response, with videos widely shared across official social media handles to maximize reach.

Several content creators have voluntarily joined the campaign, producing informative clips that blend entertainment with practical cyber safety tips. In one such video, popular influencer Zee Aly portrays a scam scenario in which she receives a fake call claiming she has won ₹25 lakh and is asked to reveal a one-time password — a common fraud tactic. Another video highlights "digital arrest" scams, where criminals posing as officials in fake uniforms intimidate victims over video calls.

Police advised citizens not to panic if they receive suspicious calls and instead report incidents immediately through the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or the official complaint portal. Sajjanar emphasized that influencers hold the power to shape public thinking and should create meaningful content promoting cyber awareness. He said ensuring a safe and informed society is a shared responsibility between authorities and citizens.

Liquor party inside graveyard sparks outrage in Mangalhat

Tension gripped Indira Nagar, Sitarambagh under the Mangalhat area in Hyderabad after a group of youths was allegedly found consuming alcohol inside a graveyard. The individuals not only indulged in drinking at the burial ground but also recorded the act and uploaded a reel on social media, triggering widespread anger among local residents. Locals condemned the incident, calling it highly disrespectful to the sanctity of the graveyard and the sentiments of families whose loved ones are buried there. Community members demanded strict action against those involved, stating that such acts disturb communal harmony and insult religious values. Residents urged the authorities to identify the accused through the viral video and take immediate legal action. They also called for increased patrolling and security measures around graveyards and other sensitive locations to prevent such incidents in the future.

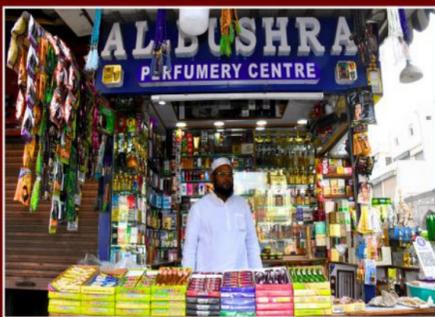


SHE teams nab 54 for harassing women

Between February 12 and 20, Cyberabad She teams conducted 192 decoy operations and caught 54 persons for harassing women in public places. Police booked 43 petty cases while others were counselled. The teams also received 13 complaints from women victims through various modes. In anti-human trafficking drives, 17 persons were apprehended, four victims rescued, and seven accused booked under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. Police said 28 families were reunited through counselling centres. She teams also reached 3,852 participants through awareness programmes on human trafficking, harassment of women, child marriages, child rights, child labour, stalking, alms-seeking, cyber bullying and cyber frauds.

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Pro-Palestine Rally Questions Ambani's Israel Ties

Pro-Palestine protest held in Secunderabad against Ambani's ties with Israel

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Indian People in Solidarity with Palestine staged a demonstration outside Reliance Trends in Secunderabad on February 21, alleging links between Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries and Israel amid the ongoing war in Gaza.

Protesters claimed corporate partnerships indirectly support military actions they described as genocide, accusing the United States and allied governments of complicity. The protest was part of coordinated demonstrations held simultaneously in Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Pune. Organisers said the nationwide mobilisation aimed to raise awareness of alleged economic ties between Indian corporations and Israeli institutions. They cited previous demonstrations targeting brands such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Burger King, Starbucks, Tata



Group, and Mahindra Group. IPSP alleged that Reliance's links date back two decades, pointing to investments and a 2024 joint venture with Delta Galil. The group further claimed partnerships connected to at least 117 Israeli startups through entities including Jeru-

salem Innovation Incubator, Israeli Innovation Authority, OurCrowd, and Yissum. It also criticised policy narratives linked to Observer Research Foundation. Speakers at the rally cited casualty figures and infrastructure destruction in Gaza, urging Indians to support the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement and press institutions to cut ties with Israel. One activist invoked anti-colonial icons Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, and Sukhdev Thapar, calling for public mobilisation against what organisers described as corporate complicity and humanitarian injustice.

Telangana BC Commission to probe quota violations in power corporations



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Backward Classes Commission on Saturday, February 21, will conduct an inquiry into the alleged violations of reservations in recruitments in state run power corporations. In a meeting held at Khairatabad, chaired by Commission Chairperson G Niranjan, the Telangana Electricity BC Employees Association pointed out discrepancies in the implementations of reservations in recruitment in

Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (TRANSCO), Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited (TGGECO), Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGNPDCL) and Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited. The Commission will visit these offices in the fourth week of March to examine the matter, a release said. It also directed officials to expedite the collection of data relating to students in Telangana.

Hyderabad Police Launch Student Internship, Volunteer Program

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad City Police on Saturday, February 21, launched internship and professional volunteer engagement programmes aimed at strengthening collaborative, knowledge-driven policing while giving students and experts hands-on exposure to law enforcement systems. Students under 25 currently pursuing graduation or post-graduation are eligible to apply for the internship. Selected candidates will work on analytical assignments, research

projects, and task-based modules designed to provide practical insight into policing operations. After successful completion, participants will receive official certification recognizing their training and contribution. Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said the initiative creates a rare platform for young learners to understand real-world policing while contributing fresh perspectives to departmental functioning. He noted that such academic-police collaboration can enhance innovation, improve problem-solving

approaches, and strengthen institutional efficiency. Alongside student internships, the department has opened structured volunteering opportunities for experienced professionals. Individuals with specialised or technical expertise can support clearly defined assignments related to systems, processes, or technology. These volunteers will assist with organisational development and innovation-driven initiatives, enabling the department to benefit from external professional insight.

BJYM protest



BJYM leaders staged a protest and attempted to lay siege to Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Police intervened and detained the protesters, taking them into custody.

Martial arts training for DCC chiefs

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

DCC presidents from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will undergo martial arts training during a 10-day orientation camp at Vikarabad. Arun Sharma, Rahul Gandhi's coach and a specialist in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, will lead daily one-hour self-defence sessions in the mornings. Party sources said the camp's primary objective is to familiarise DCC presidents with Congress principles and prepare them to tackle political challenges, while also focusing on physical fitness.

Rahul Gandhi, keen on maintaining mental and physical fitness, wants district-level leaders to be equally prepared. "After flag hoisting at 7 am, there will be an hour-long Ju-Jitsu training session. Only after 8.30 the participants will be allowed to have breakfast," a participant said, adding that Sharma, who was part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, will be the key trainer. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, derived from Judo, is a grappling martial art that uses chokeholds and joint locks to incapacitate attackers.

Hyderabad Seen As South Asia's Medical Tourism Hub

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana has initiated steps to position Hyderabad as South Asia's most integrated medical value tourism (MVT) destination by proposing the establishment of a dedicated society for the purpose. This was revealed at a roundtable convened by the Tourism Development Corporation which brought together senior representatives from government and industry to deliberate on the institutional framework, governance structure and long-term



roadmap for the proposed body. Discussions focused on creating an integrated MVT hub in Hyderabad, in line with the Union Budget's proposal to develop five national hubs. The first session examined industry expecta-

tions from TG Medical Tourism Society (TGMST) as the central coordinating agency. Participants highlighted Hyderabad's strengths and stressed the need for unified industry representation, global branding, policy advocacy, ethical

self-regulation, transparent grievance redressal and a formal licensing system for medical tourism facilitators to ensure credibility and consistent patient experience. The second session discussed a proposed greenfield medical city under a PPP model, integrating hospitals, wellness providers, Ayurveda institutes, medical colleges, research centres and tourism facilitation services. A detailed recommendation paper will be submitted to the Union Ministries concerned.

Uttam Calls For Exploring New Avenues For The Export Of T'gana Rice

The minister tasked the university officials to prepare a draft policy which would enable the government to explore the potential markets for export of rice

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday directed officials to identify new avenues for exporting rice from Telangana and disposing of the stocks held by the Civil Supplies Corporation after the record procurement of 72 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy achieved during the Kharif marketing sea-

son. He was speaking at a review meeting with senior scientists from the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) and officials of the civil supplies and agriculture departments. The meeting focused on dissecting the problems and charting a multi-pronged plan address the challenges being faced in procurement and disposal of paddy and rice.



The minister tasked the university officials to prepare a draft policy which would enable the

government to explore the potential markets for export of rice as well as promotion of rice varie-

ties that command both demand and better price in the export market. He emphasised that the state must be represented in every overseas forum that deals with the export of rice. "We should organise a two-day meet, inviting representatives from countries keen on importing rice from the state. One more session with the representatives from the University and officials of the depart-

ments concerned will be held soon for brainstorming the scope for exporting rice by the state and also discuss policies for crop diversification," Kumar Reddy noted. The minister said he would seek the participation of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to make the session more fruitful.