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Brief Insights

Rajaji to Replace Lutyens Statue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced with a statue of C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of independent India. Speaking during his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister said that even after Independence, statues of British administrators remained at Rashtrapati Bhavan while Indian leaders were not ac-

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Rahul, Kharge to launch nationwide protest against India-US interim trade deal

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge are scheduled to kick off the nationwide campaign against the India-US interim trade deal by the party by addressing a farmers rally here on Tuesday. The decision to oppose the deal was taken at a meeting in the AICC office in Delhi recently, according to Madhya Pradesh unit Congress chief Jitu Patwari. The US supreme court had struck down the tariff policy of American President Donald Trump on Thursday. Had the Centre waited for 18 days more and not accepted the interim trade deal, the interests of the farmers of the country could have been protected, Mr. Patwari said.

Netanyahu Says Modi to Visit Israel on Wednesday

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Israel on Wednesday, his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu said. "The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will arrive here; he will deliver a speech in the Knesset, and I'm sure you will all be there," Netanyahu said Sunday at the opening of a cabinet meeting, referring to Israel's parliament. Netanyahu hailed growing ties between the two countries. "The fabric of relations has grown tighter, and (Modi) is coming here so that we can tighten it even more," he said, mentioning cooperation in the economic, diplomatic and security spheres. Modi previously visited Israel as prime minister in 2017, before Netanyahu made a reciprocal visit to India the following year.



Ramchander Rao Detained En Route to Tension-Hit Banswada: P8

India Come A Cropper Against South Africa: P7

Harish Rao Alleges Real Estate Motive in Musi Project: P2



Modi Slams Cong. For Dirty Politics At AI Summit

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, accusing it of insulting the nation during the recent AI Global Summit in Delhi. Speaking in Meerut after inaugurating the Namu Bharat Rapid Rail and the Meerut Metro, Modi described the Congress protest at the summit as "gandi aur nangi rajneeti" (dirty and shameless politics). He alleged that the party had crossed all limits by staging a shirtless protest at an international event attended by foreign dignitaries.

The Prime Minister said representatives from over 80 countries and heads of state from around 20 nations had attended the summit, making it a matter of national pride. "While citizens are working day and night to make India a developed nation, some political parties cannot digest the country's success," he said. Modi alleged that Congress leaders had attempted to turn a global platform into



a venue for domestic political theatrics. He emphasized that the summit was a national event and not a BJP programme, adding that no BJP leader was present at the time of the protest.

He thanked several Opposition parties for criticising the incident, saying they had stood by national interest. He also accused the Congress of disrupting parliamentary functioning, referring to an incident during the Budget session in which women MPs protested in the Lok Sabha, leading to adjournment of proceedings. Without naming individuals, Modi said leadership

positions cannot be secured through theatrics but by winning public trust. He alleged that Congress had become ideologically weak and was engaging in divisive politics.

Reiterating that development remains the BJP government's top priority, the Prime Minister highlighted progress in Uttar Pradesh. He said the state, once associated with crime and poor infrastructure, is now known for modern highways, expanding airports, mobile phone manufacturing and a growing sports ecosystem. Modi inaugurated development projects

worth approximately ₹12,930 crore in Meerut, marking the first time in India that both a rapid rail and a metro service were launched from the same platform on the same day. He dedicated the Namu Bharat Rapid Rail and Meerut Metro services to the public, calling them a major boost for a "Viksit Uttar Pradesh" and a "Viksit Bharat."

He also recalled laying the foundation stone for Uttar Pradesh's first semi-conductor plant a day earlier, stating that a developed Uttar Pradesh is crucial for achieving the goal of a developed India. Modi further underscored the government's focus on creating employment, strengthening urban infrastructure, and promoting technological innovation across the state. He stressed that these initiatives are part of a broader vision to ensure equitable growth and elevate India's global standing, emphasizing that development and national progress must remain above political posturing.

Kaleshwaram Projects Not Abandoned, Says Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday said that the state government had no intention of abandoning the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS), despite the failure at three of its barrages, even though the state had achieved record levels of paddy production over the past two years without using any water from the scheme. Revanth Reddy said that the government was focused on carrying out repairs to the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages on a scientific basis, with expert committees and agencies examining subterranean changes at the sites to prevent future disasters. "Kaleshwaram was built with the people's money, not private property. Our people's government will bring it back into use after ensuring its safety," he said.

He was speaking after a detailed review of the Devadula project after visiting the site. Revanth Reddy said that all ongoing and pending projects on the River Godavari, from the Tummidihatti barrage to Bhadrachalam,



would be fast-tracked for completion. He also said the government was ready to resolve water-sharing disputes through dialogue with neighbouring states. Revanth Reddy said that the government would not hesitate to knock on the doors of the courts to protect Telangana's interests in the utilisation of both Krishna and Godavari waters, if the discussions failed.

Revanth Reddy ridiculed the allegations levelled by the Opposition that the state government was co-operating with Andhra Pradesh in the matter of sharing river waters. He questioned the logic behind such claims, asking if any public representative from Telangana would ever undermine their own state's interests. Dismissing the accusations as cheap politics, Revanth Reddy stated that the state government was open to a full-scale debate

on Godavari water issues in the Assembly, similar to the one recently held regarding the River Krishna.

On the Devadula project, Revanth Reddy pointed out that the foundation for the scheme was laid by then-chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in 2001 in undivided Andhra Pradesh but remained incomplete a quarter of a century later. He highlighted that the project's estimated cost had ballooned from ₹6,000 crore to ₹18,500 crore due to deliberate neglect by the previous BRS administration.

The Chief Minister slammed the then BRS government for failing to complete major projects like the Pranahita, Sriram-sagar and Devadula during its 10-year tenure. He said that Telangana could have utilised an additional 967 tmc ft of water had

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Ferrari Crash Triggers Three-Car Pile-Up in Jubilee Hills

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Tension prevailed in Jubilee Hills after a major road accident occurred near the residence of actor Nandamuri Balakrishna on Sunday. According to preliminary information, a speeding car reportedly lost control, swerved into a side road, and rammed into several parked and moving vehicles, including cars and two-wheelers. The impact left multiple people travelling from the opposite direction seriously injured.

Eyewitnesses said vehicles were flung aside due to the force of the collision, leaving debris scattered across the road. The accident resulted in

heavy traffic congestion in and around Jubilee Hills, with commuters stranded for a considerable time. Police from Jubilee Hills Police Station rushed to the spot and began diverting traffic to ease congestion. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Further details are awaited.

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Army Dog Helps Kill 3 JeM ultras

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

An Army sniffer dog named Tyson took the first bullet during Sunday's anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's eastern Kishtwar district, enabling security forces to pinpoint the militants' location and ultimately neutralise two of them — including Saifullah, a top commander of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) outfit, officials said. The body of a third terrorist was found later. The encounter began in the morning after secu-



rity agencies received intelligence inputs about the presence of two Pakistani militants hiding in the rugged Chatroo belt, officials in Jammu confirmed. Joint teams of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the CRPF launched a coordinated search operation in the area at around 10.30 am. As the forces approached a mud house located at the foothills of a forested

ridge, the militants opened fire, triggering a fierce exchange. A report said that the security forces eventually brought down the mud structure, using controlled explosives and grenade launchers to break their cover. Troops simultaneously maintained sustained small arms fire to prevent the militants from escaping, the report said. The Army's Nagrota based 16 Corps, the White Knight Corps, acknowledged the encounter and killing of two militants on

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Sharad Pawar Hospitalised

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar was admitted to Ruby Hall Clinic Hospital in Pune again on Sunday after suffering from mild dehydration. The 85-year-old politician's condition is now stable, said doctors. According to his daughter and the MP from Baramati, Supriya Sule, the veteran leader has been suffering from a cough and throat infection. As his condition deteriorated, the family decided to admit him to the private hospital for



further medical observation and care.

"We are admitting Baba to Ruby Hall, Pune for follow-up tests and hydration. Thanking all the doctors and healthcare workers," she wrote on X. Doctors said that the NCP chief was stable and will be in the hospital for a couple of days before getting discharged. "He has been admitted to the Ruby

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Revanth Reddy turned Telangana into ATM for AICC: KTR

BRS leader K T Rama Rao accused CM A Revanth Reddy of misusing Telangana funds, failing welfare, and increasing

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

K T Rama Rao, working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), came down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, criticising him for turning Telangana into an ATM for the All India Congress Committee (AICC). He said the State's resources were being diverted to meet the expenses of the Congress leadership in

Delhi, which was acknowledged by the Chief Minister himself by stating that Telangana Congress was capable of sending Rs 1,000 crore to the Gandhi family during a recent party leaders' meeting.

In a sharp retort, Rama Rao said the Congress government had failed to implement 420 promises made to farmers, women, youth, employees and pensioners, citing a lack of funds. He

pointed out that while welfare schemes were stalled, the government had raised nearly Rs 3 lakh crore in debt over two years without visible development.

"Not a single project has been initiated in the last two years despite huge loans. Instead, Telangana people's money is being diverted to fund Congress activities across the country," he added.

The BRS working president charged the regime



with misusing public money and weakening Telangana's financial position. He stated that the Anumula brothers were resorting to large-scale

land irregularities in the State. He said that under the guise of Musi beautification, houses of the poor were being targeted. He added that tribal lands in Lagacherla and lands belonging to the University of Hyderabad were also being affected.

Alleging misuse of industrial land policies, he accused the government of facilitating private interests at the cost of public resources. He said the

current dispensation was functioning with a single agenda of looting Telangana while neglecting development. "Revanth Reddy is working with the sole agenda of looting Telangana, pocketing commissions and also carrying money bags to Delhi to safeguard his post," he said, urging people to remain vigilant against diversion of State funds and erosion of Telangana's interests.

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

Harish Rao Alleges Real Estate Motive in Musi Project

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

T Harish Rao, Legislative Party deputy leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, on Sunday accused the ruling Indian National Congress government of pursuing a “real estate-driven agenda” under the guise of the Musi River riverfront development project and demanded immediate withdrawal of eviction notices issued to residents of Madhu Park Ridge apartments and nearby areas. Accompanied by former minister P Sabita Indra Reddy, MLAs G Sudheer Reddy and Madhava-ram Krishna Rao, and



other party leaders, Harish Rao visited families facing displacement and assured them of support on the directions of party chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. He alleged that the State government was attempting to demolish middle-class homes without due process, claiming the project was intended to clear land for corporate interests. Targeting Chief

Minister A Revanth Reddy, he said decisions were allegedly linked to land and commercial dealings, citing controversies surrounding land parcels connected to University of Hyderabad, the HILT policy, Future City and other projects as part of what he described as a pattern. Questioning the legality of eviction notices, Harish Rao said there was no Detailed Project

Report, no fixation of Full Tank Level, no environmental clearance and no social impact assessment, yet residents were being threatened with demolition. He clarified that the BRS was not opposed to cleaning the Musi but objected to demolishing homes in the name of development. He noted that many apartments represented lifelong investments for middle-class families who had taken bank loans.

Referring to past initiatives, he said that during the previous BRS government, sewage treatment plants worth ₹3,800 crore were initiated and DPRs prepared to bring water

from the Godavari River via Kaleshwaram for river rejuvenation without displacement. He also questioned the State’s financial priorities, alleging that while funds were lacking for welfare schemes, the government was spending on projects such as a ₹100-crore camp office in Jubilee Hills and high-profile events including Miss World programmes and a proposed football event involving Lionel Messi. Responding to appeals from residents, Harish Rao said the BRS would raise the issue in the upcoming Assembly Budget session and pursue legal action if required.

World Understanding and Peace Day Observed with Renewed Call for Global Harmony-Anjaiah

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Communities around the world marked World Understanding and Peace Day today, reaffirming the global commitment to harmony, cooperation, and mutual respect among nations and cultures. The day commemorates the founding anniversary of Rotary International in 1905, an organization that has long championed humanitarian service and international goodwill. Since its establishment, Rotary has grown into a worldwide network dedicated to promoting peace, fighting disease, supporting education, and strengthening communities. Promoting Peace Through Understanding World Understanding and Peace Day serves as a reminder that lasting peace is built not only through treaties and diplomacy but also through empathy, dialogue, and shared human

values. Leaders and community members emphasized that understanding cultural differences and encouraging open communication are essential steps toward reducing conflict. “Peace begins at the grassroots level,” speakers at various local events noted, highlighting the importance of education, youth engagement, and cross-cultural exchange programs. Community Initiatives and Activities Across cities and towns, educational seminars, peace rallies, interfaith dialogues, and community service projects were organized to mark the occasion. Schools conducted special assemblies to teach students about tolerance and global citizenship, while civic organizations hosted discussions on conflict resolution and sustainable development. Volunteers also participated in service initiatives

such as food distribution drives, environmental clean-up campaigns, and fundraising for humanitarian causes—actions that reflect the spirit of unity and service associated with the day. A Global Responsibility In today’s interconnected world, global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and health crises demand collective action. Observers stressed that international cooperation and mutual respect are more important than ever. World Understanding and Peace Day ultimately underscores a simple but powerful message: despite differences in language, culture, or geography, humanity shares common hopes for safety, dignity, and opportunity. As communities concluded the day’s events, the call was clear—peace is not merely an ideal, but a shared responsibility that begins with understanding one another.

Drainage Overflow Causes Severe Inconvenience in Lalapet Fort



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents of Lalapet in Secunderabad are facing serious inconvenience due to frequent drainage overflow near the Old Fort area. The problem has been reported along the stretch from the Ambedkar statue to Moulali Road, where sewage water is continuously flowing onto the main road. According to locals, the stagnant sewage emits a foul smell and creates unhygienic conditions, making it difficult for pedestrians and motorists to travel. The overflow has also raised concerns about potential health risks,

especially for children and elderly residents in the area. “We have complained many times to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, but only temporary measures are taken. The problem keeps repeating,” said a local resident. Another resident added, “This is not a new issue. We are demanding a permanent solution to stop the drainage water from overflowing. It is affecting our daily lives.” Residents have urged the civic authorities to conduct a thorough inspection, clear the blocked drainage system, and implement a long-term solution to prevent further inconvenience.

Race Heats Up for Rajya Sabha Posts in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With two Rajya Sabha seats from Telangana set to fall vacant on April 9, 2026, senior leaders of the ruling Congress are stepping up efforts to secure nomination, triggering intense lobbying within the party. The vacancies will arise following the end of the terms of K.R. Suresh Reddy and Abhishek Manu Singhvi. Party sources indicated that the Congress high command is likely to re-nominate Singhvi, while



the second seat is expected to go to a senior leader from the State. K.R. Suresh Reddy, a native of Nizamabad district, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the BRS. Leaders from Nizamabad are now hopeful of staking claim to the seat. Names doing the rounds include former Balkonda MLA Eravathri

Anil, former Nizamabad MP Madhu Yashki, former PCC president V. Hanumanth Rao, and other senior leaders. Sources said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, in consultation with the Congress national leadership, would take the final call on the nominations. Leaders such as Vem Narendar Reddy and Harkara Venugopal are also said to be in the race, with social representation expected to play a key role in the decision-making process. A senior Congress leader said the

high command would consider political experience, social equations and organisational needs before finalising the candidates. According to insiders, the Congress leadership is keen to balance regional and caste equations in Telangana while also rewarding loyalty to the party’s central command. If renomination of Abhishek Manu Singhvi is confirmed, attention will shift entirely to the second berth, where aspirants are intensifying outreach in Delhi.

Light Rains, Thunderstorm Alert for Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for several districts across Telangana, warning of light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms on Monday and Tuesday. The advisory indicates that weather conditions could turn unstable in multiple regions, though the overall intensity is expected to remain moderate rather than severe. According to the forecast, thunderstorms with lightning are very likely on Monday in districts such as Bhadradi-Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahbubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, and Nagarkurnool, indicating the persistence of unstable atmospheric conditions over these areas. In Hyderabad, residents can expect light rain or drizzle over the two days, with surface winds ranging between 6 and 10 kmph. The IMD has clarified that the impact of this rainfall on daily life is likely to be minimal, suggesting no major disruptions to routine activities, transportation, or essential services. Meteorologists attribute the current weather pattern to moist air currents moving inland from the seas toward Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which are



contributing to cloud formation across Telangana. Additionally, a trough extends from a well-marked low-pressure area over the southwest Bay of Bengal across central Tamil Nadu and interior Karnataka toward south Madhya Maharashtra. Such trough systems typically enhance moisture convergence and atmospheric instability, increasing the likelihood of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Officials advise residents, especially in alert districts, to remain cautious during lightning activity and brief spells of gusty winds, even though widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated at present.

Chaos at Gurukul Exam Centre Over Wrong Papers

Tension prevailed at the Gurukul entrance examination centre in Ryalam-padu, Dharur mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal district, after the test failed to begin at the scheduled 11 am on Sunday after it emerged that students were given the wrong question paper. Angry parents and students staged a protest outside the school, alleging negligence. Dharur police stepped in brought the situation under control. Officials said 450 students had registered for the Common Entrance Test (CET) from the centre, of whom 405 appeared. Students were seated 10 minutes before the exam. When the question papers were distributed, staff realised that Class 5 papers had been given to students taking the test for entry into Class 6. An official from the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institution Society (TGSWREIS), which conducted the TG CET, said: “The issue happened during packaging at the printing press. This delayed the exam. However, the right paper was later sent and the exam was conducted.” The exam, originally scheduled from 11 am to 1 pm, was eventually conducted between 3.40 pm and 5.45 pm. Parents expressed anger, stating they had travelled long distances and questioned the management’s negligence.

Karimnagar new mayor takes charge

KARIMANGAR
Wakeup telangana

Kolagani Srinivas on Sunday assumed charge as the new Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar. The new mayor, along with family members, performed pujas in his chamber. After taking charge, he signed the first file to solve the drinking water problem and to take up various developmental works in newly merged villages with Rs 49 lakh. Thanking the people for electing the BJP in Kar-



imnagar, he thanked the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, BJP state president Ramchander Rao, and party national and state leaders for choosing him as the Mayor. He assured that he would strive hard for the devel-

opment of all 66 divisions with the support of Union Minister Sanjay Kumar. Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai congratulated the new mayor by presenting a bouquet. Deputy Mayor Y Sunil Rao and others were present.

1.72 Lakh Students Appear for TG CET- 2026

A total of 1,72,842 candidates appeared for the TG Common Entrance Test (CET)-2026, held in 492 examination centres across the state on Sunday for admission to Class 5 and Classes 6 to 9 in schools under the social welfare, tribal welfare, and backward classes education societies S. Krishna Aditya, chief convener of TG CET, said the society had successfully conducted the exams. A total of 1,82,061 applications were received, of which 1,72,842 candidates appeared. He added that the high attendance percentage reflects the strong interest of students in gaining admission to Gurukul educational institutions.

Kavitha Warning Forced Govt Action: Panduranga Reddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana activists’ long-running self-respect agitation achieved a breakthrough after strong pressure from Kalvakuntla Kavitha, prompting a government response and assurances of justice, said Kappati Panduranga Reddy, district president of Telangana Jagruti in Ranga Reddy. He stated that the administration acted only after Kavitha’s stern warning that ignoring activists’ issues would trigger protests outside official residences.



According to REDDY, the pressure compelled minister Ponnampati Prabhakar to personally meet activists, hear grievances, and promise swift resolution. This development, he said, proves the movement’s strength and Telangana Jagruti’s persistence in defending those who fought for statehood.

Panduranga Reddy emphasized that many who sacrificed for Telangana still struggle for recognition and dignity even years after state formation. He asserted that activists’ rights are non-negotiable and warned that any neglect would be met with intensified democratic protests. He also criticized K. T. Rama Rao for remaining silent on activists’ concerns while Kavitha actively champions them. Questioning this silence, he suggested it may stem from regret over past political decisions that alleg-

edly sidelined genuine activists during previous administrations. The Telangana Jagruti leader concluded that Kavitha has consistently stood at the forefront whenever activists’ dignity is threatened and vowed the organization will continue its struggle until all pending issues are fully resolved. He described the latest government engagement as an initial victory but stressed that sustained action, not assurances, will determine whether justice is truly delivered.

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 Gadilala Raghuvuera 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 Raghuvuera Reddy had allegedly threatened to withdraw the PIL if an amount .

Tax revenue growth decelerates under Congress rule in Telangana

Officials are expecting to close the year recording tax revenue growth at around 13 per cent. They did not rule out the possibility of the growth confining to single digit when the revised estimates for 2025-26 are presented in the upcoming State Budget for next financial year of 2026-27

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

After recording one of the highest growth in the country during the BRS regime, Telangana's tax revenue has slowed markedly under the Congress government, triggering concerns over weakening revenue mobilisation and widening fiscal stress. The State registered just 11.9 per cent growth of tax revenue upto January this year, over the corresponding period last financial year.

Officials are expecting to close the year recording tax revenue growth at around 13 per cent. They did not rule out the possibility of the growth confining to single digit when the revised estimates for 2025-26 are presented in



the upcoming State Budget for next financial year of 2026-27. During the same period, revenue receipts growth was at 11.75 per cent which is likely to reach 12.5 per cent by year-end. Economists have cautioned that these numbers fell short of the high-growth trajectory seen in earlier years. During the early years of State formation, revenue expansion was robust. In 2015-16, tax revenue growth stood at 52.2 per cent, revenue receipts grew by 49.2 per cent and total receipts by 56.4 per

cent. Over the last four financial years, the tax revenue registered an annual growth of 37.6 per cent in 2021-22, 26.36 per cent in 2022-23, and 7.2 per cent in 2023-24.

In contrast, under the current regime in 2024-25, tax revenue growth has dropped to just 2.2 per cent, revenue receipts growth to 2.5 per cent and total receipts growth to 5.8 per cent. The deceleration marks a significant shift from the post-pandemic rebound years. In absolute terms, tax revenue increased from Rs 1,00,129 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 1,38,582 crore in 2024-25. However, the pace of increase has slowed considerably. Revenue receipts rose from Rs 1,27,469 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 1,73,546 crore in 2024-25, while

total receipts climbed from Rs 1,79,295 crore to Rs 2,34,765 crore during the same period. However, the growth momentum has weakened over last two financial years.

Upto January this year, Telangana realised tax revenue of Rs 1,26,293 crore, revenue receipts of Rs 1,38,371 crore and total receipts amounting to Rs 2,07,558 crore. In another indicator of the poor revenue, the State Owned Tax Revenue (SOTR) of Telangana is pegged at around 84 per cent of its revenue for the current fiscal at the end of January. Telangana was the leading State in India in terms of SOTR during the BRS regime, with 88 per cent of its total revenue coming from its own tax resources.

263-acre Kamareddy College Land Dispute Sparks Congress-BJP Clash

A senior leader said a comprehensive state-level inquiry would bring clarity on the ownership and use of the land.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP Kamareddy MLA K. Venkataramana Reddy said he would meet district collector Ashish Sangwan on Monday over the ongoing controversy surrounding 263 acres of government college land in the town. The at 11 am, and follows a series of complaints and counter-complaints and clashes between the BJP and the Congress. The NSUI, which is protesting the alleged land grab, welcomed the MLA's decision to approach the district administration. NSUI district president Ireni Sandeep said the organisation was prepared to participate in the discussions and claimed to have evidence regarding encroachment of college lands. He said the issue should be resolved through administrative means rather than political



confrontation. The Congress and its frontal organisations have accused the BJP MLA's family of encroaching on the college land. Congress, Youth Congress and NSUI activists have staged protests in Kamareddy, demanding removal of alleged encroachments. On Saturday, former sarpanch Giri Reddy Mahender Reddy, along with Congress workers, allegedly drove past police barricades towards the MLA's camp office, leading to clashes between Congress and BJP activists. Mahender Reddy's car was reportedly damaged and overturned. Police intervened and detained him. The disputed land was allotted nearly three decades

ago for public and educational institutions, including Gunj Sangham Junior College, the old Collectorate and residential educational institutions. Some portions were later occupied for educational purposes. Katipally Raja Reddy, father of MLA Venkataramana Reddy, played a role in promoting educational institutions in the town. Government adviser Mohammad Ali Shabbir and former MLA Gampa Govardhan raised the issue of alleged encroachment, and Venkataramana Reddy, denying the allegations, said his family contributed to higher education in Kamareddy and declared that he would resign if encroachment was proved. Former district collector Satyanarayana also expressed interest in clarifying the issue. A senior leader said a comprehensive state-level inquiry would bring clarity on the ownership and use of the land.

Politics only During Polls, Focus on Development: Ponguleti

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday asserted that politics should remain limited to election periods and that governance must thereafter focus solely on development and delivery of promises made to citizens.

He made these remarks after attending the charge-taking ceremony of Pokabathini Anitha, the newly elected municipal chairperson of Edulapuram, and felicitating recently elected councillors of the Indian National Congress. Addressing the gathering, the minister emphasised that once elections conclude, public representatives must shift their entire attention to welfare and development initiatives. He urged councillors to adopt this principle in both letter and spirit, stressing that the credibility of elected leaders depends on their ability to fulfil assurances made



during campaigns. He assured residents that all promises given during the municipal elections would be honoured and that priority would be accorded to development works in the town. Highlighting civic challenges, he noted that the municipality covers a vast geographical area dotted with several vacant plots. Proper utilisation of these lands, he said, is essential to prevent water stagnation and unhygienic conditions. He warned that neglected open spaces could become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and disease, and called for coordinated action to improve sanitation, drainage and basic civic

amenities. The minister announced that urban infrastructure development in the municipality would receive special focus, reiterating his vision to transform it into a model municipality in the state. He advised councillors to undertake daily morning visits to their respective wards, closely monitor sanitation activities, remain accessible to residents and personally supervise development works to ensure quality standards are maintained. He also directed municipal authorities to identify and remove structures that have encroached upon nalas, stressing that protecting drainage channels is vital for flood.

Union Leaders Urge Collective Push For Women Empowerment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Women's empowerment requires collective effort from all sections of society, said B. S. Rambabu, secretary of the All India Bank Employees Association, while addressing the All-India Women's Convention organized as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Canara Bank Employees Union.

Speaking as chief guest at the event held in Abids, he emphasized that unions continue to fight for the rights and demands of bank staff and officers, and called for sustained initiatives to build awareness on women's empower-



ment across workplaces. Earlier, union president M. S. Srinivasan and general secretary B. Ramprakash unfurled the union flag and noted that governments must intensify efforts to

ensure women's advancement. They described it as a matter of pride that the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the union were being hosted in the city, adding that the organization remains

committed to resolving employees' issues through collective action.

Addressing delegates, joint secretary Lalitha Joshi encouraged women to excel in all sectors and take leadership roles. Telangana chairman Manjula and secretary B. S. Madhusudan said the two-day celebrations have drawn members from different cities across the country on the first day, with even larger participation expected on the concluding day. Among those present were AIBEA secretary Richa Gandhi, joint secretary Anirudh Kumar, treasurer K. Srikrishna, CC member C. H. Radha and several employees of Canara Bank.

14 held in cockfight raid, cash and vehicles seized

KHAMMAM
Wakeup telangana

Police cracked down on an illegal cockfighting operation in the early hours of Saturday, detaining 14 persons and seizing cash, vehicles and betting material during a raid. Acting on a tip-off, a team from Sathupalli Police Station conducted the operation at a palm oil plantation in Gangaram village. Officials said ₹65,000 in cash, betting boxes, two fighting cocks, knives, six motorcycles and 11 cars were confiscated from the spot.



A case has been registered and investigation is underway, police said. The detained persons were later produced before authorities for bind-over proceedings and counseled about the financial and legal consequences of participating

in cockfights. Police urged residents of Kalluru Sub-Division to share information about illegal activities such as gambling, betting and unauthorized sand transport, assuring confidentiality for informants.

Ambedkar Mission Marks 155th Week

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Mission, Lothkunta celebrated the 155th week of GNANA MALA on February 22, 2026, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue in Lothkunta, Alwal, with leaders and citizens paying tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Chief guests Narsimha Kannan and Arvind highlighted Ambedkar's role in shaping the Constitution and empowering marginalized communities, urging youth to follow his ideals. Kannan also pledged to install a protective shed for the statue. Speakers stressed safeguarding the rights of downtrodden sections and continuing Ambed-



kar's mission. Organizers thanked participants, including community leaders, professionals, and volunteers, for contributing to the event's success and strengthening social awareness through the weekly initiative.

SHLOK Dermatology & Wellness Launches in Kokapet

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's healthcare sector expanded on February 22, 2026, with the inauguration of SHLOK Dermatology & Wellness, a new centre founded by cosmetic dermatologist Dr. Manisha Mareddy offering evidence-based, personalised skin, hair and aesthetic treatments. The clinic aims to deliver ethical, science-driven care focused on long-term skin health rather than quick cosmetic fixes. The launch event was attended by several distin-



guished guests including Dr. Arun Mareddy, Ravi Kanth Reddy of Ravi Hitech, Dr. Rajeshwari, and Mallu Lakshmi, Secretary of AIDWA, along with medical professionals and social leaders. The facility combines dermatological science, regenerative medicine and

aesthetic procedures within a patient-centric setting designed for detailed consultations and tailored treatment plans. Services include hair restoration therapies such as PRP, GFC and exosome treatments; injectables like botulinum toxin and fillers; laser-based proce-

dures; acne scar management; HIFU therapy; and medical dermatology for conditions including psoriasis, eczema, pigmentation and hair disorders. Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Manisha said skin reflects both health and confidence, stressing that responsible dermatology must balance innovation with safety, restraint and scientific integrity. She noted that each treatment protocol is customised after assessing a patient's anatomy, lifestyle and goals to ensure natural-looking, proportionate outcomes.

BJP Protests Alleged Arrests of Leaders; Effigy of CM Burnt

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly condemned the alleged attacks on its MLAs and what it described as atrocities against Hindus in the state. State BJP President Ramchander Rao criticized the reported arrest of BJP MLAs, MPs, and MLCs, terming it as evidence of "authoritarian rule" under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

In protest against what the party called the Congress government's "revenge politics," BJP District Yuva Morcha leaders staged a demonstration at the Gandhi



statue in Chandrayangutta and burned an effigy of the Chief Minister.

The protest was led by the BJP District Yuva Morcha Vice President and attended by several party leaders, including Edla Pandari Nath, General Secretary of BJP Bhayanagar District; Naveen Yadav, Secretary; Mahender Reddy, Social Media In-charge; Devender, BC Morcha leader; Division Presidents Ranjith, Laxman, Madhu, and Ravi; as well as G. Venu, Venkatesh, Ramesh, and Balaraju, among others. The leaders demanded the immediate release of detained BJP representatives and warned of intensified protests if the alleged arrests and actions continue.

Lashkar-Linked Terror Module Busted, 8 Arrested For Plotting Attack In India

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Eight people, suspected of allegedly plotting a major terror conspiracy in India with backing from Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba and terror groups in Bangladesh, have been arrested from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. While six suspects - identified as Mizanur Rahman, Mohammed Shabat, Umar, Mohammed Litan, Mohammed Shahid, and Mohammed Ujjal, were arrested from garment manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur district, two were arrested from West Bengal, sources said. According to officials, a Bangladeshi national is among the arrested suspects. Sources indicate



the accused were allegedly using forged Aadhaar cards for identification. The police recovered dozens of mobile phones and 16 SIM cards from the suspects, officials said. The suspects were arrested by the Tamil Nadu police and are being handed over to the Delhi police. Officials said that the suspects had put up posters of 'Free Kashmir' and 'Stop Genocide in Kashmir' at more than

10 locations, including metro stations, across Delhi and Kolkata around 10 days ago. Investigation revealed that they had received funding from terrorist organisations - with whom they were either in direct contact or via social media. Some of the accused were in contact with a handler in Bangladesh - who is currently based in Pakistan. This comes a day after sources, citing security

agencies, said that Lashkar-e-Taiba has been planning a blast near Delhi's Red Fort and prominent religious places across the country, including a temple in Chandni Chowk. Sources suggest that the terror outfit may be plotting an improvised explosive device (IED) attack. The outfit is allegedly seeking to avenge the February 6 suicide blast at a mosque in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, in which 31 people died and over 160 were injured, sources said. The Islamic State group, however, had claimed responsibility for the mosque attack. Officials busted the terror plots nearly three months after a deadly car explosion near the Red Fort, in which 12 people were killed and

about two dozen were injured. The blast on November 10, caused by a car loaded with explosives near the Red Fort Metro Station, triggered fires in multiple nearby vehicles. Umar Mohammad, alias Umar Un Nabi, a Kashmiri doctor at the Al-Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad, was driving the car that exploded. The incident took place on a day when 2,900 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate, were found just 50 km from Faridabad. Sources said that Umar Mohammad reportedly panicked and triggered the blast near the Red Fort after investigators arrested two key members of the module - Dr Muzammil Shakeel and Dr Adil Rather - and seized the explosives.

Mamata Banerjee INDIA Bloc Chief: Mani Shankar Aiyar's Message To Rahul Gandhi

KOLAKTA
Wakeup telangana

Congress's Mani Shankar Aiyar, known for his controversial statements on multiple issues, this time advised his party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi to leave INDIA Bloc's driving seat to leaders of the regional parties. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said, was leader of the bloc, without whom "the 'I', 'N', 'D', 'I', 'A' of the INDIA alliance will be gone". "Mamata Banerjee is the leader of this alliance. Along with her, there are two or four others who can achieve this position," he told reporters in Kolkata this afternoon, sparking a political row ahead of the assembly polls in Bengal. Then he went on to add, "I hope that instead of



trying to remain in this position, which belongs to smaller parties - be it Stalin, Mamata Didi, Akhilesh, Tejashwi, or someone else - Rahul Gandhi should let them handle it." Mani Shankar Aiyar - suspended by Rahul Gandhi earlier over his derogatory comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been praising his party's regional opponents for a while. Recently he made headlines with his praise for Kerala Chief Minister and CPM leader Pinarayi Vijayan. His irked party colleagues said it was his personal opinion. The Bengal Congress leaders have responded

sharply to Mani Shankar Aiyar's comment. Congress state general secretary Suman Roy Chowdhury has told NDTV, "Let us make it clear in the beginning -- for a long time, Mani Shankar Aiyar is no more attached with the activities of Congress Party. Five Rajya Sabha seats from Bengal are vacant now. Was that a reason behind such a comment from Mani Shankar Aiyar? We wonder," he said. He then proceeded to attack the senior leader directly. "Mani Shankar ji do you know Mamata Banerjee acts as behind the curtain stooge of BJP against whom the INDIA bloc is fighting? I don't think after staying away from the party, you have any stakes to make any decision of the Congress

'If Tariffs Are So Good...': Indian-Origin Lawyer On Trump's New 15% Levies

NEW DLEHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian-American lawyer Neal Katyal has sharply criticised US President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 15% global tariff, saying the President cannot bypass Congress for such measures. Katyal argued that if Trump believes the tariff is a "good idea", he should follow the Constitution. Katyal's remarks came soon after the Supreme Court struck

down most of Trump's earlier tariff actions in a 6-3 ruling, saying the administration overstepped its authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 and reaffirming that the power to tax lies mainly with Congress. Katyal, who recently won a major case against Trump's earlier trade measures, also questioned the legal basis for the new 15% tariffs under Section

122 of the Trade Act of 1974. He pointed out that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had previously told the Court that Section 122 was not suited for situations involving trade deficits, which are different from balance-of-payments deficits. In a post on X, he wrote, "Seems hard for the President to rely on the 15 percent statute (sec 122) when his DOJ in our case told the Court the opposite: Nor does [122] have

any obvious application here, where the concerns the President identified in declaring an emergency arise from trade deficits, which are conceptually distinct from balance-of-payments deficits." Katyal added, "If he wants sweeping tariffs, he should do the American thing and go to Congress. If his tariffs are such a good idea, he should have no problem persuading Congress. That's what our Constitution requires."

Influencer Sachin Awasthi Says He Was Detained In South Korea

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Travelling is nothing short of a dream come true, especially if you are flying to your dream destination. But no one knows when a dream can turn into a nightmare. Influencer Sachin Awasthi was travelling to South Korea with his wife, Deepshikha Mishra, when they were detained for 38 hours without any explanation. Taking to Instagram, Sachin Awasthi shared his traumatic experience of being held at Jeju Island and treated like criminals

without any evidence. He claimed that the authorities even blackmailed him, and he paid 10 times the price to fly back and return safely to his homeland. Influencer Sachin Awasthi Detained In South Korea And China "Detained for 38 hours in South Korea (Jeju Island) & China," wrote Sachin Awasthi as he described his ordeal. "We landed in Jeju Island, South Korea, excited and ready for our trip. Within a few hours, everything changed," he further added. The couple was excited

to begin their trip, but they were denied entry and taken to a holding area. "No proper explanation, just told to wait," he shared. They waited for hours, without any clarity on why they were detained in the first place. Influencer Sachin Awasthi And His Wife Were Treated Like Criminals In South Korea "They kept us in their detention centre (it was similar to a jail with no sunlight & no access to the outside) and also gave us jail food," Sachin Awasthi mentioned in his post.

He added that no one from the authorities told the couple what was going to happen. "They blackmailed us to book a really expensive return ticket," he wrote in the caption. During the transit through China, the harassment continued. The couple had to wait longer and remain under supervision. "Communication was restricted-no use of phone and no food, and limited water. Sleeping conditions were the worst. Even the use of restrooms was monitored with a police official who had a body-cam and went to the washroom with us.

India Desires To Build Ties With Bangladesh's New Government, Says Indian

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India has expressed its desire to build ties with the new government of Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, said on Sunday. Pranay Verma met Bangladesh's new foreign minister, Dr. Khalilur Rahman and minister of state, Shama Obaed Islam, at the Bangladesh foreign ministry. "It was my first meeting with the new Foreign Minister and Minister of State after the formation of the new Government in Bangladesh. So, it was more of a courtesy meeting and an initial exchange of views", Verma told the reporters after the meetings. "You are aware of our recent high-level communications with Bangladesh since the election. On February 13, soon after the elections, the Prime Minister of India sent a congratulatory message to H. E. Mr Tarique Rahman. They also spoke on the phone later that day. Later on February 17, when the new Government was sworn-in, our Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Dhaka to attend the swearing-in cere-



mony, representing the Government of India. He also had a bilateral meeting with the new Prime Minister. During the meeting, our Speaker handed a letter from Prime Minister Modi to Prime Minister Rahman", he added. The Indian envoy further said that India looks to build on its ties with Bangladesh and strengthen cooperation. "In all these communications, we expressed the desire to build on our historic ties with Bangladesh and strengthen our multifaceted bilateral relations. We also underlined our commitment to support a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh", Verma said. "In today's meeting with the

Foreign Minister, I reiterated our position that we look forward to engaging with the new Government in Bangladesh. I conveyed that we want to strengthen our people-centric cooperation in all domains, working together in a positive, constructive and forward-looking manner, based on mutual interest and mutual benefit," the Indian high commissioner added. Earlier, on February 18, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had attended the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's new Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka and conveyed a personal invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit India at the earliest

Gujarat.....

The Chief Minister slammed the then BRS government for failing to complete major projects like the Pranahita, Sriramsagar and Devadula during its 10-year tenure. He said that Telangana could have utilised an additional 967 tmc ft of water had these resources been managed efficiently. On the Devadula project, Revanth Reddy pointed out that the foundation for the scheme was laid by then-chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in 2001 in undivided Andhra Pradesh but remained incomplete a quarter of a century later. He highlighted that the project's estimated cost had ballooned from ₹6,000 crore to ₹18,500 crore due to deliberate neglect by the previous BRS administration. The Chief Minister slammed the then BRS government for failing to complete major projects like the Pranahita, Sriramsagar and Devadula during its 10-year tenure. He said that Telangana could have utilised an additional 967 tmc ft of water had these resources been managed efficiently. On the Devadula project, Revanth Reddy pointed out that the foundation for the scheme was laid by then-chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in 2001 in undivided Andhra Pradesh but remained incomplete a quarter of a century later. He highlighted that the project's estimated cost had ballooned from ₹6,000 crore to ₹18,500 crore due to deliberate neglect by the previous BRS administration. The Chief Minister slammed the then BRS govern-

Army Dog Helps.....

ment for failing to complete major projects like the Pranahita, Sriramsagar and Devadula during its 10-year tenure. He said that Telangana could have utilised an additional 967 tmc ft of water had these resources been managed efficiently. In another post on 'X', the White Knight Corps said, "In continued operations under Operation Trashi-I in Kishtwar, troops of CIF (D) White Knight Corps in coordination with J&K Police and CRPF have neutralised the third terrorist. The remains an the weapon of the terrorist have been recovered. The pursuit continues — no space, no sanctuary for those who seek to undermine stability." Officials believe Saifullah, repeatedly slipped through security cordons in the past and was considered one of the outfit's more elusive operatives. This confrontation comes amid a heightened security push under Operation Trashi, a large scale counter terrorism initiative recently intensified across the Jammu region. The operation aims to dismantle militant networks, disrupt overground worker (OGW) structures, and neutralise support systems—both physical and digital—that enable militant activity. Security agencies have expanded surveillance, deployed advanced monitoring tools, and increased ground presence in remote and forested belts that militants have historically used for concealment. Meanwhile, the force has

FROM FRONT PAGE

India at the Centre....

praised the precision and high level of coordination displayed throughout the operation. In a statement issued on Sunday, the J&K Police commended the joint efforts of the security forces engaged in Operation Trashi during which three militants were neutralised. Speaking during his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister said that even after Independence, statues of British administrators remained at Rashtrapati Bhavan while Indian leaders were not accorded similar recognition. He said the country was moving away from colonial symbols and embracing figures representing Indian values. "A statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens also stood in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Now, this statue will be replaced by a statue of Rajaji (C. Rajagopalachari)," he said. Modi said the unveiling would take place on February 23 during the 'Rajaji Utsav' in the central courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhavan. An exhibition on Rajagopalachari will also be organised from February 24 to March 1. Referring to the 'Panch-Pran' outlined during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', he said the initiative reflected efforts to shed colonial-era mindsets. He described Rajagopalachari as a leader who viewed power as service and whose public life continues to inspire. Edwin Lutyens, along with Herbert Baker, had designed key landmarks in New Delhi, including Rashtrapati

MVA Faces.....

Bhavan, North Block, South Block and India Gate. A central part of the capital is known as Lutyens' Delhi in recognition of his architectural contribution. "He has been admitted to the Ruby Hall Clinic for mild dehydration and requires intravenous fluids. His condition is stable. He will remain in the hospital for two days and is expected to be discharged thereafter," Dr Purvez Grant, chief cardiologist and chairman and managing trustee of the hospital, said in a statement. "We are admitting Baba to Ruby Hall, Pune for follow-up tests and hydration. Thanking all the doctors and healthcare workers," she wrote on X. Doctors said that the NCP chief was stable and will be in the hospital for a couple of days before getting discharged. "He has been admitted to the Ruby Hall Clinic for mild dehydration and requires intravenous fluids. His condition is stable. This is Pawar's second hospitalisation this month. He was admitted to the same facility on February 9 for chest congestion and breathing issues and was discharged on February 14. Pawar, a veteran leader, is also a survivor of oral cancer, which was diagnosed in the late 1990s. He underwent multiple surgeries in the United States and India as part of his treatment and has since continued an active public life despite health issues.

CRIME

Probe Agency ED Sets Target Of Filing 500 Chargesheets In FY26

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has set a target of filing 500 chargesheets in money-laundering cases in the current financial year and investigating officials have been directed to ensure that once a case is registered, the probe should be completed within one to two years, except in "complex" matters, the agency said on Sunday.

These measures were discussed and finalised during the federal probe agency's 34th Quarterly Conference of Zonal Officers (QCZO) held in Assam's capital, Guwahati, on December 19-21 last year. The meeting was chaired by ED Director Rahul Navin.

The agency has been holding this once-in-three

months conference outside Delhi since last year, with the last two editions held in Kevadia (Gujarat) and Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

"The decision to hold the conference in northeastern region reflects the directorate's recognition of the strategic and operational importance of the region," the ED said in a statement.

It added that the meeting was significant as it was the last before the end of the current fiscal (March 31). Officials were told that the focus must be on "meaningful" achievement of targets, logical conclusion of investigations, timely filing of prosecution complaints and ensuring that attachments and penalties are legally sustainable and effectively realised.

"The target of filing 500 prosecution complaints in

the current financial year was reiterated and all field formations were urged to make concerted efforts to achieve the same while also preparing for an enhanced target in the next financial year.

"The need for this enhanced target is to proactively conclude long-pending investigations and to systematically reduce the life cycle of new investigations to a reasonable time frame of one to two years except in exceptionally-complex cases," the statement said.

The ED officials were also told that the powers given to them under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) come with a corresponding responsibility and they should exercise those with caution, fairness and accountability.

"It was advised that officers must remain mindful of the impact of enforcement actions and ensure that summons and other statutory notices are issued judiciously, based on clear necessity and proper application of mind," the statement said.

The conference also discussed issues related to "priority areas" like intensifying efforts to track illicit assets abroad, identifying trade channels being misused for money laundering, misuse of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and prioritisation of digital-arrest and cyber-fraud cases, instances of which are witnessing a "sharp" rise.

ED investigators were also asked to check the proliferation of illegal-betting and online-gaming platforms in the country, money laundering through share-market.

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.

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.



Khammam police arrests four involved in YouTuber Boggula Srinivas murder

KHAMMAM
Wakeup telangana

Kusumanchi police have arrested four persons involved in the alleged murder of a YouTuber Boggula Srinivas, who was found dead in a car in Palair reservoir in the district on February 14.

Speaking to the media Khammam Rural ACP, Tirupathi Reddy informed that the financial disputes between the deceased Srinivas and his friend Mekala Venu Madhava Reddy of Kukatpally in Hyderabad led to the killing of the YouTuber. He said that both the deceased and the main accused

Madhava Reddy committed a GST fraud worth Rs 90 lakh using the GST license, BOGGULA BBQ owned by the deceased person, with equal share in the earnings. But Madhava Reddy paid only Rs 15 lakh to Srinivas promising to pay the remaining Rs 30 lakh later. In due course Srinivas's GST license was cancelled; notices were issued to Srinivas and Madhava Reddy from the GST department.

Then Srinivas was reported to have demanded that Madhava Reddy pay Rs 30 lakh due to him and to activate the GST license for which Rs 1 crore has to be paid as pen-

alty. It led to disputes among them; following which Madhava Reddy decided to eliminate Srinivas. The main accused allegedly plotted to kill Srinivas with the help of Pokala Koteswara Rao, Shaik Abdul Hafeez and Mohammed Azmathali Khan. An amount of Rs 5 lakh was paid as supari to kill Srinivas. As per the plan the deceased was taken in a car on February 13 night on the pretext of paying his dues in Vijayawada. During early hours on the next day he was killed at an isolated place in between Nakrekal and Jangaon with knives and iron rods. Later to make Srinivas'

death look natural, the body was thrown into Palair reservoir along with the car. A case under Sections 103 (punishment for murder), 61 (criminal conspiracy), 238 (tampering with evidence) read with 3(5) of BNS was registered at Kusumanchi police station. The accused confessed to their crime, the ACP said. It might be noted that Srinivas had become popular after publishing a book 'Pawan Kalyan Hatao-Politics Bachavo' in 2014 as the book created a sensation in the Telugu States. He received death threats at the time of the book release.

Changes in GDP Data Can Impact Many Things

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The GDP base year is being revised from financial year 2011-2012 to 2022-23 and the revised series will be released on February 27. The previous revision of base year in 2015 as well as the back series revision thereafter had become quite controversial. In this context, JB Mohapatra, former chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes, elaborates the discrepancies in GDP calculations and the importance of having robust data.

GDP as a concept and as a term does not explain many things. It does not spell out the standard of living, the quality of life, does not factor in envi-



ronmental issues, it does not account for unaccounted economy, underground economy as they say, it does not account for household labour, work etc, it does not account for volunteering activities. It doesn't account for many things, but it has got its own relevance.

GDP per se can only mean a number, but with other factors, it has got a lot of meaning and relevance for everybody. For the government and for the people, it may mean setting out the right monetary policy, setting

out the right fiscal policy, setting out the priorities in your budget, it can set out the taxes and policies. It can tell businesses where to invest, what are the opportunities. It can tell investors how to invest and how to exit from investment. It means many things to many people and it holds the greatest significance for the government, because that is a policy setting document.

GDP base year change normally, India follows a 10-year cycle. The last revision was in 2011-12. Now again it will be in 2026, base year being revised to 2022-2023. Revision of the base year is actuated both by the requirements of the UN and also by external agencies like the IMF. In

the IMF's November 2025 consultation paper, was advised very clearly that India's national accounts on the questions of materiality, on the questions of granularity, on the questions of timelines are good to go. But when it comes to coverage, it has got a C rating.

C rating means it has got weaknesses, methodological weaknesses, which are hampering surveillance. So, that is the reason why the changes to the base year has happened and along with the changes in the base year many other things also are being rolled into this particular revision. The base year will change and the new data sets from the recent surveys will be taken. A larger sectoral spread will get into the

data construction. Then informal sector tracking and tracing and valuing the informal sector in a more scientific manner is also one of the purposes of the recent revision and the use of an accurate deflator. The deflator you know when we get from the nominal GDP to the real GDP, we create a deflator. So, in India, the deflator is basically WPI. WPI is said to be very commodity-heavy. Finding out the real producer parity index that PPI that is one thing which must be created. So, this revision also will consider the finding out the right deflator and whether single deflation or a double deflation will be required both at the input and output levels.

Trump tariffs, GDP data and other cues likely to drive D-Street next week

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Investors will closely watch global developments such as tariff-related moves in the United States, along with key domestic data like GDP numbers and the monthly F&O expiry, which are likely to guide market direction in the coming week.

After witnessing sharp losses of over 1 per cent in the previous session, the Indian stock market bounced back strongly on Friday.

The 30-share Sensex climbed 317 points, or 0.38 per cent, to close at 82,814.71. The broader Nifty also ended higher, rising 117 points, or 0.46 per cent, to settle at 25,571.25. "From a levels perspective, 25,800 stands as the immediate resistance, followed by 26,000 and 26,200," an analyst stated.

"On the downside, key supports are located at

25,300 and 25,100. A decisive break below 25,000 could increase downside momentum and accelerate corrective pressure," the expert mentioned.

In the broader market, performance remained mixed. The BSE 150 Mid-Cap Index gained 0.44 per cent, while the BSE 250 SmallCap Index slipped 0.19 per cent. Going ahead, global trade developments will remain in focus.

Investors are assessing the impact of tariff-related decisions in the United States, especially any legal interpretation or policy change that could influence global trade flows.

Any major development on this front could impact global markets and, in turn, investor sentiment in India. On the domestic front, attention will shift to key economic indicators.

Market participants are awaiting the next

quarterly GDP estimates under the new series, which will be released on February 27 by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Apart from GDP data, investors will also track government budget numbers, foreign exchange reserves and year-on-year infrastructure output figures for fresh cues about the health of the economy.

Market volatility may also increase due to the monthly derivatives expiry. Analysts expect fluctuations to remain high as traders adjust their positions ahead of the February F&O expiry scheduled for February 24.

Meanwhile, foreign investor activity has shown signs of improvement. According to data from the National Securities Depository Limited, foreign portfolio investors turned net buyers on nine of the last sixteen trading sessions till February 20.

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.

Banks cross ₹1 lakh crore profit in Q3

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Listed banks' combined net profit crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time in the December quarter, marking a record milestone for the sector. The figures, which exclude small finance banks, reflect the aggregate performance of 20 private sector banks and 12 public sector banks during the period. The performance was supported by double-digit growth in other income and stable margins amid benign asset quality,

though the upside was partly offset by elevated operating expenses.

The combined net profit of all listed banks during the quarter stood at Rs 1.01 lakh crore, up 10.6 percent from Rs 90848 crore a year ago.

Private sector banks reported a combined net profit of Rs 47,895 crore, while public sector banks posted a higher combined profit of Rs 52,604 crore. Public sector lenders accounted for 52 percent of the total profit during the quarter, with private sector banks contributing the

remaining share.

Nearly half of the total earnings came from three lenders — State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. Within the private banking segment, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank together contributed 63 percent of total private sector net profit, while State Bank of India alone accounted for 40 percent of total PSU bank profit. On an aggregate basis, public sector banks recorded an 18.3 percent year-on-year rise in net profit, compared with a 3.3 percent year-on-year

growth reported by private sector lenders. Net interest margins remained flat quarter-on-quarter for most lenders, as the repricing of liabilities gradually offset the lagged repricing of loans. PSBs continued to outperform PVBs during the period, aided by relatively lower Credit-to-Deposit ratios that provided incremental headroom and supported balance sheet expansion. System-wide capitalisation remained robust, with banks maintaining buffers comfortably above regulatory thresholds.

Market cap of six top-10 firms jump Rs 63,478 crore

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The combined market valuation of six of India's top-10 most valued companies rose by Rs 63,478.46 crore last week, with Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India emerging as the biggest gainers.

The broader market also ended the week on a positive note, as the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 187.95 points, or 0.22 per



cent. Among the gainers, Larsen & Toubro saw its market capitalisation jump by Rs 28,523.31 crore to Rs 6,02,552.24 crore. State Bank of India added Rs 16,015.12 crore, taking its total valuation to Rs 11,22,581.56 crore. The

market value of HDFC Bank climbed by Rs 9,617.56 crore to Rs 14,03,239.48 crore. Similarly, Life Insurance Corporation of India gained Rs 5,977.12 crore, pushing its valuation to Rs 5,52,203.92 crore.

Bajaj Finance also witnessed an increase in its market capitalisation by Rs 3,142.36 crore to Rs 6,40,387 crore. However, not all companies ended the week on a positive note. The market capitalisation of

Bharti Airtel declined sharply by Rs 15,338.66 crore to Rs 11,27,705.37 crore. ICICI Bank also saw its valuation fall by Rs 14,632.10 crore to Rs 9,97,346.67 crore.

The mcap of Infosys dropped by Rs 6,791.58 crore to Rs 5,48,496.14 crore, while Tata Consultancy Services lost Rs 1,989.95 crore, bringing its valuation down to Rs 9,72,053.48 crore.

The most-valued company in the country in-

clude HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Life Insurance Corporation of India, and Infosys in the ranking of the top-10 most valued firms. Meanwhile, commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that from a levels perspective, 25,800 stands as the immediate resistance, followed by 26,000 and 26,200.

India Rejigs Crude Imports as Saudi Gains, Russian Supply Slows

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India's crude import strategy is entering a phase of calibrated rebalancing rather than abrupt realignment, with Middle Eastern suppliers led by Saudi Arabia regaining market share even as Russian volumes remain significant but increasingly shaped by geopolitics and compliance constraints, according to shipping data and analysts. During February 1-18, India's total crude imports averaged 4.85 million barrels per day (bpd), down 8 per cent from January's 5.25 million bpd, as flows from Russia cooled following US sanctions on key Russian exporters and the European Union's 18th sanctions package coming into effect last month.

Ship tracking data showed Russian shipments to India declining from 1.28 million bpd in December 2025 to 1.22 million bpd in January and further to around 1.09 million bpd in early February, down about 10 per cent month-on-month.

"Russian crude imports into India are estimated at around 1.0-1.2 million bpd in February, easing toward roughly 800,000 bpd to 1 million bpd in March," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at real-time global commodity intelligence and analytics Kpler.

Import of Russian crude, which India started to binge on once they were available at a discount post Ukraine war in 2022, are seen stabilising rather than collapsing. "However, we continue to see this as a short-term stabilisation rather than a return to the mid-2025 peak, and we expect Russia's share in India's crude slate to gradually stabilise to a lower range in 2026 compared to 2024-2025 as commercial and policy frictions build," he said. This assessment is based on reports of a pragmatic understanding between the United States and India that effectively allows "baseload" Russian imports while discouraging any material expansion. Near-term volatility

is expected to remain driven by sanctions risk, shipping constraints and logistics rather than pure pricing dynamics. As Russian volumes ease, the Middle East Gulf is filling the gap. Shipments from Saudi Arabia are set to reach 1 million to 1.1 million bpd in February - the highest since November 2019 - with month-to-date arrivals tracking even higher at around 1.4 million bpd before expected moderation into early March, Ritolia said. On current trends, Saudi Arabia is positioned as India's top supplier in February, followed by Russia and Iraq. Post Ukraine war, Russia had replaced Iraq as India's biggest supplier, accounting for as much as 40 per cent of all crude oil that India imported for processing into fuels like petrol and diesel, at peak. Wave of EU and US sanctions have since tapered imports from Russia. At the core of Russian oil imports is Vadinar refinery in Gujarat. The unit, where Russia's Rosneft is the biggest shareholder, has been cut from other.

EU seeks clarity after US top court strikes down Trump tariffs

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The European Union's executive arm requested "full clarity" from the United States and asked its trade partner to fulfill its commitments after the US Supreme Court struck down some of President Donald Trump's most sweeping tariffs.

Trump has lashed out at the court decision and said on Saturday, February 21, that he wants a global tariff of 15 per cent, up from 10 per cent he had announced a day earlier.

The European Commission said the current situ-

ation is not conducive to delivering "fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial" trans-Atlantic trade and investment, as agreed to by both sides and spelled out in the EU-US Joint Statement of August 2025. American and EU officials sealed a trade deal last year that imposes a 15 per cent import tax on 70 per cent of European goods exported to the United States. The European Commission handles trade for the 27 EU member countries.

A top EU lawmaker said on Sunday he will propose to the European Parliament negotiating team to put the ratifying pro-



cess of the deal on pause. "Pure tariff chaos on the part of the US administration," Bernd Lange, the chair of Parliament's international trade committee, wrote on social media. "No one can make sense of it anymore — only open questions and growing uncertainty for the EU and other US trading partners." The value of

EU-US trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros (USD 2 trillion) in 2024, or an average of 4.6 billion euros a day, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat. "A deal is a deal," the European Commission said. "As the United States' largest trading partner, the EU expects the US to honor its commitments set out in the Joint Statement — just as the EU stands by its commitments. EU products must continue to benefit from the most competitive treatment, with no increases in tariffs beyond the clear and all-inclusive ceiling previously

agreed." Europe's biggest exports to the US are pharmaceuticals, cars, aircraft, chemicals, medical instruments, and wine and spirits. Among the biggest US exports to the bloc are professional and scientific services like payment systems and cloud infrastructure, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, aerospace products and cars. "When applied unpredictably, tariffs are inherently disruptive, undermining confidence and stability across global markets and creating further uncertainty across international supply chains," the commission added.

Indian Union Muslim League hits out at SFI's beef fest over Kerala Story 2

The IUML on Sunday criticised the recent beef festival organised by the SFI, the students' wing of the ruling CPI(M), against the upcoming film 'Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond', terming it a "provocative" form of protest.

IUML state general secretary P MA Salam alleged that the beef fest was a "cheap political gimmick" aimed at wooing Muslim voters. While replying to a question by the media, he asked whether beef belongs to any particular community.

"What is the connection between beef and any community? What is the link between beef and Muslims," Salam asked, adding that some of the biggest beef exporters and owners of beef processing units in India include people



associated with the BJP, RSS and Muslims. Making it clear that there is no connection between beef and Muslims, the senior leader said the beef fest protest was an attempt by the CPI(M) to mislead and "cheat" ordinary Muslim voters. He also asserted that no one was forcing those who do not consume beef to do so. At the same time, Salam criticised the movie, al-

leging that such films create divisions among communities and turn them against each other.

Describing the beef festival as "provocative", he claimed it was part of a political strategy to project support for Muslims while allegedly denying them benefits and indirectly aiding the BJP.

"Why should protests like the beef festival be organised? It is,

of course, provocative. It is nothing but a cheap political gimmick," Salam added. The IUML's strong criticism against the beef festival came two days after the Muslim Students Federation had called for boycotting the 'Kerala Story 2' movie, but questioned a 'beef fest' organised by the SFI. C K Najaf, state general secretary of MSF, had opposed the pro-

test event organised by the Students' Federation of India (SFI) in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday saying that it might hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

The district committee of the SFI had organised the fest at the Manaveeyam Veedhi. The issue assumed importance as there is a scene in the movie, according to trailers, where a character is force-fed beef. To protest against this, the SFI organised the beef fest.

Directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh, the 'Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond' is scheduled to be released on February 27. Its first part, 'The Kerala Story,' won awards for Best Direction and Best Cinematography at the 71st National Film Awards.

Manipuri Film 'Boong' Wins Best Children's Film at BAFTA 2026



MUMBAI
Wake up telangana

In a historic moment for Indian regional cinema, the Manipuri feature film Boong won the prestigious Best Children's and Family Film award at the BAFTA 2026 ceremony held at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday. Backed

by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment, the film marks a significant global milestone for storytelling from North-East India. Directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi, the coming-of-age drama follows a young boy named Boong (Gugun Kipgen) who embarks on a journey from the hills of Manipur

to the border town of Moreh and into Myanmar to reunite his estranged father with his mother. The film, which features Bala Hijam and Angom Sanamatum in key roles, had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2024 and saw a theatrical release in India in September 2025.

Allu Arjun reunites with Kajal Aggarwal after 19 years at Filmfare Awards

MUMBAI
Wake up telangana

Tollywood heartthrob Allu Arjun was unable to contain his excitement as he reunited with his 'Arya 2' co-star Kajal Aggarwal after almost 2 decades. AA and Kajal Aggarwal came together for an eventful evening during the 70th Filmfare Awards South.

The Pushpa actor took to the Stories section of his official Instagram handle and published a selfie with Kajal.

Expressing his excitement about meeting his co-star yet again after 19 years, he wrote the text, "Reunion in Filmfare



after 19 years (Black heart emoji) (sic)", tagging Kajal Aggarwal.

The evening turned out to be extremely special for Allu Arjun as he was honoured with the 'Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) - Telugu' for his power-

ful performance in the blockbuster hit "Pushpa 2: The Rule."

Elated about bagging his 7th black Lady, he penned a note on social media that read, "Thank you, Filmfare, for this wonderful honour. It's my absolute pleasure to receive it in a land where I am loved in such a unique way. I'm humbled by everyone's blessings, and I dedicate this award to all my fans for their infinite love. (sic)" While 'Stylish Star' Allu Arjun looked dapper in a black suit as he received the award, Kajal Aggarwal was grace personified in a green and silver off-the-shoulder figure-hugging gown.

Shifting our focus to "Pushpa 2", the project is a sequel to director Sukumar's "Pushpa: The Rise (2021)".

It takes forward the journey of Allu Arjun's character Pushpa Raj, a labourer-turned-red sandalwood smuggler, as he faces growing threats from his enemies, including SP Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat.

Along with AA, the movie further stars Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Sunil, and Rao Ramesh in key roles, along with others. Up next, Allu Arjun's lineup includes "Pushpa 3", "AA23" with Lokesh Kanagaraj, and "AA22xA6" with Atlee.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' to release on May 15, 2026

MUMBAI
Wake up telangana

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is all set to grace the screen with another powerful role in her forthcoming drama "Maa Inti Bangaaram". Now adding to the hype, the makers have announced the release date for her Telugu drama.

The much-talked-about Tollywood flick will reach the audience on May 15 this year. Samantha updated the netizens about the release date of her next project with a social media post. The an-



nouncement poster showed Samantha peeping through the door, with a curious expression on her face.

"See you in theatres this summer, Bangaraalu... #MaaIntiBangaaram Grand Release worldwide on 15th May, 2026 #Mi-

BonMay15th #MiB (sic)," she captioned the post.

In January, the makers unveiled the gripping first look poster from BV Nandini Reddy's directorial on social media.

The photo featured Samantha standing inside a bus in a simple brown saree. From the looks of it, she seems all geared up to pick a fight with intensity palpable in her eyes. Dropping the poster on her IG, Samantha penned, "You just keep watching... #MaaIntiBangaaram will be connecting with y'all."

India Come A Cropper Against South Africa

NEW DELHI
Wake up telangana

South Africa stunned India with a commanding 76-run victory in their Super Eights clash at Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, delivering a result that drastically dented the hosts' net run-rate and sent a strong message to tournament rivals. Declaring Ahmedabad their "home ground" after playing most of their matches there, the Proteas used superior familiarity with conditions to outplay Suryakumar Yadav's side in every department.

Defending 187 for 7, South Africa bowled India out for just 111 in 18.5 overs, with only Shivam Dube offering resistance through a fighting 42. The collapse began early and never stopped: India slumped to 31 for 3 in six overs, slid to 57 for 5 at the halfway mark, and were 88 for 8 after 15 before the innings folded completely. The bowling trio of Marco Jansen (4/22), Keshav Maharaj (3/24) and Corbin Bosch



(2/12) dismantled the chase with disciplined lines and relentless pressure.

Earlier, South Africa recovered from a shaky start to post their imposing total. After quick strikes by Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah removed Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram and Ryan Rick-

elton cheaply, the Proteas were reeling at 20 for 3. But a blazing 97-run partnership off 51 balls between Dewald Brevis (45) and David Miller (63) shifted momentum dramatically. After Brevis fell to a slower ball from Dube caught by Abhishek Sharma, Tristan Stubbs accelerated with an un-

beaten 44 to push the total close to 200.

Miller's 35-ball half-century ended when Tilak Varma caught him off Varun Chakravarty, whose lone wicket came at the cost of 47 runs.

India's unchanged XI selection also drew scrutiny, as they persisted with Washington Sundar instead of vice-captain Axar Patel, a decision that proved expensive on a surface offering grip and bounce.

South Africa had chosen to bat after winning the toss, and despite early setbacks, their middle order's fearless counter-attack ensured a defendable score. Ultimately, disciplined bowling, sharp fielding and tactical awareness allowed the Proteas to dominate the contest from the middle overs onward, silencing the home crowd and launching their Super Eights campaign in emphatic fashion while exposing serious concerns in India's batting depth and match strategy.

AMF Cyclists Win 21 Medals

HYDERABAD
Wake up telangana

Para cyclists trained by the Aditya Mehta Foundation dominated the Para Track Cycling National Championship in Hyderabad, clinching a remarkable 18 gold and 3 silver medals at the Cycling Velodrome, O.U. Campus, Hyderabad and emerging as the standout contingent of the meet.

Competing in high-intensity events such as Individual Pursuit, Time Trial, and Sprint, AMF riders outperformed top para cyclists from across India through consistent



Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) trained Para Cyclists (L-R) Arshad Shaik, Aryavardhan Cheelampalli, Vishva Vasani, Anshuman Dhumal, Pavan Kommoji, Sameer and Aabid Hussain with their medals at the Para Track Cycling National Championship held today at the Cycling Velodrome, O.U. Campus, Hyderabad.

speed, tactical precision, and endurance. Leading the medal surge were Anshuman, Arshad, Pawan, Vishva, Sameer, and

Abid, each securing three gold medals, while Aryavardhan earned three silvers. The performance high-

lights AMF's growing impact in developing elite para-cycling talent and building a strong pipeline of athletes capable of representing India internationally. Their success reflects rigorous training systems, athlete-centric coaching, and sustained grassroots scouting. The foundation credited its progress to continued institutional backing, thanking partners including Alcon, GMMCO, Invesco, and Flutter Entertainment India for supporting infrastructure, training access, and competitive exposure for para-athletes.

Archer and Jacks lead England to win over Sri Lanka

PALLEKELE
Wake up telangana

The pace-spin duo of Jofra Archer and Will Jacks tore through Sri Lanka's top order after Phil Salt's 40-ball 62 to set up a sensational 51-run win for England in an eventful Super Eights fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

After left-arm spinner Duvell Wellalage (3/26) did the star turn for a disciplined Sri Lankan attack to limit a scratchy England to 146 for nine, the



islanders seemed to have the match under control. But speedster Archer and off-spinner all-rounder Jacks turned the game on its head in the second half, leaving Sri Lanka

tottering at 34 for five in the sixth over in total domination of the power-play. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 95 in 16.4 overs. Jacks returned fine figures

of 3/22 in four overs while Archer ended with 2/20 in three overs, and they were well supported by Liam Dawson (2/27 in 4 overs) and Adil Rashid (2/13 in 3.4 overs) as they wrapped up the lower order and tail. In the end, Salt's knock too proved to be vital to the final outcome of the match, even as his other colleagues in the batting unit failed miserably. For Sri Lanka, skipper Dasun Shanaka was the top scorer with 30 off 24 balls.

ACB books ex-HMDA director in corruption case

The Telangana Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday, February 21, booked former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) director Shiva Balakrishna in another corruption case pertaining to misuse of official position in connection with the alteration of a layout and issuance of a Government Order (GO).

In 2024, the former HMDA director was arrested in connection with a disproportionate assets case. Balakrishna has now been booked under section 7(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 based on a complaint by a woman from Telecom Nagar.

The ACB officials GO 170 was issued on September 28, 2022, by the then special chief secretary of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) department. At the time, Shiva Balakrishna was the Director of the HMDA.

The GO allowed alteration of the original master plan based on representations by certain private individuals, who sought land acquisition to connect their properties to a nearby 100-foot road.

However, the complainant alleged that the changes adversely affected her 70-foot plot located in Survey number 337. She claimed that the modification of the master plan affected her property adversely.

In 2022, the complainant approached the Telangana High Court and challenged the GO. After hearing the petition, the High Court suspended the operation of the GO. According to reports, in 2023, the complainant sought the HMDA's permission to construct a building on her plot. However, it remains pending.

Ramchander Rao Detained En Route to Tension-Hit Banswada

Police stopped him at his Tamaka residence and shifted him to the Bollaram Police Station

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao was taken into preventive custody by police when he attempted to travel to Banswada in Kamareddy district, an area currently witnessing heightened political tension and communal sensitivity. Police stopped him at his Tamaka residence and shifted him to the Bollaram Police Station, citing law-and-order concerns and restrictions in the sensitive region. Rao stated that he was heading to meet victims of recent violence, express solidarity with BJP MLA Venkata Ramana Reddy, and support party workers affected by the unrest. He described the police action as undemocratic and accused the Congress



government of preventing opposition leaders from reaching affected areas.

Tensions in the Kamareddy-Banswada belt have escalated following political clashes and a communal disturbance triggered by a local dispute that spiralled into violence, leading to detentions and minor injuries to police personnel. Authorities deployed additional forces and im-

posed restrictions to prevent escalation. Rao condemned the alleged attack on the MLA and urged residents and Hindu organizations to maintain peace, while alleging selective targeting of BJP workers and warning against filing false cases. Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi called for an inquiry into the violence and compensation for affected victims.

Senior BJP leaders condemned the detention, calling it an attack on democratic rights. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy criticized the action as misuse of state machinery against an opposition leader, while party spokespersons alleged that those responsible for violence were spared and leaders supporting victims were restrained. Police maintained that the preventive detention was necessary to maintain public order. The BJP has called for statewide protests, claiming several workers were detained as part of preventive policing. The developments underscore growing political friction and the challenge of balancing public safety with democratic freedoms in sensitive regions of Telangana.

Telangana intermediate exams from February 25; SSC from March 14

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The countdown for the Board exams has commenced. Intermediate students are set for the intermediate public examinations commencing on February 25, while Class X exams are from March 14.

The first year examinations will commence with second language paper - I, which will be conducted on February 25. Second-year students will begin their exam season with the second language paper - II on February 26. Both first and second-year examinations will be held from 9 am to 12 noon.

A total of 10,47,815 students enrolled in the intermediate first and second-year streams for the academic year 2025-26. Of the total admitted, 9.96 lakh students paid the examination fee. As many as 1,495 centres have been constituted for smooth conduct of the

exams, which will conclude on March 18.

The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education has already made hall tickets available on its website for students to download. The hall tickets can be collected from respective colleges or at MeeSeva centres.

Like last year, hall tickets will come printed with a quick response code that enables students to navigate to their respective exam centres.

Scanning the QR code with a smartphone, students can easily identify their examination centre, check the distance, estimate the time required to reach and even get real-time traffic updates.

The Board has made elaborate arrangements, including appointment of chief superintendents of the centres, departmental officers, flying and sitting squads, and custodians at police stations for handling confidential material.

Telangana CM invited to speak at Harvard AI Policy Symposium

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has been invited to participate as a speaker at the AI Policy Symposium to be held at the Harvard Kennedy School on March 27. According to the release, the symposium will bring together senior leaders from government, industry and academia to deliberate on key policy issues related to artificial intelligence.

Revanth will address a panel titled "AI as Infrastructure and Compute Power: Impact on Livability and Workforce." The session will focus on the role of data centres, energy systems and compute infrastructure in shaping competitiveness, public-private coordination and workforce development.

"The Chief Minister's leadership in advancing Telangana's plan to build an AI City under the Bharat Future City vision makes his participation significant. His insights are expected to highlight how governments can create enabling conditions for AI ecosystems through land allocation, power, skills, regulation and investment partnerships while ensuring job creation and urban livability," read the release.

Hyderabad Police invites application for 138 SPO posts

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The city police, on Sunday, February 22, invited applications for 138 Special Police Officers (SPOs) posts on a temporary basis. These vacancies are open to ex-servicemen, former paramilitary personnel and retired police personnel from Telangana.

Age criteria
According to an official notification by the Hyderabad City Police, here are the eligibility criteria

- The SPO vacancies are open to ex-servicemen and ex-paramilitary personnel, preferably from Telangana. Retired police personnel must have valid residential

proof of the state, like an Aadhaar card, a voter ID or a driving licence.

- While applying, the candidate's age should be below 58 years as of January 31, 2026.

- Former paramilitary personnel and police personnel who have retired within the last two years are eligible to apply, with an upper age limit of 62 years.

Monthly honorarium and leaves
Selected candidates will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs 26,000. There are no leaves, and in case if available, it will be treated as leave without pay.

Documents needed
• Candidates must also sub-

mit three passport-size photographs.

- Original documents and xerox copies, including the discharge book/discharge certificate/retirement order, Aadhaar card, PAN card, SBI passbook copy, voter ID and caste certificate.

- Technical trade proficiency certificates, where applicable.

- A valid LMV/HMV driving licence is required for driver posts. Interested candidates can apply in person at the SPOs Office, City Armed Reserve (CAR) Headquarters, Petlaburj, Hyderabad. Applications will not be accepted over phone.

Malkajgiri cybercrime police crack four cases, arrest seven across India

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cybercrime Police, Malkajgiri, solved four cybercrime cases last week leading to the arrest of seven persons during a pan-India operation.

In one of the cases, three persons who had duped a man on the pretext of seeking financial help for a medical emergency and marriage after contacting him through Facebook.

According to the police, the victim came into contact with a lady, Sonia on Facebook, who befriended him and sought money

within a week citing serious illness, following which the victim transferred money on multiple occasions to the account provided by the online friend.

Later, Sonia introduced the victim to another woman Shruithi, who again conned the man into sending money to her for different reasons. She also deceived the man saying she would marry him.

"Subsequently, the women's associates Manohar, Srikanth, and Ramcharan called the man and told him that Sonia had passed away. They threat-

ened the victim, saying he was responsible for Sonia's death and warned that they would get a police case registered.

Frightened, the man again transferred some amount to the trio," said the Malkajgiri cybercrime police.

Throughout the conversations, the fraudsters used pseudo names. In all the money lost Rs. 32.36 lakhs. After realising he was duped, the man approached the police, who registered a case and arrested three persons Thorthi Shashi, Thorthi Vamshi and Gampala Sravan.

Hyderabad traffic police book 492 for drunk driving in two-day drive

Hyderabad traffic police booked a total of 492 people for drunk driving during a special drive conducted on February 20 and 21. About 412 cases were registered against two-wheeler riders. This was followed by 29 cases against three-wheeler drivers, and 51 against four-wheeler drivers and other vehicle drivers.

A majority of violators had blood alcohol levels between 51 and 100 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, with 205 cases, followed by 109 cases with BAC levels between 30-50 mg.

Ninety-seven violators had BAC levels between 101-150, 47 had BAC levels between 151-200, 19 cases had BAC levels between 201-250, 11 cases had BAC levels above 300 and four cases had BAC levels between 251-300.

Say 'Hi' On This WhatsApp No. to Resolve Power Issues

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The southern discom — the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) — has introduced a WhatsApp chatbot to deliver faster, user-friendly electricity services directly on consumers' mobiles. Discom chairman and managing director Musharraf Faruqi said consumers use the number 8712441912 on WhatsApp and start using the services by

sending "Hi" to access key features such as registering complaints, checking billing details, and getting power supply status updates. The initiative allows quick information retrieval anytime, anywhere, enhancing convenience and security.

Faruqi urged consumers to save the number for seamless access. The launch also addresses rising cyber frauds, where scammers send fake messages claiming: "Your bill is pending, pay now or face power cut tonight."

Nehru Zoological Park welcomes real-life 'Rafikis'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Brightly coloured mandrills have recently joined the Nehru Zoological Park's collection. They will make their first public appearance after their 15-day mandatory quarantine period.

The two mandrills were brought from the Tata Zoological Park, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, to Hyderabad zoo a week ago. This is in exchange for a pair of African lions. With vibrant blue and red facial ridges, yellow beards, the man-



drills, which are the largest primates and native to tropical rainforests of central Africa, are widely known for their appearance. These primates got more prominence after Rafiki, a famous character from 'The Lion King' movie.

We Received two male mandrills from the Tata Zoological Park, Jam-

shedpur, Jharkhand, as part of the animal exchange programme. Currently, these primates are under quarantine and they will be displayed for the visitors in the first week of March," Nehru Zoological Park Curator J Vasantha told 'Telangana Today'.

The zoo is also planning conservation and breeding of these primates. Accordingly, efforts are on to get two female mandrills in about five to six months for companionship for the males.

Kangaroos, giraffes and hillcock gibbons are

among other animals that will soon be added to the zoo's collection. The Hyderabad zoo is in talks with Vantara, a global wildlife rescue and conservation centre by Reliance Foundation in Jamnagar, Gujarat, which will be giving a pair of kangaroos under the animal exchange programme.

Accordingly, the zoo has made arrangements, including enclosures and a night house for kangaroos. In return, the Hyderabad zoo will give one of its jumbos to Vantara.

HYDRAA Reclaims Kondapur Land for School, Park

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

After HYDRAA cleared encroachments over seven acres of land in Kondapur on Saturday, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation commissioner G. Srijana and HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath inspected the site on Sunday, with plans to construct a government college on the reclaimed land. The land, part of the Raja Rajeshwarinagar Colony layout approved

in 1993, comprised nearly 2,059 plots. Of these, five acres were earmarked for a government junior college, one acre for a school, one and a half acres for a park, and half an acre for a community hall. Over the years, however, these reserved spaces were gradually encroached upon.

Following complaints from the colony welfare association alleging that influential persons were behind the encroachments, HYDRAA officials



launched a clearance drive on Saturday, demolishing illegal structures and securing the land with fencing. On Sunday, Ranganath and Srijana visited the site with education department teams,

which conducted a survey to initiate the process of establishing a government college and other facilities. Officials informed residents that the state government intends to develop the reserved spaces

as originally planned, including parks, a school and a college.

Commissioner Ranganath said: "A top-class school will come up very soon in this highly valued land reclaimed by HYDRAA. Similarly, the one and a half acres of park land, which was also reclaimed by HYDRAA from the clutches of land grabbers, will be made into a park at the request of colony residents." He added:

"Any court cases on these reclaimed lands will be

dealt with legally, and only after clearance from the courts will they be put to public use. HYDRAA is involving local residents and the public in fighting court cases against alleged land grabbers. Hundreds of colony residents and associations are getting involved along with HYDRAA in various court cases. Public involvement in saving local lands is giving a boost to HYDRAA's efforts to reclaim them."

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