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**WEATHER**

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

### Brief Insights

**BJD Holds Farmers' Rally in Bhubaneswar; BJP Throws Down Debate Challenge**

The opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday organised a farmers' rally in Bhubaneswar, accusing the state government of neglecting agrarian distress and failing to fulfil its promises to the farming community. The protest, held here at Lower PMG, drew party leaders and supporters who demanded immediate measures to address farmers' concerns. The BJD alleged that the government has failed to respond adequately to issues such as falling

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**Kerala Passes Nativity Card Bill, Minister Cites CAA Background**

The CPM led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala on Tuesday passed the Nativity Card Bill in the State Assembly, paving the way for residents to declare themselves formally as Keralites. The move was met with strong resistance from the Congress-led United Democratic Front, which staged a protest and walked out of the House. Background of the Bill The Kerala Cabinet had granted in principle approval for the initiative in December 2025. The legislation introduces a permanent, photo-embedded nativity card, designed to ensure that individuals no longer face difficulties in proving their identity or place of residence in the state.

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**Paralyzing Blizzard Hits US Northeast, Affects Transport**

A powerful blizzard dropped more than two-and-a-half feet of snow (76.2 cm) across parts of the U.S. Northeast on Monday, bringing travel to a near-standstill for millions of residents as the treacherous conditions closed roads, shut down train services and forced the cancellation of some 7,400 flights. Thousands of homes and businesses lost power and officials, including New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, urged residents to stay off the roads so emergency crews could clear the streets. Schools in New York and throughout the

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**Congress Failing Farmers, Delaying Hospital, Says Harish: P3**



## Modi Begins Two-Day Israel Visit, Gaza & FTA Talks in Focus

Talks with Benjamin Netanyahu to focus on defence, FTA and Gaza situation

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin a two-day state visit to Israel starting Wednesday. Soon after landing in Tel Aviv, he will hold an informal discussion with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who will also host a private dinner for him. Modi will address the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, during the day. On Thursday, Modi will meet Israeli President Isaac Herzog. He will start the day with a visit to Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance



Centre in Jerusalem, following which he is expected to return to Tel Aviv for formal delegation-level talks with Netanyahu. Later in the day, Modi will interact with eminent members of the Indian-Jewish community in Israel before embarking for New Delhi.

Meanwhile, India and Israel have started the first round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) and will end on February 26, an official statement said on Tuesday. In November last, the two countries signed the terms of reference (ToR) to start the negotiations. In 2024-25, India's exports to Israel dipped 52 per cent to \$2.14 billion from \$4.52 billion in 2023-24. Imports fell 26.2 per cent to \$1.48 billion last fiscal year. India is Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia. Though bilateral merchandise trade is dom-

inated mainly by diamonds, petroleum products, and chemicals, recent years have witnessed an increase in trade in areas such as electronic machinery and high-tech products, communications systems, and medical equipment. This will be Modi's second visit to the Jewish nation after his landmark first visit in 2017 during his first term in office, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel. In a statement on Tuesday evening, New Delhi said that during the talks between Modi and Netanyahu, the "two leaders.

## Modi Should Scrap Indo-US Deal Approved Under Pressure: Rahul

**BHOPAL**  
Wakeup telangana

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that the Indo-US trade deal was struck without the knowledge of the Union cabinet and dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap it in the wake of the USA supreme court rejecting the tariffs. Addressing the 'Kisan Mahachaupal' farmers' rally here, Mr. Gandhi said that Mr. Modi did not take his senior cabinet colleagues such as Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan into confidence before clearing the India-US trade deal. "The decision to strike the deal was taken in complete secrecy", he claimed. The Congress leader said that the deal compromised the interests of farmers, and farm workers. This is not a deal but an arrow pierced in the hearts of the farmers of the country, he said. "The Indo-US trade deal is against the interests of our farmers and was done under the pressure of U.S President Donald Trump because of Epstein files and to save Industrialist Adani", Mr. Gandhi al-



leged. He said that the deal was done entirely on Washington's terms and challenged the Centre to show some spine to dump it. He dared Mr. Modi to withdraw the deal in the wake of U.S supreme court ruling on the trade tariffs and added that Mr. Modi would not be able to do so. Mr. Gandhi also accused Mr. Modi of compromising the interests of India's agriculture, data, textile and import sectors. He said that the trade agreement was stalled for five months because it involved agriculture and agricultural products. Indian farmers, farm workers and even the government were against such a deal. But Mr. Modi called Mr. Trump after leaving parliament in the evening and

said that he was ready to strike the deal, Mr. Gandhi said. Referring to Epstein files, he claimed that Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri is mentioned in it and names of more ministers in the Union government will surface. He also referred to the ongoing controversy regarding former Army chief Gen M.M. Naravane's memoir, saying that the decision to go to war was political, not a military one. Mr. Gandhi said he was not allowed to speak in the parliament because he wanted to highlight the issue. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge who also spoke on the occasion called Mr. Modi a 'coward' and accused him of selling India's interest in the Indo-US trade deal.

## Govt to Launch HPV Vaccination Programme for Girls Aged 14 and Above



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Union government will soon launch a nationwide HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 and above, official sources said. The Gardasil injection will be administered free of cost, they said. The quadrivalent HPV vaccine protects against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, as well

as types 6 and 11, they said. "Strong global and Indian scientific evidence confirms that a single dose provides robust and durable protection when administered to girls in the recommended age group," an official source said. "Vaccination under the national programme will be voluntary and free of cost, ensuring equitable access across socio-economic groups," the source added.

## Vande Bharat to Link Jammu and Srinagar on March 1

**SRINAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

In a major boost to rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, direct train services between Jammu and Srinagar are scheduled to commence from March 1, a development expected to ease passenger travel and significantly strengthen transport links between the Union Territory's twin capitals. Northern Railway officials on Tuesday said that a Vande Bharat service will run with halts at seven stations along the Srinagar-Jammu route, and that the rake composition has been revised to 20

coaches from an earlier plan of eight to meet higher passenger demand. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal confirmed that preparations and station upgrades at Jammu Tawi are being completed ahead of the launch. He said the new service will markedly improve year-round connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. J&K officials noted that the rail link will reduce dependence on the landslide-prone Jammu-Srinagar National High-

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## IYC Members Arrested Over Shirtless Protest Will Face Rioting Charges

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Delhi Police has added charges of rioting against the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) members arrested in connection with the shirtless protest during the AI Summit here last week, an official said on Tuesday. Eight IYC members, including its president Uday Bhanu Chib, have been arrested so far. Police have added sections 191(1) (rioting) and 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot- if rioting be



committed; if not committed) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in the case. Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime and Police Management & Media Cell) Devesh Chandra Srivastva described the accused as 'ag-

gressive elements' and said that a premeditated attempt was made to breach the security cordon in the presence of dignitaries, delegates and visitors attending the international event. "On February 20, 2026, while the India AI Impact Summit was underway at Bharat Mandapam, a premeditated attempt was made to breach the security cordon in the presence of dignitaries, delegates and visitors attending the international event.

**CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4**

## Massive Fire Engulfs Bhubaneswar Supermarket



A massive fire that broke out late Monday night at a supermarket near the Lingipur area of Bhubaneswar continued to rage for over 17 hours, causing extensive damage to goods and property worth several lakhs.

## Stock Market Ends in Red; Sensex Settles Over 1000 Points Low

The indices were dragged lower by a sharp sell-off in IT shares as well as rising crude oil prices and weak global cues

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian stock market on Tuesday ended in red with benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declining up to 1.28 per cent. The indices were dragged lower by a sharp sell-off in IT shares as well as rising crude oil prices and weak global cues. At the time of closing, Sensex settled 1068.74 points or 1.28 per cent lower at 82,225.92, while the broader Nifty was at

25,424.65, down 288.35 points or 1.12 per cent. The Nifty 50 index opened at 25,641.80, down by 71.20 points or 0.28 per cent, while the BSE Sensex opened at 83,052.54, declining by 242.12 points or 0.29 per cent. Apart from the IT index that plunged over 4 per cent, Nifty realty also declined by over 2 per cent. On the gaining side were PSU Bank, pharma, metal, and oil & gas. On the market performance,

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said, "Domestic markets registered a sharp decline, led by significant weakness in IT stocks amid renewed global concerns over AI-driven disruption and margin pressures for traditional service providers. Global trade and tariff worries resurfaced as well, with additional pressure arising from Trump's warnings on trade deals and reports of possible national-security



tariffs. Realty stocks also came under strain on expectations that prolonged stress in the IT sector could weigh on real estate demand and valuations." "Meanwhile, escalating U.S.-Iran tensions,

marked by embassy staff evacuations and Iran's warnings of wider regional escalation, intensified risk aversion. Overall, markets remain highly sensitive to geopolitical risks and sector-specific pressures, driving investors toward defensive, domestically focused segments," he added. Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities, said, "the Midcap and Small cap indices opened weak and ex-

tended their decline in early trade. However, strong buying interest at lower levels led to the formation of thin-bodied candles with noticeable lower wicks on the daily charts, indicating demand emerging on dips." He added, "The market breadth was weak as the advance-decline ratio was heavily skewed in the favour of bears at day's close. A total of 305 stocks out of the Nifty 500 universe ended in the red."

ESTD-1960

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

# Bandi Slams GHMC Plan, Promises to Reveal Cong-MIM Deal

Sanjay criticised the Congress government for failing to deliver on its Six Guarantees despite 18 Cabinet meetings

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the move to divide Greater Hyderabad into three municipal corporations was aimed at appeasing the Owaisi brothers and consolidating minority vote banks ahead of the GHMC elections. He asserted that the BJP would expose what he described as the "true face" of the MIM and Congress and take the issue to the people. Speaking to the media after offering prayers at



the Bhagalakshmi temple near Charminar and the Mahankali temple at Lal Darwaja, along with newly elected corporators of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, Sanjay accused the Congress government of indulging in divisive and opportunistic politics. He claimed that the pro-

posed trifurcation of Greater Hyderabad was not an administrative reform but a politically calculated decision designed to benefit the AIMIM leadership. The BJP leader criticised both Congress and BRS leaders, stating that they should "hang their heads in shame" over comments allegedly made by the MIM chief suggesting that those in power must bow before them. Sanjay alleged that while the Owaisi family's wealth had multiplied over the years, the Old City continued to suffer from poor infrastructure, inadequate civic amenities, and lack of development. He further accused the police of selectively ignoring violations by MIM activists while acting firmly against others. Sanjay also claimed that incidents of temple attacks had increased during the Congress party's 27-month tenure in the state. He alleged a rise in cow slaughter

and so-called "love jihad" cases, accusing the government of failing to maintain law and order. Referring to recent developments in Banswada, he warned the police against what he termed illegal arrests of Hindus and said he would personally step in if those responsible for attacks were not punished. He further criticised the Congress government for failing to fulfil its Six Guarantees despite holding 18 Cabinet meetings, asserting that the BJP would hold the ruling party accountable and raise these issues vigorously in the run-up to the GHMC elections.

# Kukatpally MLA Rescues Destitute Elderly, Ensures Rehabilitation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Demonstrating swift leadership and compassion, Madhavaram Krishna Rao intervened to rescue a destitute elderly man found living in distress near a local Shiva temple in Kukatpally. The elderly man, reportedly surviving alone on the streets for several days, had drawn concern from residents and temple visitors. Upon being alerted, the MLA immediately directed officials to act without delay, prioritizing the man's safety and dignity. Acting on his instructions, Bottu Vishnu, Constituency SC Section President and former Director of the Kukatpally Agricultural Market



Committee, personally supervised the rescue operation. The man was safely relocated to the Sivananda Rehabilitation Home, where he was admitted for care. Authorities at the rehabilitation centre initiated medical treatment to stabilize his condition and arranged for regular food, shelter, and psychological support to ensure long-term well-being.

Residents expressed relief and appreciation for the prompt action, noting that such responsiveness from an elected representative reinforces public trust. The incident underscores the impact of proactive local leadership in addressing urban vulnerability, with Madhavaram Krishna Rao earning praise for translating empathy into immediate action.

# Union Min Review Telangana Airport Projects

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union minister G Kishan Reddy and civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu conducted in-depth review of the progress of work at the airport projects at Warangal, Adilabad and Peddapalli. In a statement, Kishan Reddy said that they have directed officials to resolve any administrative or technical issues immediately and ensure ongoing and proposed airport projects on schedule without de-



lays. For the Warangal airport, 953 acres of land were acquired and the construction of the 2,500-metre-long runway would commence soon. The DPR, design, and scope of work finalisation was in advanced stages, and the airport would be inauguration in June. At the Adilabad airport, land acquisition was pending and it was decided to make use of existing defence ministry land for runway under

joint usage policy. The civil aviation and defence ministries have to finalise guidelines. With regard to the Peddapalli airport, about 980 acres of land was identified and the AAI was conducting feasibility study, Kishan Reddy said. These airports aim to boost air connectivity, attract investments, drive industrial growth, and create employment in Telangana. The Centre reaffirmed full support for enhancing the state's aviation infrastructure, Kishan Reddy said.

# ACB Nabs TGSPDCLAO Taking Bribe

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted a surprise raid at the office of the assistant director of agriculture (ADA) in Peddapalli district on Tuesday, and found multiple discrepancies related to the office workings. The agency found that the mandal agriculture office (MAO), which is also functioning in the premises, was supposed to register eight cases on multiple firms in regards with illegal storage of spurious seeds and

urea, but not only did the MAO not register the cases, they did not update the stock register either. Officials took serious note of how the MAO hired a private person to perform official duties without permission of superior officers, and noted suspicious UPI transactions received by the MAO from the private persons. The bureau also found that out of the 35 Rythu Bheema applications which they received in the office, 30 were claimed but the office kept five applications

pending for more than 30 days. Additionally, they also observed that the physical forms and data for Rythu Bharosa were not available at the office. They noted that the inspection and sampling registers for seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, along with schemes implementation register, farmer training registers and attendance registers were not maintained. The ACB said that the six farm mechanisation applications were kept pending for more than 45 days, which were supposed to

be transferred to the DAO in three days for approval. ACB said that they sent a report to the government against the officials to take concerned action. In Hyderabad, the ACB caught TGSPDCL assistant engineer of operations Mamidiseti Srinivasa Rao red handed while taking a bribe of ₹16,000 from a complainant, to avoid taking coercive steps against a seized electricity meter. Officials recovered the bribe amount, arrested the AO and produced him before a special court.

# Tushar Gandhi Opposes Musi Evictions

Gandhi's Great-Grandson Condemns Musi Project Evictions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Opposition parties and activists have raised strong objections after eviction notices were issued to residents of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments for the Gandhi Sarovar Project on the banks of the Musi river. Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, joined the criticism, urging the Telangana government to halt the move. The Gandhi Sarovar Project, part of the Musi Rejuvenation Initiative, aims to restore the river's ecology, promote sustainable urban development, and enhance the riverfront. It also includes plans for a "Gandhi Circle of Unity" and the construction of the world's tallest Gandhi statue at the confluence of the Musi and Esa rivers, where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed in 1948, the Chief Minister had announced. Residents of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments in Langar Houz recently shared vi-



deos alleging that they were being forced to vacate their homes after decades of residence. The move has drawn criticism from Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders, who called out the government for attempting to displace residents without a detailed project report. On February 22, senior BRS leader Harish Rao visited the apartment complex and assured residents that his party would fight to protect their homes. The following day, Tushar Gandhi described the displacement as "the most unGandhian action" and appealed directly to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. "Displacing residents to create space for a Gandhi statue is the most unGandhian action. My appeal to the

18 ESIC Dispensaries Construction to Proceed, Not Cancelled: Min Vivek



Labour minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy said that the cancellation of 18 ESIC dispensaries was discussed in the Cabinet meeting and a decision was taken to proceed with their construction. Highlighting the progress in the districts, the minister said that the ESI hospital in Chennai, which began with 50 beds, was functioning at full capacity. He stated that during Monday's Cabinet, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had responded positively to the proposal for allotment of land for the construction of an ESI hospital at Shamshabad. Vivek was addressing the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Foundation Day at the Sanathnagar ESI Hospital on Tuesday. The minister urged the doctors to instill confidence and courage in patients alongside providing medical treatment. While government hospitals often face criticism, he noted that there were very few complaints with regard to ESI hospitals. He described the conduct of organ transplantation surgeries at the ESI Hospital as a significant milestone and extended his appreciation to all organ donors.

# Twin Brothers Marry Twin Sisters in Rare Double Wedding in Kamareddy

**KAMAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana

In a rare and heartwarming celebration, twin brothers Vijay and Vinay from Ghanpur married twin sisters Keerthana and Keerthi from Demi Kalan in a unique double wedding that left the entire district amazed. The two couples, who look strikingly identical, sat side by side on the wedding stage, creating a visually stunning moment for guests and villagers alike. Attendees said it



was difficult at times to tell the siblings apart, adding to the charm and excitement of the occasion. The wedding drew large crowds from nearby villages, with many calling it a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Locals described it as one of the

most memorable weddings ever witnessed in the district. The rare union of twin brothers and twin sisters has now become the talk of the region, with photos and videos from the ceremony widely shared on social media.

# Housing, Sanitation Top Prajavani Grievance List

The Prajavani programme held on Monday across the GHMC, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations received over 120 grievances, mostly related to sanitation, road restoration, and illegal constructions. The GHMC received 59 complaints, the CMC 43 and the MMC 25. At the Hyderabad collectorate, residents lodged 277 complaints. Of these, 189 were related to housing, with most petitioners seeking Indiramma houses. Another 82 complaints pertained to the revenue department, while six were from other departments.

# TGMFC Moots Mini-truck Scheme for Minority Youth

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) has proposed a Rs.380-crore plan for 2026-27, including the provision 'mini trucks' to unemployed youth, aiming to boost livelihood opportunities. Officials said each vehicle, costing around Rs.10 lakh, would be offered with a Rs.5 lakh subsidy and Rs.5 lakh loan. "This will help unemployed



youth stand on their feet," sources told. The corporation recently launched an e-scooters scheme under economic support (2025-26), distributing units worth up to Rs.1.5 lakh with 80 per cent subsidy and 20 per cent beneficiary share. Around 3,000 e-

scooters are being given in partnership with a transport aggregator, which operates in 25 districts. Eligible candidates will also receive training. Minorities welfare minister Mohammed Azharuddin said the schemes aim to make youth financially independent. Current initiatives include Rs.15 crore for tool kits and generators for the Turka Kasha community, Rs.5 crore for mopeds to Fakheer/Dudekula and other vulnerable

groups, and Rs.25 crore for one-time grants to minority women under the Indiramma Minority Mahila Yojana Scheme. Sources clarified that of the Rs.300 crore earmarked for 2025-26, only Rs.100 crore has been spent due to a funds crunch. "For next year we have proposed Rs.380 crore, but are optimistic that at least Rs.250 crore will be allocated for key schemes like distribution of mini-trucks," they said.

### Kavitha Condemns Journalists' Arrests

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha strongly condemned the arrest of media representatives who were on their way to report on the demolition of huts belonging to poor families in Velugumatla village of Khammam district. She termed the police action at the Nakrekal toll gate, where journalists traveling from Hyderabad to Khammam were detained, as cruel and undemocratic. Kavitha asserted that journalism is regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy and plays a vital role in safeguarding public interest. Preventing arresting reporters who are discharging their professional duty raises serious concerns about the direction in which the state is heading, she said. Suppressing media voices under the pretext of maintaining law and order amounts to weakening democratic foundations. She demanded that the government immediately clarify the circumstances that led to the arrests and ensure that such incidents are not repeated in a democratic society.

## Congress Failing Farmers, Delaying Hospital: Harish Rao

**WARANGAL**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday inspected the under-construction super specialty hospital in Warangal along with senior BRS leaders, and launched a sharp attack on the Congress government over alleged delays in completing key infrastructure and irrigation projects. After reviewing the progress of the 2,000-bed hospital, whose 24-storey slabs were completed during the BRS regime, Harish Rao alleged that the project had stalled after the Congress came to power. He said the facility, built on 20 lakh square feet, was originally scheduled to be inaugurated by Dussehra 2024, but has seen repeated delays.



He questioned the government's plan to launch only outpatient (OP) services on June 2, asking how a super specialty hospital could function without full staff and equipment. "This hospital requires 2,000 nurses, 1,500 doctors and 1,000 paramedical staff. Has the Cabinet approved recruitment? Has any notification been issued?" he asked, demanding that the hospital be fully operational before inauguration. He warned that BRS would launch a hunger strike if the hospital was

not completed properly. Turning to irrigation, Harish Rao said that after BRS leaders exposed that only six out of ten motors were functioning at the Sammakkla barrage under the Devadula project, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy hurriedly reviewed the issue and ordered all motors to be run. He termed it a "victory for farmers." He criticized shifting deadlines announced by Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, alleging that despite repeated

promises, no substantial progress had been made. Comparing regimes, he said the BRS government under K. Chandrashekar Rao spent ₹7,300 crore on Devadula and provided irrigation to 3.2 lakh acres, contributing to water supply for 48 lakh acres statewide over nine years. Harish Rao also alleged deteriorating conditions at MGM Hospital in Warangal, citing non-functional equipment, staff shortages, and poor infrastructure. He demanded immediate review, payment of pending salaries to outsourcing staff, and implementation of health schemes for employees and journalists. Accusing the government of focusing on "Future City and real estate" over public welfare, he urged immediate completion and dedication of the hospital to the people of Telangana.

## Surekha Tells Officials to Fast-Track Vemulawada Temple Development

**KARIMNAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

Endowment minister Konda Surekha and transport minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, along with government whip Adi Srinivas, on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the grand master plan for the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple at Vemulawada during a high-level meeting at the Secretariat in Hyderabad. The state government has planned a four-phase temple development project at an estimated cost of ₹695 crore, aimed at transforming Vemulawada into a world-class pilgrimage centre. The ministers directed officials and contractors to complete the first phase of works, estimated at ₹111.25 crore, by March



31 next year. Konda Surekha emphasised that roof-level construction should be completed before the onset of the monsoon to avoid delays. She announced a personal donation of ₹25 lakh towards the construction of a new Nitya Annadana Satram (free meal complex). The administration also decided to establish a ₹100 crore corpus fund for the Annadana project through donor contributions. The proposed dining facility will be a G+2 structure equipped with modern

amenities and elevators. Officials informed the ministers that the Nitya Kalyana Mandapam, with a capacity of 500 people, has been completed, while raft works for the Maha Mandapam have also been finalised in accordance with guidelines of the Sringeri Peetham. Transport minister Ponnamp Prabhakar suggested enhancing the temple ambience by installing music systems to play Shiva stotrams, on the lines of the Sri Sailam temple.

## CPI (Maoist) in tatters: Telangana DGP after top Maoists surrender

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The outlawed CPI (Maoist) is now "headless, rudderless and almost in tatters" in Telangana following the surrender of top commander Tippiri Thirupati alias Devuji and three other senior leaders, Telangana Director General of Police B Shivadhar Reddy said on Tuesday. Addressing reporters after the surrender, the DGP stated that the Maoist movement, which once gained significant momentum in Telangana, is "almost at the end of its run" in the state. He revealed that the central committee of the CPI (Maoist) has been unable to convene due to sustained security pressure, leaving the outfit without a general secretary. Devuji was widely believed to be the frontrunner to take over as General Secretary after the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao, also known as Basavaraju, in Chhatrisgarh in May 2025. However, according to surrendered cadres, no leadership decision could be formalised. "As of today, nobody is leading the party," Reddy said. The DGP disclosed that



only 11 cadres from Telangana remain underground, including senior Maoist leader Muppala Laxman Rao alias Ganapathi. Of the remaining cadres, only one or two are believed to be active. Police are attempting to establish contact with individuals close to Ganapathi and expressed hope that he would also surrender. Reddy added that Ganapathi is not believed to be in forest areas but possibly residing in a town. Over the past two years, 588 Maoist leaders and cadres have surrendered and rejoined mainstream life through what the DGP described as a "soft" approach under the state's anti-Maoist strategy aligned with the Centre's 'Operation Kagar'. He emphasised that Devuji's surrender followed over a year of sustained outreach efforts to address apprehensions and build trust.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has appealed to all remaining underground cadres to renounce violence and return to their families. Devuji and Central Committee member Malla Raji Reddy, each carrying ₹25 lakh rewards, along with state committee members Bade Chokka Rao and Nune Narsimha Reddy, carrying ₹20 lakh rewards each, received a total ₹90 lakh under rehabilitation policies. Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar hailed the development, stating that the vision of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah for a "Maoist-Mukt Bharat" is progressing steadily. He warned remaining cadres to surrender or face strict action, praising Telangana Police for their role in weakening the insurgent movement ahead of the March 2026 target.

## P. Susheel Pledges Brighter Ramgopalpet Future

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

P. Susheel has stepped forward to serve the people of Ramgopalpet in the upcoming GHMC elections, expressing his commitment to strengthening the division and accelerating development with a strong sense of duty and dedication. Declaring his intent to reconnect with residents and work collectively for progress, Susheel emphasized his vision of making Ramgopalpet shine brighter through unity, transparency, and community-driven leadership.



A proud son of the division, Susheel was born and raised in Ramgopalpet. Having grown up playing in its streets, celebrating local festivals, and sharing in the community's joys and struggles, he says his roots give him

a deep understanding of the people's needs and aspirations. Coming from a family with a strong political and social legacy, he draws inspiration from his father, P. Manik Prabhu Garu, who played a significant role in the Telangana movement through the Telangana Sadhana Samithi, which later merged with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Inspired by this legacy, Susheel began his own political journey with a focus on public service.

Apart from his political involvement, Susheel has actively participated in various social and community organisations.

He proudly served as the youngest board member of the Ujjaini Mahakali Temple, dedicating his service under the divine blessings of Shri Ujjaini Mahakali Ammavaru. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sri Talasani Sai Kiran Yadav ji for his continuous guidance and encouragement throughout his journey. With a strong foundation of community engagement, spiritual service, and political inspiration, P. Susheel now seeks the support and blessings of the people to work together for a stronger, progressive, and united Ramgopalpet.

## BC Simha Garjana Sabha Held Successfully

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The BC "Simha Garjana" public meeting held in Vijayawada under the leadership of BCY National President Bode Ramachandra Yadav concluded successfully, drawing massive participation from Backward Classes (BC) communities across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Maharashtra. The event witnessed the presence of Suraj Mandal, grandson of B. P. Mandal, along with Telangana State BC Joint Action Committee President Beri Ramachandra Yadav and several promi-



ent BC leaders. Addressing the gathering, Suraj Mandal paid tributes to B. P. Mandal and Jyotirao Phule, urging BC communities to unite politically and secure state power. He emphasized that true empowerment would only come when BCs contest and win elections from the grassroots to Parliament. Bode Ramachandra Yadav called upon BCs, along with SC, ST,

and Minority communities, to form a united front for achieving "Bahujan Rajyam." Leaders stressed that despite forming nearly 54-55% of the population, BCs remain politically marginalized due to lack of unity. Speakers highlighted issues of poverty, education, healthcare, and employment, asserting that political power is essential for social and economic upliftment. The meeting echoed with slogans of "Jai BC" as leaders and activists pledged to work collectively to secure rightful representation in legislative bodies from village level to Delhi.

## MLA Ganesh Meets CM, Seeks ₹20 Crore for Development

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Antonment MLA Sri Ganesh met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his camp office on Tuesday, submitting a representation seeking ₹20 crore for various development works in the Cantonment constituency. The MLA urged the Chief Minister to sanction funds for priority projects including construction of a Mahila Bhavan, development of internal roads, community halls, crematorium facilities, and installation of borewells across the constituency. Responding positively, the Chief Minister assured full support for the consti-



tuency's development and stated that necessary instructions would be issued to the concerned officials for release of funds. Sri Ganesh expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his assurance and reiterated his commitment to accelerating infrastructure and civic development works in the Cantonment area.

## Health Min Counters Harish on Warangal Hospital

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha strongly refuted allegations made by senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao regarding the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital project, asserting that real development in healthcare is not about constructing tall buildings but about ensuring quality medical services for the people. Responding to criticism, Rajanarsimha said that the previous BRS government had issued administrative orders without adequately planning infrastructure, fac-



ulty appointments, and staffing requirements, which he claimed weakened the public health system. He alleged that several projects were announced without proper groundwork, leaving gaps in medical services. Highlighting the Congress government's efforts after assuming office, the minister stated that nearly 10,000 healthcare-related

posts have already been filled to strengthen hospitals across the State. He added that recruitment for another 7,000 posts is underway and expected to be completed within the next four months. According to him, this large-scale hiring drive reflects the government's commitment to rebuilding the public healthcare network. Rajanarsimha further said that government hospitals are being modernised with upgraded infrastructure and improved service delivery. He pointed out that new initiatives such as Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) clinics, day-care cancer centres,

expanded dialysis units, and trauma care facilities are being introduced or strengthened in various districts to ensure accessible and affordable treatment. Addressing concerns over the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital, the minister claimed that less than 50 percent of the construction had been completed when the Congress government took charge. He alleged that frequent changes in building plans delayed progress. He assured that the project would soon be completed with advanced super-specialty services, including organ transplant facilities.

## Srinivas Goud Demands Immediate Fee Reimbursement Release

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Santosh chowdary

V. Srinivas Goud on Tuesday warned of intensified protests if the State government fails to release pending fee reimbursement funds for poor students, alleging large-scale hardship across Telangana.

Speaking at a broad-based meeting convened by the BC Students' Association at the Somajiguda Press Club, he said students are being forced to sell land, take loans, and pay fees out of pocket to



obtain their certificates. He alleged that some private college managements are threatening students with failure if they disclose illegal fee collections. Faculty in private colleges have reportedly

gone unpaid for five months, pushing families into financial distress. Goud claimed that if private colleges had exerted pressure, reimbursements would have been cleared already. He also alleged

that non-payment of "percentages" is delaying fund releases. Raising concern over Gurukul hostels, he said students are not receiving proper nutrition and are staging protests. Recalling the tenure of Bharat Rashtra Samithi, he asserted that reimbursements and welfare funds were released on time. He announced plans to approach the Governor and, if needed, lay siege to the Assembly. Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, MLC L. Ramana and others attended the meeting.

# Paralyzing Blizzard Hits US Northeast, Affects Transport Systems

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A powerful blizzard dropped more than two-and-a-half feet of snow (76.2 cm) across parts of the U.S. Northeast on Monday, bringing travel to a near-standstill for millions of residents as the treacherous conditions closed roads, shut down train services and forced the cancellation of some 7,400 flights. Thousands of homes and businesses lost power and officials, including New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, urged residents to stay off the roads so emergency crews could clear the streets. Schools in New York and throughout the region were closed. Broadway shut its theaters. "New York remains in a state of emergency," Mamdani said. "The travel ban has ended



today at noon, but a hazardous travel advisory remains in place through midnight tonight." More than 19 inches (48 cm) of snow had fallen on New York City's Central Park by 1 p.m. ET (1800 GMT) on Monday and over 14 inches fell in Boston, said Bob Oravec, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center. Winds, at times reaching between 40 to 60 mph (64-100 kph), blew snow-

drifts several feet high. "It'll probably take a week to dig out," Oravec said. Philadelphia received 14 inches while Providence, Rhode Island, was buried under more than 32 inches of snow, a record for the city. More than 608,711 homes and businesses across the U.S. were without power as of Monday afternoon, according to PowerOutage.us. That included one in 10 of the nearly 3 million power customers PowerOutage.us tracks in Massachusetts. Many

were astounded by the depth of the snowfall. In her 20 years or so living in New Hyde Park, on hard-hit Long Island, Sandra Wu said she had never seen a winter storm this bad. Her family could not open the front door and could barely see out of some windows because of the high snowdrifts. "My husband went out early through the garage to start digging us out, but it was pointless," Wu said. Wu, 53, a veterinarian, said the storm, which had dropped about 18 inches of snow, reminded her of the storms in the 1990s when she lived in Buffalo, New York, which gets an average annual snowfall of 92 inches. Her two children, ages 13 and five, were thrilled to have a snow day off from school, so they slept in. "We thought we'd lose power, thankfully not," she said. "So we're baking

today. There's nothing else to do while we wait for the snow to stop." REGIONAL EMERGENCIES At least seven U.S. states had declared states of emergency in response to the storm as of Monday. Airlines had canceled more than 7,400 flights by Monday afternoon and delayed another 2,300, according to the tracking site FlightAware.com. That figure included more than 1,800 canceled Tuesday flights, according to the site. Most of the cancellations and delays were in the northeastern U.S., including New York's John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia airports, Boston's Logan Airport, and New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport. New York Governor Kathy Hochul said she had activated 100 National Guard members to assist in Long Island, New York City

# I Am Proud of My Son: IYC Chief's Mom Urges Youth to Become Bhagat Singh

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Following the arrest of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) President Uday Bhanu Chib in connection with the protest during the AI India Impact Summit 2026, his mother, Rajni Bala, on Tuesday said that she was proud of her son while defending the protest. Speaking to ANI, Bala said that the protest at Bharat Mandapam during the summit was carried out within constitutional limits, noting her son's words that sometimes it is necessary to follow the path of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. She further urged the youth of the country to follow the ideals of the freedom fighter. "My son said that we follow Gandhi's path and can even become Bhagat Singh if necessary, and I'm proud of him. Today, we need

Bhagat Singh, and I urge all young people to become Bhagat Singh and think about their country," she said. "Those who protested haven't committed any crime. The Constitution has given us the right to protest. They protested for the people of the country, for the farmers of the country, for the youth of the country, and for those who are unemployed and have no work to do," she added. She further drew comparisons with past protests by the BJP during the UPA government and questioned if the incidents, such as Galgotias University presenting a Chinese robot as their own during the summit, weren't embarrassing. "When the Commonwealth Games were held, so many delegates and athletes from all over the world came; the BJP protested during the Commonwealth

Games... When Galgotias University presented China's robot as their own on the first day of the summit, claiming it was their innovation, then we weren't embarrassed in front of the world," she said. Reiterating her support for her son, she said, "I am proud of my son. We choose the right path and will do the right thing. In the end, truth always prevails. I have no regrets. It doesn't matter how long they keep my son in jail." "Even when Bhagat Singh was martyred, these people didn't support him. Those who are in power today were against him," she added. Meanwhile, a Delhi Court today granted four days' police custody of IYC President Uday Bhanu Chib in connection with the protest case at Bharat Mandapam during the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

# Cabinet Clears Proposal To Increase Equity Investment Threshold of Powergrid

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a move to bid for capital-intensive transmission projects in the country, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday cleared a proposal to increase the equity investment threshold of public sector enterprise Powergrid from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 7,500 crore per subsidiary. The approval will enable Powergrid to expand its investment in its core business and support the evacuation of renewable

energy capacity, helping achieve the target of 500 GW from non-fossil-based sources. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took its first decision at PM's new office, Seva Teerth. "The CCEA has approved enhanced delegation to Powergrid under the guidelines dated February 4, 2010, of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) on delegation of powers appli-

cable to 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)," Information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the cabinet meeting. "The approval enhances the permissible equity investment limit of Powergrid from the current threshold of Rs 5,000 crore per subsidiary to Rs 7,500 crore per subsidiary, while retaining the existing cap of 15 per cent of the company's net worth," the minister said. As per the government,

the CPSE can now participate in the bids for capital-intensive transmission projects, such as ultra high voltage alternating current (UHVAC) and high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission networks. "Additionally, it will broaden competition in tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) for selection of bidders for critical transmission projects, thus ensuring better price discovery, which will ultimately lead to the availability of affordable and clean energy.

# Salaries To Rise 9.1 per Cent in 2026: Aon

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday described late former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar as the "best chief minister Maharashtra never had". Pawar, who was sworn in as deputy chief minister six times, had often spoken openly about his ambition to one day lead the State as chief minister. Both Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature paid tribute to Pawar on the opening day of the Budget



session. Mr. Fadnavis also announced a CBI probe into the plane crash incident involving Pawar. Mr. Fadnavis moved the condolence motion in the Legislative Assembly, while Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde moved the motion in the

Legislative Council. "Ajit Dada and I share the same birth date. He was exactly 11 years senior to me. He was my dada (elder brother) in the real sense," Mr. Fadnavis said while speaking on the motion. "He became deputy chief minister six times and was

a leader of immense capabilities. I truly believed destiny would one day give him the opportunity to become chief minister. Today, I would say he was the best chief minister that Maharashtra never had." In the Legislative Council, Mr. Shinde described Ajit Pawar as a strong pillar of support for the government. He credited the late leader for ensuring that the government's flagship 'CM Ladki Bahin' scheme was implemented without disturbing the State's financial balance.

# BJD Holds Farmers' Rally In Bhubaneswar; BJP Throws Down Debate Challenge

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday organised a farmers' rally in Bhubaneswar, accusing the state government of neglecting agrarian distress and failing to fulfil its promises to the farming community. The protest, held here at Lower PMG, drew party leaders and supporters who demanded immediate measures to address farmers' concerns. The BJD alleged that the government has failed to respond adequately to issues such as falling farm incomes, inadequate support systems and a deteriorating law-and-order situation in rural areas. The party said the demonstration was intended to press for urgent policy intervention and sustained attention to the agrarian sector. Addressing the gathering, BJD president and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik sharply criticised the government's performance, saying it had fallen short of the commitments made to farmers. With the government nearing two years in office, he said, many of its assurances remained unfulfilled on the ground. Patnaik pointed to welfare measures introduced during the BJD's tenure, including the KALIA



scheme, which he said provided direct support and institutional assistance to farmers. He alleged that the present "double-engine" government had failed to introduce any comparable initiatives and had done little to improve the condition of cultivators. "The previous BJD government implemented KALIA and several other measures to support farmers, including credit assistance and welfare programmes. What has the present 'double-engine' government done for the farming community?" Patnaik asked, asserting that the BJD would continue its campaign to protect farmers' interests. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dismissed the rally as a political exercise aimed at deflecting attention from what it described as the BJD's own governance failures. BJD spokesperson Tankadhar Tripathy challenged the

opposition to raise farmers' issues in the Assembly and engage in a substantive debate. "If the BJD truly has the courage, the Leader of the Opposition should come to the Assembly and explain whether irregularities such as 'Katni-Chhatni' occurred during their tenure," Tripathy said. He also questioned the BJD's record on expanding irrigation coverage and developing cold storage infrastructure, and asked whether the previous government had been able to prevent farmer suicides. Tripathy further alleged that the Leader of the Opposition had not adequately raised farmers' concerns in the Assembly since the change of government. He said the BJP was ready for a detailed discussion on agricultural policies and performance, and urged the opposition to participate in a full-fledged debate in the House.

## State To Get.....

"On February 20, 2026, while the India AI Impact Summit was underway at Bharat Mandapam, a premeditated attempt was made to breach the security cordon in the presence of dignitaries, delegates and visitors attending the international event. The aggressive elements were immediately overpowered. During the process of restraining them, some police personnel deployed on duty sustained injuries," he said. He added that during the course of investigation, many individuals were seen in CCTV footage from the event venue and surrounding areas. "The involvement of several other persons has also been detected, who were allegedly assisting the aggressive elements in various ways in carrying out the act," the Special CP said. He said to unearth the entire conspiracy, continuous coordination is being maintained with police authorities of other states and raids are being carried out. "During investigation, Sections 191(1) and 192 of the BNS have also been added. Based on the investigation so far, it has emerged that the offence was committed as part of a deep-rooted conspiracy, and substantial evidence in this regard has been obtained," he said. Considering the multi-state ramifications of the case, the underlying financial and logistical networks among the accused, and the need for a comprehensive probe, further investigation has been transferred to the Inter-State Cell of the Crime Branch, Sri-vastva added.

## Vande Bharat to.....

J&K officials noted that the rail link will reduce dependence on the landslide-prone Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH44), shorten travel times, and make movement of people and goods faster and more predictable. "By providing all-weather access, the service is expected to spur tourism and trade, ease pilgrimage travel to Katra, generate local employment through expanded services and infrastructure, and strengthen logistical mobility for essential supplies and defence deployments," one of them asserted. Local businesses and tourism stakeholders anticipate easier access to markets and visitors, while residents look forward to more reliable travel options across seasons. The direct Jammu-Srinagar trains are the culmination of decades of planning and phased construction under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a project conceived to integrate the Valley with the national rail network and provide dependable, year-round connectivity. Sanctioned in the late 1990s and executed in stages over many years, the USBRL's phased openings—linking Baramulla, Srinagar, Qazigund, Banihal, Katra and the Sangaldan-Katra stretch—have progressively closed the gap between the Valley and the rest of India, with the final phase inaugurated in June 2025. The objectives of the ₹43,780 crore USBRL project which is a part of a 338-km railway line from

## FROM FRONT PAGE

## Jammu to Baramulla have been to reduce travel time, boost tourism and trade, and offer a resilient alternative to the highway.

**Massive Fire.....**  
A massive fire that broke out late Monday night at a supermarket near the Lingipur area of Bhubaneswar continued to rage for over 17 hours, causing extensive damage to goods and property worth several lakhs. The blaze, which reportedly started around 10.30 pm, had not been fully brought under control at the time of filing this report despite sustained firefighting operations. The fire is believed to have originated on the upper floors of the multi-storey building and spread rapidly due to the large quantity of combustible materials stored inside. Thick smoke, intense heat and repeated flare-ups severely hampered firefighting efforts through the night and into Tuesday. More than 40 fire tenders were deployed to the site as personnel battled the flames in a prolonged operation. Firefighters were forced to break open sections of the building's walls to gain access to the affected areas. Officials said the enclosed structure and heavy stocking of plastic household goods contributed significantly to the rapid spread and persistence of the fire. An advanced robotic monitor was deployed in an attempt to tackle the blaze from inside the building. However, the equipment could only partially assist operations as extreme heat and dense smoke limited its effectiveness.

## India Unveils First.....

The Kerala Cabinet had granted in principle approval for the initiative in December 2025. The legislation introduces a permanent, photo-embedded nativity card, designed to ensure that individuals no longer face difficulties in proving their identity or place of residence in the state. Revenue Minister K Rajan, who introduced the bill on Monday, had stated that the measure was necessitated by the Centre's unilateral implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He emphasised that the card would allow Malayalis, regardless of where they currently live, to assert their identity with pride. Key provisions: The Nativity Card will function along the lines of the existing nativity certificate. The eligibility includes individuals born in Kerala, those with at least one ancestor born in Kerala, provided they have not acquired foreign citizenship and children born outside the state while their parents were employed elsewhere. The government clarified that the card is intended as a cultural and identity marker, not a substitute for other official documents. Political reactions: The LDF hailed the Bill as a step toward safeguarding Malayali identity, the opposition UDF dismissed it as politically motivated and staged a walkout. The BJP criticised the move, warning that it could encourage "dangerous separatist politics."

CRIME

Telangana HC Seeks Govt Response on 'Irregularities' in Samagra Shiksha School Bids

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the state government and the School Education Department in a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging large-scale irregularities and fraudulent allotments under the PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha schemes for vocational education. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin directed the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary of School Education, and the State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to file their counter-affidavits within three weeks.

The court was hearing a PIL that originated from

a letter addressed to the Chief Justice by advocate Rapolu Bhaskar, which was converted into a formal petition.

Advocate Bhaskar alleged that there was extensive fraud in the implementation of the Samagra Shiksha scheme for the academic year 2024-25. He contended that the central government had sanctioned substantial funds to establish PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha schools aimed at providing vocational education, particularly for poor and underprivileged students. According to the PIL, the Telangana government invited bids to set up 946 vocational schools. However, only 500 bids were approved, and the bidding process was allegedly halted for the 2024-25 academic year.

Bhaskar further claimed that certain officials within the School Education Department accepted large sums of money from select bidders, enabling preferential allotments. This, he argued, caused financial losses to other legitimate bidders and adversely affected the students who were meant to benefit from the vocational education programs. The PIL emphasizes that these irregularities undermine the objective of the schemes, which is to provide skill-based education to disadvantaged students and improve employability.

It seeks a detailed investigation into the bidding and allotment process, along with accountability for officials involved in facilitating alleged irregularities. The High

Court's notice signals a proactive approach towards ensuring transparency and fairness in the implementation of central government educational schemes in the state. By directing key state officials to respond, the court aims to scrutinize the allegations and assess whether procedural lapses or corruption have compromised the intended benefits of vocational education programs under PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha initiatives. The court is expected to review the counter-affidavits and may issue further directions to ensure that the schemes are implemented in accordance with their objectives and funds are utilized properly for the benefit of students.

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 coordination 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.

Khammam Police Nabs 14 People for Assisting to Open Mule Accounts

KHAMMAM  
Wakeup telangana

The Khammam police on Tuesday arrested 14 people on charges of using the bank accounts of other people for the alleged online cyber frauds. The police said Udayaneni Vikas Chowdary and his wife Boppna Nagapriya along with Adapa Rama Venkata Charan Chowdary alias Charan allegedly played a crucial role in the crime. While the police nabbed Vikas and Charan along with 12 of their associates, Nagapriya and seven others are still absconding. The police said Vikas, Nagapriya and Charan in-

duced the complainant and took bank account details from him allegedly for online fraud and cheating. They did more transactions through his accounts. By misusing the account credentials, they reportedly utilized them to collect and transfer huge sums of money obtained through cyber fraud, the police said. In all, the accused were found to have opened accounts with the help of 22 people by paying Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 as commission. They opened the accounts saying that they were doing stock and crypto currency trading business.

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.

Arrive Alive Campaign Held at Kachiguda Railway Station

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana  
Santosh chowdary



As part of the second phase of the Arrive Alive Campaign 2026, the Kachiguda Traffic Police on Tuesday conducted a special road safety awareness programme at Kachiguda Railway Station to educate commuters on traffic rules and safe driving practices.

Traffic personnel interacted directly with motorists, two-wheeler riders, and pedestrians, stressing the importance of overtak-

ing only from the right side, wearing helmets for both riders and pillion passengers, and mandatorily using seat belts while driving. Officials explained that strict adherence to these rules can significantly reduce road

accidents and save lives. The awareness drive is part of a broader initiative under the Arrive Alive Campaign 2026 aimed at promoting responsible driving behaviour and ensuring public safety across the city. Pamphlets were

distributed and commuters were counselled on the consequences of traffic violations. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Delta-7 team, Traffic Police Station Kachiguda.

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.



## Telangana Ease of Doing Business 2.0 soon: Industries Minister Sridhar

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana is set to roll out Ease of Doing Business 2.0 as part of its strategy to establish the state as a preferred global investment destination, announced IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Tuesday, February 24. Speaking at the Growth X 2026 conference, organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Babu highlighted the state's long-term economic ambitions: reaching \$1 trillion by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047. The proposed Ease of Doing Business 2.0 policy will be formulated through extensive



stakeholder consultations. "The aim is to accelerate industrial growth, strengthen investor confidence, and provide greater assurance to investors," Babu said, emphasizing the government's commitment to creating a business-

friendly ecosystem. Babu stressed that economic growth must be planned, not accidental. To this end, the Congress-led state government has prepared "Telangana Vision 2047", a roadmap for sustainable and bal-

anced long-term development across all regions. As part of this approach, the government has adopted a three-pronged strategy – CURE, PURE, and RARE – designed to bring every region, from urban centres to rural areas, onto a robust growth trajectory. The Industries Minister also pointed to the transformative role of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), which are reshaping work culture and business models. He noted that the future will rely on strong industrial and technological ecosystems rather than individual companies alone. Highlighting the government's approach, Babu clarified

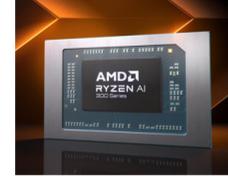
that Telangana intends to function not merely as a regulatory authority granting approvals but as a collaborative partner alongside industry. "We aim to create an environment where businesses and government work together to drive innovation, investment, and inclusive growth," he said. By combining policy reforms, technological adoption, and stakeholder engagement, Telangana is positioning itself as a dynamic investment hub, ready to compete on the global stage while ensuring balanced regional development and long-term economic prosperity.

## Facebook owner Meta to buy AI chips in deal worth up to USD 100 billion

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Facebook owner Meta Platforms will buy artificial intelligence (AI) chips from Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) in a deal that will also give it the opportunity to buy up to a 10 per cent stake of the chip company. Meta will buy AMD's latest chips, the MI450, to help power data centres. The 6-gigawatt agreement will see shipments supporting the first gigawatt deployment set to start during the second half of this year. The agreement could potentially be worth more than USD 100 billion. Shares of AMD jumped more than 9 per cent before the market opened on Tuesday, February 24. The companies said that AMD issued Meta a performance-based warrant

for up to 160 million



shares of its common stock at USD 0.01 a piece, structured to vest as long as certain milestones are achieved. The first tranche vests with the initial 1-gigawatt of shipments, with additional tranches vesting as Meta's purchases scale to 6 gigawatts. News of the AMD deal comes just days after Meta announced a long-term partnership where it will use millions of chips and other equipment from Nvidia for its artificial-intelligence data centres. AMD is looking to keep pace with Nvidia in the AI craze that's

widely viewed as the biggest tectonic shift in technology since Apple co-founder Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone. NVIDIA carved out an early lead in tailoring its chipsets, known as graphics processing units, or GPUs, from use in powering video games to helping to train powerful AI systems, like the technology behind ChatGPT and image generators. Demand skyrocketed as more people began using AI chatbots. Tech companies scrambled for more chips to build and run them. While the appetite for AI chips is still large, there are some concerns about how much companies like Meta are spending on AI and whether they can make back their huge investments through higher profits and productivity in the future.

## Draft Income Tax Rules 2026 Propose More Disclosures To Claim HRA

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

If you are a salaried person and have been claiming House Rent Allowance (HRA) for rent paid to your family members like parents, spouse, or in-laws, you may soon have to disclose your "relationship with the landlord" and provide more disclosures under the new Income Tax Rules, 2026. The new framework is set to replace the Income-tax Act, 1961 from April 1, 2026.

The objective is to help the tax department identify fictitious family rent agreements for tax evasion. Under the proposed norms, if your total rent paid to a landlord exceeds Rs 1 lakh per year, you must declare the relationship according to Draft Rule 205, read with the proposed Form No. 124 (which replaces the earlier Form 12BB used for salary declarations). This includes rent paid to spouses, parents, siblings, or other relatives. Until

now, employers mostly accepted rent receipts and landlord's PAN. As a result the tax department could only verify if the HRA claim is genuine upon scrutiny. But now the system will be able to automatically cross check and identify mismatches instantly without manual scrutiny. Under the proposed norms, if your total rent paid to a landlord exceeds Rs 1 lakh per year, you must declare the relationship according to Draft Rule 205, read with the

proposed Form No. 124 (which replaces the earlier Form 12BB used for salary declarations). This includes rent paid to spouses, parents, siblings, or other relatives. Until now, employers mostly accepted rent receipts and landlord's PAN. As a result the tax department could only verify if the HRA claim is genuine upon scrutiny. But now the system will be able to automatically cross check and identify mismatches instantly without manual scrutiny.

## NASSCOM AI head Ankit Bose: AI investment returns will rise with adoption

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

AI is redesigning roles across sectors and the real story is workforce transition, not collapse. There may be short-term friction during transitions, but in the long run, India has a significant opportunity, said Ankit Bose, head, NASSCOM AI in an interview with Financial Chronicle. For India, the opportunity lies not in replicating frontier models built elsewhere, but in building inclusive,

scalable, and human-centric AI systems that address national priorities while contributing to global progress. Q: AI is evolving at an extraordinary pace. How would you describe the progress AI technologies have made globally? AI is moving faster than most people anticipated. Over the last two to three years, advances in foundation models, infrastructure and applications have been phenomenal. We are now seeing trillion-parameter models along-



side highly capable smaller language models. Countries across the world are investing heavily in compute infrastructure, specialized chips, and data centres. Enterprises have moved beyond experimentation — they are adopting AI, generative AI, and agentic AI

at scale. Many are transitioning from pilot projects to production environments and actively measuring productivity gains and ROI. Take software development as an example — code generation is increasingly AI-assisted, and decision cycles are becoming significantly shorter. Alongside this rapid adoption, there is growing emphasis on building a strong trust layer. When AI is deployed at scale, ensuring trust, safety and reliability becomes critical.

## Airline losses to narrow to Rs 12,000 crore next fiscal: ICRA

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian airlines are expected to reduce losses to an estimated Rs 11,000-12,000 crore next fiscal from a projected Rs 17,000-18,000 crore this financial year, ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday, February 24, even as it maintained a "stable outlook" for the domestic aviation industry. ICRA also estimates the domestic air passenger traffic to grow by 6-8 per cent and touch 175-179



million passengers in FY2026-27. ICRA, in December 2025, had revised its domestic air passenger growth estimates to 0-3 per cent for the current financial year from 4-6 per

cent envisaged earlier. The international air passenger traffic growth for Indian carriers is expected to remain relatively stronger, aided by low base effect, expanding e-visa/visa-on-arrival cover-

age, and the Central Government's focus on developing theme-based and iconic tourist destinations, the ratings agency said. ICRA said the international air passenger traffic is seen growing at 7-9 per cent for this financial year and 8-10 per cent next year, and added that the current fiscal year has seen a period of modest domestic air passenger traffic growth due to cross-border escalations, weather-related disruptions, travel hesitancy following the June 2025 aircraft accident, the im-

pact on business travel owing to the headwinds stemming from elevated US tariffs and operational disruptions at IndiGo in December 2025. ICRA has maintained a "stable outlook" for the Indian aviation industry, supported by expectations of modest growth in domestic air passenger traffic and a gradually improving operating environment, despite near-term challenges, said Kinjal Shah, senior vice president at ICRA.

## Harpic Ultra Cleaner Launch

New Harpic Bathroom Ultra Cleaner promises India's toughest stain removal, Rohit Shetty joins as brand ambassador

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Harpic, India's No. 1 bathroom cleaner trusted by over 100 million households\*, has unveiled its biggest innovation in a decade – New Harpic Bathroom Ultra Cleaner. Designed specifically for Indian bathrooms, the product tackles the toughest stains including yellow hard water marks, limescale, and rust, promising an Ultra Clean finish. Bollywood filmmaker Rohit Shetty has been roped in as the new brand ambassador, highlighting the product's power and dependability. Urban Indian households often struggle with stubborn bathroom stains that conventional cleaners like bleach, phenyl, or detergents fail to remove. Over time, these stains build up, leaving surfaces dull and unhygienic. The New Harpic Bathroom Ultra Cleaner



addresses this challenge by offering a targeted solution engineered for hard water conditions and tough stains, delivering visibly shiny, hygienic bathrooms. Rohit Shetty expressed his excitement, saying, "Harpic has been a trusted name in hygiene for years. With New Harpic Bathroom Ultra Cleaner, the brand is taking bathroom cleaning to the next level. I am proud to endorse a product that is tough, dependable, and built for real Indian homes." Gautam Rishi, Marketing Director, Hygiene, Reckitt – South Asia, added, "This launch

strengthens Harpic's stain-removal leadership and sets a new benchmark in bathroom hygiene. With Rohit Shetty onboard, we're providing Indian consumers a high-performance cleaning solution where generic products fall short." Anupama Ramaswamy, MD and Chief Creative Officer, Havas Creative India, said, "Harpic Bathroom Ultra Cleaner is a new hero in our brand universe. Tough and effective, its launch campaign, led by Rohit Shetty, is designed to be larger-than-life and unforgettable."

## CBIT Hosts National Leadership Summit 2026

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Gandipet, will host the National Leadership Summit 2026 on February 28 at its Assembly Hall, centered on the theme "Academic and Administrative Leadership in Higher Educational Institutions: Pathways to Good Governance, Accountability, Responsibility and Role Clarity." The summit aims to

bring together eminent academicians, policy-makers, Vice-Chancellors, administrators, and institutional leaders from across the country to deliberate on strengthening governance frameworks and enhancing leadership effectiveness in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The event will commence at 9:00 AM and is expected to witness participation from principals, directors, deans, heads of departments, IQAC members,

governing body representatives, and aspiring academic leaders committed to institutional excellence and sustainable growth. Distinguished speakers include Prasanta Mahapatra, IAS (Retd.), former Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana; C.S.R.K. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada; S. Venkataramanaiah of Indian Institute of Management Lucknow; K. Ravi

Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Academic City University; Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S.S. Dasaka, former Vice-Chancellor of Indus University; and K. Karunakaran, former Vice-Chancellor of Mohan Babu University. Key discussions will focus on academic governance and accountability, accreditation and quality assurance, student learning outcomes and institutional performance, transformational leadership in the digital era, admin-

istrative role clarity, and building win-win leadership models in HEIs. CBIT management expressed confidence that the summit will serve as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, offering actionable insights to strengthen institutional systems, promote ethical governance, and enhance leadership competencies in the evolving higher education landscape.

# 'People's Love Is My Real Reward'

Time and again, everyone, including my husband Sarathkumar, asks me why I have not been considered for a National Award in my 48-year cinema journey. But I'm not really obsessed with such recognition. I have been in the hearts of people for so many years, I consider that the real award," says Radikaa Sarathkumar. She was speaking at the promotional meet of her film Thaaai Kizhavi, where she plays the title role of a ruthless village matriarch, an 'OG Thug' moneylender named Pavunu Thaaai.

Recalling how Sarathkumar pushed her to take on the role despite her apprehensions about playing an old lady, Radikaa said, "I have two SKs. One is Sivakarthykeyan, the other SK is in my



house; I call Sarathkumar 'SK'. He heard the full script and loved it. When I said I wouldn't do the film, he asked me, 'Are you stupid? It's the chance of a lifetime.' He convinced me to do it." She went further: "Honestly speaking, this is a film Rajinikanth should have acted in. Because it has that 'mass' ap-

peal. But he won't put on this makeup and act. Sivakumar Murugesan changed it to a female character and made me. Has anyone ever imagined this? Putting the old lady Thaaai Kizhavi in the range of Rajinikanth, they took the film to that level!"

Heaping praise on Kamal Haasan, she said, "When Kamal sir watched this film three days ago, I watched it too. He really enjoyed it. My prosthetic makeup was a cumbersome process; it took four-and-a-half hours to apply and almost as long to remove. For just one role, I cribbed so much. How many such roles Kamal sir has done without any complaints! Hats off to him. I thank Kamal sir, who inspired me. He always tells me, 'Radikaa, you shouldn't be seen. Only the

character should be seen.' That's stuck in my mind."

Expressing pride in being the daughter of legendary actor M.R. Radha, she said, "When I came to cinema, there were many who insulted me, not even letting me mention my father's name. Many of those people are still around. I never used my father's name back then, because people spoke so ill of him.

I thought to myself then, 'Let me prove myself first.'" She concluded: "Today, I say proudly, with absolute arrogance, I am M.R. Radha's daughter! I have acted as a female M.R. Radha in this! I didn't do it for anyone else. I did it to prove to myself, to my family, to my brothers and sisters, that we are M.R. Radha's children."

## Kerala High Court To Watch the Kerala Story 2

**KERALA**  
Wakeup telangana

The Kerala High Court has raised serious concerns regarding the forthcoming film Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond, stating that its teaser and trailer "wrongly portrays" the people of Kerala. On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, the Court directed that the film be screened for it on Wednesday, February 25, to allow a judicial assessment of its content. A bench led by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas observed that the people of Kerala are widely recognized for living in harmony and upholding secular values, and any misrepresentation in the film could create misconceptions about the State and its residents.

The Court noted that while the filmmakers have stated that the story has a pan-India perspective, the



inclusion of Kerala in the film's title specifically associates the narrative with the State. Justice Thomas highlighted that this association could potentially lead to communal tensions and unrest, as the public might interpret the content as reflective of Kerala society. The bench emphasized that the apprehensions of the people cannot be ignored, given the sensitive cultural and social fabric of the State, which thrives on communal harmony and mutual respect.

By ordering a screening of the film, the Kerala

High Court aims to evaluate whether the content is likely to incite discord or misrepresent the people of Kerala. The move underscores the judiciary's role in balancing creative freedom with social responsibility, particularly when the portrayal of a specific community or State could influence public perception or disturb peace. The Court's intervention reflects its commitment to ensuring that artistic expression does not override factual representation or compromise societal harmony.

## Seedhe Maut's SMX Tour Rocks BITS Pilani Hyderabad at Pearl '26

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian hip-hop duo Seedhe Maut set the stage on fire with a high-energy performance at the BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus on February 22 as part of the Pearl 2026 cultural fest. Known for popular tracks like Nanchaku, Hola Amigo, and Luka Chippi, and acclaimed albums such as Lunch Break, Nayaab, and their recent release DL91M, the duo enjoys a massive following



among hip-hop enthusiasts and youth across the country. Their influence on Desi hip-hop over the past decade

has cemented their place as one of the leading rap acts in India. The concert was part

of their SMX Tour, marking 10 years of Seedhe Maut's journey in the Indian hip-hop scene. The tour celebrates their music, artistic evolution, and contribution to the genre. The event, held at the campus auditorium from 6 pm onwards, witnessed a turnout of over 15,000 attendees, making it one of the biggest highlights of Pearl '26. The show was completely sold out, with fans packing the venue and cheering throughout the

performance.

Adding to the excitement, noted singer Mohit Chauhan also performed at the fest, making it a memorable evening for music lovers. This marks Seedhe Maut's second major performance in Hyderabad in recent months, following another fiery show in December. The Delhi-NCR rap duo received a grand reception in the City of Nawabs, with fans turning up in large numbers to celebrate a decade of their music and legacy.

## Dhurandhar Team Shuns Awards Function

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Hollywood Reporter India Awards Night held in Mumbai last weekend turned out to be something of a shocker – titled 'The Honours,' it had a special segment devoted to Dhurandhar, but the entire team stayed away. Actress Neha Dhupia, who hosted the show, did her best to defuse



the situation, joking that perhaps the Dhurandhar team was busy filing its tax returns after the massive success of the film, or were busy completing Part 2.

However, one of the team members shared with this writer that though they were to be honoured, the team chose not to attend as a protest against critic Anupama Chopra's scathing review of the film. "I wouldn't use the term 'boycott.' But we made our protest about the unfair review known," said the source.

# Time To Twist With Sanju at Top

Left-heavy batting under scrutiny as off-spin threat looms in Super Eight

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's fragile top-order remains one of the talking points as they gear up for their must-win Super Eight game against Zimbabwe in the ICC T20 World Cup. India stacked their top-order with left-handers — Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma — and their inability to secure brisk starts, coupled with opponents' strategy of pinning them down through off-spin match-ups, has emerged as a glaring chink in their armour.

It wouldn't be a surprise if off-spinners Sikandar Raza or Brian Bennett open Zimbabwe's bowling on Thursday, should India persist with the Ishan-Abhishek combination. Whenever the duo opened the batting in this World Cup, India didn't really make it big in Powerplay — their highest being 52 runs in six overs.



More alarmingly, at least one opener fell for a duck on all four occasions. The middle order repeatedly did the rescue act during the league phase, but against South Africa the fault lines widened dramatically, culminating in a heavy defeat.

The pattern has been consistent. In the World Cup opener against USA, India found a saviour in skipper Suryakumar Yadav after Abhishek departed for a first-ball duck and the side slumped to 46 for 4 inside the Powerplay. India were 52 for 1

against Pakistan, 51 for 2 against the Netherlands and 31 for 3 against South Africa. They were under pressure in every Powerplay except against Namibia, when Sanju Samson opened alongside Ishan. In Abhishek's absence in New Delhi, Sanju's eight-ball 22 — set the tone as India raced to 85 for 1 in six overs, their highest of this tournament. Abhishek, despite an impressive aggregate of 777 runs at an average of 33.78 over the last year, has managed just 15

runs in his last four outings and has registered ducks in five of his previous eight innings. Tilak Varma, another left-hander, averages 21.4 in this World Cup at a strike rate of 118.88. Rinku Singh, batting at No. 8, has chipped in with just 24 runs at a strike rate of 83. To break the monotony of left-handers at the top, India could consider recalling Sanju. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate hinted at the impending selection dilemma after Sunday's defeat. Would India persist with the players who have delivered over the past 18 months, or tweak the template? "Sanju's a fantastic player and obviously helps tactically by having a right-hander at the top of the order. I'm sure that will be a talking point over the next few days going into these two very important games," he said.

## Wellalage Says Sri Lanka Can Rescue T20 World Cup Campaign

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Co-hosts Sri Lanka remain in a precarious position in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup, but spinner Dunith Wellalage is confident the team can still salvage their campaign by winning both remaining Super Eight matches, beginning with a crucial clash against New Zealand in Colombo on Wednesday.

After a crushing defeat at the hands of England, where Sri Lanka were bowled out for a mere 95 runs and lost by 51 runs, the island nation's hopes of progressing to the semi-finals hang by a thread. The loss came immediately after New Zealand and Pakistan had secured a point each from a washed-out encounter, leaving Sri Lanka in a challenging position in the points table. "We have got to now win both these games," said 23-year-old left-arm spinner Wellalage during a media interaction on Tuesday.

"We know how important a home World Cup is. The fans have turned up in numbers, and we have al-



ways believed that we can make it to the semi-finals. The last two games haven't gone according to our plan, but we are looking forward to the must-win clash tomorrow." Wellalage has been one of the standout performers for Sri Lanka in the absence of senior bowlers Matheesha Pathirana, Wanindu Hasaranga, and Eshan Malinga, all sidelined due to injuries. Against England, Wellalage was entrusted with bowling in the powerplay — a task he described as particularly challenging. Despite the pressure, he delivered a composed performance,

claiming three wickets, including that of England captain Harry Brook. "It was a challenge bowling during the powerplays, and the key was for me to deny the batsmen boundaries," Wellalage said. "I had to be clever with my lengths, and when I did that, the batters had to take a few chances. I really relished the new challenge." Sri Lanka's struggle in global T20 tournaments has been noticeable in recent years, ever since their triumph in the 2014 T20 World Cup. However, the team has shown resilience against New Zealand in recent en-

counters. During New Zealand's tour of Sri Lanka in late 2024, the hosts won both the Test and ODI series and managed a 1-1 draw in the T20 series, giving them confidence ahead of the upcoming high-stakes clash. "We have played New Zealand a lot in recent years, and we know that we can beat them in these conditions," Wellalage added.

"We are still in with a chance to make it to the semis, and winning tomorrow will be crucial for our campaign." With the Super Eight stage reaching its climax, Sri Lanka's fans are hoping their side can rise to the occasion. The Colombo crowd, known for its passionate support, is expected to pack the stadium, hoping to spur their team to a performance that could revive their dreams of making it to the semi-finals on home soil. If Sri Lanka fail to beat New Zealand, their final match against Pakistan may prove meaningless in terms of qualification, highlighting the do-or-die nature of Wednesday's game.

## Hyderabad Police Solve Koti SBI Firing Incident; 2 Detained



The Hyderabad police solved the Koti SBI firing incident with the detention of two persons. A firearm that was used for committing an offence on January 31, 2025, was recovered from them. Earlier, the task force police arrested a suspect in connection with the armed robbery and shooting incident at the SBI ATM in Koti. Two persons shot at a cloth merchant who had gone to an ATM at Koti to deposit cash, and fled on his bike with his bag containing Rs.6 lakh. The victim, Abdul Rinshad, was taken to the Osmania General Hospital with bullet injuries to his leg and is said to be in a stable condition.

Police said Rinshad from Kerala used to regularly deposit cash at the ATM, and may have been tracked by the duo. Taking serious note of the incident, Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar set up special crime teams had been formed to track the accused who were last seen walking towards Kacheguda crossroads. The accused, believed to be between 26 and 32 years of age, appeared to be waiting for Rinshad at a TSRTC bus stand right beside the ATM centre. When Rinshad reached the ATM, one of the assailants, seen in CCTV images to be wearing a light cream colour shirt, walked over and confirmed that the target was carrying a bag. He was then seen signalling to this associate, wearing a white and black checked shirt, who walked over and joined him.

## KTR seeks Centre's response on Revanth's Rs 1,000 cr claim to AICC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded the BJP-led Central government clarify its stand on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims of preparedness to transfer Rs 1,000 crore to the Congress high command in Delhi.

He questioned the silence of the Central agencies like Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and Income Tax departments, despite such open statements by none other than the Chief Minister.

Speaking to reporters after visiting party leaders lodged in jail in Adilabad, Rama Rao said that even after Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi publicly alleged that 'RR tax' was being collected by the Congress government in Telangana, the BJP government at the Centre had remained silent. He questioned why central agencies had not initiated action if the Chief Minister was openly indulging in corruption.

The BRS working president said the Congress government had

abandoned governance and was focused on diverting Telangana's resources to Delhi. Demanding Revanth Reddy to explain the source of the alleged Rs 1,000 crore, he wondered if the former was prepared to send Rs 1,000 crore to his party high command, how many thousands of crores of public money were being siphoned off.

He remarked that Revanth Reddy who was caught red-handed in the Cash for Vote case, was now indirectly acknowledging the corrupt practices of the Congress government.

Rama Rao accused the State government of neglecting farmers' welfare, pointing out that Rythu Bharosa financial assistance, which was earlier credited in December during the BRS rule, had not been released even by March. He also cited alleged delay in loan waivers and inadequate procurement of crops such as jowar and cotton, leading to distress among farmers. The BRS would continue its fight to safeguard public funds and the interests of Telangana, he asserted.

## RTC Launches Mee Seva Mobile App



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The TGRTC has launched a 'Mee Seva Mee Ticket' mobile app to allow passengers to book tickets online. The service was inaugurated by transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar, transport special secretary transport Vikas Raj, RTC managing director Y. Nagi Reddy and Mee Seva commissioner Ravi Kiran. The RTC in its press release mentioned through the app a total of 1,710 OPRS services could be accessed. The major destinations

were Bengaluru, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Mancheril, Khammam, Adilabad, Asifabad, and Warangal. The bus pass module would enable city commuters to digitally purchase and renew monthly bus passes through a mobile app. The T24 ticket has been integrated into the MeTicket mobile app for operations within the Greater Hyderabad Zone, a 24-hour digital travel pass that allows unlimited travel in city ordinary, Metro Express and Metro Deluxe bus services.

## GHMC sets June 2 deadline for Musarambagh, Nalgonda flyover works

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner RV Karnan directed the Musarambagh High-Level Bridge and Nalgonda X Roads flyover works be completed by June 2. Chairing a review meeting on Tuesday, he directed officials to expedite various works to ease traffic congestion in the city. He also assessed the progress of ongoing projects under the H-CITI, Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP) and Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP). He also called for expediting works related to the KBR Park project. Stating that there was no shortage of funds, Karnan instructed officials to complete utility shifting and pending land acquisition on a war footing and bring any issues requiring government intervention to his notice for immediate resolution.

## Hyderabad's RGIA named best airport for arrivals in global passenger survey

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has been named one of the best airports in the world for the arrivals experience at the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Customer Experience Awards.

Under the "Best Airports at Arrivals Globally" category, the honour, presented by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, follows a comprehensive survey

where passengers rated their experience at the airport in Shamshabad specifically upon arrival. In 2025, nearly 7.07 lakh passengers worldwide participated in the ASQ survey programme. The initiative is widely regarded as one of the most credible benchmarks for airport service standards as it collects feedback from travellers while they are physically present at the airport, making it harder to game than most industry recognitions.

According to airport officials, the recognition reflects the facility's performance across several parameters, including arrival formalities, cleanliness, ambience, staff service and overall ease of movement through the terminal. Pradeep Panicker, chief executive officer (CEO) of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, said the award was significant because it was based directly on passenger feedback.

## Truck carrying cows hits car, 'Jai Shri Ram' chants raised; 3 injured

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaos erupted at pillar number 311 close to Aramghar crossroads in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening, February 24, after a truck carrying cows collided with a car, resulting in a clash between the driver of the truck and hundreds of locals who suspected that the cows were being transported to a slaughterhouse. The police patrol vehicle, which was

rushed to the spot to prevent any escalation of the clash, dispersed the crowd and cleared the traffic, which came to an abrupt halt. The patrolling constable told that around 400 people immediately gathered when they realised that cows were inside the truck. They beat up the truck driver, shouting "Jai Shri Ram" slogans. The Attapur Police said that the vehicle had a registration number from

Maharashtra. "The driver and his two helpers were transporting the cows to be sold at a cattle market in Shadnagar," police said. "All three were beaten up by the mob. Two of them are seriously injured, and one received minor injuries. There is no complaint as of yet as all three are undergoing treatment," police said. Meanwhile, the cows have been sent to the Shri Samartha Kamdhenu Gowshala in Jiyaguda.

## Migrant worker kills two-month-old son, burns body on makeshift stove

A migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, who works at a construction site in Telangana's Bowrampet, allegedly killed her two-month-old baby boy and burned his body in a makeshift firewood stove on Tuesday, February 24. The woman, identified as Mamta, was allegedly distressed due to financial problems and frequently argued with her husband. On the day of the incident, her baby, Surya, was continuously crying. To stop that, she tied his hands and legs and stuffed cloth in his mouth, Medchal Assistant Commissioner of Police CH Shankar Reddy told. After the baby died, she burned his body in a makeshift stove. Police have taken Mamta into custody and registered a case of murder. Further investigation is underway, the police said.

## Hyderabad Excise Dept arrests 8 in citywide ganja raids, seizes 9.5 kg

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Prohibition and Excise Department arrested eight persons in separate raids across the city on Monday, February 23, seizing a total of nearly 9.5 kilogram of ganja. The State Task Force raided a house in Dhoolpet and seized 6.5 kg of ganja, arresting five persons. The accused were identified as Pavan Singh, Kedarnath Singh, Raju Singh, Sushanth Singh and Durgesh Singh. A case has been registered at the Prohi-

bition and Excise Station, Dhoolpet. In a separate operation near Shanti Theatre in Narayanguda, one Abhishek Singh was arrested while allegedly selling ganja to customers. As much as 1.5 kg of the contraband was seized from him. The third raid was carried out in Tolichowki, Golconda, where Akash Singh and Rahul Singh were arrested while allegedly selling ganja. Another 1.5 kg was seized in the case. Three other accused in the matter are currently absconding.

## RTC Workers Stage Massive Protest at Indira Park

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The RTC Joint Action Committee (JAC) organized a massive "Chalo Secretariat" rally followed by a dharna at Indira Park, drawing thousands of RTC workers who gathered to press the state government to address their long-pending demands. The protest was attended by CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao along with worker representatives Jahangir Baba, Maqsood, and Shoaib, who strongly criticized the authorities for what



they described as continued neglect of RTC employees' welfare. The JAC demanded the immediate merger of RTC with the state government and implementation of the 2021 Pay Revision Commission (PRC) with a 30 percent fitment. They also sought the release of ₹350

crore dues under the Mahalakshmi scheme, job security for all employees, and regularization of contract workers. The restoration of RTC unions and the conduct of union elections were highlighted as key democratic rights. Workers further demanded the implementa-

tion of an eight-hour duty system, reduction of workload, and government procurement of electric buses to be handed over to RTC. The protestors called for resolving issues faced by women employees, increasing bus services on high-density routes, initiating fresh recruitments, clearing pending dues of retired workers, and implementing a comprehensive pension system, including opportunities for those yet to receive PF demand notices. Leaders warned of intensified agitation if the government fails to respond positively.

## Participants Gain Hands-On Experience in Mushroom Production Training

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As part of a six-day mushroom cultivation training program, participants recently visited the Blue Leaves Mushroom Unit in Sangareddy, gaining firsthand experience in modern mushroom production techniques. The training, organized by the EEI department, aimed to provide practical knowledge on substrate preparation, spawn handling, cultivation, and marketing of commercially important mushrooms. On the

fifth day, participants toured the Blue Leaves Mushroom Unit, where the founder and marketing managers provided a step-by-step demonstration of the entire mushroom cultivation process. The unit impressed visitors with its hygienic practices, well-trained staff, and efficient operations. Participants were encouraged to ask questions, and individual doubts were addressed in detail. As a gesture of hospitality, the unit presented mushroom-packed sachets to both participants and EEI department



staff, earning heartfelt appreciation from all attendees. The sixth day focused on the process of drying rice straw under sunlight after sterilization, a crucial step

in preparing substrates for mushroom cultivation. This hands-on session emphasized the importance of hygiene and proper substrate management in ensuring optimal

mushroom growth. During the training, participants also learned about: Substrate preparation using Substra Pro Pellets and sterilized rice straw. Spawn and culture handling, including sterile techniques using filter patches. Grow bag cultivation, with demonstrations of filling, sealing, and incubation using custom machinery. Production, harvesting, packing, and quality control, highlighting post-harvest handling and market-ready packaging. Mushroom varieties, including Pinky Oyster

and Blue Oyster mushrooms, known for their unique colors and commercial value. The training program offered a comprehensive understanding of mushroom production, from cultivation to marketing, and equipped participants with practical skills for commercial ventures. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Blue Leaves management for the invaluable learning experience, noting that the visit significantly enhanced their knowledge and confidence in mushroom farming.

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